

Who is



EMPOWERment INC?



*Celebration  
of Mrs. Lillian Lee*

MAY 20, 2023

FUNDRAISER FOR P.E.A.C.H.



## P.E.A.C.H. Apartments

(Pine Knolls EMPOWERment  
Affordable Community Housing)

empowered by



# Celebration of Mrs. Lillian Lee

**An evening  
to honor and celebrate.**

MAY 20, 2023

**Check-in and welcome** with music  
by Mickey Mills & Steel Drums  
and **opening of the silent auction**

**Martial arts demonstration**  
and canape buffet opens

**Introduction by Ms. Alean Farrington,**  
EMPOWERment, Inc. Board President

**Solo by Ms. Lois DeLoatch**

**Expressions of Love:**  
**Reverend Marcus McFaul, Eugenia Davis,**  
**National Basketball Association**  
**and UNC Legend Charlie Scott,**  
**Representative Valerie Foushee,**  
and other community leaders

**Proclamation**

**Presentation of Power Award to Mrs. Lillian Lee**

**Silent auction results**

**Dancing to tunes spun by DJ Lassiter**

## WORDS OF CELEBRATION

Congratulations  
and thank you for your  
commitment and  
activism, Mrs. Lillian Lee!”

—Sue Hunter & Chuck Garrison

## WORDS OF CELEBRATION

“Congratulations  
to Mrs. Lillian Lee  
on receiving the  
POWER Award for 2023.  
She is truly our PEACH!”

— Alexander & Meagan Julian

## Letter from the Board Chairperson



Welcome! This evening we are celebrating a woman who has created a true legacy in our community, Mrs. Lillian Lee. Since her arrival in the 1960's, she has contributed her skills as an educator and administrator and impacted individuals throughout Orange County and beyond. She leads by example and supports many causes.

She has demonstrated repeatedly that she is a true “TEAM player” for the community and affordable housing and that is why she is the perfect ambassador for EMPOWERment, Inc. (EI) and our choice to receive the POWER award tonight.

Since 1996, EI's mission has always been one of bringing the community together as one. A motto that we use to emphasize this has the acronym that spells out the environment that we wish to create... T.E.A.M., (Together Everyone Achieves Much). The 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, communicated the same sentiment when he said, “This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for ALL of us to live in”. In other words, become a team player.

At present, some essential workers in this community, our community, cannot afford to live here because there is not enough affordable housing inventory. That makes it difficult to rent or buy a house in this area. We cannot close our eyes to the needs of this community. It takes all of us working, using whatever method makes you comfortable, to make it a better place for all of us. Everything that EI has ever accomplished has been attributed to the TEAM attitude. We don't just build homes; we build lives, we build futures.

We sincerely thank all of you that have helped to make this event a success and all of you for attending. For some of you, when you give, tonight will be the first time you will have the opportunity to become a part of one of the most unique housing creations in Chapel Hill— The P.E.A.C.H. Apartments. I am making a personal plea to YOU to become a part of TEAM EMPOWERment. Give generously. Help us cross the finish line to build a debt-free P.E.A.C.H. Apartments.

Regards,  
Ms. Alean Farrington,  
Chairman of the Board, EMPOWERment, Inc



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## WORDS OF CELEBRATION

“Happy to help cross that P.E.A.C.H. goal line and salute Mrs. Lillian Lee and EMPOWERment.”

— Jon & Mary Leadbetter

## Letter from the Executive Director

Welcome to this joyful occasion! As Executive Director of EMPOWERment, Inc. (EI), it is my pleasure to share with you information about what we are doing here this evening and why—as we celebrate the amazing Mrs. Lillian Lee and finish fundraising for EI's P.E.A.C.H. Apartments so we will break ground debt-free.



EI is a nimble organization and impacts many lives in many ways. Our mission statement: To empower people and communities to determine their destiny through affordable housing, economic development, and community engagement. But today, our focus is on one of our three pillars: affordable housing. This year, we are happy to share our successes and collaborations: EI has increased our affordable rental inventory to 65 units. We created the economic business initiative for minority business owners called BrightPath Solutions, and we were able to provide food for 300 families at the end of the year. The Orange County community has always been vibrant with a potential for rich diversity. However, systematic problems have existed for decades and as the recent controversy over proposed changes to zoning laws indicates, solutions can seem to be complicated and hard to find.

