Abundant Life demonstrates God’s love through holistic community development in the Prospect neighborhood.

ABUNDANT LIFE IMPACTS THE CLASS OF 2019

The graduating class of 2019 included 30 students who were in our K-4 tutoring at least one year. Today, of the 29 students for whom we know their stories, 100% have received a high school diploma on-time. Each of these students was considered to be “Economically Disadvantaged,” but those who stayed involved with Abundant Life for at least 7 years of tutoring share 16 different College scholarships among them!
Dear Abundant Life Family,

One of the most vivid images in the Bible is the recurring metaphor of planting. From the Parable of the Sower who casts seeds to the ground, to the prophet Jeremiah’s claim that trusting God is like being planted by water, there is power in being planted and fully rooted. Last year, Abundant Life took steps to become more rooted in our neighborhood as we purchased additional property and we drafted a strategic plan to ground us more deeply in our mission. Already this year we have begun to witness real fruit. We have engaged in new opportunities to build relationships with our neighbors, we have seen our programs grow in both quantity and quality, and we have deepened our commitment to the slow and steady process of promoting God’s kingdom in our community.

Throughout this annual report, you will see glimpses of what this process looks like on a daily basis. It looks like recognizing the God-given dignity, value, and assets of each of our neighbors. It looks like walking alongside Prospect residents as they pursue goals for themselves and their families. It looks like an ongoing commitment to seeing everyone experience an abundant life. One of the reasons I’m confident that Abundant Life can continue playing a role in this work is that we continue to witness the support of people like you. Regardless of whether you partner with us through praying, volunteering, or giving financially, I want to say thank you for joining us in this work. You are one of the key reasons we are so excited about the future of Abundant Life and the future of our neighborhood.

With Gratitude,

Nathan Walton, Ph.D.
STRIVE is Abundant Life’s one-on-one mentoring program for Prospect neighborhood’s high school young men. The program focuses on goal setting, support and accountability, resource connection, and college and career exposure. High school students are matched with Christian adult mentors with whom they meet weekly. Mentors commit to walking with each student for the four years of high school plus a year after graduation.

This June we hosted a banquet at Trinity Presbyterian church to celebrate STRIVE’s 18 mentoring pairs and its seventh graduating class. There was much to celebrate: all three of STRIVE’s Class of 2019 graduates were accepted into four-year universities, and this December STRIVE will celebrate its first two college graduates!

Mutually transformative relationships mark Abundant Life programs. Sophomore Manny and his mentor of two years, Steven, say the support and accountability flows both ways. “It’s really been fun [to work with Manny],” says Steven, “because we have set goals together. He holds me accountable to my goals just as much as I do for him, and I’m learning a lot. He’s pushing me and encouraging me.”

Similarly, mentor Terrance praised his mentee, Majestic, a 2019 graduate, stating, “We play ball, we study together, we’ve had hard conversations. I would say Majestic is one of the most confident people I’ve ever met.” The admiration flows both ways. “I’m thankful that Terrance is my mentor because being around him helps me with school and life,” Majestic says. “He’s helped me make up some goals for life and school, which has also helped me get to college. Without him I don’t know [where I’d be], because there was a moment when I didn’t think I was going to go to college. But now, being around Terrance, [he helps] me study, and just focus more on school and think more about my future.” Praise God for the work he’s doing through STRIVE!

STRIVE Celebrates Seventh Graduating Class

Financial Report 2019

- Individuals: $549,127
- Grants
- Churches
- Foundations

Operating Income

$549,127
Dieira Henderson’s involvement in Abundant Life Ministries spans 19 years, and includes Johnson Tutoring and Bible Club, Bible Camp, Intelligent Girls, Ladies of Quality Jr. and Sr., and Kids Across America and CitiKidz Camps. In fact, she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior at one of these camps.

Like many of our participants, Dieira also gave back to the ministry, serving as a Bible Camp counselor as a teen and young adult.

In June, Dieira gave her testimony at our Art of Building Community event. Summing up her experience with the ministry, Dieira states, “The adventures I had were amazing and wonderful, but what I realize now as an adult is that God’s love and his truths were planted in me at such a young age. Even though I still had and will have struggles, there was and always will be God’s love, hope, and a fantastic support system.”

Currently, Dieira plans to participate in our Dollars & Sense personal finance program for adults, which meets on Monday nights at our 780 house. Led by Symia Tabron, the program affords participants the opportunity to learn practical financial management skills and offers matching funds for graduates looking to make a long-term investment such as a new home, a business, or additional education.

You can watch Dieria’s full testimony online:
https://charlottesvilleabundantlife.org/abundant-life-story-dieira-henderson/
100% of 12th grade participants graduated from high school

25 families involved 10+ years

138 volunteers help make it all possible

472 group events

94 active participants in K-12 programs

33 staff & volunteers involved 10+ years

Staff

Nathan Walton  [Executive Director]
Bruce Boling
Anne Brown
Angel Feero
Richard Feero
Rebecca Goodwin-Feldmann
Sonia Montalvo
Dylan Rosenthal
Symia Tabron
Katy Correa  [Fellow]
Rachel Gaffin  [Fellow]
James Gilliam  [Fellow]
Jonathan Knabe  [Fellow]
Lynsey Meissner  [Fellow]

Board of Directors

Laura Merricks  [Board Chair]
Colin Anderson
Jim Bleakley
Clay Daniel
Jane Duffey
Tom Duffey
Matthew Gillikin
Michael Guthrie
Toni Kim  [Board Vice-Chair]
Alex Meador
Amy Piedra
Harrison Wallace
Carmelita Wood
“Abundant Life has taught me that love overpowers everything, whether it’s love from others, love to others or love from the one who created you.”

-Amdane

(STRIVE graduate)