



Your Story Matters: Join Us for House Meetings

Jordan lives in North Charleston with four children: Casey (9), Morgan (7), Avery (5), and Riley (3). Jordan works the early shift at a hotel on King Street, has to clock in by 6 AM or risk losing the job she has held for three years. Casey, Morgan, and Avery need to be at the bus stop on Remount Road by 7:30 AM, but Riley is only three and has nowhere to go. There's no family nearby to help, Jordan's mother passed two years ago, and Taylor, Jordan's sibling, works nights as a nurse at MUSC.

Jordan has called every childcare center from West Ashley to Goose Creek. Early Learning Center on Rivers Avenue? Six-month waiting list. Little Scholars on Dorchester Road? They quoted \$1,400 a month nearly as much as the \$1,500 rent. The few spots that opened up filled before an application could even be submitted. So every morning at 5:30 AM, Jordan leaves for work. Casey gets Morgan and Avery on the bus at 7:30, then stays home with three-year-old Riley, who watches cartoons until Alex, their other parent, gets off the night shift at 8 AM. By the time Alex gets home and takes Casey to school, Casey has already missed first period and fallen behind in reading. The school has called twice about the tardies.

Casey shouldn't have to be the parent. Riley shouldn't spend mornings alone in front of a TV. Alex shouldn't have to choose between sleep and getting Casey to school on time. But this is what happens when there's no affordable childcare. Jordan has no other choice and has already been written up twice for being late. One more time and the job is gone.

While Jordan's story is fictional, it's shaped from the real experiences of families right here in our neighborhoods, on our blocks, in our congregations. These struggles are happening now, and stories like this are exactly what can change our community.

We are in the **House Meeting Season**, and meetings are happening across all 40 of our congregations. Right now, invitations are going out with excitement we hope one finds you!

House meetings are sacred spaces. Whether they take place in homes, congregation spaces, or community centers, these gatherings are where we come together to truly listen to one another. Each of our team leaders has been specially trained to conduct these meetings, creating space for every voice to be heard and valued.

House meetings are about building power through our shared stories. When we collect and lift up our experiences together, we see the patterns. We realize Jordan's struggle is connected to dozens of other families across Charleston. We discover our individual stories become a collective force for change and that's how we create real, local impact.

Your story has power. Whether it's about childcare, housing, healthcare, wages, or any injustice you've experienced or witnessed, we need to hear from you. Maybe you're living this story yourself. Maybe you're sharing something on behalf of a neighbor, a family member, or someone who needs their voice amplified.

This is your invitation. Reach out to your team leader or CAJM staff today. Say yes to attending a house meeting. When you walk into that room and share your story, you're not just speaking, you're building the power we need to transform Charleston into a place that works for all of us.

Your voice. Your story. Your power. We're waiting to hear from you.

Call to Action - Gadsden Creek!

The CAJM Environmental Justice Committee is working to save and restore Gadsden Creek by creating the Just Ecological Corridor, which will protect the creek and the nearby community of Gadsden Green (Back da Green) from severe weather damage.

You can help by signing the petition!! [Sign here.](#)

Call to Action - Housing!

The Charleston County Special Housing Committee will be giving an update this coming **Thursday, October 9, at 5pm in the Lonnie Hamilton Building** off Leeds Avenue. Please attend if you are able to!

[See the agenda here.](#)

Upcoming Events



What: House Meetings!

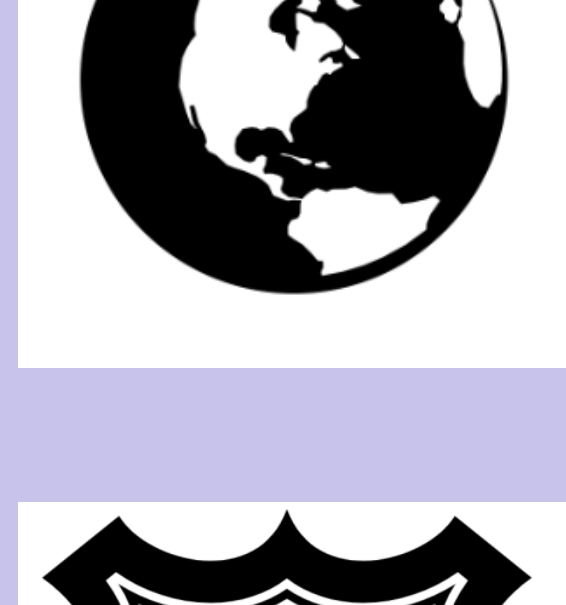
Who: Anyone with a story to share about community problems; and/or anyone who would like to commit to being a Network Member for the 2025-2026 CAJM cycle!

