

# GRACE Provision

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2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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# REFINEMENT *Through* TRIALS MAKES

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. — Isaiah 43:2-3a*

## DEAR FRIENDS OF ABCS,

We are celebrating God’s grace and provision in 2017. Arizona Baptist Children’s Services & Family Ministries (ABCS) continues to fulfill our mission *to provide hope and care to hurting children and families through Christ-centered ministries*. We serve the full spectrum of Arizona families from unborn babies to seniors through our seven ministries. Despite the ups and downs of ministry, God has established us in our call from Matthew 25:40: “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

There are some remarkable highlights throughout this report. Most significantly, 94 people made decisions to submit their lives to Christ and put their faith in the only one who can change them. A record number of 102 foster children were adopted into loving, forever homes. The addition of the Yuma resource center met our goal to expand this ministry to areas where the community is at-risk and in great need of hope and care. Across the state, 73,746 food boxes were distributed to families in need through our resource centers. We give God all the glory for these milestones, but we know the Kingdom impact is in the stories of lives changed.

God was gracious in providing for us during a year in which we lost over one million dollars due to changes in our parent aide contracts with the state. We anticipated some of these changes and made significant cuts in 2016, but they were still not enough to compensate for the huge loss experienced as the new contracts and rates rolled out. We are grateful to have weathered this storm as some agencies contracted to provide parent aide services closed their doors.

This trial is a reminder that we never arrive. God uses trials to refine us and make us better. I know that ABCS will be stronger because of this season. As Morgan’s story on the next page illustrates, God uses the hardest things to draw us closer to Him. Trials are a part of God’s will and purpose for us in this life.

As we move forward, we expect contract revenue to stabilize, and plan to further expand our resource center ministry in communities most at-risk. We know from our nearly 60 years of experience working with the state that contracts are subject to change as priorities and leadership change. While this is a challenge for many social service agencies, our partnership with the state is a blessing and a huge ministry opportunity. Of the estimated 16,799 families we served in 2017, 1,740 were involved with the Department of Child Safety. Thank you for praying with us for this ministry and those we serve.

In Him,

Steve Hanna  
Executive Director & President

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## MORGAN'S *Story* NEW LIFE TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM

When Morgan was first introduced in our newsletter she had just been through one of the biggest trials of her young life. She and her two-year-old daughter Faye were involved in a life-threatening car accident. Morgan was nine months pregnant at the time. Her unborn baby sustained a skull fracture and had to be delivered via emergency C-section, Faye had a deep gash across her cheek and Morgan's injuries were critical, including internal bleeding and a broken leg that had to be rebuilt with metal implants.

There were many ups and downs for Morgan as her condition improved and then deteriorated. Through it all, the Lord sustained her. With the help and support of her loving family, and additional support, prayers and encouragement from her transitional program classmates and staff, she exceeded her doctors' recovery expectations. The baby also recovered and was adopted by a caring family as planned.

Morgan came to the New Life Transitional Program looking for a new start in life after leaving an abusive relationship and making a commitment to sober living. The road to recovery and stable living has not been easy, and for many, the devastating car accident would have hindered or completely halted their progress. However, Morgan continues to make positive changes in spite of her struggles.

As God continues to refine Morgan, she hopes to live a happy life and to be the best mother to Faye that she can be. Morgan is thankful for the safe, affordable housing provided by the transitional program, as well as her mentor and the counseling she's received. The program is helping her deal with her anger and failures, to own her life and to find peace even in difficult situations. "I need and want to put God in my daily life more. Just worshiping God more, bringing and inviting him to everything I and my family do," says Morgan. Her journey isn't over, but thanks to supporters like you, she's on her way.



Photos (right & bottom left) taken by Daniel Yu.

