

Justice is Love in Action  
Capital Area



Justice Ministry

# CREATING A MORE Just <sup>AND</sup> Loving COMMUNITY

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April 2026 Newsletter



## Nehemiah *InterAction*

April 21st  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Old West Florida  
Enrichment Center  
2344 Lake Bradford Road



PLAN TO ARRIVE EARLY  
AND BRING YOUR EMAIL  
CONFIRMATION TO  
SPEED UP SEATING!

RSVP here or  
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below:

[https://www.  
capitalareajustice.  
org/event/2026-  
nehemiah-action/](https://www.capitalareajustice.org/event/2026-nehemiah-action/)





## Pep Rally Highlights

An enthusiastic crowd of CAJM network members filled the Old West Florida Enrichment Center Fellowship Hall to plan and build energy for the upcoming Nehemiah InterAction Event on April 21st. CAJM's effectiveness in working for social justice is built on creating people power. That's where YOU come in. Plan to be at the event and invite 3 people to come with you. Or even better, invite 5!



### CAJM Apparel

When CAJM shows up everyone knows it. Why? Because the room is filled with a sea of green shirts. Green symbolizes hope, growth, balance and renewal. Hope backed up by commitment is a powerful strategy for change. Order yours today!

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## Nehemiah *InterAction*

This election cycle three of the five city commission seats will be on the ballot. Of these three, only one incumbent is seeking re-election. Currently, there are 15 candidates running for 3 seats!

Many of us may not be very familiar with the candidates. And we may know even less about their views on the issues that are important to our Justice Ministry.

We DO know the importance of having strong support for our concerns. This year our community has a unique opportunity.

On April 21st, the Nehemiah Action will be a Nehemiah *InterAction*. We are inviting all the City Commission candidates to a forum on OUR issues. Our [22 congregations](#) need to

know what these prospective commissioners think about the issues that are keeping our community up at night.

We will invite candidates up in groups by the seat they are running for. CAJM Moderators will ask the candidates questions focused on our issues. Each candidate will answer the same questions and they will address the moderators NOT each other. This is not a debate.

We will not promise the exact questions ahead of time but we will provide the candidates with the issues and with background information so they can be knowledgeable and prepared. This evening will be about ensuring the candidates can provide us their views on the issues that are important in our community.

Why should you come?

This is THE opportunity for you to hear directly from the candidates who are seeking leadership positions in Tallahassee. This is THE opportunity to demonstrate to candidates the importance of our issues. Our network is about people. People working together to press for justice and equity. This is an opportunity to use our people power to ensure our city comes up with plan for affordable housing; that our leaders actually implement a gun violence INTERRUPTION plan; that we protect those among us who are hungry; who need access to immigration justice and help for mental health issues.



## New Research Teams Get Started

CAJM's process starts by forming teams to engage in thorough research and deep listening. This year the Nehemiah *InterAction* will be part of the research process writ large. Once we have completed this phase, we begin to work on crafting or refining proposed solutions and engaging in advocacy. Teams have been working diligently on the issues chosen in December 2025.

### CAJM Mental Health Committee

The purpose of the Capital Area Justice Ministry's Mental Health Committee is to identify gaps in Leon County's mental health system and develop actionable solutions that local stakeholders can pursue to strengthen care and support for people living with mental illness. Through research and conversations with local providers and leaders, the committee is working to better understand where the system is functioning well and where community needs remain unmet.

In the current research phase, the committee has been meeting with leaders in the local behavioral health system, including Jay Reeve from the Apalachee Center, to map out the existing infrastructure and pinpoint the most pressing challenges. While Leon County has a strong crisis response system, with integration among the Apalachee Center, Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, and multiple mobile response teams, the research has also revealed significant gaps.

The most critical need identified so far is the **lack of structured residential programming for individuals with serious mental illness**, particularly for those who cannot be adequately supported through outpatient services alone. The committee has also examined barriers to care, such as **limited Medicaid providers, cultural stigma around seeking mental health treatment, funding instability for mobile crisis teams, and the challenges faced by unhoused individuals living with mental illness.**

The research has also explored potential solutions, including expanding residential programming and supporting psychosocial recovery initiatives such as the **Clubhouse model**, which could provide peer-led community support for individuals in recovery. The committee is continuing its research and stakeholder conversations to refine potential policy recommendations to advance with local government partners.

## Immigration

Immigration is a complex issue that has become extremely polarized. The goal of our research team is to ensure just treatment of immigrants in our community and to publicly recognize the value of our immigrant neighbors. This includes our refugee neighbors who were vetted and approved by the United States for entry into our country.