EI efforts offer a start towards a solution. The P.E.A.C.H. Apartments are a multi-family, intergenerational, 10-unit building that will be built in the Pine Knolls community for essential workers such as teachers, first-responders, and custodial workers earning 30% or below of the Area Median Income (AMI). The cost of P.E.A.C.H. is \$ 3.5 million. EI has been successful in finding support and funding. EI needs just one more push to put P.E.A.C.H. over the finish line. The goal of this event is to raise \$150,000 and build P.E.A.C.H. debt-free. We plan to break ground this summer.

The life and career of Mrs. Lillian Lee is one of advocacy, passion and bettering the community in which she and her husband Howard chose to live. Lucky for us, they made that choice. Through her faith and work as an educator, community organizer, philanthropist, and spouse of a progressive Mayor, Mrs. Lee has championed education, affordable housing, and bettering the community for decades. She leads by example and creates solutions with love. EMPOWERment is pleased to honor the wonderful Mrs. Lillian Lee.

Regards,  
Ms. Delores Bailey

2023  
Power  
Award

Mrs.

Lillian Lee

## A Legacy of Community Leadership

- Mrs. Lillian Lee, a South Carolina native that North Carolina proudly calls its own. She arrived in Chapel Hill in 1965 as a newlywed with her husband, Howard Lee. She immediately began her career of progressive work and activism. Over the years, Mrs. Lee changed the trajectory of many lives. In 1965, she and Nathalie Harrison were the first two teachers at The Hospital School at NC Memorial Hospital—a part of the Chapel Hill School system for nine years. This was North Carolina's first accredited pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade hospital school.
- Mrs. Lee was part of a team of educators that trained Chapel Hill Outreach project Head Start teachers to deliver high-quality education to students in Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia. She served a foundational role in the first Head Start program for Chapel Hill schools. Coming off the road from Head Start, Mrs. Lee became a competency remediation teacher at Chapel Hill High School. Competency scores quickly improved. In 1993, she became the Dean of Students. She was a tireless advocate for 21 years, helping African-American students to graduate until her retirement in 2000.



- Her retirement only opened up time for more activism. In 2000, Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Edith Wiggins organized The Gathering of Women. This group consists of outstanding Black women in the community and continues to this day. She anticipates that 100 women will be in attendance in 2023.



- The 1960s were turbulent. The Lees, along with their children (Angela, Ricky, and Karin), were not always welcomed. For example, a cross was burned on their front lawn in their newly integrated neighborhood; thus began her commitment to fair and accessible housing for all.
- As trusted friends of Coach Dean Smith, The Lees opened their home in 1968 to UNC African-American athletes adjusting to university life in Chapel Hill. This began a tradition that impacted the lives of a variety of students including Charlie Scott, Sam Perkins, Eric Montross, Scott Williams, and Michael Jordan.
- Mrs. Lee is well known for being a partner in public service with her husband, Howard Lee. He was elected mayor of Chapel Hill in 1969 and served three terms. She supported his effort to bring infrastructure such as paved streets and indoor plumbing to the African-American communities close to downtown Chapel Hill.
- Her philanthropic activities included serving on the board of the PTA Thrift Shop, Carol Woods Retirement Center, and The MLK Jr. University Community Planning Corporation. She is an active member of Binkley Baptist Church.
- Mrs. Lee has been an a member of the EMPOWERment Team for ten years through her support as a donor and advocate for affordable housing.



# The Entertainment

**Talents  
to Celebrate a  
Special Evening**



## FRED BLACK

Fred Black is a retired leadership and management consultant. After retiring from the U.S. Army 29 years ago and moving to Chapel Hill, he has been involved in a variety of civic and volunteer activities. He was appointed by Governor Cooper to the North Carolina Military Affairs Commission and serves on the Orange County Veterans Memorial Committee. He is a proud former EMPOWERment, Inc. board member.



