



Corporate Drive 2023



"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."

— *Benjamin Franklin*

What is RISC?

RISC stands for Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Communities. We are a tax-exempt, 501(c) 3 organization made up of 22 congregations from throughout the Richmond Metro Area. Founded in 2002, we use the power of large numbers of organized people to solve critical community problems. We are not a direct service provider, but rather we are a grassroots, direct action, multi-issue organization.

How Does RISC Work?

RISC follows a yearly process that focuses on building and strengthening a Justice Ministry (Rodef Tzedek) Network at each member congregation. In the Fall, Team Leaders host House Meetings to discuss community problems and engage participants as Network Members. From November through March, Issue Committees are formed to conduct research into the problems, and ultimately come up with specific, winnable solutions. The Nehemiah Action is held in the Spring, where thousands gather to ask public officials to implement these solutions. After the Nehemiah Action, leaders follow up on commitments made, and Network Members are invited to invest in RISC.

Who is RISC?

Member Congregations

Allied Justice Seekers
Bon Air Presbyterian Church
Church of the Redeemer Catholic
Congregation Or Ami
East End Fellowship
Ebenezer Baptist Church
Faith Community Baptist Church
First Congregational United Church of Christ
First Presbyterian Church
First Unitarian Universalist Church
Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
New Light Baptist Church
Second Baptist Church
Southminster Presbyterian Church
St. Elizabeth Catholic Church
St. John's Episcopal Church
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Temple Beth-El
Third Street Bethel AME
Three Chopt Presbyterian
Union Presbyterian Seminary
Unitarian Universalist Community

Executive Committee

Co-Presidents:

Pastor Don Coleman, East End Fellowship
Rev. Amy Starr Redwine, First Presbyterian

Vice President:

Deacon Renee Mills, Ebenezer Baptist

Treasurer:

Steve Saltzberg, First Unitarian Universalist

Secretary:

Nancy Kunkel, St. Elizabeth Catholic

At-Large Officers:

Jo Booker, Faith Community Baptist
Rev. Marvin Gilliam, The Mt. Carmel Baptist
Barbara Jacocks, Bon Air Presbyterian
Nancy Kunkel, St. Elizabeth Catholic
Deacon Janice Lacy, Ebenezer Baptist
Rev. Mairi Renwick, Union Presbyterian Seminary

Staff

Emily Small, Lead Organizer
Denzel Mitchell, Associate Organizer
Jomi Gomez, Associate Organizer
Liz Petty, Administrative Assistant

Current Issue Campaign: *Affordable Housing*

TWe had a crisis in our city before COVID, and it has gotten worse. Half of all Richmond residents cannot afford their monthly rent. In 2015, RISC got the city to start putting money into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. However, not enough money was put in and it has not resulted in units for the households in the most need.

In 2021, we won passage of an ordinance that established a dedicated stream of funding for the Trust Fund. This dedicated stream was to start out at \$2.4 million, but was projected to grow to \$10 million (and beyond) within a few short years. However, the city administration refused to follow this Ordinance.

This past Spring, after continuing to cry out about the crisis, the city administration agreed to allocate an estimated \$10 million in bond revenue to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, for the next 5 years (for a total of \$50 million). We plan to monitor how the city spends these funds, and continue to push for funding for the Trust Fund, that is not borrowed money.



Current Issue Campaign: *Healthy Homes*

In the Fall of 2021, we identified another problem that is both a housing issue, and an environmental justice issue. 6,000 – 7,000 people are living in mobile homes that are in terrible states of disrepair. As a result, families are living in extreme heat in the summer, and extreme cold in the winter. Water leaking into these homes is also common, causing mold and causing walls, floors and roofs to deteriorate.

We identified a mobile home repair and replacement program as our solution. **And, after we persisted for over a year, Richmond City Council allocated \$800,000 for this program this past Spring.** We plan to ensure the funding is allocated, and that families' homes are repaired / replaced.



Current Issue Campaign: *Gun Violence*

Our city's gun violence crisis is only worsening; 2022 ended with an increase in shootings and 2023 is shaping up to be just as bad if not worse.

Since June of 2020, we have been calling upon Mayor Stoney to bring a proven gun violence intervention program called Group Violence Intervention (GVI) to our city. GVI has been implemented in dozens of cities across the country, and has been proven to cut homicides in half or more.

