

**2019** ANNUAL  
REPORT

# Care & COMMUNITY

 **Arizona Baptist**  
**Children's Services**  
& Family Ministries  
providing hope & care



# A LETTER FROM THE executive director

Dear friends of ABCS,

It is an amazing blessing to be able to lead and serve at this ministry. I am grateful to God that he called me to Arizona Baptist Children's Services & Family Ministries 22 years ago. Many things have changed over the years, but one thing remains the same – our commitment to the mission to provide hope and care to hurting children and families through Christ-centered ministries.



We depend on God to provide the resources needed to serve families who experience brokenness daily because they lack the tools, resources and hope they need to handle today's stressors and challenges. And He is faithful. Despite some challenging years, God's provision is evident. He has enabled us to continue to meet physical, emotional and spiritual needs together.

Job displays great faith and trust when he says, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21) We hope to have that same heart through the ups and downs of ministry life. Both 2018 and 2019 brought significant budget cuts as we worked to mitigate changes to our state contracts, and our ability to retain and keep excellent, mission-minded staff with the heart to serve became more difficult in an excellent economy. When unemployment is low, it can be challenging to keep our parent aide ministry fully staffed. Serving broken families involved with the Department of Child Safety is difficult work and many find that it is not for them despite their desire to serve. Being short-staffed impacts the financials.

As a result, we had to scale back in some areas. ABCS closed or handed over to churches four New Life Pregnancy Centers the past two years, and reduced our statewide counseling ministry to focus in regions where it is thriving. God still blessed and provided new opportunities elsewhere. ABCS was gifted three buildings, including the church property at 27th Avenue and Northern where our Phoenix office is located and the property sites of our Casa de Amor (Mesa) and Rio Vista Center (South Phoenix) community resource centers and Bridge churches. We also celebrated our return to the campus of First Baptist Church Show Low 20 years after the ABCS Eastern Region first began there.

Thank you for joining us on mission as together we care for the least of these and establish healthier communities across Arizona.

*Steve Hanna*

Steve Hanna  
President & Executive Director

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*  
Matthew 25:40

## CORE values

HONOR GOD IN ALL WE DO

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS  
THROUGH TRUST & RESPECT

BE A GOOD STEWARD WITH  
WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN

DO EVERYTHING WITH  
EXCELLENCE

## 96 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST IN 2019

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## SPRING bling PHOENIX



ABCS hosted a Spring Fling Banquet Dinner in April at North Phoenix Baptist Church. The purpose of this friend-raiser and fundraiser was to connect supporters and new friends with the mission of ABCS and allow them to see the impact made through the ministry on families in our community. Event expenses were covered beforehand so funds raised that evening went directly towards families in need of hope and care. Through generous donors, a total of \$48,000 was raised.

ABCS leaders shared WHY we do what we do. We believe the world is broken because of sin and that Jesus is the only answer to that brokenness. We meet short-term needs through food, clothing, counseling, parenting support and more as a way of demonstrating Christ's love for lost and hurting people. However, Jesus is the only one who can meet all our needs. We know that without truth significant life-change is not possible. Our calling is to point people to Christ.

We were blessed to gather together with nearly 250 supporters and new friends to celebrate how God is transforming the lives of families served by ABCS. Two foster families shared about their foster care and adoption journeys, highlighting what God has taught them and how adoption models the gospel and God's love for us. The audience also enjoyed a few video testimonies from Luzma, a New Life Pregnancy Center client, Frances and Augie, former clients and longtime volunteers at the Rio Vista Center, and Jammeelah, a young woman who was adopted out of foster care. We are grateful for these families and their willingness to share how powerfully God has worked in their lives.



## NEW beginnings CARING MINISTRIES



Caring Ministries is a community resource center in Tucson that provides food and resources while sharing the love of Christ. In 2019, they transformed their transitional program into what is now the Life Development Program. However, the mission is still the same: to help men considered the least of these find hope and identity in Christ. Through the Life Development Program, men who have worked at Caring Ministries and maintained sobriety for 8 – 12 months get the help they need by attending Bible studies, life skill classes, counseling and being discipled by the program director. Mentors regularly show grace, mercy and patience as they guide each man towards healing.

