



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Family Connections

A LETTER FROM THE

Executive Director

Dear friends,

One positive that came out of the Covid-19 pandemic was families slowing down and spending more time together. While it wasn't under ideal circumstances, our country – and the world – were reminded how much family matters. Family connections are core to who we believe we are and how we interact with the world around us. Along with our faith, these relationships can make or break us in a crisis.

The people we are blessed to serve are often experiencing a family breakdown or have experienced unhealthy family dynamics in their past. This can result in hardship, a lack of resources or destructive patterns and behaviors. It is truly a privilege to walk alongside the individuals and families we serve as we try to meet physical, emotional and spiritual needs, while sharing the love of Jesus. Our Lord is the only one who can fix what is broken, restore and redeem.

Healthy families are at the heart of everything we do. As those who work and do ministry in the social work field, it is critical that we keep our own family healthy as we pour into others. We do our best to keep the ABCS' family healthy by depending on God and living out our Core Values. These include: honor God in all we do, build relationships through trust and respect, be a good steward with what we have been given and do everything with excellence. We stumble and fail sometimes, but rejoice that His grace is sufficient and His "power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor 12:9a)

Supporters like you, who give, serve or pray for the ministry, are part of our ABCS family as well. We pray for you and thank God for you. With your support, more than \$1.75 million was raised to help provide hope and care to hurting children and families. This was the first time in recent memory charitable gifts exceeded this mark, excluding legacy gifts. And they were much needed as our state contract income has been substantially reduced due to a shortage of both staff and foster families.

Together we served thousands of families in 2021 despite the challenges of the past few years. We are grateful to God for his faithful provision, and beyond any words, we are grateful from the bottom of our hearts for you allowing us to be here to serve.

Steve Hanna

Steve Hanna
President & Executive Director



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

7 ministries
1 mission:

PROVIDING
HOPE
& CARE TO
HURTING
CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES
THROUGH
CHRIST-
CENTERED
MINISTRIES

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IT STARTS
with our family...



...and overflows **TO YOURS**

FROM HURT TO *Healing*

A few years ago, Juliet walked through the doors of New Life Pregnancy Center (NLPC) to receive material assistance. After months of regular visits to the center and building a relationship with the center director, Desi, she learned about ABCS' New Life Transitional Program. Desi is also the transitional program's director. The purpose of the New Life Transitional Program is to cultivate life skills through education, resources and training for individuals committed to improving their lives and achieving stable, independent living. Juliet applied and enrolled in the program in November of 2019.

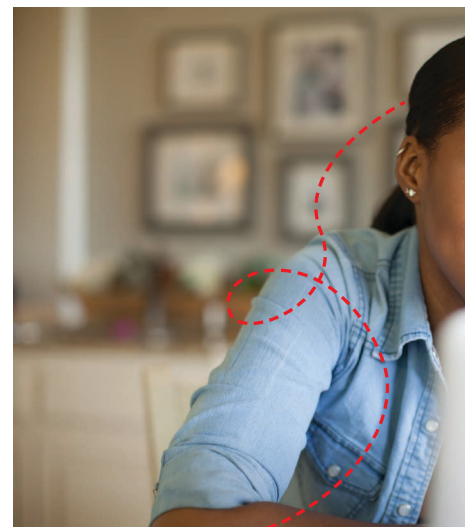
One of the goals of the transitional program is to guide participants from hardship to hope by sharing the love of Jesus. Juliet's past is one of great hardship. During her early adult years, she escaped an abusive relationship that forced her to start over in a new place on her own. As she began to rebuild her life, she met her partner and they had a daughter together. When Juliet became a participant of the transitional program, she was in the beginning stages of healing from the trauma of her past. Her goals when she started were to better understand herself and where she stood with God as well as setting goals for her future.