We have asked Mayor Stoney to move forward with GVI many times since June of 2020. Last Summer, because of our persistence, one of our allies – REAL Life – received funding from the state and US Attorney's Office to implement GVI. However, we learned in February that the city has officially refused to even participate in this – an effort which they wouldn't need to fund, or administer, and which has the potential to save a significant number of lives. We are disappointed, and plan to continue to call upon the current administration, as well as all mayoral candidates, to implement this proven program.



Recent Accomplishments

Connecting Low-Income Job Seekers with Training & Opportunity

- In 2018, we got VCU to establish the VCU Pathways Program, a pipeline to in demand healthcare careers with work readiness and mentorship components. 106 low-income, job seekers completed the program in its first year.

Saving Families the Pain of an Eviction!

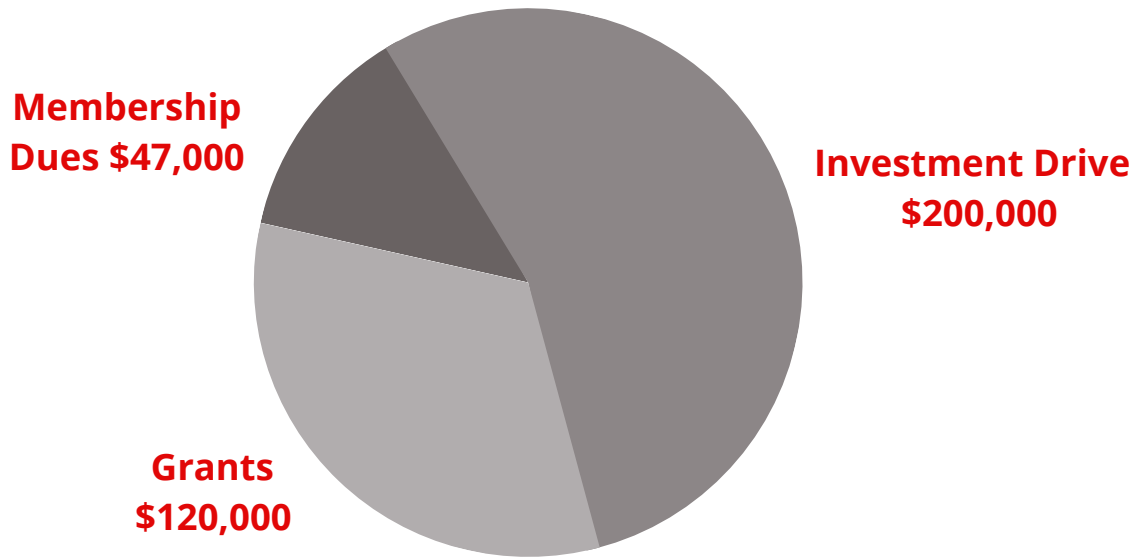
- In Fiscal Year 2019, approximately 400 families were spared the pain and trauma of an eviction, through the Eviction Diversion Program we got the City to establish.
- Nearly 3,000 families were able to stay in their homes during the pandemic, as a result of RISC having gotten the Mayor to allocate \$6 million in CARES Act dollars, to emergency rental assistance.

Group Violence Intervention in Hopewell, VA!

