



Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice

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FCPJ February 2022 Update

Dear friends,

The Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice (FCPJ) has been a leading Peace and Justice advocacy organization in Florida since 1982, linking activists statewide in an effort to promote a culture of peace and peaceful conflict resolution while also seeking social, environmental, racial, and economic justice. Initially founded in Orlando primarily by Quaker activists from across the state, FCPJ has since established a permanent home in Hampton, Florida, following the generous gift of 15 acres of land in Bradford County by the Geiger Family in 1992. In line with our mission, this donation enabled our organization to provide a place for peace activism/education – where children, adolescents and adult community members can learn the essential skills of peaceful conflict resolution while also learning respect for each human being, all living creatures, and the environment.

This land has served as a location for meetings, demonstrations, workshops, and retreats sponsored by FCPJ, including annual summer peace camps for youth and young adults held at our Peace Education Center.

As we emerge from the pandemic, the human need for connection and face-to-face conversation becomes paramount. FCPJ is experiencing a renewed passion to serve our community by building on the foundation established over the last forty years, while also reflecting the vision of our current members and the pressing needs of our time.

- Safe space for educating children
- Retreat space for peace, justice, environmental, faith, and women's groups
- Healing space for anti-racism work
- A place for celebrations and community fellowship

FCPJ is grateful to our friends who recently donated:

- Supporting the pollinators; Our first bee box to initiate our apiary
- Supporting our renovations; A table saw with stand and full set of battery powered tools & 25 gallons of paint
- Supporting our mobility; 16 batteries to help get more EV carts active on the property
- Supporting our expansion; two 12'x40' modular buildings and ~\$10,000 worth of tools

To these ends, several projects are simmering.

New Office and Work Space

We are seeking \$20,000 in matching funds for our new office space and workshop! Two 12 X 40-foot modular buildings have been donated to FCPJ, including an additional generous donation of valuable tools and supplies. This will provide much-needed office and project space set up independently and joined together by a 20'x40' roof structure sheltering our valuable sawmill and

equipment. This will necessitate lime rock plus materials for the foundation and roof. This project will require an additional \$10,000 and needs to be done prior to the summer rains. Our multi-skilled staff is ready to take on this project, with the help of volunteers.

The total building and tool donation from an old friend will ultimately be a nearly \$20,000 value. We are seeking to match this donation by raising \$20,000 of funds for this exciting expansion. Can you contribute to our matching fund?

The Apiary

With the permission of the adjacent landowner (Danny Geiger) we are creating our Apiary. The first bee box is on site with a second box being built, both awaiting colonies of bees this spring. Our state registration is initially with our Treasurer's Apiary, but once inspected it will have its own name and registration number. Seen as a vehicle for a variety of workshops, this Apiary will eventually provide honey harvests for sale as well as providing the bees with their own safe home as they join us in our land stewardship efforts. FCPJ is currently seeking \$525 towards start-up costs to expand our apiary! What a sweet project to support!

Certified Commercial Kitchen

This is our big renovation project, to convert the kitchen in our Peace Education Center to a modern facility capable of becoming certified. FCPJ believes this venture will positively impact aspects of community building, nutritional education, teaching life skills, sharing culture, and achieving economic justice in our community. This will be a wonderful service for the local community, offering the public the ability to convert their produce into value-added farm products. We are looking for grants and donors in order to begin construction.

If you are interested in collaborating with our Grant Committee, or you would like to be involved in our certified kitchen efforts, please reach out to us!

We invite you to come for a visit and partake in the vision for a greener, healthier, peace-filled world. Near the land lies rails-to-trails for biking, and lakes and rivers to explore by kayak and canoe. Starting in the heart of Old Florida, with your energy and support, we can continue to create more empowered sustainable communities through unique experiences on our property, inspiring visionary peacemakers of all ages. Organizational retreats welcome!

We invite you to write a check today, or donate through our website (florida4peace.org/get-involved). Send your check to FCPJ, 10665 SW 89th Ave, Hampton. FL 32044.

We look forward to seeing you for a retreat, a camp-out, or a workshop soon!

Sincerely, the FCPJ Board of Directors

Eduardo Arenas, Kate Ellison, Pete Ackerman. Shawna Doran, Bryan Roberts

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