



Abundant Life
Ministries

Impact Report 2020

Elementary school students are dropped off or ride our Abundant Life bus to Christ Episcopal Church Monday-Thursday, 8:00-12:00. Staff and volunteers greet them and conduct temperature checks. Outdoor recess, activity time, breakfast, lunch, and support for online learning are all part of their day.

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



ABUNDANT LIFE
MINISTRIES



2020 Highlights



77 families empowered



29 on-time high school graduates (97% rate)



2 new homeowners



3 first-generation college graduates



156 volunteers



41 nonprofit partnerships

<https://charlottesvilleabundantlife.org>

Message *from the* Director



Dear Abundant Life Family,

This has been a challenging year. From a global pandemic, to racial unrest, to a polarized political climate, we have all had to wrestle with how to navigate these uncertain times. It is important to acknowledge these realities, but we refuse to stop there. We are committed to asking the question: "Where is God at work, and how might we join God's work?" When we resist the temptation towards despair our eyes become capable of seeing the hand of God. From a child being able to learn in a safe environment, to a first-time homeowner receiving their keys, to creative partnerships helping communities not only survive but thrive, we have been reminded that "social distancing" can never dictate the presence and power of God.

God told the nation of Israel through the Prophet Isaiah, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Throughout this annual report, you will see glimpses of the new things that God has been doing. We hope that you are encouraged by this work and we remain grateful for your help in making it possible. Whether you partner with us through praying, volunteering, or giving financially, this report reflects the fruit of you joining us along this journey.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Walton'.

Nathan Walton, Ph.D.
Executive Director

First-Generation College Graduate and Staff Member



Luís in front of the Prospect Avenue apartment where he grew up

Luís Sanchez-Rosa Abundant Life has been blessed to have Luís Sanchez-Rosa on staff since January as Middle School Tutoring Coordinator and Fellow. Luís holds an Associate Degree in Business Administration from Piedmont Virginia Community College and a BA in Sociology from Covenant College.

Luís is a very familiar face to us; he moved to Prospect Avenue in 2002 and started in our programs in 2005. He progressed through Johnson, Walker, and Buford Tutoring, as well as the 5/8 Club and Discipleship. As a charter member of STRIVE, Luís was one of its first graduates (Charlottesville High School Class of 2014).

During high school and college, Luís had several stints on staff, as a 5/8 Club Summer Program intern (twice) and as the Buford Tutoring Coordinator in 2015-16. He thanks staff members and mentors Dylan Rosenthal, Richard Feero, and many more men for the values they instilled in him that continue to shape his life. Luís says he's "blessed to be giving back to the community that poured so much into my growth."

Pandemic Leads to Program Pivots

Abundant Life is a holistic community development organization, so when a pandemic hit, we sought to remain true to our mission while also engaging in the relief efforts that our community needed. We balanced these goals by partnering with Community Meals (with funding from World Central Kitchen in partnership with Frontline Foods), Cville Community Cares, and DSA Charlottesville to distribute 5,100 meals in the Prospect neighborhood. Other partnerships included working with Loaves & Fishes, which donated excess fruits and vegetables that we could distribute, utilizing funds received from the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation to expand our virtual learning support programs, and assisting our neighbors in accessing emergency COVID-19 funds.

Online classes have led to adjustments in all our academic programs. Instead of the usual after-school tutoring, we are partnering with Christ Episcopal Church to offer in-person support to our elementary students four days a week. Meanwhile, we are providing in-person programming for our middle schoolers at Buford Middle School. Due to the pandemic we have three Fellows, who each focus their efforts on supporting these academic programs.



First-Generation College Graduate and Family Man



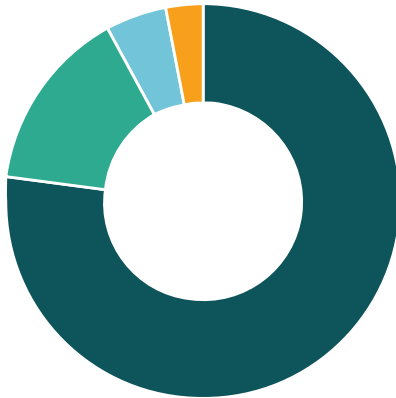
Paul Fry, III joined Abundant Life in 2001 as a first grader. “My mother was a single parent raising four kids on her own, living in a three-bedroom apartment and [working] two jobs, so it was hard for her to keep up with us and make sure we did all of our homework. Abundant Life became a big factor because they gave my mother the help she needed; they provided us with school supplies, tutors and mentors that we could hang out with after school.”

Paul progressed through our programs: Tutoring, Bible Club, the 5/8 Club, Walker and Buford Tutoring, and served as a summer intern and camp counselor in high school. Then, Paul joined STRIVE as one of three participants in its pilot program, becoming one of its first two graduates in 2013.

As a first-generation college student, Paul worked to put himself through two years of PVCC and 4.5 years at Radford University. In 2016, he hosted STRIVE students for a campus tour and Q&A, no doubt inspiring them to see themselves as college students someday. In 2018, he married his high school sweetheart and fellow Radford student Taya and together they had a daughter, Genesis. With all of these responsibilities, and while working full-time at a juvenile detention center, Paul (and Taya) graduated from Radford in December 2019!

Financial Report 2020

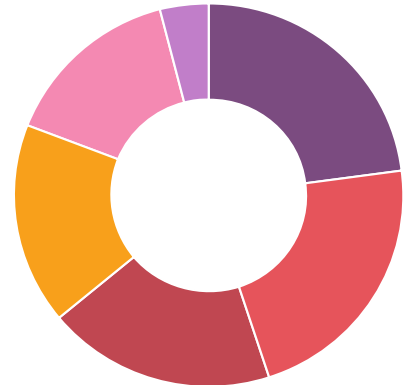
Operating Income \$633,482



- Individual Donors
- Grants
- Churches
- Foundations

Operating Expenses \$624,786

- Middle School Tutoring
- Elementary Programming
- Dollars & Sense
- Young Men's Programming
- Young Ladies' Programming
- Administration



BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE

For 24 years, Abundant Life has brought people together across boundaries to pursue justice in our community and empower our most vulnerable neighbors. Our annual MLK celebration is one way we foster this teamwork.



Photo by Stuart Scott

Staff

Nathan Walton (Executive Director)
Bruce Boling
Anne Brown
Angel Feero
Richard Feero
Rebecca Goodwin-Feldmann

Sonia Montalvo
Dylan Rosenthal
Symia Tabron
Jessica Fittro (Fellow)
Luís Sanchez-Rosa (Fellow)
Zach Sims (Fellow)

Board of Directors

Laura Merricks (Board Chair)
Colin Anderson
Jim Bleakley
Joe Coleman
Clay Daniel
Jane Duffey
Tom Duffey
Matthew Gillikin

Michael Guthrie
Cora Johnson
Toni Kim (Board Vice-Chair)
Alex Meador
Amy Piedra
Shaka Sydnor
Harrison Wallace
Carmelita Wood