

## WE REMEMBER THEM

Between 1882 and 1930, Florida had the highest per capita lynching rate in the United States, with Alachua County ranked at the top of the list. There were 45 documented lynchings of men and women in our county. The victims were farmers like **Alfred Daniels**, ministers like **Rev. Josh Baskins**, and phosphate miners like **Manny Price** and **Robert Scruggs**; they were mothers like **Mary Dennis**, brothers like **Burt and James Dennis**, fathers, and sons. White people, in an effort to maintain the racial hierarchy, attacked Black people to create an atmosphere of racial terror. They attacked them for voting, for leaving plantations, for participating in politics, and for working towards economic independence.

This racial terrorism has left a legacy in the persistent racial disparities with which we continue to struggle in Alachua county. Almost 50% of our Black children live in poverty, average income for Black people in our county is half that of white people, and despite being only 20% of our total population, Black people make up 70% of those incarcerated here.



## Who we are:

Our History: The Alachua County Community Remembrance Project (AACRP) is a coalition of community groups dedicated to working for Truth and Reconciliation in Alachua County, Florida. The group began in January 2020, after community members visited the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)'s National Memorial to Peace and Justice and Legacy Museum, in Montgomery, AL. The group was profoundly affected by EJI's memorial to the victims of lynching during the Jim Crow era and began to explore the history of racial terror and injustice here in Alachua County.

## What we do:

Following EJI's model, we hold public events to educate our community about this history and its enduring legacies today. And although we have begun the work of speaking the truth and educating our community, we have much work to continue to achieve reconciliation and equity.

We hold soil collection ceremonies, we install historic markers, we hold high school Racial Justice Essay contests, and do many community education events such as Town Hall meetings, book and movie discussions. We make remembrance quilts to remember and honor the victims. We created a "Black Heritage Trail" and interactive website.

**We work for truth and reconciliation.**



## Why collect soil?

*In this soil, there is the sweat of the enslaved. In the soil there is the blood of victims of racial violence and lynching. There are tears in the soil from all those who labored under the indignation and humiliation of segregation. But in the soil there is also the opportunity for new life, a chance to grow something hopeful and healing for the future.*  
–Bryan Stevenson, EJL Executive Director

Using the format designed by EJL, we hold soil ceremonies. The victims of racial violence in the Jim Crow era were denied trials, and often were not given funerals. We collect soil from the site of the lynching, and hold a solemn ceremony with prayers and song, to tell their stories and to remember them. Two jars of soil are collected at each lynching site. One jar is displayed here in Alachua county, and a second jar of soil is displayed at the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, AL where they have over 800 jars from all over the United States.



## Resources:



### UNDERSTANDING RACIAL INEQUITY IN ALACHUA COUNTY

[https://www.becr.ufl.edu/sites/default/files/Research%20Reports/ri1\\_baseline\\_report.pdf](https://www.becr.ufl.edu/sites/default/files/Research%20Reports/ri1_baseline_report.pdf)



## Equal Justice Initiative



<http://eji.org>

# ACCRP

Alachua County Community Remembrance Project



TRUTH & RECONCILIATION



[truth.alachuacounty.us](http://truth.alachuacounty.us)