Nick started volunteering at Caring Ministries after being in the correctional system. When he joined the Life Development Program, he was given the tools to turn his life around and build relationships with his mentors, peers and Christ. Nick stated, "Caring has transformed my life. This is a place of second chances." Nick graduated from the Life Development Program and is now in a leadership role at Caring Ministries and also works at the ABCS community resource center in Tucson. He is continually moved by God to offer the same support to the community that he received through the Life Development Program.

# HOUSE TO home

ARMS OF LOVE HOME



For teens aging out of foster care, the future is uncertain. They are at high risk of pregnancy, homelessness, human trafficking, drug addiction, incarceration or even death. For these reasons and more, after much prayer and deliberation it was decided that the former missionary house in Phoenix would be renovated and reimagined as a home for young women aging out of foster care. God was already moving hearts in this direction following the Arms of Love Foster Care Reckless Love Teen Event in January, which brought awareness to teens in foster care.

The renovation of the Arms of Love Home was made possible through partnerships with churches, individuals and other organizations who dedicated their time and talents. Instead of costing \$65,000 as projected, the renovation was completed for far less thanks to generous donations of materials and labor. As new relationships were built that brought connections and volunteers, God provided in-kind donations such as flooring, an air conditioner, a bathroom renovation and landscaping, as well as plenty of people for several scheduled work days. Funds for the project were raised through the Bowling for Their Future bowl-a-thon fundraiser held in October and a generous grant totaling \$55,262 from the BHHS Legacy Foundation, which is an Arizona charitable organization whose philanthropic mission is to enhance the quality of life and health of those it serves.

Blessing after blessing resulted in a beautiful, safe home, which was the motivation of all involved so that residents would know they are worthy and abundantly loved by God. In addition to offering a safe, clean and functional environment for young women aged 18 – 21, Arms of Love Foster Care's Supportive Housing Program provides mentoring, discipleship and life skill development. Three of the main components of a successful adult transition are at least one supportive adult mentor, affordable housing and education or employment. Our hope is that by providing support in these areas, we will help these young women become independent adults. The live-in resident assistant sums up God's provision for the home perfectly: *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory.* (Ephesians 3:20-21)

The Arms of Love Home is a ministry of Arms of Love Foster Care, which partners with the state to provide foster care and adoption services for those wishing to provide safe, loving homes for children in the state's care. To learn more about the program, visit [abcsfostercare.com/housing](https://abcsfostercare.com/housing).

*\*The Arms of Love Home does not receive state funding. The program is dependent on charitable gifts.*



# FORGIVEN & set free

NEW LIFE PREGNANCY CENTER



New Life Pregnancy Center exists to provide hope and care to those facing a pregnancy planned or unplanned. In 2019, center staff had more opportunities than in prior years to minister to post-abortive women seeking support. Women are able to go to any center to receive caring and confidential support after an abortion.



The Tucson center director, Desi, held an eight-week Bible study on abortion recovery called Forgiven and Set Free. Eight women in search of healing attended this class. Among the entire class, 17 babies were lost to abortion. The Bible study guides hurting women towards healing the guilt, shame and grief that follow an abortion. The women in this class took a vulnerable look into their past decisions and were able to receive God's beautiful gift of forgiveness, as well as forgive themselves. Together, the women in the Bible study held a memorial for their babies. This gave them an opportunity to grieve and give it all to God. One attendee shared with the class that years of therapy did not help her in the way that God did through this study. Desi added, "At the end of the study, a weight had been lifted. They wanted to tell everyone about Jesus." Because of her personal experience with abortion, Desi is able to lead New Life Pregnancy Center clients through post-abortion Bible studies with grace and empathy. There is hope after an abortion, a hope found through Christ alone.

# GROWING givers

IMPACT AZ



Your giving goes further to help provide hope and care to hurting children and families through Christ-centered ministries with the help of our partners at Impact AZ – a statewide grant initiative designed to help Christian nonprofits maximize the benefit of the state tax credit. This program cultivates community and support for like-minded nonprofits by providing resources and tax credit advocacy, along with grant funding based on the number of tax credit gifts participating organizations receive in a year.

