



Charleston Area Justice Ministry

As another year of Justice work wraps up, we have a lot to be thankful for;

- Every year 280 more preschool slots are available for kids so that they are better prepared to read.
- A reading curriculum is in every preschool classroom.
- A Risk Assessment Instrument is being used by four different law enforcement departments to make sure that kids arrested for non-violent offenses are kept out of jail.
- Best practices with school discipline are being implemented by the Charleston County School District that will lower suspension rates and keep kids in school.
- A hiring policy is being written by Mayor Riley that will open up more jobs for our young adults.
- New relationships have developed between congregations, clergy and lay leaders.
- Currently, 24 congregations are members of CAJM.
- Our organizing staff has grown from one to three! You can read a little bit more about our new staff below.

All of these accomplishments were made possible by your decision to "do justice".

Other important news:

- CAJM partnered with the school district on a large federal grant. Funds from this grant will be used to improve school climate. Hopefully the District will

receive the grant but we were assured in our follow up meeting with Dr. McGinley that with or without the grant, they are moving ahead on PBIS and Restorative Justice implementation.

- Next week 14 leaders of CAJM are travelling to St. Petersburg, Florida for a DART Justice Ministry Conference where they will be learning skills to better engage others in doing justice. Over 200 people from around the US will gather together for this exciting conference.
- A meeting is scheduled on July 21 with Mayor Riley to hear his update on the writing of the hiring policy.

Preparation for Year Three

It's time to continue conversations about the community problems that we face. It's time to continue dreaming about what justice looks like in our neighborhoods. It's time to continue building our power to deepen our impact in the surrounding area. How do we build that power? By building relationships and it all begins with our house meetings this fall. Plan to attend a house meeting to build relationships, build power and raise awareness of community problems.

If you pledged to make an investment to CAJM or you would like to invest, you can mail checks to

**CAJM
PO BOX 71416
North Charleston, SC 29415**

You can also make online payments at www.charlestonareajusticeministry.org by clicking on the investment button!



Kayla comes to us from Monterey, CA having finished an MA in Community Security and Development and Conflict Resolution and a MA in Spanish Translation and Interpretation. Kayla has worked for several years abroad and is excited to be



Melissa was born in New Jersey and moved to Palm Beach, Florida at the age of 12. She graduated from the University of Florida with her Bachelor's in Psychology in 2013, and Masters in Entrepreneurship in May 2014. She is excited to be joining the

CAJM's work is recognized nationally through grants from the following organizations;
The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, The Needmor Foundation and UCC Neighbors in Need

back in the US working with
CAJM on creating powerful
systemic change.

Charleston Area Justice Ministry!

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