God provided a solid foundation for Juliet to flourish in the transitional program. One way He did this was through the relationship she had with her program mentor. It created a safe place for her to process and grieve. As Juliet made her way through the program it was clear she was dedicated to growing. In group discussions and meetings with Desi, her answers to homework were deep and profound. Juliet also discovered a new way to express herself through visual journaling by creating collages. Her collages were beautiful! At the same time she was excelling in the transitional program, she was participating in another program in the community also focused on achieving a stable, healthy and independent life. Juliet was putting in the work to create a brighter future for both herself and her daughter.



In February, Juliet graduated from the transitional program. She shared that the most valuable thing she received from this experience was confidence in herself and a better relationship with God in her life. After graduation Juliet's desire to grow remained. She completed Celebrate Recovery which is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program where people can find community and freedom. Juliet is using the confidence she gained in the transitional program to help facilitate classes for both New Life Pregnancy Center and the New Life Transitional Program. She also teaches a course for the other community program she completed. All of these leadership opportunities are allowing her to fulfill her goal of mentoring women who have experienced abuse. It

is a blessing to see the healing the Lord has provided for Juliet and how she is helping other women experience that healing too. Please join us in praying for God to continue to equip and empower Juliet to know Him more and walk in her calling!



Hope -2- Go

In the spring of 2021, we celebrated how you helped provide something new, Hope-2-Go! Together, we adapted to better serve our community during the pandemic. Supporters like you provided Hope-2-Go in a variety of ways across our seven ministries. It looked like Pursue Life Adult Ministry volunteers delivering food boxes to immunocompromised older adults. It was church partners creating space on their campuses for mobile food distributions to support people in their neighborhood. Hope 2-Go was Christmas presents for New Life Transitional Program clients hand delivered by a motorcycle club. It shows that hope and care are not confined to a location but are provided through connection and relationship. Hope-2-Go is sharing the love of Christ with every person served, wherever they are served.



Another way that Hope-2-Go expanded last year was through a simple box truck. ABCS' Community Resource Centers ministry focuses on supporting local communities by providing food, clothing and other resources to individuals and families in need who visit the centers. They are met with compassion and leave with much needed items along with some of their hope and dignity restored. After seeing a greater need for fresh food, one of the Phoenix resource centers was able to buy a box truck from Caring Ministries thanks to grant funds. This box truck has allowed for more grocery pickups and fresh food distributions across the Phoenix metro area. Families are able to walk away with nonperishable items along with fresh produce, meat and dairy options. We are grateful for the ways the Lord allows for hope to remain on the move at ABCS.



VIRTUAL

Hope & Care

New Life Counseling provides affordable, Christ-centered, Biblically-based counseling for individuals, couples, families, teenagers, children, pastors and ministry leaders. ABCS has served people in various seasons of life through New Life Counseling for nearly 25 years. The ministry had a goal to add virtual counseling, but there were concerns about confidentiality, security and even internet service in some rural parts of the state. However, the Covid-19 pandemic made overcoming these challenges a priority.

While New Life Counseling continued to offer in-person sessions, the need for virtual counseling was great. Especially considering the growing demand for mental health services due to the extra stressors brought on by the pandemic and related events. Virtual counseling first launched in 2020 and as it expanded it has been a critical service for those who are unable to meet in person or do not live near a New Life Counseling location. A virtual client shared, "The availability of virtual counseling is an answer to prayer. I've known for a while that there are corners of my heart that need healing, but the logistics of raising children often made it challenging to seek the help I needed. I am grateful that I not only have access to the counseling I need, but that I don't have to travel a great distance or arrange for outside help with my children to receive it." For more information, visit newlifeaz.org.





The ABCS family goes way beyond just our staff members! Every day all across Arizona there are children and families who receive hope and care through the dedication of individual volunteers and groups who show the love of Christ through the gift of their time. In 2021, we estimate over 22,000 people were served through our Christ-centered ministries. It is easy to say it would be impossible to serve that number of people without God's blessing and the hundreds of volunteers who faithfully showed up. In total, 1,860 volunteers served 51,866 hours in 2021. Those hours served would be the equivalent of 25 full-time employees working for the entire year! Time is a precious commodity and ABCS volunteers give theirs cheerfully and generously.