New Life Pregnancy Center, a ministry of ABCS, participated in the Impact AZ program for two years and won a \$15,000 grant that helped provide hope and care to those facing a pregnancy, planned or unplanned. In 2019, we partnered with the program for a third consecutive year, this time as ABCS. Because of your support, ABCS was awarded a \$10,000 grant! We are grateful to work alongside our friends at Impact AZ to help provide hope and care for families in need across Arizona.



You make an impact in the lives of families like Jen's\*. At the Impact AZ awards event at Chase Field, two ABCS team members were served by Jen at the concession stand. She recognized the ministry name on their nametags. Jen said, "You helped me with my kids," with a grateful smile and tears in her eyes. She was a Parent Aide client with ABCS and now has her children back home with her. Even better than winning a grant, was the reminder that God is transforming lives through this ministry with your support. *\*name changed*

# A YOUTHFUL generosity

## ABCS SUPPORTERS

The Bible teaches us much about generosity – *God loves a cheerful giver* (2 Corinthians 9:7), *we are to be generous and ready to share* (1 Timothy 6:18) and, in Jesus' own words, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35). Sometimes our greatest teachers and examples come in small packages! It is a great joy to see children model generosity, and in 2019 ABCS ministries were blessed by several kids who gave out of the overflow of their hearts and care for hurting children and families.

LynnLee inspired us by donating to New Life Pregnancy Center for her tenth birthday. She and her family, the Powells, have been regular volunteers and ABCS supporters for years. One morning while the Powell family prepared brochures for the New Life Pregnancy Centers, LynnLee noticed a section that said, "How your support helps." She saw an option to sponsor a New Life Pregnancy Center for a day by donating \$100. LynnLee decided to raise the money to support a center for her birthday. She surprised the pregnancy center staff with \$126, making her humble birthday wish come true.

Connaley told her parents that she wanted to do something to help serve others. She went to work collecting notebooks for the back to school supply drive hosted by Casa de Amor, a part of the Community Resource Center ministry. With the help of her family and church, Connaley was able to exceed her goal of 300 notebooks, gathering 504 notebooks for children in need.

Girl Scout Troop 534 wanted to give back to families less fortunate than them. They bought Thanksgiving dinners for six families in the New Life Transitional Program. The girls used part of their money earned from selling cookies to purchase the meals for these hurting families. The troop was awarded badges for budgeting, financial literacy and philanthropy for their act of giving.

Joshua and his mom, Raquel Williams, have found a way to make giving back extra fun! "Super Joshua" dresses up as a superhero with a cape to collect items for the community resource center at the Phoenix ABCS office. The first year, when Joshua was just four years old, he collected food items and this time he collected socks. Super Joshua was excited to share, "Together, we collect 642 pairs of socks. Wow! That is a lot of socks." For Raquel, seeing her son engaged in helping others is a true blessing. "As a believer who follows Jesus, we want to instill Christ-like character in our children. I think that's a good measure of success. It just helps to give me hope that they are able to serve at such a young age."

These amazing kids demonstrate what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus. It is never too early to learn and teach others about Biblical stewardship. We thank God for these faithful little givers.



# SUPPORTING seniors

## PURSUE LIFE ADULT MINISTRY



Doris joined Pursue Life Adult Ministry for their Grand Canyon Creation Tour in April. On the tour bus ride up to the canyon, she shared that this trip was her first outing since her husband passed away one year ago. Doris decided it was time to get out and be with other people because she was becoming lonely. At the end of the day, Doris said she was blessed and had a great time.

The loss of a spouse or loved one is the number one life stressor, followed closely by divorce. It takes time to re-engage in life that is now unfamiliar and new in many ways. Pursue Life has been blessed to be able to provide community for those grieving from loss and help them find new friends and purpose in the midst of suffering. Mona McDonald, vice president of Pursue Life, shares, "I am filled with compassion when I learn of these precious ones wanting to take bold new steps toward living fully in this challenging season of their life."