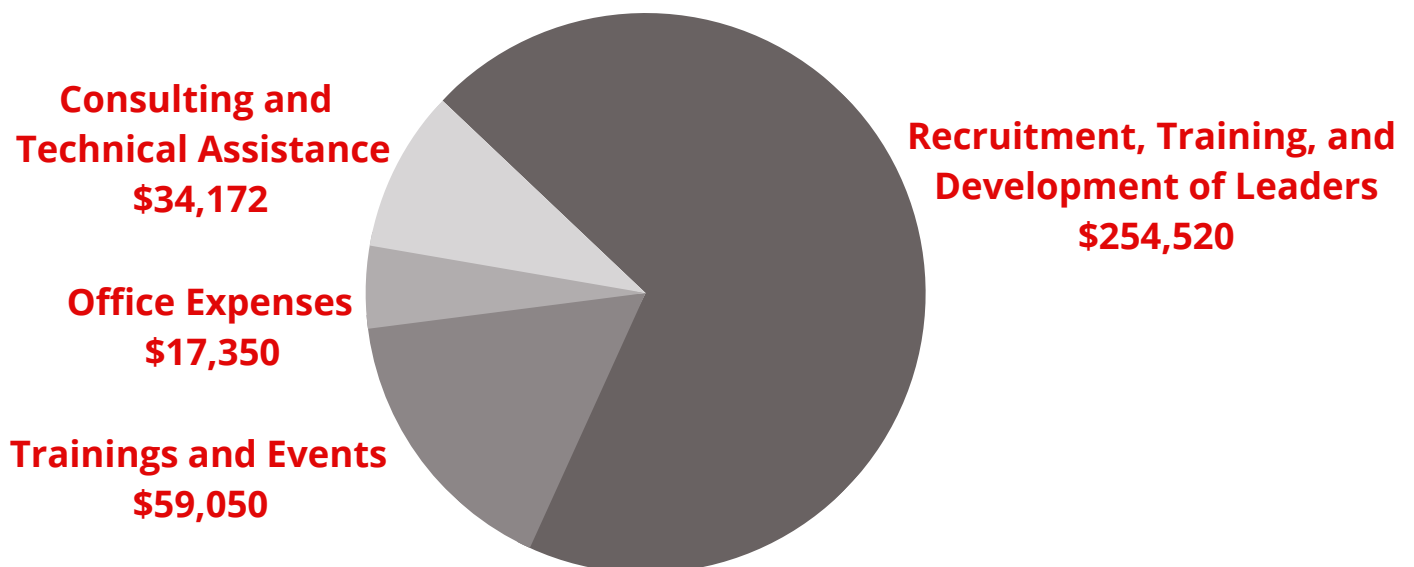
- Due to RISC's persistent messaging on the effectiveness of GVI, the city of Hopewell has stepped forward and is currently implementing this proven program!

RISC Budget FY 2023

Income - \$367,000



Expenses - \$236,979



Annual Investment Drive

Congregation Drive

Each year, all individual members of RISC are invited to make a financial investment in our work to do justice in the Richmond metro area. **In 2022, 449 members invested a total of \$139,620.** The average investment per member was \$311. This year's goal is to raise \$150,000.

Corporate Drive

We believe that the work we do benefits not just those we serve, but the business community as well. Therefore, each year we undertake a process of building and deepening relationships with our corporate partners, and recruiting more. **In 2022, we raised \$26,000 from these corporate partners;** our goal for 2023 is to double this, and raise \$50,000.

Our Corporate Partners

Woodfin

Bank of America

Wegmans

Scott's Funeral Home

Old Dominion Freight Line

Riverside Brick & Supply

Mitchell & Wiggins

***To Make a Corporate
Investment in RISC -***

ONLINE:

<https://www.riscrichmond.org/invest>

BY MAIL:

RISC

PO Box 4931

Richmond, VA 23220

RISC In the News, 2022-2023

Faith group vows to push forward with gun violence initiative despite lack of city support

https://www.wric.com/news/local-news/richmond/faith-group-vows-to-push-forward-with-gun-violence-initiative-despite-lack-of-city-support/?fbclid=IwAR1Eom2lk05VOy9hUpyXV8UupiqhPnlG1hIHRHDobtfHT_T4VS5Am7T5H84

How should Richmond pay for affordable housing?

https://www.wric.com/news/local-news/richmond/faith-group-vows-to-push-forward-with-gun-violence-initiative-despite-lack-of-city-support/?fbclid=IwAR1Eom2lk05VOy9hUpyXV8UupiqhPnlG1hIHRHDobtfHT_T4VS5Am7T5H84

Richmond nonprofit receives grants to implement Operation Ceasefire

<https://www.vpm.org/news/2022-10-27/richmond-nonprofit-receives-grants-to-implement-operation-ceasefire>

Faith leaders demand Richmond City Council take more action on affordable housing

<https://www.nbc12.com/2023/02/28/faith-leaders-demand-richmond-city-council-take-more-action-affordable-housing/>

Richmond's Affordable Housing Remains Elusive

<https://richmondfreepress.com/news/2023/mar/09/richmonds-affordable-housing-remains-elusive/>

Thousands approved to help 'worst living conditions' in Richmond. Why hasn't it been spent?

<https://www.wtvr.com/news/local-news/richmond-mobile-home-repair-march-20-2023>

City leaders, groups propose housing crisis solutions

<https://richmondfreepress.com/news/2023/apr/06/city-leaders-groups-propose-housing-crisis-solutio/>

RISC Nehemiah Action Assembly March 28, 2023



**1,172 people strong, we
DID JUSTICE.**

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