Dear Friends:

It’s been a little over two years since I arrived at Allied Churches as the new Executive Director. I arrived full of excitement, not knowing what the future would hold. As I look back, I could not have predicted the changes, the metamorphosis that ACAC would go through during my short tenure.

Today, ACAC is the largest Shelter, Community Kitchen, Food Pantry, and Emergency Assistance Center of its kind in the county. Our compassion, leadership, and capacity has allowed us to do remarkable work.

The pages that follow only scratch the surface of the extraordinary efforts accomplished over the past year. Yet, today here in Alamance County, being poor still means:

- thinking that $9.00 an hour is a really good deal;
- six dollars short on the utility bill and no way to close the gap;
- a cough that doesn’t go away or hoping the toothache will run its course;
- having people who have never been poor wonder why you choose to be poor.

For the poor a “good day” and a “bad day” take on entirely different meanings than what most of us are used to. A good day is a day with enough to eat and a place to sleep for everyone in the family. A bad day is a day without what life requires to keep us sane, to keep us warm (or cool) and safe, to keep us from going to bed hungry. May we ALL be so lucky as to have at least that much!

For this to happen, we must all shape our hearts in different, more life-giving ways. At ACAC, we call that “Time, Talent, and Treasure.” Host a food drive, serve a meal, volunteer at the shelter, raise awareness, and of course, raise money. When we work together, goals that only yesterday seemed out of reach are much more attainable than ever before... together, we can end homelessness and hunger as we know them today.

I know we can do it!

Kim
Kim Crawford
Executive Director
OUR WORK:
Providing emergency services in a safe and healthy environment, while moving individuals toward self-sufficiency.

The community members and residents we serve get connected...and stay connected to:
- EDUCATION and EMPLOYMENT
- CARING PEOPLE
- SAFE PLACES
- COMMUNITY

CURRENT PROGRAMS:
ACAC serves at-risk, homeless citizens with four key programs:
- Shelter - an emergency shelter that provides a safe place to stay for individuals and families
- Meals and Food - lunch and dinner services for residents and community members as well as a food pantry open every weekday
- Emergency Assistance - a program to assist with documented emergency needs, such as overdue bills for both cooling and heating
- Job and Education Related Services - a drop-in center available for assistance with job searches, housing referrals, and health services referrals

TONY’S FRESH START

“I arrived at ACAC in 2009 after being in the Alamance county jail for about six months. I was in on a drug charge. After doing my time in jail I decided to get myself together. At the end of my jail time, I had nowhere to go. I lost everything I had when I went to jail, and the shelter provided me with somewhere to stay. I’m now working full-time and in my last semester of school for automotive technology. I hope to mentor other people coming out of jail.

You’ve got to start from somewhere. With ACAC’s advice and the advice of other programs, I’ve come to where I am now.”
AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING

As part of a community service project headed up by the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Alamance program, 40 ACAC shelter residents were treated to a fine dining experience this Spring. The ACAC dining room was converted into a five-star restaurant for the evening; complete with flowers, music, and wait staff! The event fulfilled its purpose beautifully; making every resident feel special and respected. Leadership Alamance put together a wonderful reminder that homeless doesn’t have to mean hopeless.

HONOR CARD PROGRAM SUCCESS

This year’s Honor Card Program was truly inspiring. Your holiday giving helped us far surpass our $75,000 goal! Money raised each year through the program goes directly where it is needed most here at ACAC. The overwhelming support received in 2014 will change hundreds of lives in our community. We will soon be gearing up for the 2015 Honor Card season!

STAMP OUT HUNGER A SUCCESS

This year’s letter carriers food drive on Saturday, May 9th was a record-breaking effort to feed Alamance County families. Over 90,000 pounds of food were collected in our community – and all of it stays here! We are so grateful to the local letter carriers, United Way, and countless volunteers that made the food drive a success.

JAMES’S ROAD HOME

James was travelling and working with state fairs when he ended up with nowhere to call home.

He got a job at a local car dealership, but when the dealership closed down, he lost his apartment. Working with a case manager at ACAC, James got connected with Volunteers of America, an organization that provides housing support for veterans. He was able to move to Durham and used his previous experience to get a new job as a car salesman. Two months later James bought a car of his own.

“The most valuable thing about being at ACAC was actually realizing the situation that I was in. At first it was just a place to stay and food to eat. Then it dawned on me that I needed something better. It pushed me to get out and do something with my life. Just don’t give up. Everyone’s situation is different. However you got this way, if you want to get yourself out you’ve got to be the one to do it.”
LOOKING FORWARD: A NEW KITCHEN!
The ACAC Community Kitchen is nearing the end of an eight week renovation. When complete, the space will be a fully-functional professional kitchen. This long overdue project will ensure that ACAC can adequately serve the hundreds of people that eat here each day.