Pursue Life focuses on the needs and issues of adults, seeking to fill the gaps between adults in need and those willing to be used by God to help. The needs are great. Most adults over 50 experience at least two major life events each year. The nest-egg may have dwindled, forcing families to make adjustments. They may have experienced a job loss and are learning something new. Caring for either parents or grandchildren, or both, can be extremely challenging. Many are restless after retiring. Others face acute or chronic medical issues. Some older adults live alone and have done so for many years.

Since the ministry began in 2015, Pursue Life has developed to help address these issues and fulfill its goal to provide 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. This happens through adventures like the annual Travel with a Purpose mission cruise to the Caribbean and Grand Canyon tour, and new activities such as Senior Days and Coffee & Conversations.

In 2018, Pursue Life served 237 older adults through 13 Senior Day events at ABCS community resource centers in the Phoenix-metro area. In 2019, 153 seniors were served and received critical seasonal supplies including Summer Survival Kits with items like electrolytes and sunscreen, socks and foot care supplies and small space heaters. Senior Days provide practical support by meeting physical and spiritual needs. Coffee & Conversations events focused on trends, issues and the needs of Arizona's aging population were held throughout the year at North Phoenix Baptist Church. Participants came from churches, para-church organizations, social ministries and community service agencies. Guest speakers included leaders like Cathi Herrod from the Center for Arizona Policy. Pursue Life also hosted Lunch & Learn workshops at Sun Lakes Community Church, covering important topics such as loneliness and isolation, preparing your home for disaster, trauma informed care and surviving the holidays, to help seniors navigate challenging times.

All Pursue Life activities and events are hosted in partnership with churches or other faith-based organizations. Together, our passion is to seek out those who are lost or alone and help them find community and care among those who love Jesus, so they can know and love Him too. By providing these opportunities, we point aging parents, church members, neighbors and even ourselves to live fully in the promises that God has for our lives. No matter the limitations we face, each of us has a purpose in every season of life, until we draw our last breath or He returns.



# CELEBRATING A *milestone*



## NEW LIFE TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM

New Life Transitional Program's purpose of cultivating life skills through education, resources and training for individuals committed to improving their lives and achieving stable, independent living has been beneficial for many. Since 2012, 30 clients have graduated from the program! A one to two-year commitment is required as participants receive Christ-centered mentoring, counseling and life skills. The program seeks to help people see the potential they have to offer the world through the value and purpose God has placed on their lives.

For Adrienne, the New Life Transitional Program based in Tucson helped her from a place of despair to a hopeful, bright future surrounded by individuals who cared about her and desired to see her succeed. "Almost five years ago, I was lost, confused, fearful and contemplating abortion. Pregnant with twins and with two preteens left me speechless. I was ashamed of myself. I did not know how I would raise four children alone. That all changed because of New Life Transitional Program. I was able to redefine my relationship with God in my life and I had a team of ladies to help me in some of the hardest years of my life." Since graduating from the program, Adrienne has been able to find a new home, career and earned a master's degree in social work, all while giving her children great love and support.

Desiree and Nick also found the program to be transformational for their family. They began going to New Life Pregnancy Center for resources and parenting classes. They had one young child and a second on the way at this time. At the center, they learned about the New Life Transitional Program. Through life skill classes, Bible studies, counseling and mentoring, Desiree and Nick were drawn closer to God and each other. They recently graduated from the program, bought a new home and now have three children under three whom they love very much. Along with continuing their parenting classes, Desiree and Nick regularly stop by to say hello to the program director and staff.

The transitional program was a confidence and time management builder for Julie. Before coming to the program, Julie experienced a hard childhood, having been placed in over 13 foster homes. She learned to expect the unexpected as she battled internal struggles. For her, the program was "amazing from the start." Julie believes she has improved her skills in ways she wouldn't have been able to without the help and guidance she received. The greatest part for Julie was the lasting relationships built with staff and the support from others in the program who helped her realize she was not alone in her challenges. Julie has since graduated from high school and kept steady employment over the past three years while continuing to set goals for her future.