Between September 30 and October 26 -- each congregation's Leaders will schedule time/date/locations!



What: School Governance Full Committee

Who: CAJM Members who want to be involved in planning our next steps!
When: Tuesday, October 14 at 6pm
Where: Zoom; [please register here.](#)



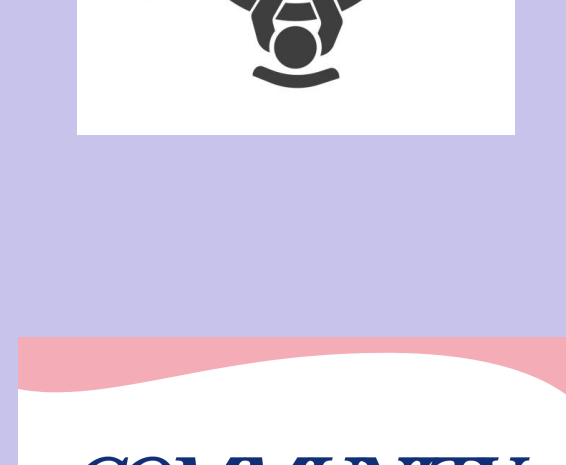
What: Environmental Justice Full Committee

Who: CAJM Members who want to be involved in planning our next steps!
When: Thursday, October 16 at 4pm
Where: [Zoom](#)



What: North Charleston Policing Full Committee

Who: CAJM Members who want to be involved in planning our next steps!
When: Thursday, October 16 at 6pm
Where: Zoom; [please register here.](#)



What: Team Assembly II (Voting on Recommendations for the CPA)

Who: *Team Leaders & Clergy ONLY*
When: Thursday, November 6 at 6:30pm
Where: Location TBD

[Please register here.](#)

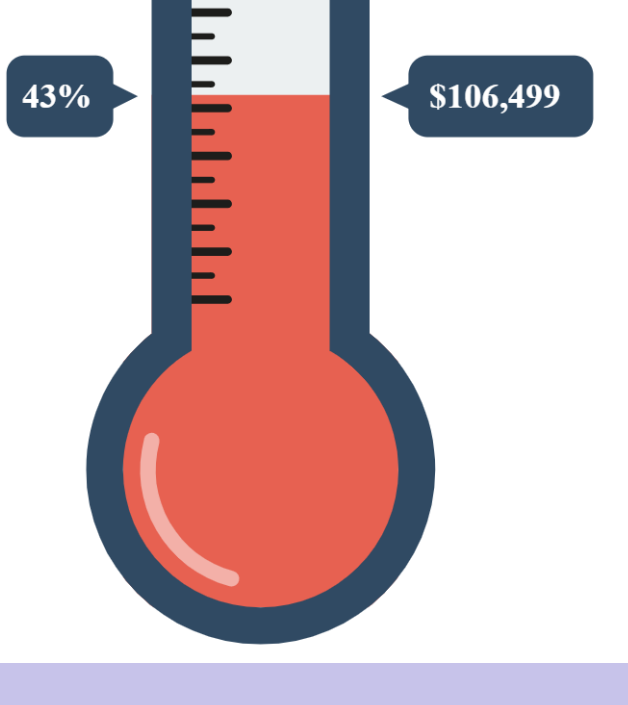


What: Community Problems Assembly

Who: CAJM Network Members, Team Leaders, and Clergy - all fully committed CAJM Members should attend to vote on what new issue CAJM should focus on!

When: Monday, November 17 @ 6:30pm

Where: Location TBD



We've already raised **\$106,499** this year in individual investments. We look forward to your continued support this year as we reach our goal of \$250,000!

[Click here to invest](#)

[Click Here - Invest in CAJM Today!](#)

In the Community:

The International African American Museum is participating in the Kennedy Center's national art project "[Scrollathon](#)" on [October 17 & 18](#). See details below and [contact Neysa Williams \(nwilliams@iaamuseum.org\)](#) if you'd like more information about participating!

Scrollathon has developed an innovative outreach program which offers communities the opportunity to engage directly with professional artists and aims to illuminate America's story through the collaborative creation and presentation of world class art. The Program involves community members who will take part in the following activities:

- A) create a work of art to keep
- B) contribute to a collaborative artwork

C) participants and their artwork will be documented in photographs, video and audio by Scrollathon - used to create a pamphlet, a portrait mural containing portraits of participants and for social media, web content, a documentary film, testimonials, storytelling videos and other periodicals!!

