



CREATING A MORE Just AND Loving COMMUNITY

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September 2025 Newsletter



The CAJM Network continues to grow and strengthen!

Holy Comforter Episcopal Church and Grace Mission Episcopal Church are the latest congregations to join the CAJM Network. We will welcome these new congregations at our Network Assembly.

Upcoming Events

CAJM Network Assembly

Tuesday, October 28 from 6 till 7:30
Old West Florida Enrichment Center
2344 Lake Bradford Road



At the Assembly, we will welcome our new congregations, hear about the concerns elevated by our congregations and vote on our next issue(s) to begin to research and work to solve.

Interfaith Vigil for Immigration Justice

CAJM is a powerful presence at this vigil.
Every Sunday from 5 to 6 PM at the Old Capitol.



TELL
YOUR
STORY

Solutions Start with Stories

CAJM has shown how dedicated advocacy can result in real positive change. Gather with your congregation's fellow social justice folk to learn about current CAJM activities. What other social justice issues would you like to see CAJM tackle? What worries or challenges face your friends, neighbors or loved ones? We will vote on the next issue to begin working on at the Network Assembly on October 28th. Please post pictures of your gatherings to our Facebook and Instagram sites.

Interrupting Gun Violence

Conflict can repeat and escalate over time especially when people don't have the skills or opportunity to resolve problems. CAJM is happy to encourage the programs of the Florida Restorative Justice Association in our community. Highly trained Restorative Justice facilitators help people harmed by conflict or crime come together with those who caused the harm and others impacted in a safe, confidential environment. The person harmed can speak about the impact of the event and work with the group to decide how the harm should be repaired. The person who has done the harm is given the opportunity to be accountable, to make things as right as possible and by doing so restore their place in the community.

In our community there are two restorative justice programs:

- The City of Tallahassee's Community Connections Restorative Justice Program for Teens. If interested, people can email Julya.DenholtmDeMaria@talgov.com for more information about volunteering or referring a youth.
- Connection First, Inc., is a local organization that utilizes Restorative Justice with adults. Their website is <https://www.connection-first.org/>.

Both organizations work with individuals in the criminal justice system as well as community referrals.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WORKS *IN* SCHOOLS

PRIOR TO BEING SUSPENDED
STUDENTS CAN LEARN FROM THEIR
BEHAVIOR, GROW AND SUCCEED.