New Life Transitional Program is committed to helping each person grow in their skills and the purpose God has for them. Clients in the program value the trust that is built with staff and peers. Through this trust, lasting relationships are made during their journey from hardship to hope.



Adrienne & family (left),  
Desiree & Nick (top right),  
Julie & Desi (bottom right)



# BROKEN *together*



## LEADER CARE

The devastating trend of high-profile pastor suicides continued in 2019 with megachurch pastor and mental health advocate Jarrid Wilson, just 30 years-old, taking his life the year following the loss of Pastor Andrew Stoecklein, also 30, to suicide. Both beloved pastors were husbands and fathers of young children, and both struggled with mental health issues while also bearing the stress and responsibilities of shepherding a community.

In 2018, Josh Hodges, a Leader Care facilitator with ABCS, shared his personal story and plea for pastors to seek help:

"This past week heart breaking news surfaced. The lead pastor of Inland Hills Church in Chino, California, Pastor Andrew Stoecklein, committed suicide. This is devastating news anytime it occurs. But, it is especially difficult when it is a fellow pastor. Honestly, I've thought about this for several days, uncertain of the appropriate response. However, I am certain that I should respond to this tragedy in some fashion. This story hits a little too close to home. So, for that reason, I thought I might share a brief portion of my story.

Nearly 19 years ago to the day of Pastor Andrew's death, I sat on the end of my bed as a senior in high school, sobbing, waiting on the news that my father, a pastor, had killed himself. That news never came as police were able to take my father into custody before he was able to harm himself or anyone else. By the grace of God my father is alive today.

You see my father had been struggling with depression and anxiety for months, and from reports on social media, it appears Pastor Andrew was suffering from similar bouts. Chances are at least some who read this can reflect on a time when you endured similar struggles. Fortunately for me my father is still alive, but our family has never been the same. Andrew's wife and small children have a different battle to face now. Pray and pray with deep conviction for this family as they grieve.

Pastor, though it may be difficult to see today, your service has eternal value. If you are currently struggling under the weight of some dark thoughts, don't carry that burden alone. Would you please reach out to someone, anyone?! It doesn't make you less of a pastor, less of a Christian, less of a father, husband, or even a man. You've accepted a calling on your life to serve the image bearers of the one true God, to serve the body of Christ. It may feel lonely in your pursuit of peace, but you are not alone. It's time to let others serve you during this difficult season.

By God's grace and mercy, if this doesn't currently describe you, please consider reaching out to a pastor friend today. In the Army we never did anything alone. Everywhere we went and everything we did was with a 'battle buddy.' Brothers, it is time to stop waging war with the enemy on our own. It's time to lock arms and confront the enemy head on, connected and united in brotherhood, for the sake of your own personal health, your family, the congregation you lead, and the kingdom of God!"

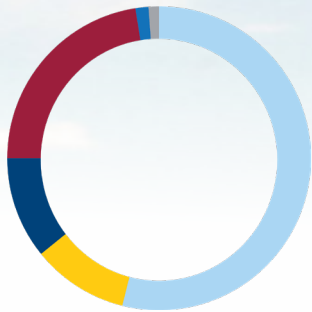
Leader Care, a ministry of New Life Counseling, provides hope and care to pastors, church staff and their families through Christ-centered support. Leader Care facilitators have experience as a pastor or a counselor, or both. They understand the unique challenges pastors and their families face, and are here to serve them with compassion and confidentiality. If you or a pastor you know need care, please visit [leadercareaz.org](http://leadercareaz.org).