## MICKEY MILLS & STEEL DRUMS

Mickey Mills, the amazing steel drum soloist was born in Port-of-Spain Trinidad, West Indies and began playing steel drums at 12 years of age. New York was his professional home for many years where he worked with performers such as Mick Jagger, The Mighty Sparrow and Johnny Mathis. Now, a resident of Carrboro, Mr. Mills performs and gives back by leading an educational program known as Steel -A -Rama which is presented in schools and not only delights children but also teaches about the culture of Trinidadian Steel Drums. You will be able to enjoy the 'steel' of Mickey Mills as you enter The Friday Center and check in.



## THE COALITION NC

The Coalition NC offers instruction and classes in self-defense and fitness while fostering a great sense of community. The clients/ students are families, doctors, lawyers, firefighters - folks from across the community. The Coalition NC caters to all regardless of fitness level or past experience. Jamie Lee is the founder, owner, and lead instructor of The Coalition NC, which specializes in Krav Maga, the most proven and popular fighting system in the world.



## MS. LOIS DELOATCH

A jazz vocalist and songwriter with an extensive repertoire of classics and original compositions, Lois DeLoatch is a force in the world of music and of education. For the past several decades, with her rich contralto voice, she has been a concert headliner and lecturer and educator. Listen closely and you will hear jazz, blues and spirituals integrated into her songs. She is an educator and has worked at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University and North Carolina Central University. Ms. DeLoatch is also known for her philanthropic endeavors. She will be performing during the program.

# Milestones in Our Past

At a glance, some of our most meaningful events...



1996

**EMPOWERment is founded by Myles Presler and Termain Kyles.**

These two students at UNC's School of Social Work, who along with community members saw a need for an organization that addressed community needs. Myles Presler took the helm as director.



1998

**EMPOWERment becomes a HUD certified Housing Counselor Agency**

EMPOWERment can now provide housing counseling and educate community members about homeownership across North Carolina.



2002

**Midway Business Center opens**

EMPOWERment opens the Midway Business Center at N Graham Street, which provides office spaces and resources to minority and women-owned small businesses, and acts as EMPOWERment's permanent office space.



**Mark Chilton takes the helm as EMPOWERment's Director**

Mark Chilton takes on the Director position with EMPOWERment. Delores Bailey joins as a community organizer during the same year.



2004

**EMPOWERment begins Neighborhood Walks and National Night Out**

EMPOWERment creates a series of Neighborhood Walks and collaborates with other organizations for National Night Out, in order to promote safety and community among Chapel Hill's long-term and student residents.



2005

**Delores Bailey becomes the Director of EMPOWERment**

After being promoted to Co-Director in 2004, Delores Bailey takes the lead at EMPOWERment to advocate for marginalized communities in Orange County.



# Milestones in Our Past



2010

## **EMPOWERment opens the Briar Chapel house**

EMPOWERment builds the only affordable housing unit in Chapel Hill's Briar Chapel neighborhood.



2017

## **EMPOWERment opens the Terrell Road house**

EMPOWERment renovates an Orange County donated property on Terrell Road and opens it as housing specifically for veterans.



2020

## **EMPOWERment joins the DMAP Mobile Homes Program created by Orange County Housing**

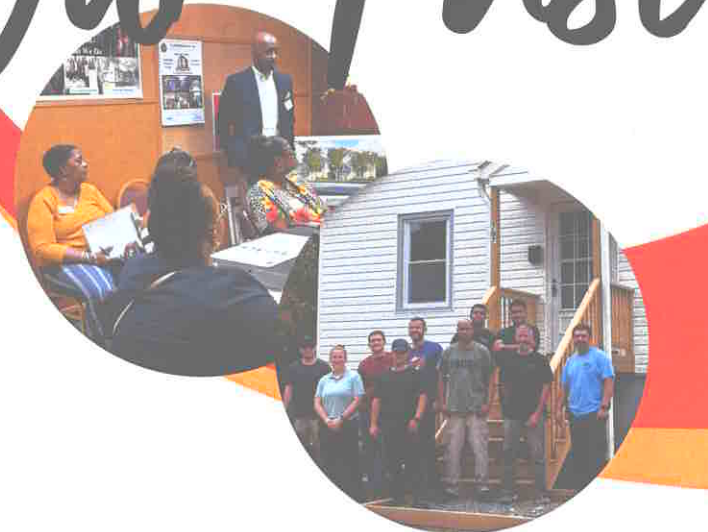
EMPOWERment joins forces to provide services and information for mobile home communities in Chapel Hill.