Denise is a faithful ABCS volunteer with a big heart who comes in every week. She serves New Life Pregnancy Center by helping with material assistance distributions. Denise has also been trained in peer counseling and assists with providing pregnancy tests for women who visit the pregnancy center. In November, she celebrated a decade of serving at ABCS! Her service to the ministry does not stop once she leaves the office. Denise is part of the prayer team that regularly covers the participants of the New Life Transitional Program and clients of New Life Pregnancy Center in prayer. Over the years she has been involved with many different projects from administrative support to directly working with clients. She is a blessing to not only the families she serves but also the staff members and ministries she helps through the gift of her steadfast support through the years.



In the fall, Cathy started serving at the Yuma office. After attending a presentation lead by Adrianna, the New Life Pregnancy Center Director in Yuma, she wanted to get involved with what God is doing at ABCS! Cathy shared with the staff her passion for sewing. An idea turned into reality when Cathy began leading a life skills class teaching attendees how to sew. Each week she drives 30 miles one way to serve using the gifts and talents the Lord has given her. At the start of each class she shares a devotion with the group of women attending. From there they dive into the project prepared for that day. Each woman who comes to the class hears about the love of God, learns a new skill and builds relationships with both Cathy and other mothers in their community.



“THEREFORE **PRAY EARNESTLY** TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST.”

Matthew 9:37-38

Denise and Cathy's stories showcase just a couple of ways the Lord uses the time and talents of volunteers to bless the ministry of ABCS. Each person who gets involved, whether it be for a few hours or many years, are being the hands and feet of Jesus to people in need in our community. Jesus shares in the Bible that, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”* (Matthew 9:37-38). Each person, group and partner that labors for the ABCS mission of providing hope and care to hurting children and families through Christ-centered ministries is an answer to our prayers! We are grateful. To get involved, visit abcs.org/volunteer or call Dane Clark at (800) 678-0648.

A LEGACY OF

Service

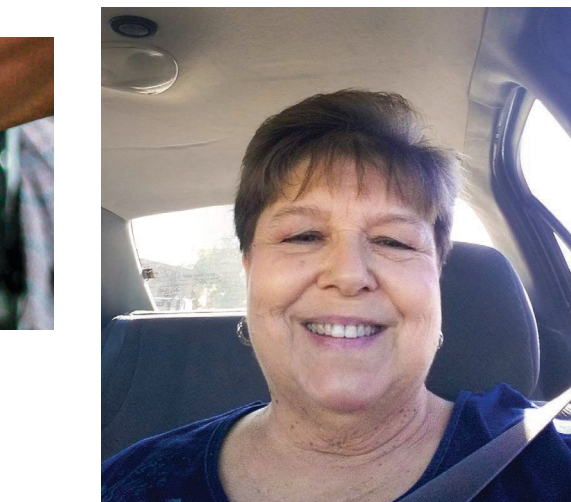


“Faithful Servant.” This is how people described Paula Compton, a Casa de Amor volunteer. For two decades she served the neighborhood and ministry in every capacity she could. Whether it was sending thank you letters, speaking at churches or recruiting volunteers, she would step in to help. Ultimately, the work she did was not for the organization but out of genuine love for people.

Paula was most passionate about providing children and teachers with school supplies for a good education. For six years she coordinated the Casa de Amor Back to School Drive to benefit Lincoln Elementary School in Mesa. Previously, the drive was held for different schools throughout the city. Because Lincoln is a low-income school and central to the community, Paula suggested it be held there every year. She established partnerships with many churches that donated items for the drive. She also bought items herself on behalf of Casa de Amor. After sorting and grouping all the supplies by grade and classroom, Paula and the team brought everything to Lincoln Elementary. Paula built a good relationship with the school and was beloved by students and faculty.

