



A Nonprofit Community Development Organization

504 E. BROADWAY BLVD.
JOHNSTON CITY, IL 62951

www.jcity.center | 618.952.1272

January 23, 2023

Dear Pastor/Ministry Leader:

As former pastor of JCity Church and the treasurer of the Johnston City Ministerial Alliance, I recognized many years ago that most of our compassionate ministries (financial crisis assistance, food pantries, clothing giveaways, and the like) are at best band-aids for the issues facing disadvantaged 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 and institutional resources that should be helping them along with your church and other community organizations.

Almost a decade ago at JCity Church, God gave our congregation the vision of a ministry to address these 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 the outward symptoms, resources to help individuals and families rebuild bridges to better lives, with the end result of reviving 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 of JCity Church and became the director of this ministry.

Almost immediately, God provided both a place for this new organization and two faith-based 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 wanted you to know about the services we offer (or hope to offer soon) as well as our needs for support through prayer, finances, and volunteers. As a community development organization, our scope is broad. Through partnership and cooperation with other nonprofit and 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), 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 work (*continued...*)

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

(or guided ministry in your church) in exchange for sessions with a professional counselor. With an additional counselor on board, we are now expanding this program. If you know people in your church who need help dealing with grief, trauma, depression, anxiety, marital/relationship issues, etc., we have “invested counseling” sessions available now. Please have them 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 special offering, one-time donation, or recurring gift to become part of your outreach ministry. We have joined you in front-line ministry, and the enemy doesn't like to see lives being changed through the hope Christ offers or our community being renewed by empowered believers doing His work. Even if your church is unable to support the Center financially at this time, please pray for this effort.

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 church can partner with JCity Center, I would be glad to schedule a phone call, a meeting with you and your church leadership, or attend one of your services to give a presentation about our ministry and answer any questions your people may have. Please call 618-952-1272 or email jcitycenter@gmail.com.