

## Word Around Town

One of our staff reporters asked neighbors the following question:  
**Where does personal strength come from?**

### "GIVING HEARTS"

#### LILIAN ALSTON

<p>"I think that personal strength comes from an ambitious mindset in order to achieve greatness out of life's challenges."  <b>Asriel White</b></p>	<p>"From God."  <b>Allissa Farmer</b></p>	<p>"From parents."  <b>Allissa Farmer</b></p>
<p>"From my foundation with Jesus Christ."  <b>Delores Bailey</b></p>	<p>"From all my brothers and sisters in the movement and their love for justice."  <b>Al McSurely</b></p>	<p>"It comes from how you were brought up and what you were taught in later years."  <b>Katherine Council</b></p>
<p>"From the way that you were raised and the type of environment that you grew up in."  <b>Ronnie Locklear</b></p>	<p>"Personal Strength comes from God to the father to the mother to the children."  <b>Pam Wilson</b></p>	

Our next "Word around Town" will be featured in our April Edition. The question is: "What keeps you moving?" Please call if you would like to submit an answer. Answers can be anonymous or attributed.

## ASK KEITH

Ms. Keith Edwards is a lifetime resident of McDade Street and lifelong advocate for the community. Keith is widely known as a fighter for justice and receives calls from neighbors asking her about programs and referrals for help with household and community issues. To submit questions for "Ask Keith," call the Jackson Center at (919) 960-1670 or email us at [contact@jacksoncenter.info](mailto:contact@jacksoncenter.info).



Ben "Pop" Degraffenreid is a Chapel Hill native and has lived in the Northside community for nearly 35 years. The past few years he has had to fight to stay in the neighborhood.

Dear Keith,  
 Why has it taken Pop so long to find a place to live?

I was told that he had a lease until March. They have a new landlord and they told him he could live there until then. The problem is that, despite many people working on housing issues in the community--such as Empowerment and the Jackson Center--we are still looking for affordable housing in this neighborhood. This community is his home and he doesn't want to leave this area that he is familiar with.

We want to find him some affordable housing within Northside and if we can't then we'll look for some other community close by, like in Carrboro. But, we haven't been able to find affordable houses.

Realtors and investors are leaning towards student rentals and the rent is very high. Students all living together can afford to pay more than permanent community members. It pushes people like Pop and others out and makes it difficult to stay here.

The affordable housing that does exist has already been taken up. There is a long waiting list for public housing. In addition to the lack of housing, so many homes need repair but there are no funds to do improvement.

Pop is losing his home and there is no one willing to rent to him. If you can't pay nine hundred dollars or more in rent then you are out.

## Community Board

- Birthdays in February: If we missed yours or someone else, call us to submit birthdays so we can make sure to remember them for the future.
  - Our namesake, Marian Cheek Jackson- February 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Heavenly Groceries' Faye Taylor- February 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Pastor Troy Harrison- February 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Sacrificial Poet's Will McInerney- February 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Jackson Center's Brentton Harrison- February 25<sup>th</sup>
- Shout outs:
  - Hargraves Center for having an awesome Civil Rights Breakfast.
  - EmPOWERment, INC for preparing beautiful Valentine's Day gift baskets for dozens of Northside residents.
  - Brentton Harrison for delivering "songagrams" for Valentine's Day
  - Congratulations to Fusion Youth Radio for having another amazing program about Black History on Sunday Feb 16<sup>th</sup>.

Sign up today to have your will and other end-of-life documents prepared free of cost by LegalAid on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Hargraves. This can help residents of all ages protect family homes and assets. Contact the Jackson Center for more information. Slots are filling up!

Submit your community posts to the Jackson Center. 1-2 sentences recognizing individuals or significant events in the life of our community. Posts for March's Issue are due March 12<sup>th</sup>.

## ARCHIVE TRIVIA

Submitted this month by Tyrone Clark

What was the name of the famous hotel that once stood on Merritt Mill Rd and Rosemary St.?

Call in on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am (919) 960-1670 with your answers