Recently, Paula passed away. She is with the Lord, but her heart of service is not forgotten. Casa de Amor, one of ABCS' Community Resource Centers, can better serve the community thanks to her selflessness. In her memory, students from Lincoln Elementary School created a poster for

her family that shows the impact she made on the community. Currently, there are also plans to rename the Back to School Drive in remembrance of her. Driven by a love for God and people, Paula worked tirelessly to share that love with every child and family.



PRESCOTT CABIN

Remodel

ABCS' Northern Region includes Yavapai County where we provide Arms of Love Foster Care and Parent Aide services. For a few years we have been leasing space for our office in a cabin on the campus of First Southern Baptist Church of Prescott Valley. To help us engage the community more through onsite ministry, we decided to utilize the entire space and remodel the cabin to include a visitation room for families involved with the Arizona Department of Child Safety, a conference room for parenting classes and a Foster Care Closet for foster families in the Prescott area to receive material resources.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you from the local community and other parts of the state, a total of nearly \$40,000 in cash and in-kind donations was raised for the project. Individuals, churches and organizations contributed \$31,670, donated flooring, cabinets and free services and served with their gifts and talents to help prepare the ministry space. Families now have a place to go that feels like home. A warm, friendly environment for visits that is safe and private. Together we provide hope and care to hurting children and families in the Prescott area and beyond.



Scan to watch
a thank you
video featuring
ABCS'
president.



NLPC PRAYER

Rally

January is Sanctity of Human Life month. Every third Sunday in January, churches across the country honor life by recognizing that God has a plan and a purpose for everyone — preborn children, aging adults, individuals with special needs, orphans and every person regardless of age, race, background or ability. New Life Pregnancy Center (NLPC) hosted a Sanctity of Human Life Prayer Rally at the ABCS Phoenix office on Saturday, January 16.

People gathered together both in-person and online to honor God and pray for the most vulnerable in our society. A couple of the New Life Pregnancy Centers across the state hosted virtual watch parties for staff, volunteers and members of the community. Family Life Radio, a longtime partner of NLPC and ABCS, had a table at the event and greeted attendees with uplifting Christian music. Raquel Williams, State Director of New Life Pregnancy Centers and the event emcee, shared a call to action at the start of the event: "As the Body of Christ, we are called to speak up and to stand for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are thankful for your boldness in recognizing and defending the value of life." The main speaker was Robby Lashua, Pastor of Apologetics at Desert Springs Community Church. The event also included guest speakers from many areas of the prolife community.

The topics covered were children and families in need of hope and care, healing after abortion, the prolife community and our nation, orphan care and vulnerable populations. It was a powerful event with people from many different congregations joining together as the Church. Together we prayed and celebrated how each person is an image-bearer of God (Genesis 1:27) who is fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14).

FIGHTING FEAR IN

Fostering

There has long been a shortage of foster homes in the state, but the number of homes has decreased even more the past two years due to families closing their license. The extra challenges and chaos of the pandemic and other events have impacted foster families also. ABCS has been highlighting the urgent need for homes as more children come into care on a daily basis. As a licensing agency, it is our role to help families prepare to foster and to walk alongside them through their entire journey.

The goal of Arms of Love Foster Care is to develop and maintain open, supportive relationships with foster families who feel called to the mission and ministry of serving hurting children and families with the love of Christ. Licensing specialists are key to these relationships as they are both a support and advocate for the foster family. They are sometimes the only advocate for the foster family within the system. Fostering is hard work with many demands. Relying on God, and having the support of a licensing specialist, can make the difference in families keeping kids in the home or disrupting.

It is normal and expected for potential foster families to wrestle with concerns. Families do not pursue getting licensed worry free. During training they are asked to name their fears and to focus on the hope of changing a child's life. "Doing it afraid" rather than not moving forward because of fear. This was true for the Klein* family. They are a young couple with family connections to social work. They were not naïve to the hardships of foster care and made an informed decision to become foster parents.

