

2025 NEHEMIAH ACTION

One night when people of faith unite and act together,
with a voice so big it can't be ignored.



YOU'RE INVITED!

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW...

including your ticket!

(tickets also provided at the door)



MY TICKET TO THE BIGGEST NIGHT FOR *JUSTICE* IN JOHNSON COUNTY



Your name: _____

Your congregation: _____

Who invited you? _____


WHAT'S THE NEHEMIAH ACTION?

IT'S THE CULMINATION OF A LOT OF COMMUNITY WORK...

This fall, 80+ small-group **listening sessions** collected feedback about the **community problems** weighing on our hearts and minds.



Some members choose to join an **issue committee**. They spend countless hours interviewing practitioners, local service providers, and national experts to deeply research the problem and select viable **solutions** that can be implemented in Johnson County!



Considerable work is put in to spread the word through congregation meetings - educating folks on the research and building broad community support for the chosen solutions.

Finally, at the **Nehemiah Action**, we unite to ask for commitments from the local decision-makers who have the power to implement our requests. We do this in a large public setting to make sure that there is real accountability for these important issues.



2025 NEHEMIAH ACTION TUESDAY, MAY 6TH

Doors open at 5:15, event starts promptly at 6:00 PM

Resurrection - 13720 Roe Ave, Leawood

ASL interpretation will be provided.

WHAT IS THE GOOD FAITH NETWORK?

OUR VISION

Through **faith in action**, we celebrate a community of equity, justice, and belonging so all people in Johnson County thrive.

OUR MISSION

Honoring the inherent dignity and value of each person, we advocate for just solutions to support our most vulnerable with a unified voice that won't be ignored.

OUR SHARED VALUES

FAITH

We trust in the transformative power of love.

RESPONSIBILITY

We answer our call to bring hope in the midst of despair.

COMMUNITY

We create a deep sense of belonging for all.

FAIRNESS

We seek to do the greatest good for the most pressing need.

JUSTICE

We challenge ourselves and community stakeholders to act courageously.

WHO IS IN THE NETWORK?

We are an interfaith coalition of nearly 30 congregations across Johnson County.

For a full and updated list of collaborating congregations, visit:

WWW.THEGOODFAITHNETWORK.ORG/MEMBER-CONGREGATIONS

**OUR NEWEST
CAMPAIGN:**

ELDERCARE

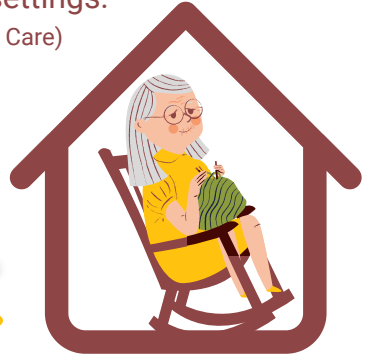
The Problem: Kansas ranks #47 in the nation for the percentage of low-care residents in nursing homes, meaning that a higher proportion of older adults who require minimal assistance are still being placed in institutional settings.

(Kansas Advocates for Better Care)

47th

However, the vast majority of us want to live independently as long as possible!

We need better supports and services to empower aging in place.



**As we age,
we have new and changing needs:**



**Activities of
Daily Living**

OUR IDENTIFIED SOLUTION:

CAPABLE

COMMUNITY AGING IN PLACE, ADVANCING
BETTER LIVING FOR ELDERS

Participants in CAPABLE engage in a 3-5 month program and receive home visits from an inter-disciplinary team including:



an occupational therapist



a registered nurse



a handy-worker



This team works together with the client to set goals and action plans that improve health, independence, and accessibility. Participants learn new skills, exercises, and how to work with additional equipment/home modifications to improve function and safety.*

CAPABLE was developed by the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and has been adopted in over 35 locations.

More than a decade of research shows that CAPABLE reduces the impact of functional impairment and disability, enhances motivation and self-efficacy, reduces health disparities, improves emotional health, and reduces hospitalizations and nursing home days.*

- ▶ **74.8%** of participants had less difficulty with their Activities of Daily Living.
- ▶ **52.9%** of participants had fewer depressive symptoms.
- ▶ **\$30,000** = the resulting savings in medical costs from roughly \$3,000 in program costs

For more details on CAPABLE and making it a reality here, check out:

- the full research brief on our website
- the CAPABLE National Center* website

...and come to the Nehemiah Action!