# ABCS Overview

OUR MISSION

TO PROVIDE HOPE & CARE TO

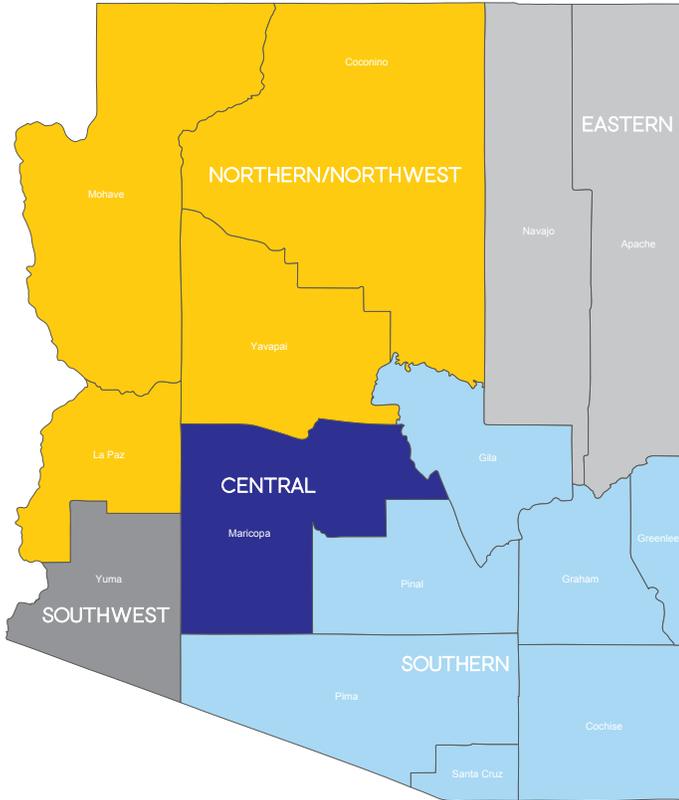
## CORE VALUES

HONOR GOD IN ALL WE DO  
COLOSSIANS 3:17

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS  
THROUGH TRUST & RESPECT  
LUKE 10:27

BE A GOOD STEWARD WITH  
WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN  
1 PETER 4:10

DO EVERYTHING WITH  
EXCELLENCE  
EPHESIANS 2:10



## ABCS REGIONS

-  STATEWIDE OPERATIONS  
SOUTHERN REGION OFFICE  
1779 N. Alvernon Way  
Tucson, AZ 85712  
(520) 795-7541
-  CENTRAL REGION OFFICE  
2632 W. Augusta Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85051  
(602) 346-2300
-  NORTHERN/NORTHWEST REGION  
(800) 678-0648
-  SOUTHWEST REGION OFFICE  
2363 S. Kennedy Lane  
Yuma, AZ 85365  
(928) 726-5568
-  EASTERN REGION OFFICE  
1016 S. Main St.  
Snowflake, AZ 85937  
(928) 536-4760

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94 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST IN 2017

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## 7 Ministries | 1 Mission

### COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS

Building relationships while meeting physical and spiritual needs in each community. Resources include food, clothing and other assistance to support families in need.

### MISSION ENCOUNTER 360

Developing, supporting and investing in God's people by exposing individuals and groups to ministry opportunities through a wide range of experiences including volunteering and internships.

### ARMS OF LOVE FOSTER CARE & PARENT AIDE

Partnering with the state to provide contracted parenting education and supervised visits for families in the state system, and foster care/adoption services for those wishing to provide safe, loving homes for children in care.

### NEW LIFE PREGNANCY CENTERS

Providing hope and care to those facing a pregnancy, planned or unplanned, through Christ-centered ministries.

### NEW LIFE COUNSELING

Providing Christ-centered, Biblically-based counseling for individuals, couples, families, teenagers, children, pastors and ministry leaders.

### PURSUE LIFE ADULT MINISTRY

Providing hope and care to aging adults by guiding them to live in the fullness of God's promises in every season of life through support, community, purpose and personal legacy.

### NEW LIFE TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM

Providing life skills through education, resources and training for individuals committed to improving their lives and achieving stable, independent living.

# A HEART *Like* HIS

102 ADOPTIONS

## ARMS OF LOVE FOSTER CARE

Foster care. Two words that spark sadness, compassion, interest, confusion, anger and action. The plight of many thousands of children being removed from their family, often permanently, should stir these emotions. Some families are moved to open their homes to children in foster care, whether it's for one month, or a lifetime. As a licensing agency contracted with the state of Arizona to work with foster and adoptive parents, we are privileged to walk alongside families who serve these vulnerable children.

We view foster care as a mission field and foster families as missionaries. Foster parents minister in their own living rooms as they open their hearts and homes to children and care for their varied and often challenging needs. Opportunities to show the love and hope found in Jesus abound as families not only serve children, but also support and minister to their biological families and all those involved in the case. The impact stretches beyond one child to entire families and even future generations.