Our effort to “Stack the Plates” for our hungry neighbors during this time was a huge success! Before even beginning construction on the kitchen, over $37,000 was raised for prepared meals! “Stack the Plates” sponsors made it possible for ACAC to continue serving both shelter residents and community members despite being without a kitchen. Thank you for your tremendous support!

RETHINKING AFFORDABLE HOUSING
ACAC, United Way of Alamance County, and DeBoer & Gabriel Properties have begun an innovative partnership to make safe housing more affordable for those without a place to call home. The “Rent Stabilization Program” provides tenants with continued support in the form of case management and tenant education courses. The best part of all: each tenant has their own apartment lease, and is guaranteed that their rent will not increase as long as they live there.

ACAC WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR
In March of 2015, ACAC was thrilled to bring on a Program Director! This newly created staff position oversees shelter, food pantry, and kitchen operations. Before starting at ACAC, Jan Bowman served as the McKinney-Vento Program Specialist for the Alamance-Burlington School System, where she grew a passion for assisting the homeless and at-risk population in Alamance County. ACAC continues to serve an increasing number of people in need. Jan is a huge asset as our essential programs grow.

“Everybody needs help to overcome difficult and challenging times. I believe in ACAC and its mission and the compassionate way that they extend services. We all need help at points in our lives. I feel like ACAC is making a difference in Alamance county in ways that we don’t even realize.”

- Laurie Lambert, ACAC Board Chair
PROGRAM UPDATES

COORDINATED INTAKE
Beginning in March 2015, ACAC began acting as the initial point of intake for all people in need of housing in Alamance County. As the designated lead agency for this model in our region, ACAC coordinates all intakes and program referrals. By centralizing intake and program admissions decisions, a coordinated entry process makes it more likely that families will be served by the right housing intervention more quickly. We are very excited to be a central part of this new system!

MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS
Access to mental health services such as counseling and referrals is vital for many of the at-risk population in Alamance County. Now, thanks to funding through the United Way of Alamance County and a partnership with RHA Behavioral Health, ACAC is able to offer those services in-house. A licensed therapist from RHA Behavioral Health will now be available to ACAC shelter residents four days a week. The continuity of care that we can now provide through this exciting partnership is a welcome addition for those struggling with homelessness in our community.

ACAC PARTNERS TO OPEN MEbane FOOD PANTRY
Looking to fill the void, volunteers in Mebane sought help to start a new food pantry program for those in need on the eastern side of Alamance County. As of January 2015, First Baptist Church of Mebane’s “Manna Market” gives food to anyone in need on the third Tuesday of each month. ACAC partnered with volunteers there to get the pantry up and running, and continues to help guide them through the process. Over 60 individuals have been served each month by Manna Market!

TYESHA’S NEW BEGINNING
“As long as I was willing to take a step, Allied Churches would take a step too.”

Tyesha arrived at the ACAC Shelter with nothing but the clothes on her back. She and her daughter, who is autistic, were only residents for two short weeks. The case managers at ACAC were able to rapidly re-house Tyesha and her daughter, a solution that was vital for their well-being. With the assistance of ACAC, Tyesha obtained an apartment suitable for her family. She now works to give back to her community by providing transportation to struggling neighbors and tutoring school children in her apartment complex.
ACAC BY THE NUMBERS

IN FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015...

73,558 MEALS were served in the ACAC Community Kitchen to hungry neighbors

489 PEOPLE were provided shelter including
25 FAMILIES & 39 CHILDREN

An average of 35,000 pounds of EMERGENCY FOOD were distributed to 1,573 INDIVIDUALS monthly through the ACAC Food Pantry

28 FAMILIES were permanently housed through ACAC’s Rapid Rehousing Program

$168,847 in funds were distributed for EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

201,733 POUNDS OF FOOD were donated to ACAC by the community

VOLUNTEERS put in over 20,000 HOURS to make ACAC’s work possible

"I think that the nice thing is when you see the success story the people that are on their last straw and ACAC is there to pick them up. The most rewarding thing is knowing that you’ve contributed to those folks that do get back on their feet."

- Chief Jeffrey Smythe, Burlington Police Department
**ACAC FINANCIAL REPORT**

**SUPPORT & REVENUE**

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<th>FY 2013 - 2014*</th>
<th>FY 2014 - 2015**</th>
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<td><strong>SUPPORT:</strong></td>
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<td>Unrestricted Support and Revenue</td>
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<td>Restricted Support and Revenue</td>
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**EXPENSES:**

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<th>FY 2014 - 2015**</th>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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* Audited Financial Statement  
** Unaudited Financial Statement

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**ON MY WAY: SHANNON’S STORY**

Shannon arrived at ACAC after fleeing an abusive marriage, and quickly found the strength she needed to start a new life.

"I don’t do computers well, but I met a friend at the shelter and she helped me get a job application in at K&W. I’ve been working there ever since. Because of my mental illness, I didn’t think that I’d ever have my own place. When Monika told me I would be able to move to my own apartment, I didn’t believe it until I actually got the keys. I feel so much joy. After being homeless and being around lots of people, I was scared. I wanted to go back to the shelter at first, but everyone supported me. I’m used to living with someone else, but now I feel safe. I don’t have to back a chair up to the door here.

