

HOUSED

A NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY THE DURHAM EVICTION DIVERSION PROGRAM



LEGAL AID
of NORTH CAROLINA

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Facing Eviction?

To apply for legal assistance with eviction, please contact Legal Aid of North Carolina (866-219-5262)

The CDC Eviction Moratorium

Legal Aid of NC has prepared materials related to the CDC Eviction Moratorium and encourages all newsletter readers to share these materials with those in need of help. Click on this [link](#) below to access these materials.

Upcoming Events

10/7 (6:00-7:00 PM): Durham PTA Council presents "Resources for Renters" with Dr. Alexis Clark. [Click here to register](#)

10/29 (6:30-7:30 PM): Durham Tech presents "Know Your Rights" with Peter Gilbert. [Click here to register](#)

With Gratitude

We thank our community partners for supporting Durham residents and families in achieving housing security and learning their rights:

The Caris Foundation
Catholic Charities
DPS Family Academy

HOUSING ADVOCACY AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

To understand how faith and housing security are connected, intern Katherine Edlein interviewed leaders of two churches that have provided substantial financial support to our clients: Duke Memorial UMC and First Presbyterian Church.

Faith-based organizations have offered significant financial and emotional support to clients of the Durham Eviction Diversion Program. These places have partnered with the program to help clients secure housing, receive direct rental assistance, and prevent homelessness throughout the community.

Reverend Kris Williams at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church explains its partnership with the Eviction Diversion Program through this biblical reference: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25:35-36).

When asked how providing their support aligns with their missions as churches, both spoke of their commitment to love as a critical element of their faith. Rev. Williams explained that they believe "expressions of welcome and love come in a variety of ways," one of which is helping their Durham neighbors find secure housing.

Similarly, Mary-Jo Keenan and Jane Williams at First Presbyterian noted that they "strongly believe that social justice is a mandate of our faith – a faith that includes loving and taking care of your neighbor." Housing justice falls under these congregations' greater missions

Duke Memorial Church
Durham Church
Durham Congregations in Action
Durham County Public Library
Durham PTA Council
First Presbyterian Church (Walk-In Ministry)

Donate

The Durham Eviction Diversion Program often fields questions from residents who wish to financially support housing security for all community members. For those interested in making such a financial contribution, our office encourages contacting Caris Foundation.

A locally based 501c3 charitable foundation, Caris Foundation primarily serves people in poverty in Durham by providing financial assistance for rent, utilities, and food.

If you are interested in learning more about Caris Foundation or in making a tax deductible donation, please contact [Charles Holton](#).

Donations to Legal Aid of North Carolina are also welcomed. Your gifts provide legal help to our clients within the prohibitions and conditions enforced by the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). Click [here](#) to donate directly to Legal Aid of North Carolina.

to provide basic needs and continues their strong history of advocacy for distressed community members. Keenan and Williams further emphasized that First Presbyterian's strong partnership with the Eviction Diversion Program has been in keeping with their calling "to do justice and live in love... [by] working for individuals and families to be treated fairly in a time when one of our most basic needs, housing, is being threatened."

Brent Ducharme, an attorney with the Durham Eviction Diversion Program, reports that his clients have appreciated support from congregations like these, noting that these locally driven organizations "can sometimes work more expeditiously to ensure housing security for our clients, especially compared with government agencies that may be slower to act." In addition to partnering with the Durham Eviction Diversion Program, Duke UMC collaborates with several organizations, such as Families Moving Forward, Durham CAN, and their own Good Samaritan Fund to contribute both financial and volunteer support. Likewise, First Presbyterian has acted as a housing advocate through partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, Housing for New Hope, Families Moving Forward, and the Coalition for Affordable Housing and Transit to name a few.

While much great work has been done to alleviate and prevent homelessness, both churches agree that there is still much to be done to reduce eviction and ensure housing security across Durham.

Want to learn how your faith-based organization can support the Eviction Diversion Program's clients? Contact Community Resource Coordinator, Dr. Alexis Clark, at alexisc@legalaidnc.org.