# ABCS financials

## 2019 SUPPORT & REVENUE

State contracts (Foster Care and Parent Aide)	\$7,446,264	53.9%
Public contributions	\$1,430,736	10.4%
In-kind contributions	\$1,503,989	10.9%
Donated Property	\$ 3,114,637	22.5%
Private care (includes fee-for service)	\$179,933	1.3%
Other revenue (includes special events)	\$135,289	1.0%
2019 TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$13,810,848	100%



## 2019 PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Individual gifts	\$769,589	53.8%
Corporate/civic gifts	\$240,379	16.8%
Arizona Southern Baptist Cooperative Program	\$249,068	17.4%
Church gifts	\$171,700	12.0%
2019 TOTAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,430,736	100%



## 2019 EXPENSES

Program services	\$8,886,682	79.6%
Supporting services – administration	\$2,283,296	20.4%
2019 TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,169,978	100%



# MINISTRY highlights

96  
DECISIONS  
FOR CHRIST



56  
ADOPTIONS

CARED FOR NEARLY  
5,000  
DCS-INVOLVED  
CHILDREN

26  
DECISIONS  
FOR LIFE

3,000  
HOURS OF  
COUNSELING



VOLUNTEERS  
SERVED  
46,902  
HOURS

146,550  
FOOD BOXES  
DISTRIBUTED

412,858  
DIAPERS  
DISTRIBUTED

## BOARD OF trustees

Ann Seiden  
CHAIRWOMAN

Dr. Mark Mucklow  
VICE CHAIRMAN

Daniel Fosnight  
James Loui  
Kathleen Orr  
Tom Peeler  
Ron Pollvogt  
Archie Stephens  
Michelle Vickers

## ABCS Leadership

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PRESIDENT &  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chris Chan  
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Andrea Stuart  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
OF STAFF SERVICES & CARE

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Jim Martin  
STATE DIRECTOR OF  
LEADER CARE &  
CENTRAL REGION  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Jessica Ellington  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
EASTERN ARIZONA

Sheryl Van Horn  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
SOUTHWEST ARIZONA

## SOCIAL MEDIA

f 2,562  
LIKES

t 395  
FOLLOWERS

ig 377  
FOLLOWERS

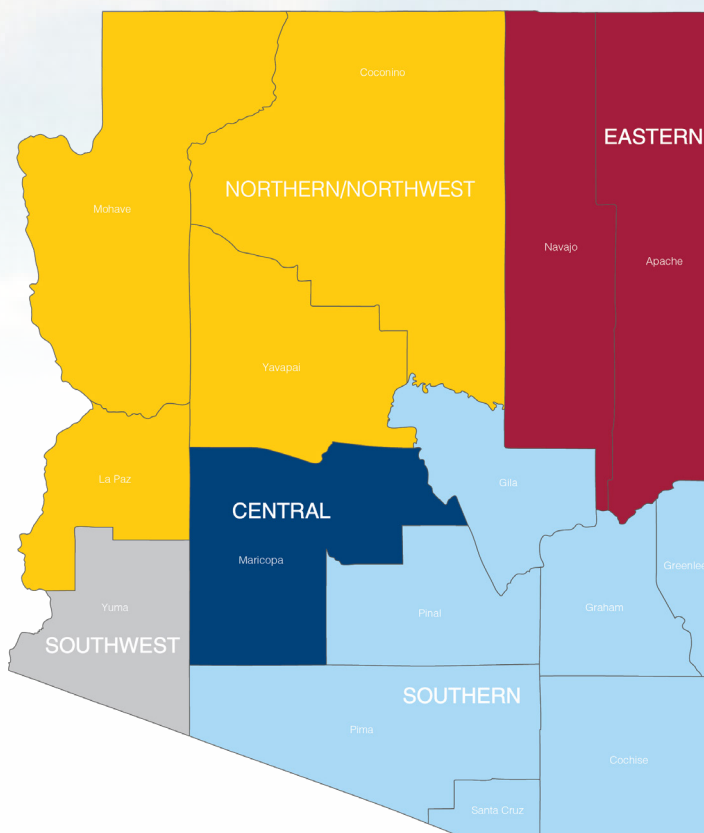
y 14,230  
VIEWS








The numbers above are from the 2019 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 support and 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. We value financial integrity and transparency.

# THANK *you*

YOUR SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP HELP  
SHINE GOD'S LIGHT ACROSS ARIZONA



## ABCS REGIONS

-  STATEWIDE OPERATIONS  
SOUTHERN REGION OFFICE  
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