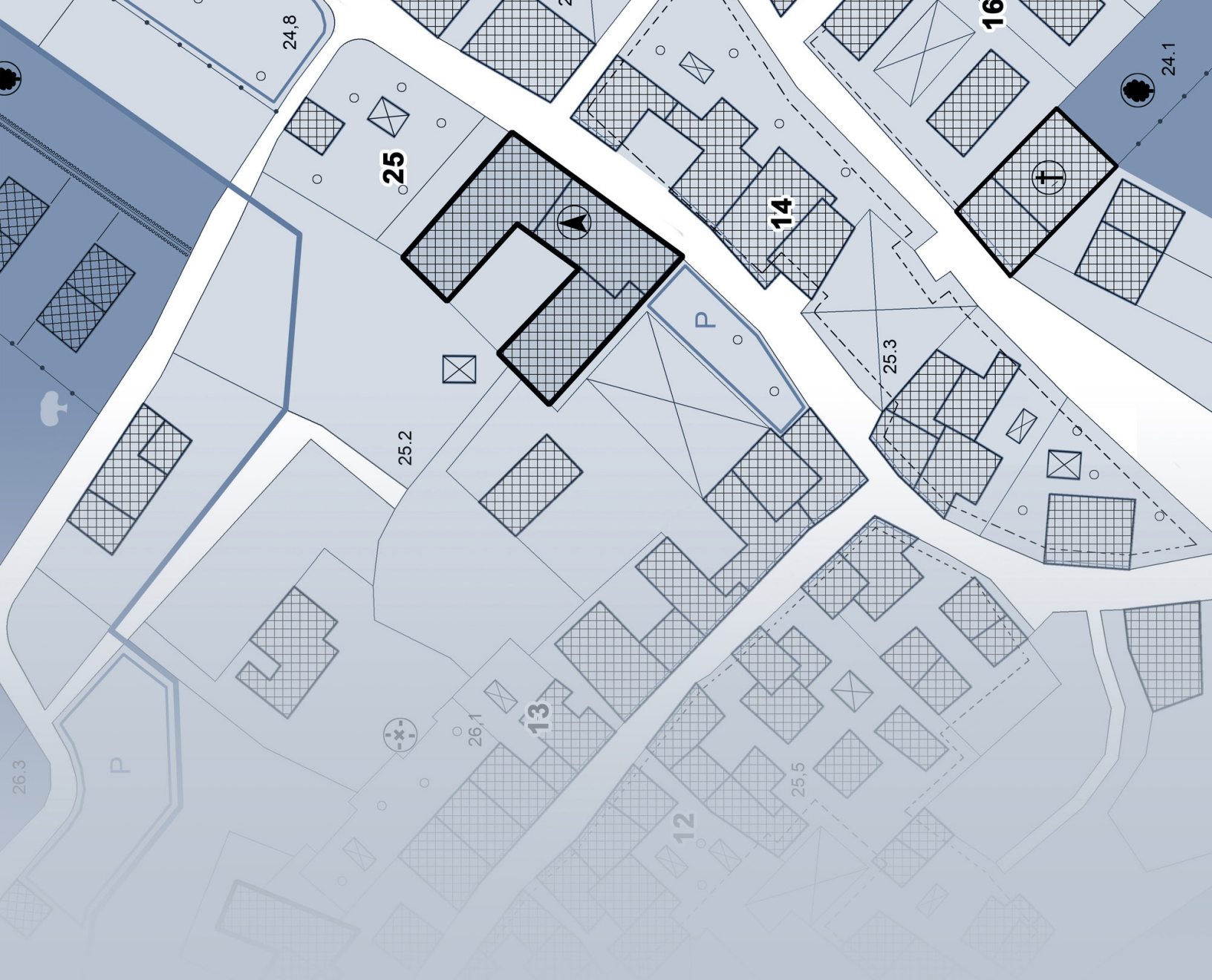
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WORKS *IN* FOSTER CARE

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WORKS IN
FOSTER CARE AND GROUP HOME
SETTINGS PROVIDING BETTER
OUTCOMES FOR OUR MOST
VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WORKS *IN* THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

IT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR BETTER OUTCOMES FOR
VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH ACCOUNTABILITY
AND CREATES A MORE STABLE SOCIETY BY ALLOWING
THOSE WHO DID HARM TO ATONE AND REINTEGRATE INTO
THE COMMUNITY.





More Good News for Affordable Housing!

On September 11, Leon County and City of Tallahassee Commissioners met jointly as the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board. At their meeting, the commissioners voted unanimously to allocate \$250,000 annually from Blueprint Economic Development funds for an incentive program for affordable rental housing developers who are willing to set aside some units for families with very-low and extremely-low incomes. Priority will be given to those developers who are willing to set aside more VLI and ELI units than the minimum required

under state financing programs in which they participate and who are willing to commit those set asides “in perpetuity.”

This allocation will be split equally between the county and the city, bringing the county’s annual available funding up to \$500,000 per year. CAJM is very hopeful that the city will match county funding for affordable rental housing projects in the city.

This was a powerful moment – leaders with different beliefs, different

ideas and different agendas set them aside to come together and unanimously stand for justice for those who work every day but still live on the edge.

Thank you to those who have been so dedicated to this issue. This is a moment worth celebrating. We WILL celebrate and we will also keep pressing forward. This is evidence of what can be accomplished when people work together to create a community committed to justice.