In an interview, their licensing specialist asked what the most stressful situation for them would be. The Kleins were very open, sharing the fears that had almost deterred them from engaging in foster care. Their specialist asked how the family feels supported by others generally, as well as what would be supportive for them should their worst-case scenario come true. Unfortunately, that very concern became a reality just months after the Kleins welcomed their first foster child.

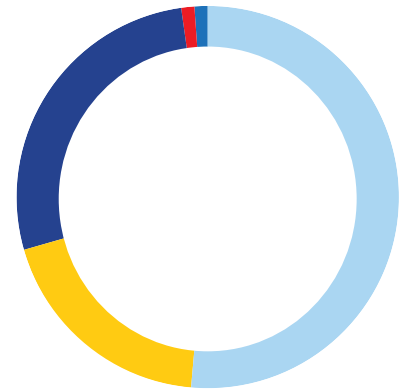
Because of their honesty about their fears and the established relationship with their licensing specialist, various supports were able to be implemented right away. The candid discussion with their specialist that took place nearly a year earlier was the basis for how they now worked together as a team to help their foster child. The Klein family is weathering the storm and wouldn't change their decision to foster. "It's scary to make the jump and foster. But then we couldn't imagine life without the bond we had built with them. And we knew that we wouldn't be alone in any of it." We are grateful for the Kleins' love for the children in their home and their commitment. Learn more about foster care at abcsfostercare.com. *Name changed



Financials

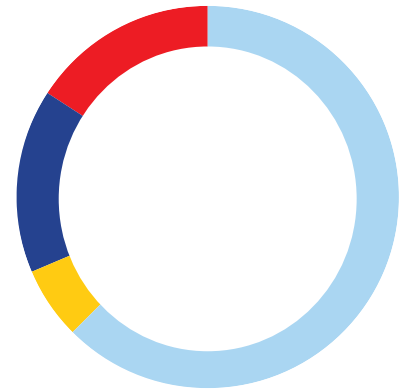
2021 SUPPORT & REVENUE

State contracts (Foster Care and Parent Aide)	\$4,831,635	51%
Public contributions	\$1,775,799	19%
In-kind contributions	\$2,656,844	28%
Private care (includes fee-for-service)	\$147,909	1%
Other revenue	\$141,728	1%
2021 TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE		\$9,553,915 100%



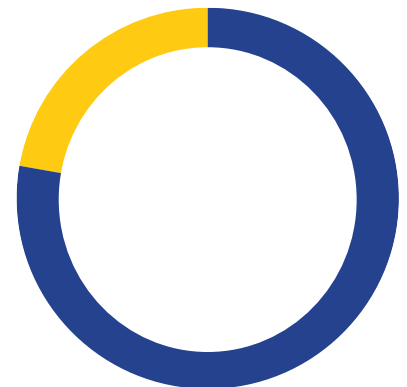
2021 PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Individual gifts	\$1,073,643	60%
Corporate/civic gifts	\$157,755	9%
Arizona Southern Baptist Cooperative Program	\$270,460	15%
Church gifts	\$273,941	15%
2021 TOTAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS		\$1,775,799 100%



2021 EXPENSES

Program services	\$8,347,309	78%
Supporting services – administration	\$2,331,374	22%
2021 TOTAL EXPENSES		\$10,678,683 100%



The numbers above are from the 2021 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. 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) nonprofit organization accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. We value financial integrity and transparency.

2021 highlights



68
DECISIONS
FOR CHRIST

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405,990
DIAPERS
DISTRIBUTED



69
ADOPTIONS



181,099
FOOD BOXES
DISTRIBUTED



1,860
VOLUNTEERS
SERVED
51,866
HOURS



2,431
HOURS OF
COUNSELING



 **2,983** FOLLOWERS

 **437** FOLLOWERS

 **41.6K** IMPRESSIONS

 **2.3K** VIEWS



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