

# ISSUE CAMPAIGN WINS

2016-2025



## Our Process

By organizing people in congregations and organizations, we build Justice Knox to possess power to successfully hold our community leaders accountable to justice and fairness. The organizing process follows a three step cycle of **listening**, **research**, and **action**. The whole process ends in our annual **investment** drive. Not one of these elements is more important to our mission than another, and each helps us grow, learn, and increase our faithfulness to the Knoxville community.

## Mental Health Campaign

- Crisis Intervention training for all city and county patrol officers.
- Annual evaluation of the local mental health system funded by the county including key system stakeholders.

## Affordable Housing Campaign

- City Affordable Housing Fund established through ordinance guaranteeing \$5 million annually for affordable housing development for 10 years.
- 2000 plus affordable homes built or in development since the fund started for low income families, including homes for extremely low income families and permanent supportive housing.

## Homelessness Campaign

- Creation of and city and county support of an evidence informed strategic plan to reduce homelessness, including a goal of “functional zero” for veteran homelessness.
- Commitment by county to develop a tiny home community including supportive services to house 20 veterans who have experienced homelessness. Completion of Operation Hero’s Hill expected in Spring 2026.

## Eviction Prevention Campaign

- \$100,000 from city to Legal Aid Society for eviction prevention and \$500,000 from county for rapid rehousing to Community Action Committee in 2025/2026.

## Education Campaign

- Contract between the International Institute of Restorative Practices (“IIRP”) and Knox County Schools to deepen restorative practices in a middle and high school and introduce them in 3 elementary schools.
- Commitment from Superintendent to meet quarterly with Justice Knox leaders during life of IIRP contract. The initial contract is 1 1/2 years.
- Extension of contract with IIRP to continue embedding restorative practices for additional 2 years.
- Release of school discipline data in March 2024 including risk ratios of vulnerable populations and commitment to update this report twice annually on the Knox County schools website beginning fall 2024.
- The report of the complete data set from the 2023/2024 school year is on the KCS website.

## Gun Violence Campaign

- A problem analysis of our local gun violence problem facilitated by national experts.
- A seat at the table for Justice Knox during development and implementation of an evidence-informed violence reduction strategy responding to the problem analysis, alongside city officials, law enforcement and other community stakeholders, facilitated by national experts.
- With support from Justice Knox and other community stakeholders, city secured a grant of \$2 million to be used over 3 years from the federal government to fund implementation of the strategy, which includes training for evidence informed violence interrupter work, efforts to physically improve high crime areas with input from neighbors living in the areas, and support for evidence informed targeted group violence intervention. Justice Knox is named as a stakeholder in the grant and continues at the table monitoring and informing this work.
- In the first year of implementation of the violence reduction strategy (2023), Knoxville saw a 35% decrease in fatal shootings and a 12% decrease in non-fatal shootings. In 2024 there was another 5% decrease in fatalities and 50% decrease in non-fatal shootings. In 2025 there was an additional 26% drop in fatal shootings and 27% drop in non-fatal shootings.