2021

## **EMPOWERment announces Phase 1 of the P.E.A.C.H. Apartments**

EMPOWERment announces plans to build a 10-unit apartment complex in the Pine Knolls community serving residents who make under 30% of Area Median Income (AMI).



2022

**EMPOWERment acquired four (4) new residential units throughout Orange County to add to our affordable housing inventory.**

**In April of 2022, the Brightpath Solutions initiative was started to assist minority business owners in acquiring the necessary tools and resources to make them competitive.**

This program is sponsored by Truist Bank, Duke Energy Foundation and the Town of Chapel Hill ARPA.

**With funding from Fifth Third Bank, EMPOWERment's Housing Counseling program assisted 50 families in qualifying for Emergency Housing Assistance funds to avoid eviction and remain in their homes.**



**EMPOWERment**  
INC

“We are happy to support EMPOWERment’s P.E.A.C.H. Project and to Celebrate the amazing Mrs. Lillian Lee.”

—Kimberly Kyser and Amanda Kyser

**Congratulations**

**on the**

**PEACH Apartments**



**OUR MISSION:**  
To empower people and communities to determine their destiny through affordable housing, economic development and community engagement.

## About P.E.A.C.H.



EMPOWERment, Inc. (EI) is transforming a purchased community center and a lot conveyed by The Town of Chapel Hill into a 10,000 square foot, 10-unit affordable apartment building, catering specifically to households of essential workers making less than Orange County’s living wage. Local architect Josh Gurlitz is responsible for the design. The price tag on this unique endeavor rose to \$3.5 million due to COVID pandemic delays and supply issues.

In 2020, EMPOWERment’s Capital Campaign began with a profile-raising project—the red signs that popped all over Orange County. This was followed by our wine-tasting event which raised an additional \$100,000. During the next two years, EMPOWERment has procured private, government, and foundation funds. **We are now about to cross the finish line with the proceeds from this event—the last \$150,000 will allow P.E.A.C.H. Apartments to be built debt-free.**

EMPOWERment’s approach remains intentional and community centered. We have partnered with the Town of Chapel Hill and the Pine Knolls Community Center to bring this vision to life. The P.E.A.C.H. Apartments will bring new affordable rental back to the Pine Knolls community, a model EMPOWERment plans to duplicate in the coming years.

Team EMPOWERment, Inc. builds lives, builds communities, builds futures.



FIFTH THIRD BANK

Congratulations to EMPOWERment  
on the P.E.A.C.H. Apartments.

Thank you for all you do  
for the Community.



# Silent Auction

Show your support  
with these featured items,  
which includes...

- **A Little Something for the Table**

An encased signed UNC Basketball from the Team that sent Coach K into retirement can be yours to take home tonight. That is right! From the 2021-2022 UNC Men's Basketball team during Coach Hubert Davis's inaugural season. A basketball signed by the entire team and Coach Davis would look good in any Carolina home.

**Starting Bid is \$1000.**

- **A FAN-tastic Outing**

Heart-thumping action can be yours. National Basketball Association and North Carolina legend Phil Ford will take you and a friend into the heart of the Carolina Basketball game! Enjoy a game with Phil Ford at The Dean Dome during the 2023-2024 season. **Starting bid \$500.**

- **An Evening Out with the Arts**

If you enjoy the arts – why not experience the Carolina Performing Arts offerings at Memorial Auditorium on the UNC-CH Campus during the 2023- 2024 season? This prize consists of 4 orchestra seats for any of the 2023-2024 seasons offerings. You will choose from among The Philadelphia Orchestra with Yannick Nezet-Seguin, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, and Merce Cunningham – it will be your choice. The complete list of performances will be submitted to the winner as soon as the season is announced in August. This prize includes a pre-show dinner at Il Palio Restaurant at the Siena Hotel in Chapel Hill. **Starting bid is \$150.**

