

# Community adopts ESR families, teaches to decorate on a budget

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

This past Christmas, local community partners worked with Experiment in Self-Reliance (ESR) to adopt ESR clients and provide a class to help clients decorate for the holidays on a budget.

Thirty-five ESR clients were adopted by St. Leo's Catholic Church and Psi Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. to make sure they received groceries, food for a Christmas meal, necessities, and presents for their children to open at Christmas.

St. Leo's and Psi Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. wanted to give families in need the opportunity to enjoy Christmas and alleviate some stress that holidays often bring, especially those with a limited budget.

Clients and families were thankful for the unexpected help they received, some expressing their gratitude and surprise through tears and hugs. "We can't say enough how thankful we are for the support we receive for our clients throughout the year," says Twana W. Roebuck, Executive Director of ESR, "especially during the holidays which can be such a difficult time for many families."

In collaboration with Liberty East Restoration, ESR held their Road to Empowerment Series in the Naomi Jones Resource Center at in the LaDeara Crest neighborhood this fall. The Series consisted of three classes and is a part of the United Way of Forsyth County Place Matters Initiative. Residents worked with ESR staff to determine the classes they wanted to have at the center. The classes were taught over a three-month period by experts in the community and consisted of Budgeting, Cooking on a Budget, and Decorating on a Budget – all with the goal of empowering residents to take control of their finances, save money, and manage their budget.

The final class – Decorating on a Budget – was held on Monday, December 17 and taught by Roslyn Evans, Edelina Oliphant, and Tonya Bellanger. Residents learned frugal and creative ways to decorate for Christmas and came away with handmade gifts and decorations for their homes.

Tonya Bellanger, ESR Board Member and

Finance Chair, volunteered at the final class with her mom, Edelina Oliphant. "I believe in the mission of ESR to empower people in our community to become self-reliant," says Bellanger. "When we have the opportunity to make a positive difference in this world, we should use it. ESR gives me that opportunity every time I attend an event and get the chance to interact with people in the community."

"It is truly a special place filled with people who are doing good."

Yolanda, a LaDeara Crest resident, has participated in all three classes and every Road to Empowerment Series offered by ESR. "It is something you can take with you throughout life. Stop and think classes," says Yolanda. "I love being hands on in the community period, so when ESR comes and brings these classes, it is something extra to do. It is also informative. You get to meet other people in the community. It is something fun. We need something fun."

Yolanda, who serves as the Community Liason for the LaDeara Crest neighborhood, sees participating in the classes as an opportunity to de-stress and learn valuable information. "This is brain food. [This is] something you can take with you throughout life."

"Never give up...Everybody has their own path they are going to go, but along the way, there are people out here in the community that care like ESR and different organizations and such that can make the experience a little bit easier."

ESR would like to give a special thanks to St. Leo's Catholic Church and Psi Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. for their generous donation and for providing hope to families this holiday season, and to Liberty East Restoration and the Road to Empowerment instructors for empowering our community this fall.

ESR is a non-profit Community Action Agency that focuses on empowering people with low-moderate income to become self-reliant. Programs help provide housing, teach clients to save, budget, and improve credit scores, provide assistance for education, and help clients build assets like homeownership, as well as free tax preparation. All clients must be working. For more information on ESR's services, visit their website at [www.eisr.org](http://www.eisr.org) or call (336) 722-9400.

## IN MEMORIAM



OLIVER

John "Raymond" Oliver was born on November 22, 1930 to the late John Raymond Oliver, Sr. and Emma Freeman Oliver.

He graduated from Atkins High School in 1948 and North Carolina Central College in 1952. After proudly serving his country for four years in the US Army, Raymond completed one year of law school at Howard University, then earned his Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the Howard University School of Dentistry in 1960.

Dr. Oliver married Ruth Clark (Oliver). They returned to Winston-Salem where he began his dental practice serving the greater Winston-Salem area. While providing quality and affordable oral health care for the community, he mentored several young dentists in his office and assisted them in establishing their own practices. He continued to practice dentistry for over 45 years until his retirement in 2006.

In the early 1960s Raymond Oliver, worked to integrate various segregated venues in Winston-Salem to include Reynolds Park Amusement area and roller skating rink, K&W Cafeteria, the Drive-In Movie theatre and the Dixie Classic Fair.

In 1968, Dr. Oliver purchased a shopping center to provide an opportunity for minority entrepreneurs to operate businesses in their community.

