

FAITH Successes and Plans

Last week FAITH held our first ever Drive-In Rally! At the rally we won the public commitments from Council Members Billie Wheeler, Heather Post, & Barb Girtman that they will support the creation of a \$7 million a year Affordable Housing Trust Fund in Volusia County!

[Click here to read the article in the News Journal about our Drive In Rally!](#)

[Click here to see a video of the powerful closing charge Rev Raynard Brant delivered!](#)

**** VIRTUAL RALLY NEXT WEEK ****

As you know, FAITH has worked over the past few years to make sure that children who commit nonviolent misdemeanors gets access to diversion programs instead of being branded for life with criminal records!

When we found out earlier this year that *over 5,000 children who were eligible for diversion did NOT get access*, we and our sister organizations across Florida sent thousands of emails to the secretary of the Dept. of Juvenile Justice demanding that these children get access to a second chance.

Locally we are struggling to get our usage higher, DJJ has made some mistakes that law enforcement are not following the MOU that our State Attorney, RJ Larizza drafted. Because of the lower numbers, Mr. Larizza has implemented more changes to the MOU and is working on a new system entirely to keep potentially hundreds of juveniles from getting arrest records.

These emails got us a meeting with the secretary of DJJ, and we have some important updates. We will be having a **Virtual "Rally" for civil citations with Senator Brandes of Pinellas County and Volusia's State Attorney Larizza on Thur, July 9th at 10:30am via Zoom!**

This "Rally" will include hundreds of people from all across the state of Florida and we will discuss our next steps to making sure children get second chances. Please share this Rally with your congregations. Right now, only 61% of eligible children get diversion across the state of Florida! We want as many people as we can on this Rally so we can push our state to make sure that as many children as possible get the help they need.

To Register in advance for this Rally go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsfuGorzIoGNOQV38dbUxwytKon1R38Ljz>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

This Call to Action will include people of faith from all across the state of Florida as well as key officials ready to help us fix this problem. Please share this invitations with your all justice ministry network members and others in your congregation.

Other Meetings

In addition to this July 9th Rally, are have a number of other upcoming meetings. All the meetings listed are via Zoom, **so please RSVP to this email and we will send you the link!**

1. Next Tuesday, July 7th, FAITH's Housing Committee will be meeting with County Council Member Deb Denys to discuss the creation of an affordable housing trust fund.

The pre-meeting is at 9am, and the meeting itself is at 10am.

Here is the zoom info:

Zoom meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84808152265?pwd=Mmw2T0VtS3hCQmpVUFazMTZjNzNHZz09>

Dial in by phone: (646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 848 0815 2265

Password: 394787

2. July 20th at 9am meeting with Sheriff Chitwood to push him to stop unnecessarily arresting children.

Here is the zoom info:

Pre Meeting at 9, meeting with him at 10am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82678904251>

Meeting ID: 826 7890 4251

Dial in by phone: (646) 558-8656

If you would like the latest information on what investments have been turned in from your congregation, please contact us and we will send you the list. As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns!

with peace,

F.A.I.T.H.