2025 CHARLESTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE FORUMS

Tuesday, 10/7 (6 - 8pm): Mt Pleasant Town Council Candidate Forum

Mt Pleasant Municipal Complex, 100 Ann Edwards Ln, Mt Pleasant, SC

Thurs, 10/9 (5:30 - 8pm): Charleston City Council Candidate Forum

Circular Congregation Church, 150 Meeting St, Charleston, SC, 29401
Mingle with candidates at 5:30pm before the forum begins at 6pm.

Mon, 10/13 (6 - 7:45pm): Isle of Palms City Council Candidate Forum

IOP Exchange Club, 201 Palm Blvd, Isle of Palms, SC, 29451

Weds, 10/15 (6-7:45): Folly Beach City Council Candidate Forum

Tides Folly Beach, 1 Center St, Folly Beach, SC, 29439

Thursday, 10/16 (6 - 7:30pm): Folly Beach Mayor Candidate Forum

Tides Folly Beach, 1 Center St, Folly Beach, SC, 29439

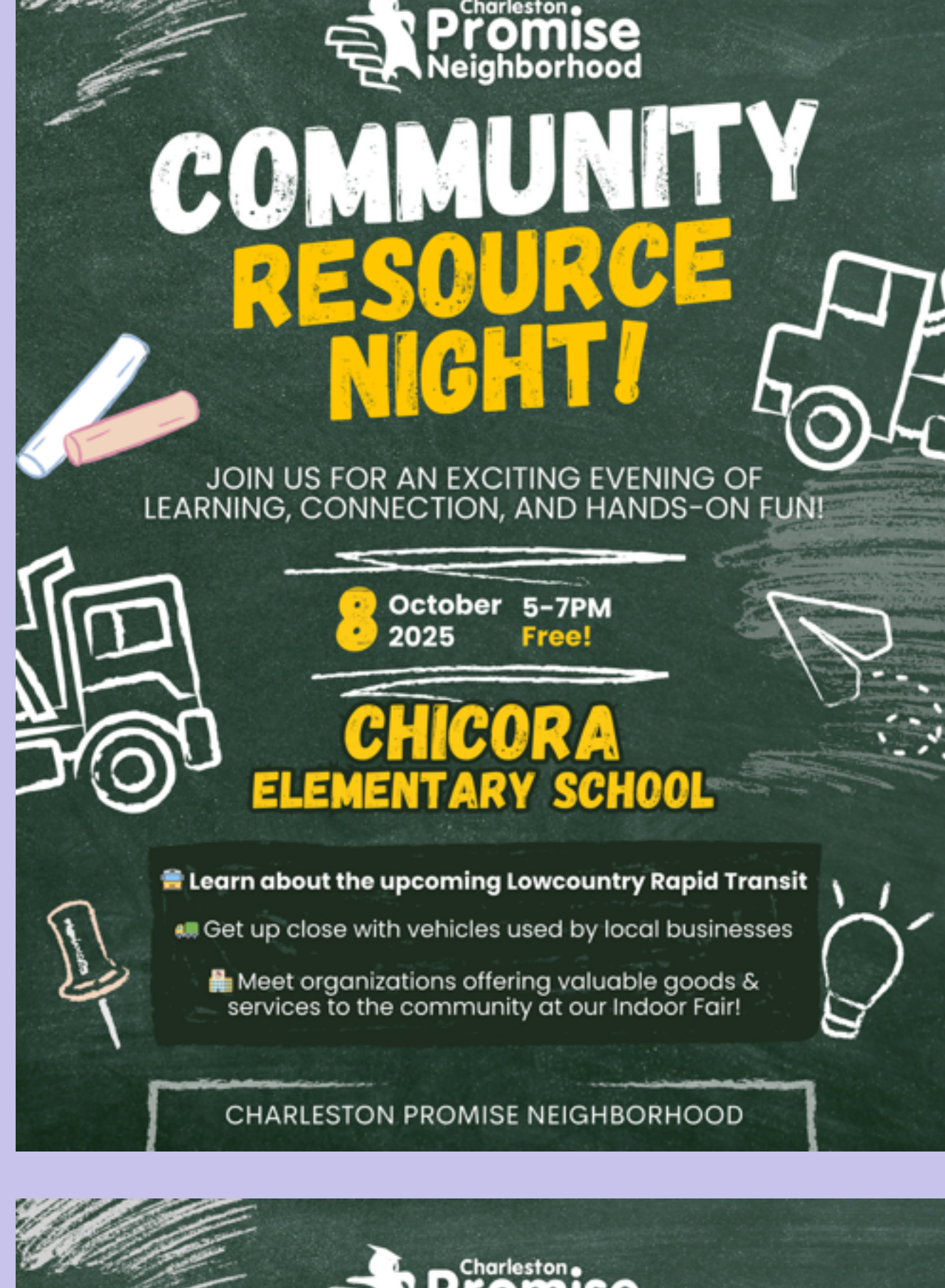
Mon, 10/20 (6 - 7pm): James Island City Council Candidate Forum