The Team has identified several concerns and problem areas:

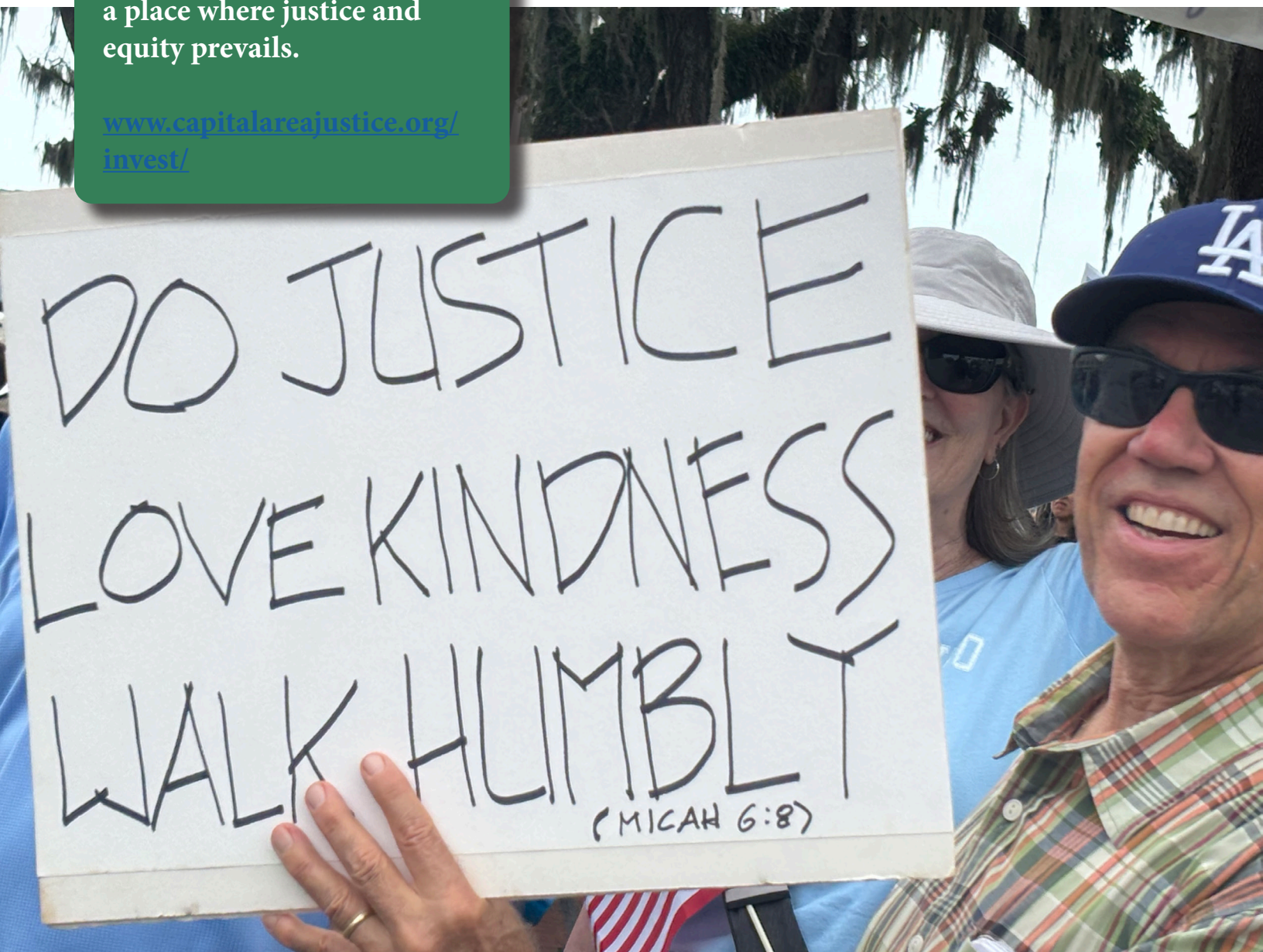
1. Lack of access to legal representation
2. Our local law enforcement's obligations to ICE under 287G agreements.
3. The implications of current and proposed state immigration laws in our community.
4. The wide-spread bias and Incorrect information about immigrants and immigration.
5. How to best walk alongside organizations promoting immigrant's stories and providing services to immigrant families.

Our activities to date include meeting with local officials, with immigration attorneys and immigrant rights coalitions. We are exploring opportunities to hold educational forums and to speak with businesses impacted by recent restrictive policies toward immigrants.

## INVEST in CAJM

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Your Investment ensures  
that the Capital Area Justice  
Ministry can continue to  
transform our region into  
a place where justice and  
equity prevails.

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