When I was down it seemed like I was nowhere. Now I’ve come to a place where I’ve learned it’s okay to say ‘no’ so people don’t drain you. I need to live for myself. I just want to pay my bills and do normal stuff. I don’t want a nice car or a swimming pool. I just want to live. I’m on my way. I don’t know where God’s gonna take me but I know it’s gonna be somewhere. This is my peace of mind here. It’s my home.”
As part of Fuller Dental’s “ACAC Dental Day,” a team of dental professionals from all parts of the community volunteered their time on a Saturday in April 2015. Over 35 ACAC shelter guests received cleanings, extractions, and fillings free of charge.

One of the people that benefitted most from the day was Jeff, a retired textile worker that lost his teeth over 15 years ago. He found himself in need of a safe place to stay and get back on his feet when his social security barely paid his monthly expenses.

“I got used to not having any teeth. I just couldn’t afford to get dentures,” said Jeff.

For Jeff, a routine dental checkup turned into a fitting for dentures, something that he had only dreamed of. Fuller Dental and ACAC decided to team up to cover the costs on his behalf.

“I got to try on a plastic set to see how they worked. I almost walked out the door with them! I’m most excited about being able to eat the things that I’ve missed over the years. When I was a kid we would take a break from working on the farm. We would have a soda and fill it with peanuts. I miss that,” said Jeff. On June 24th, Jeff received his new dentures.

Shannon (featured on page 8), whose abusive partner left her with no front teeth, was also given a new outlook with the gift of dentures.

“I felt uncomfortable going because I didn’t have any teeth. The doctor made me feel so comfortable and told me when I left there that no one would know. I love my new teeth! Everyone says I look so good. I feel better, and my self-esteem is good because now people are looking at me. They’re not looking at my missing teeth.”

TIME AND TALENT: MONIKA, HOUSING SPECIALIST

Evidence shows that the shorter the length of stay in a shelter, the more successful a person will be at escaping homelessness for good. ACAC’s Rapid Rehousing Program, an initiative that works to limit time spent in the shelter, has been extremely successful for local families. As part of the ACAC Housing team, Monika Gauthier locates appropriate, affordable housing for shelter guests. She then works with them for up to twelve months to ensure that they have the support needed to stay housed.

“My favorite part of my job is getting people from the shelter to the first day that they are getting their keys and unlocking their door - they are getting their fresh start. The only way to end homelessness is to house people. Everyone deserves the opportunity to be housed.”
GET INVOLVED

GIVE
You can donate safely online via our website at alliedchurches.org, or mail your donation to us at P.O. Box 2581, Burlington, NC 27216.

ACAC welcomes your in-kind donations of food, paper products, linens, etc. Watch our website for a list of current needs.

ACAC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your generous gift is tax deductible.

SERVE
We love volunteers! To learn more about the variety of volunteer opportunities available at ACAC, contact our Volunteer Coordinator Brittany Graybeal at (336) 229-0881 ext. 111 or fill out a volunteer application on our website!

COLLECT
We rely on the generosity of community groups! If your church, business, or civic group is interested in hosting a food drive, contact our Donor Coordinator Brittany Graybeal at (336)229-0881 ext. 111 or bgraybeal@alliedchurches.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
ACAC wishes to thank all of the funders, donors, partners, and volunteers that help create better lives for our vulnerable neighbors. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Your contributions of time, talent, and treasure create real change in the lives of our community’s at-risk and homeless populations.

“As a minister this is really a very hands on way of living out that gospel call of housing the poor and feeding the hungry, helping people in need. There is a huge emphasis at ACAC on respecting the dignity of all people. You’re not a number if you’re coming here for a meal or a bed. There’s a difference between using the right language of ‘guests and residents’ and it being a part of the culture. I think it is truly a part of the culture at ACAC.”

- Marisa Tabizon Thompson, ACAC Board Member
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Edward Jones

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Blaser Investment Management Group

William Austin
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Retired

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Faye Leath
Retired Educator

Shannon Peterson
Attorney

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Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter

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Volunteer and Donor Coordinator
Brittany Graybeal

Supportive Services Advocate
Parthenia Ingram

Housing Specialist
Monika Gauthier

Shelter Advocates
Bernard Faucette
Lora Hinson
Tim McNair
Anthony Howze
Telly McAdoo

Coordinated Assessment Intake Specialist
Thadeous Carr

Kitchen Manager
Steve Caldwell

Kitchen Advocate
Ed Toyer

Food Services Coordinator
Shannon Smith

Food Services Advocate
LaTanya Foust

“I serve because I feel like this is my ministry - being able to assist the people in this community when they are in need. I started doing this work because I felt like it was in my heart to do.”

- Parthenia “Ms. P” Ingram, ACAC Supportive Services Advocate