James Island Town Hall, 1122 Dills Bluff Rd, Charleston, SC, 29412

Tuesday, 10/28 (6:30 - 7:30): Mt Pleasant Mayor Candidate Discussion

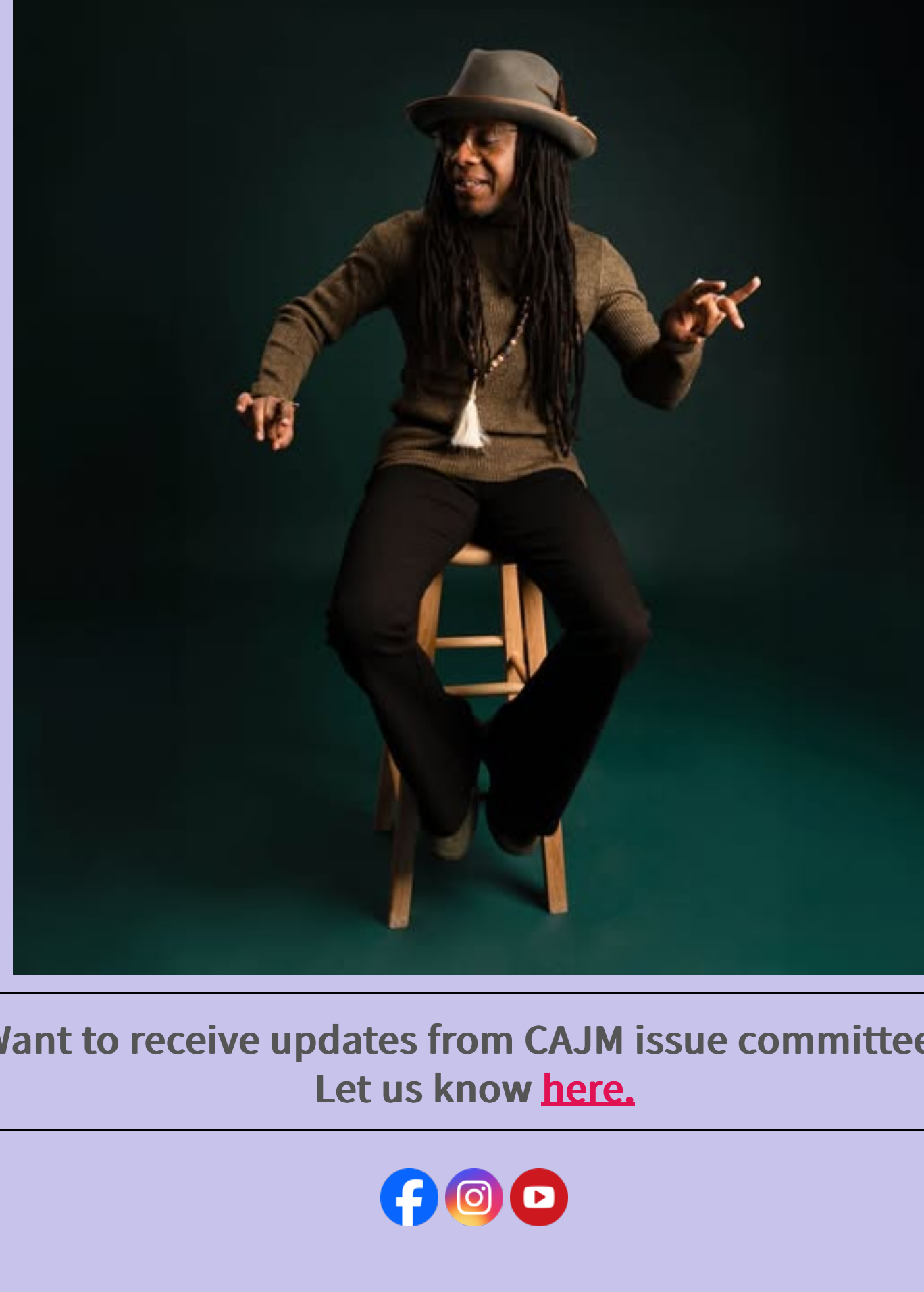
Goodwill Family Life Center, 2818 N. Hwy 17, Mt Pleasant, SC, 29466

Community Resource Night - October 8



10/11 Youth Poetry Slam

Youth Poetry Slam hosted by Marcus Amaker
Salon 1, second floor
Gaillard Center
2-4pm



Want to receive updates from CAJM issue committees? Let us know [here](#).



Charleston Area Justice Ministry
Charleston Area Justice Ministry
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