In 2017, we celebrated a record number of adoptions with 102 children finding forever homes. Adoption is a beautiful image of God's adoption of us into his family. Just as God knits his family together, he knits together families here on earth. While adoption is wonderful, it also represents loss. When parental rights are severed, the hope of reunifying with the biological family is gone. Even for young children, there will be loss when they are old enough to realize that their parents were not able to care for them. Our ministry prioritizes reunification and emphasizes working with biological families.

We asked a few families who recently adopted to share about their experiences. They represent the 492 foster families we've licensed since 2012, who cared for 2,124 children and adopted 419 of those children. Common themes included stepping into the unknown, fear, prayer, blessings, trust in God and love. Lots of love. An analogy used was a roller coaster ride. Foster dad Mark DeYoung had this to say:

"Imagine that someone blindfolded you, asked you to strap into an unfamiliar roller coaster, and told you to enjoy the ride. Would you be screaming to get the safety harness loose and bolt out of the ride before the car started up the track, or would you be saying a quick prayer of "HELP ME GOD!" as you tightly grasp onto the safety bar of the car as it clicks up the track? Welcome to the life of faith in God as a foster parent."

The DeYoungs had an extremely challenging time with the first child placed with them. Their foster son ended up in a treatment facility for depression, self-harm and threatening behaviors, despite the fact that he had been making progress and God had given them His love for this child. The wild ride of their first placement prepared them well for their second. Rachael and Mark DeYoung are now a family of three as they adopted their daughter. The ride is not over as they adjust to being a forever family.

The Ryberg family has been licensed with ABCS since 2013. They adopted two boys from separate families with different reasons for being in foster care and having the parental rights severed. However, two things are the same – an extra 21st chromosome as both boys have Down syndrome – and blessing their family with two wonderful little boys created by God. Lori Ryberg says, "We have always seen special needs adoption as a way to help. To show Christ to the world."

Andrew and Shelly McGuire spent years trying to have children with no success. God answered their prayers by leading them to adopt through foster care. They have adopted three children, Melody, Stephen and Jasmyn, all from different families. The McGuires feel blessed to have such wonderful children, and shared with us that "Some days are very difficult when dealing with the emotional trauma the children have endured. It's not a sprint in developing a healthy child but rather a race of endurance. I suspect the greatest joy will come when the hard work is finished, and we can rest assured that we gave all we had to give."

# IN 2017 - A RECORD NUMBER FOR ABCS

The Franklands are a kinship family, adopting their three grandchildren, Olivia, Trey and Sophia. According to the Franklands, when a family member adopts children it is both joyful and sad. Kinship adoption puts less stress on the children because they are usually familiar with the family members, but the family grieves for the birth parents. Their three grandchildren are well-adjusted and had a smooth transition. "The kids have kept us busy, but also kept us younger. What a blessing they have been to us, watching them grow and develop into fine young men and women."

Melinda Coveris gave a perfect description of adoption, "When I think about adoption I see a beautiful story of the Gospel. I see brokenness transformed into hope through sacrificial love." Melinda and her husband, Anthony, adopted little Jase after fostering him for 13 months. Their journey was a roller coaster ride of emotions and fears as they never knew where they were heading or how it was going to end up. They feared losing Jase, but also understood that there was a family that could end up with hurt and pain from their loss. "I needed to put my selfishness aside and pray for the best interest of Jase and for God's will. God challenged our patience and our faith which strengthened us as a family," says Melinda.

The Edwards family summed up how many feel, "Our family has forever been changed by our foster care and adoption experience." They added, "We are so grateful for the love and support we received from ABCS throughout our family's journey with foster care and adoption!"

Arizona Baptist Children's Services & Family Ministries has a long history of serving and caring for orphans and children in the state's custody. Our ministry was founded as a home for displaced children and now, nearly 60 years later, our reach has expanded through ministries like Arms of Love Foster Care. We are grateful to be able to work alongside foster, adoptive and biological families. We praise God for his work in this ministry throughout the years, and for supporters like you who make it possible.



Families: 1. DeYoung, 2. Edwards, 3. Coveris, 4. McGuire, 5. Frankland, and 6. Ryberg

# TRAVEL *with* A PURPOSE

PURSUE LIFE ADULT MINISTRY



Pursue Life Adult Ministry (PLM) embraces the infinite possibilities of being fruitful during every season of life. We want to help adults live in the fullness that Jesus speaks about in John 10:10, “I have come that they might have life and have it to the full.” One of the ways PLM does this is by connecting adults with mission opportunities. A small team went to the Caribbean in 2017 for the Travel with a Purpose Cruise, which blends the luxuries of vacationing with opportunities to “get your hands dirty” and serve others in the name of Jesus. The team shared the Gospel through art at a university, painted the home of a blind woman, prepared kits of the nativity story for children and served in many other ways.