Dr. Oliver has been honored for his contributions to the quality of life of the community. He was recognized for his services as a dentist, and the many boards on which he served including The Mayor's Biracial Goodwill Committee, Winston-Salem Civic Ventures, Citizens

Budget Advisory Council, East Winston Economic Development Task Force, Trustee of First Baptist Church- Highland Avenue, and the Board of Directors of the YMCA. Dr. Oliver served for ten years on the Central and Local Board of Directors for Mechanics and Farmers Bank. He was a member of national, state and local dental associations, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, National Association of Guardsmen, and the Bachelor Benedict Club. Furthering his commitment to public service, Raymond Oliver mentored boys through the Best Choice Center for ten years as well as passionately serving and supporting the food pantry at First Baptist Church.

Raymond Oliver is a proud, sixth generation, descendant of Peter Oliver; a slave, skilled craftsman and potter, who bought his freedom from the Moravians of Old Salem. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Verda Oliver Morgan.

He transitioned on December 26, 2018 and leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Ruth C. Oliver and children Angela Oliver Battle (Samuel Battle), The Honorable Judge Aileen Oliver, Roland F. Oliver, Dr. John Mark Oliver (Dr. Pamela Oliver); and grandchildren, Jared Battle, Ayanna Battle, John Mark Oliver, Jr., Lauren Oliver and Miles Oliver, his brother Lawrence Oliver (Colleen Oliver) and many nieces and nephews.

A service in his memory will be held at 12:00 PM on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at First Baptist Church-Highland Avenue. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. will give final rites at 10:30 AM, family visitation will begin at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to First Baptist Church-Food Pantry, 700 N. Highland Ave. Winston-Salem, NC 27101. (Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home)

# Signs of hope and climate change

BY KAREN BEARDEN AND KIM PORTER  
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

As we enter 2019, we find ourselves speeding toward two different climate tipping points.

The first is alarming. As reported in October by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, if humanity does not halve its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, we will trigger feedback loops that cause warming to continue no matter what humans do.

which climate progress – rather than climate disaster – becomes inevitable.

The fate of civilization hangs upon which tipping point we reach first.

The past year brought many "natural" disasters that scientists agree were significantly worsened by climate change: hurricanes and flooding in the US and elsewhere; wildfires in California, Scandinavia and Australia; and the hottest days ever recorded in Japan, Pakistan and Africa.

grassroots organizations in eastern North Carolina after Hurricane Florence. But these people still suffer disproportionately, both from severe weather and from the health effects of fossil fuel facilities routinely sited in communities with the least power to oppose them.

Pretty grim. But 2018 also saw signs of hope.

More than 400 mayors, including 13 in North Carolina, have committed to accelerated climate action; 1,300 state and

Carolina Governor Roy Cooper established the NC Climate Change Interagency Council.

Even on the Federal level, there is reason to hope. Incoming Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and others are calling for a Green New Deal to invest massively in clean energy and other climate solutions, creating jobs and boosting the economy. One poll found more than 80 percent of voters support the Green New Deal. And the market is ready, with

lion dollars out of carbon-intensive companies.

A worldwide movement is calling for a ban on all new fossil fuel projects.

Twenty-one plaintiffs aged 11 to 22 are suing the U.S. government, asserting it has violated their constitutional rights to life, liberty and property, and has

ments to renewable energy, with several already generating over 30% of their power from renewables, and one planning to reach 100% this year. (Unfortunately, Duke Energy gets only 3 percent of its power from renewables in the Carolinas, and plans only 8 percent by 2032.)

All of these advances can be attributed to public action. The economics and technologies are in place for humanity to avert climate catastrophe. All that is missing is the political will. Let's make this the year that a critical mass of people demands real climate action and truth-telling from our government, utilities and media. Write letters to your elected officials and media outlets. Join a climate justice organization. March in the streets.

In the words of Greta Thunberg, the 15-year-old Swede who addressed UN leaders at the December climate conference in Poland, "Once we start to act, hope is everywhere. So instead of looking for hope, look for action. Then, and only then, hope will come."



Protesters calling for action on climate change outside the White House in 2017

To prevent this catastrophe, scientists say emissions must peak and start down by 2020.

Yet if last year's growth in climate awareness and activism continues, it could lead to a tipping point at

When such disasters strike, low-income communities and people of color suffer most, having fewer resources to rebuild and getting less attention from those who rush to help. They self-organize in amazing ways, as did local

local politicians have pledged to refuse money from the fossil fuel industry; and 90 U.S. cities, ten counties and two states have adopted 100% clean energy goals. Six cities already have hit those targets. In October, North

prices for renewables and energy storage plummeting.

The fossil fuel divestment campaign, which began in 2012 with tiny Unity College in Maine, just marked its 1,000th divestment, taking \$8 tril-

lion dollars out of carbon-intensive companies. Youth-led legal proceedings are also underway in all 50 states and 13 other countries.

Some utilities have made significant commit-