

Strengthen & Grow

MACON COMING HOME PROGRAM

How it Works

Georgia Justice Project has a long-standing partnership with the Mercer University School of Law, and this year we received an Equal Justice Works Fellowship to provide Coming Home representation to the Macon community. Over the next few years, we will work to develop and deepen our partnerships with Mercer and the Macon nonprofit, faith, and philanthropic communities. In doing so, we will determine the feasibility of a long-term presence in Macon providing both Coming Home services and expanding to provide our core work there, as well.

Here's an example of the kind of work our staff attorney, Ashley Deadwyler, is already doing in the community: *Earlier this year, Kevin came to me seeking help. Caring for three children, he knew he had to grow up quickly. He began attending school to become a medical technician while also working a full-time job. Unfortunately he had not grown up fast enough, and his criminal history displayed a list of youthful mistakes. The most damning charges on his record were charges that had actually been dismissed (meaning he was never convicted), but were still appearing on his record for an employer to see. Through our Macon GJP office, we were able to clean up this young man's record so that he could be accepted into an internship at one of the best hospitals in our area. Kevin is doing well now with great prospects for future employment with the hospital, a job that will not just benefit him but will also ensure that three innocent children are provided for.*

With adequate interest from Macon-based stakeholders, we can build on our legacy of service to people like Kevin and develop a full-fledged Georgia Justice Project office in middle Georgia.

What We Need

Investments totaling \$1,000,000 in the Macon office over the next three years will strengthen and grow our Coming Home program there and allow us to begin offering Holistic Legal Defense to the community.

- Represent 1200 Coming Home clients
- Offering criminal defense, social services, and employment support to 100 people
- Document our learnings so that we may be equipped to replicate our work in other communities should the opportunity arise

"Our office in Macon started out of the back of my Yukon (we literally had filing cabinets in the back of the car) with a weekly trip to Salvation Army, but we have since grown into a full-fledged legal office and have assisted almost 400 individuals in our community."

-GJP Staff Attorney and Equal Justice Works Fellow, Ashley Deadwyler



Transforming our
community for **25** years