WE'RE NOT DONE ENDING HOMELESSNESS - Functional Zero by 2029!

Built for Zero is a national movement powered by Community Solutions, bringing together over 100 communities across the country to end homelessness, not just manage it.

Reaching **functional zero** means homelessness is rare, brief, and doesn't recur. It means every person without a home is known by-name, and a community can quickly house new cases as they arise.



Does this ring a bell? It should!

Good Faith Network has been talking about functional zero from the start.

[For more background on ending homelessness, check out the committee's full research briefing on our website!]

Now, JoCo has new momentum thanks to a **statewide Built for Zero initiative** from the KS Dept of Aging & Disability Services!

GREAT! WHY DO WE NEED TO KEEP GOING?

Despite current efforts, our numbers are going in the wrong direction.

of people homeless & without shelter has **increased 22%** on average each year over the last 10 years in JoCo.
[2024 Point in Time data]



The service providers are doing their part and working to achieve high-quality data!

Our elected leaders have a chance to make the most of this opportunity to be Built for Zero:

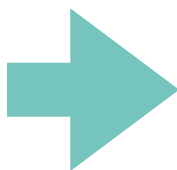
They need to wrap support around those services to ensure this is a full-throttle effort - they need to hear a powerful voice on **May 6th** calling for that support and seeking investment in housing that truly ends homelessness!

OUR HOUSING CAMPAIGN IS SEEKING AN Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF)

That's a dedicated, reliable pool of funding for developers of affordable housing. An AHTF is a financial incentive that makes it easier to build homes that everyday people can afford.

**MAY
2023**

our first
request for
an AHTF



county conducted a
feasibility study

(presented Oct 2023)



How will an AHTF be funded?

That's the next big question! **Over 500 days ago**, the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) voted to have staff research sustainable funding sources for solutions like an AHTF. **But there's still no research report.**

We are asking the county to produce that report and start formally considering an AHTF.

We know it works...

- The AHTF in Lawrence has facilitated the creation of 700+ affordable units over 5 years!
- Other cities with AHTFs:
 - KCMO and KCK
 - Topeka
 - Wichita
 - Hundreds across the country!


And it's not a new idea...

- **2008:** JoCo Kansas Housing Choices Task Force Report
- **2020:** JoCo Community Housing Study
- **2021:** JoCo Housing for All Toolkit
- **2023:** BoCC Housing Subcommittee Final Report

...so why don't we have an AHTF yet?

Come on May 6th to demonstrate to our county that we are crying out for affordable housing!

A Promising Resource, Almost Here!



Johnson County's long-awaited crisis stabilization unit at The Recovery Place (64th & Nieman Rd) is now slated to **open in 2025**, after an initial target launch in 2024.

Though delayed, this is a **critical new investment** in our mental health infrastructure! 12 short-term crisis stabilization beds will provide rapid support for individuals experiencing acute mental health or substance use crises.

WHAT IS CRISIS STABILIZATION?

It is not a hospital or long-term treatment facility – instead, it offers a safe, supportive, and clinically-staffed setting in the local community where adults in crisis can stay for several days in order to stabilize and then re-enter the community with appropriate support services.

Without appropriate stabilization, too many individuals in crisis may be...

- **waiting hours, sometimes days, in Emergency Departments**
- **encountering law enforcement instead of clinicians**
- **cycling through jails or being discharged without follow-up**



The Recovery Place will **relieve pressure** on first responders, ERs, and law enforcement, and offer people in crisis a better, more **compassionate** option – one focused on **stabilization and dignity**, not punishment or delay.

THAT'S A WIN!

While The Recovery Place will serve an important role, it cannot accept **involuntary** crisis patients. As some of the **most vulnerable** in our community, this population still lacks local, accessible options for treatment. Many are transported across county lines or placed on long waiting lists, delaying care and increasing risk.



We must keep working to find **opportunities for additional treatment** beds within Johnson County that can serve **involuntary patients!**