



October 8, 2018

Dear Mayor Hemminger and Chapel Hill Town Council Members,

IFC's Capital Campaign Co-Chairs Kevin Foy and Robert Dowling look forward to presenting to you about our FoodFirst project on October 24. In preparation for that meeting, here is an overview of the project and our request.

About IFC

Since 1963, IFC has confronted the causes and responded to the effects of poverty in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. As one of the largest non-profit providers of safety net services in Orange County, IFC's programs are integral to meeting the basic human needs of all of our neighbors:

- Community Kitchen serves 39,000 meals a year.
- Food Pantry volunteers send home more than 13,000 bags of groceries every year.
- Emergency Assistance Program provided \$122,140 in assistance to 639 households in FY18, preventing eviction and disruption in utility services and averting other crises.
- Residential Services operates the only shelters in Orange County for women (14 beds), men (52 beds), and families (10 rooms).

Opportunity for Increased Impact

After a decade of careful planning, IFC has launched a \$5.3 million capital campaign to transform our downtown Carrboro property at 110 W. Main Street into a three-story community food hub. The new 16,000-square foot building will co-locate IFC's Community Kitchen, Food Pantry and Emergency Financial Assistance programs in one dignified and accessible space. Services will remain available to people who live or work in Chapel Hill and Carrboro and face either chronic poverty or acute financial stress.

FoodFirst enables IFC to further develop our food security expertise, from efficient building design to best practice program delivery.

- With expanded space, IFC will operate a **Member-Choice Food Pantry**, which is heralded as a best practice by food security experts. This type of pantry creates a more dignified experience, allowing members to shop for themselves in lieu of having staff pre-pack bags or shop on their behalf. Member-Choice pantries also reduce waste, since the shopper selects food items most useful to their household.
- A purpose-built cooking area and seating capacity at the new Community Kitchen will allow us to **serve 1,000 more hot meals each month**. The new dining room will seat 64 people at a time, a 33% increase over the current space, and we anticipate serving more women and children.

Relocation of the Community Kitchen will also free up the Town's old municipal building at 100 Rosemary Street for other uses.

- To increase **healthy food access** for low-income workers and residents, IFC will install more cold storage for proteins, dairy and produce. In addition to receiving healthy food donations from grocery partners, IFC already spends approximately \$55,000 a year on proteins, dairy and produce sourced wholesale from North Carolina farmers.
- Co-locating our food security programs will increase **operational flexibility and efficiency** by allowing us to receive all donations or purchases at one site, evaluate a product's most appropriate use, and shift food resources between the Pantry and Kitchen as needed.

Status of Campaign and Request

A lead gift from the Stewards Fund kicked off our capital campaign last fall, and to date IFC has raised \$3.24 million toward our \$5.3 million goal. We are now in the public phase and have pending proposals with several foundations.

IFC respectfully requests that the Town of Chapel Hill consider supporting the campaign with a pledge of \$300,000 over four years. We greatly value our partnership with the Town and appreciate your consideration of this request.

Attached are our campaign brochure and the current floor plans; more information is available on our website: www.ifcweb.org/foodfirst. Please let me know if we can provide you with additional information or if you would like to tour the current Food Pantry.

We look forward to seeing you on October 24.

With gratitude,



Jackie Jenks
Executive Director