One team member had this to share: “This trip was amazing and left us wanting to do it again. Since each island’s ministry and people were different, it was kind of like having four missions in one. Actually, it was more like five.” That’s because the team had many opportunities to share with people on the cruise ship as well. In particular, they were able to share with the cabin steward, who told them how encouraged and blessed he was to talk with them during the week. PLM has mission and ministry opportunities for adults of varied ages and abilities.

## GRAND OPENING *in* YUMA

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS

The ABCS community resource center in Yuma began distributing food boxes, diapers, clothing and hygiene items in May 2017. It is located on the campus of Immanuel Southern Baptist Church, along with the ABCS office. Shortly after the center opened, the Yuma Community Food Bank doubled their delivery because of the influx of families coming in for resources. An average of 20-25 families from the community are served over a two hour span.

In addition to meeting physical needs, volunteers regularly pray with families. Several church members have volunteered, including Pastor David Lindgens. “With all of the people coming onto our campus, I wanted to make an effort to get to know who they are and how we, as a church, may be able to minister to them. Standing in line with those waiting to be served gave a great opportunity for meaningful conversations and a time to pray with them,” says Pastor David. ABCS is grateful for our church partners. Together the body of Christ meets needs in our communities.



Allen, a faithful volunteer from Immanuel Southern Baptist Church, delivers food from the resource center to clients' cars every week.

### *Locations*

RIO VISTA CENTER  
South Phoenix

CASA DE AMOR  
Mesa

CARING MINISTRIES  
Tucson

BHHS LEGACY FOUNDATION  
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER  
Phoenix

TUCSON COMMUNITY  
RESOURCE CENTER  
Central Tucson

MANZO COMMUNITY  
RESOURCE CENTER  
West Tucson

YUMA COMMUNITY  
RESOURCE CENTER  
Yuma

# THE GIFT of GRACE NEW LIFE PREGNANCY CENTER

When Danielle had her first child she was a married, stay-at-home mom. Now single, she found out she was pregnant and felt very alone. She considered abortion, but her paycheck was \$100 short of the funds she needed. Feeling stressed and unsure, Danielle called her pastor who referred her to the Wickenburg New Life Pregnancy Center where she received wise counsel.

The pregnancy center staff has been praying with Danielle regularly since she chose life for her unborn child. She “risked” her reputation and livelihood in order to carry her baby to term, and the Lord has provided for her when she knew she couldn’t provide on her own. What a testimony to Danielle that God is worthy of her trust. He has provided everything she needs with her job, childcare and more.

During her pregnancy, Danielle tried to consistently work 40 hours a week at her job in order to become a full-time employee with guaranteed hours and benefits. Danielle needed 40 hours a week for a specific number of weeks before this transition would take place. Through much uncertainty and prayer, she ended up meeting her goal just in time and was able to receive family leave when her baby was born. Shortly after baby Grace was born, Danielle returned to church where she was embraced and loved. One woman whom she didn’t know stepped up and offered to watch the baby when she returned to work. The pregnancy center staff continue to provide material support and encouragement to Danielle.

There are still hard days as a working, single mom. But Danielle says, “I never ever think ‘I wish I would have had an abortion.’ I can’t imagine having that on my conscience.” She says that baby Grace is the epitome of God’s grace. Danielle calls it “enabling grace,” and it’s what compels her to keep going.



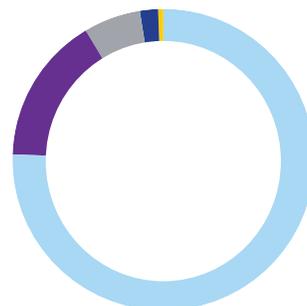
Photos taken by Patty Urlaub with Rockin' U Photography.

# ABCS *financials*

WE VALUE FINANCIAL INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY. VISIT [ABCS.ORG](http://abcs.org) TO VIEW OUR FULL AUDIT AND LEARN MORE.