**Big thanks to EmpOWERment, INC. for sponsoring this issue!**



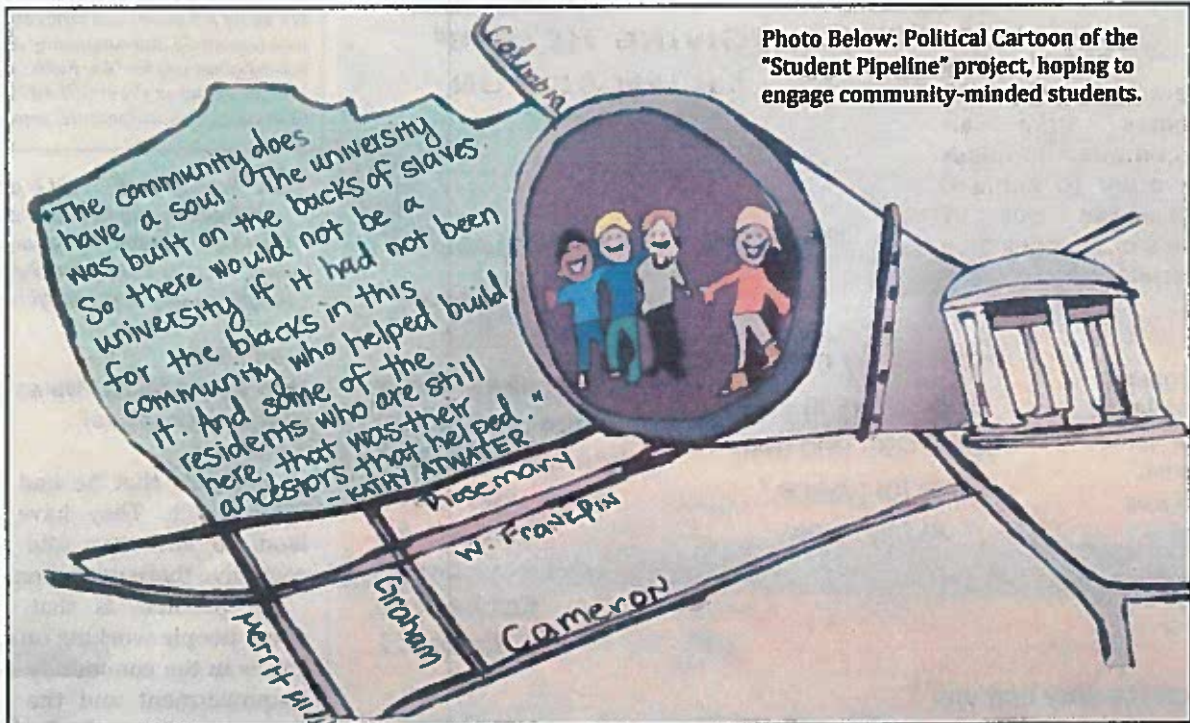
# Northside News

February 2014

*A print-link for neighborhoods of change*

Vol. IV Issue 4

## Who are your student neighbors?



By: Zack Kaplan

An 80-year old woman was woken up in the middle of the night by a yard-party of over fifty students. She ended up in the hospital the next day. Just across the neighborhood, a couple student-residents noticed the smell of gas coming from the next-door neighbor's house. Instead of ignoring it, they went next door and helped save the 93-year old resident from intoxication. While these stories are the extremes, they represent the continuum of action that we hear about often at the Jackson Center: students, like all residents, choose how to be part of the community. Some learn from, connect with, or at least say hi to neighbors; others act as if their neighbors don't exist and their actions don't matter. While students are temporarily here, our presence continues beyond our time. We all take part in shaping what that presence looks like and what our legacy is.

As a student who works at the Jackson Center and who will be living in the Northside next year, I want to contribute to the quality of life of *all* of Northside's residents. My work has focused on educating current student-residents about the neighborhood's deep historical roots and commitment to service, and trying to involve students in positive community action. Another one of the initiatives that I am currently helping lead is called the "student-pipeline" project. Our goal is to identify *existing student rentals* and to try to recruit community-minded UNC students who will recognize, appreciate, and gain from the history and community of the Northside to live in these rentals next year.

*If you or your housemates are at all interested in volunteering as a teacher's assistant or after-school assistant at Northside Elementary School or volunteering in the community any other capacity, please contact Zack Kaplan at [zack@jacksoncenter.info](mailto:zack@jacksoncenter.info).*

In order to do so, we contacted UNC social-justice based organizations requesting that they contact their members about the possibility of living in student-housing in the Northside. These organizations include the Campus Y, Black Student Movement, and Habitat for Humanity. The email that was sent to these organizations included a link to view about 50 available student properties in the Northside, with their price, floor plan, and realtor information included. The theory behind this initiative is that students who are involved in social justice-based organizations on campus are likely to respect and appreciate the history of the Northside community and its permanent residents.

Focusing on this year, the Jackson Center is also working towards engaging current Northside student-residents in the community in the time remaining in this school year and summer. After meeting with administrators at Northside Elementary, the Jackson Center is currently reaching out to residents to volunteer as teacher's assistants in the classroom or as after-school helpers/tutors.

In order to get to know the history and culture of this community, we invite all student-residents to participate in their neighborhood however they can. Even if that means just introducing yourself to a neighbor on your walk home or helping make sure the students you tell about your home are ones who will take part in this neighborhood's legacy. Whatever you can do, every small effort helps create the sense of community and kinship that makes the Northside the wonderful place we all call home.