*Please note: all bids will be in increments of \$50*



**Kendall H. Page PLLC**

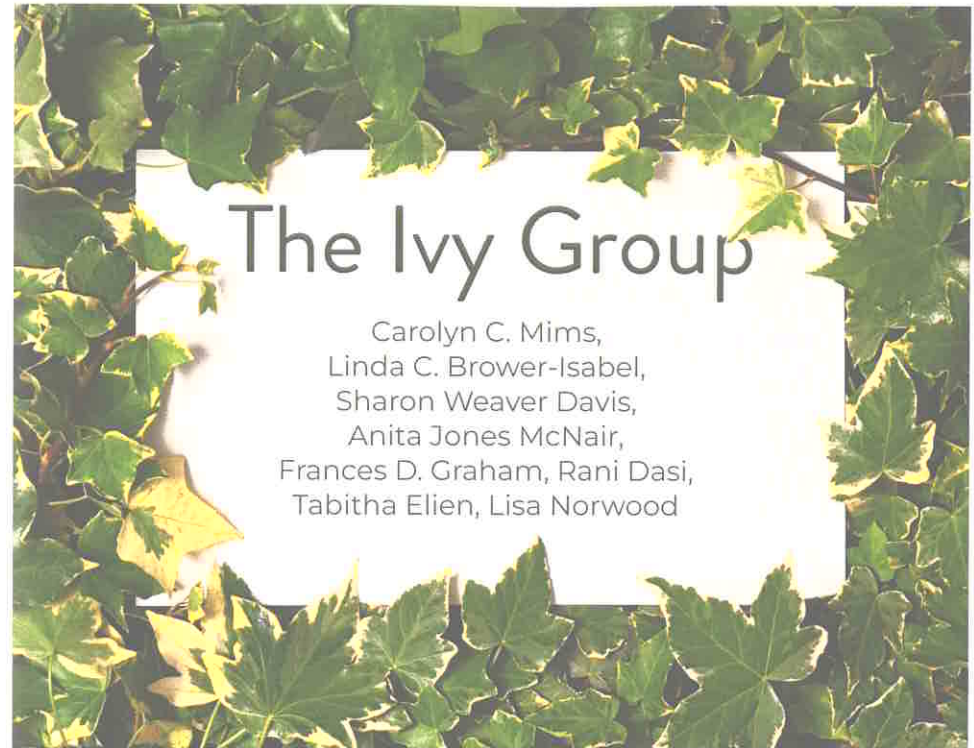
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Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

**Kendall Hill Page**

*Attorney at Law*  
info@kendallpage.com

**919-942-4161**

Website -Kendallpageattorney.com



# The Ivy Group

Carolyn C. Mims,  
Linda C. Brower-Isabel,  
Sharon Weaver Davis,  
Anita Jones McNair,  
Frances D. Graham, Rani Dasi,  
Tabitha Elien, Lisa Norwood

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for all.**

Best Wishes to Mrs. Lillian Lee

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Congratulations  
to EMPOWERment  
on the P.E.A.C.H. Apartments.

—Nora Esthimer

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Kristen & Dylan Young

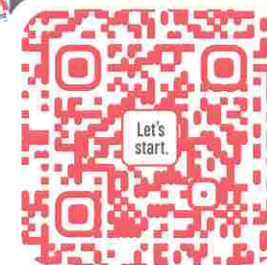
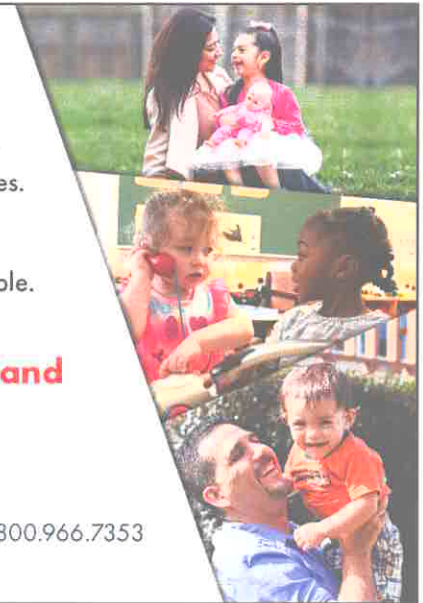
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Whit Rummel  
Tom Tucker  
Laura Wright

**SPECIAL THANKS TO**

Angela Lee  
Kristen Smith-Young

**A VERY, VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU  
TO AN AMAZING TEAMMEMBER**

Mary Friday Leadbetter



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[www.empowermentinc.org](http://www.empowermentinc.org)

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