

January 31, 2023

Dear Community and Business Leader:

First of all, I want to thank you for your faithful, ongoing support and interest in the Johnston City Ministerial Alliance and JC Kids' Lunch Bunch. Because of you, other concerned citizens, and community organizations, we have helped some of Johnston City's most disadvantaged individuals and families during times of financial crisis and food insecurity.

As treasurer of the Johnston City Ministerial Alliance, however, I have recognized that many of our assistance programs (financial crisis assistance, food pantries, clothing giveaways, and the like) are at best band-aids for the issues facing hurting people in our community. Here in Southern Illinois, we have the same long-term problems with addiction, relationships, mental health, and generational poverty that people face in large cities. Yet here, not only is the system to deal with these issues broken, it is often inaccessible or even non-existent to those who need it most. On top of that, many people who come for help have "burned the bridges" to family support, institutional resources, and other organizations.

Almost a decade ago, while I served as pastor at JCity Church, God gave our congregation the vision of a ministry to address long-term needs in more enduring and holistic ways—a hand-up instead of a hand-out, a path to true healing instead of a quick-fix for outward symptoms, resources to help individuals and families rebuild bridges to better lives, with the end result of renewing and improving our community. This vision finally materialized in 2021 when our church launched an independent, nonprofit community development organization called JCity Center for Hope and Renewal. On December 31, 2021, I resigned as pastor and became the director of this ministry.

Almost immediately, God provided both a home for this new organization and two nonprofit partners to work with. First Christian Church of Johnston City offered to sell its former parsonage to our congregation under very reasonable terms. Take Action Today of West Frankfort, a peer-led recovery community organization, and Caring Counseling Ministries of Marion, a Christian mental health agency, agreed to join our efforts and offer services here in Johnston City. Take Action Today's launched its first community resource center right here in our facility, and Caring Counseling allowed one of its licensed mental health therapists to open a satellite office here also.

I am writing to inform you about the services we offer (or hope to offer soon) as well as our ongoing need for financial support and volunteers. As a community development organization, our scope is broad. Through partnership and cooperation with other nonprofit and community

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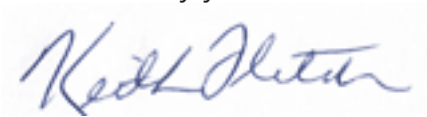
*Rebuilding Bridges to a Better Life . . . a Better Community*

organizations, we currently offer mental health and family counseling, invested community counseling, addiction recovery coaching, and personal and family financial mentoring. The enclosed brochure provides more information about these services as does our website ([www.jcity.center](http://www.jcity.center)), our Facebook page, and YouTube channel. Please check us out!

JCity Center offers a unique service we call “invested counseling.” Hurting people who are financially strapped, uninsured, or under-insured may do community service in exchange for sessions with a professional counselor. With an additional counselor on board, we are now expanding this program. If you know people who need help dealing with grief, trauma, depression, anxiety, marital/relationship issues, etc., we have “invested counseling” sessions available now. Please tell them to call our office.

JCity Center for Hope and Renewal is a community-based, locally funded organization that relies on the generosity of our community to meet its financial needs. Please consider a one-time donation or a recurring gift to help us sustain our program. If you or your business is unable to give at this time, please encourage your employees to take advantage of our services or volunteer to offer their expertise to others in our community.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Fletcher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keith" being more prominent than the last name "Fletcher".

Keith Fletcher  
Director

P.S. If you would like more information about how your business or organization can partner with JCity Center, I would be glad to schedule a phone call or an in-person or online meeting with you or your organization’s leadership to give a presentation about the Center and answer any questions you may have. Please call 618-952-1272 or email [jcitycenter@gmail.com](mailto:jcitycenter@gmail.com).