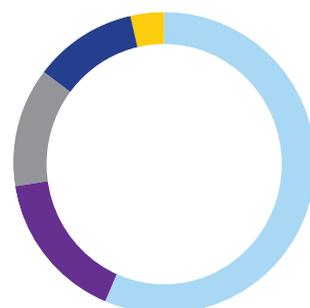
## 2017 SUPPORT AND REVENUE

State contracts (Foster Care and Parent Aide)	\$6,843,938	75.8%
Public contributions	\$1,427,417	15.8%
In-kind contributions	\$530,555	5.9%
Private care (includes fee-for-service)	\$185,443	2.1%
Other revenue (includes special events)	\$36,671	0.4%
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2017 TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$9,024,024	100%



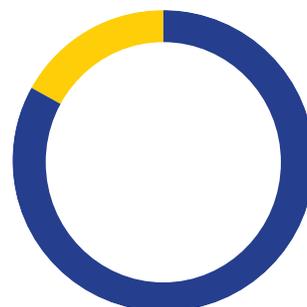
## 2017 PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Individual gifts	\$805,892	56.5%
Arizona Southern Baptist Cooperative Program	\$228,295	16.0%
Church gifts	\$186,005	13.0%
Corporate/civic gifts	\$158,695	11.1%
Legacy gifts	\$48,530	3.4%
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2017 TOTAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,427,417	100%



## 2017 EXPENSES

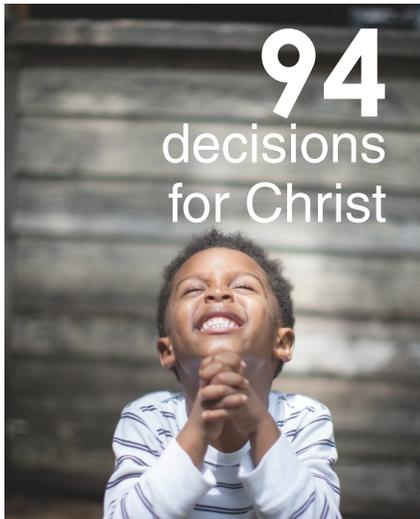
Program services	\$8,694,868	83.1%
Supporting services – administration	\$1,771,785	16.9%
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2017 TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,466,653	100%



The numbers above are from the 2017 audited financials. They do not include Caring Ministries, a separate 501(c)(3) organization under the ABCS ministry umbrella. The full audit is available at [abcs.org](http://abcs.org). We know that donors have many choices when it comes to supporting ministries and charitable organizations, and are grateful for your interest in learning more about ABCS. Gifts made to ABCS are used wherever the need is greatest, unless a specific ministry is designated. Funds stay locally in the region where the contribution is given. ABCS is a 501(c)(3) organization accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

# MINISTRY

## # highlights



**94**  
decisions  
for Christ



**1,574**  
volunteers served

**51,591**  
hours

**73,746**  
food boxes  
distributed to families

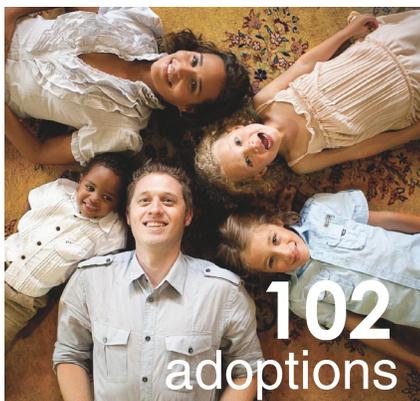
served

**1,740**  
DCS-involved families

**522,532**  
diapers given out



**3,070**  
hours of counseling  
sessions provided



**102**  
adoptions

SOCIAL MEDIA

 2,189 FOLLOWERS

 394 FOLLOWERS

 202 FOLLOWERS

 6,610 VIEWS

## Board of Trustees

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CHAIRMAN

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VICE CHAIRWOMAN

Truett Baker  
Daniel Fosnight  
JoAnn Calvin  
James Loui  
Dr. Mark Mucklow  
Kathleen Orr  
Ron Pollvogt  
Archie Stephens  
Michelle Vickers

## Leadership

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &  
PRESIDENT

Chris Chan  
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Andrea Stuart  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
OF STAFF SERVICES & CARE

Michelle Clements  
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DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

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NEW LIFE COUNSELING

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PURSUE LIFE ADULT MINISTRY

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STATE DIRECTOR OF  
FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION  
SITE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
CENTRAL ARIZONA

Elaine Gaston  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
EASTERN ARIZONA

Sheryl Van Horn  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
SOUTHWEST ARIZONA

# THANK YOU

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP AS GOD CONTINUES TO PROVIDE FOR AND WORK THROUGH THIS MINISTRY.