



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

25



ABUNDANT LIFE
MINISTRIES





25-YEAR HARVEST

1152

program participants

450

participant families

21

first-generation college graduates

20

local church partnerships

2126

volunteers helped make it all possible

15

first-time homeowners and counting

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

Message *from the* Directors

Dear Abundant Life Family,

As our 25th anniversary year comes to a close, we celebrate the harvest God has produced from the seeds so many of you have planted over these years. For this fruit, and for your generous support, we are deeply grateful. As youth in our neighborhood have navigated a pandemic, so many of you shared your time, resources, and energy to ensure that our most vulnerable neighbors had safe opportunities to continue their education, social formation, and spiritual development. Thank you. We also celebrate that this year we welcomed a past participant into our Fellows program for the second consecutive year. Cardale Emmery helps support the elementary tutoring and middle school mentoring programs that he benefited from several years ago. Our young ladies' programs expanded in beautiful ways and our high school young men continue to benefit from five-year, one-on-one mentoring. We saw another family purchase their first home and are working in partnership with Piedmont Housing Alliance and the Charlottesville Land Trust (a new merger) to ensure some of our Prospect neighbors can purchase five newly available duplexes on Prospect Avenue. And just last month, I (Eddie) rejoined this ministry as the new Executive Director, after growing up in the Prospect neighborhood and having eight years of experience working within this ministry in the past.

Throughout this annual report, you will see glimpses of the fruitful harvest that God has brought through the ministry of Abundant Life and partners like you. 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
Outgoing Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E Howard".

Eddie Howard
Incoming Executive Director

YOUNG LADIES' PROGRAMS FLOURISH



Sonia, second from left, with Prospect young ladies as they volunteer at our 25th anniversary celebration

In 2018, Abundant Life hired Sonia Montalvo as its Young Ladies' Program Coordinator. For the preceding three years, this position had been unstaffed, so Sonia started small; a group of middle school students met at our partner church, Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church, once a week. As those students progressed, programming expanded as well. A developmentally appropriate high school program offers one-on-one mentors for two years to each participant. With the input of the young ladies themselves, Sonia helped them name and shape the Middle School Royal Girls group mentoring program and the High School Crown Academy program. "Everybody comes together as a family," says one young lady about Royal Girls. Another observes, "You can have fun here and be yourself without being judged." After just three years, Abundant Life's Young Ladies' Program is flourishing, with more than 30 participants between the two programs. The students are taking this year to focus on social-emotional development and biblical principles as they walk in community toward a more abundant life.

FELLOWS PROGRAM DEVELOPS LEADERS

Abundant Life welcomed its first Fellows class in the Fall of 2019. The program is designed to equip young adults to engage their faith holistically through the practical theology of Christian Community Development. These Fellows learn on the job, supporting our programs while also learning from local experts during round table discussions and participating in other formative activities. Another program goal is to develop leaders from the neighborhood, one of CCDA's core values. Cardale Emmery participated in Abundant Life programs from kindergarten through high school graduation, and we are thrilled that he has joined this year's Fellows class. His story impacts the way he interacts with our elementary students and supports our middle school young men. And his thoughtful, funny, and encouraging keynote speech at our 25th anniversary celebration reminded everyone present of why we support Abundant Life. Thank you, Cardale, for sharing your life!

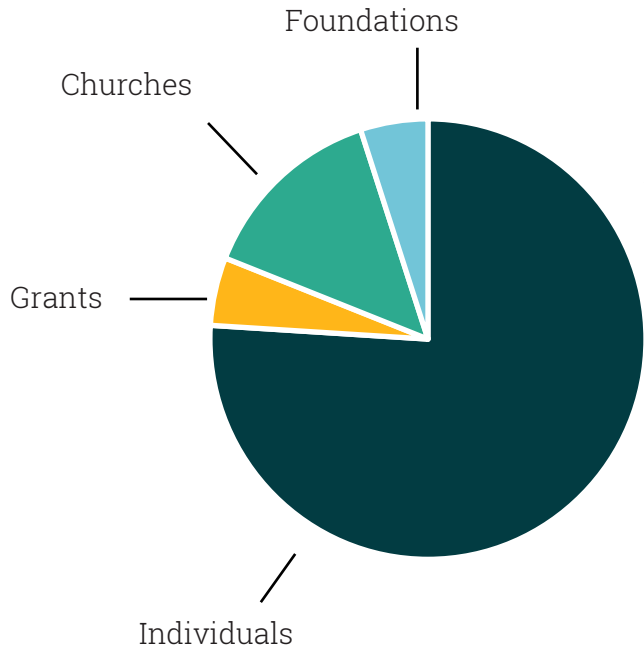


Cardale speaking at Abundant Life's 25th anniversary celebration

Financial Report 2021

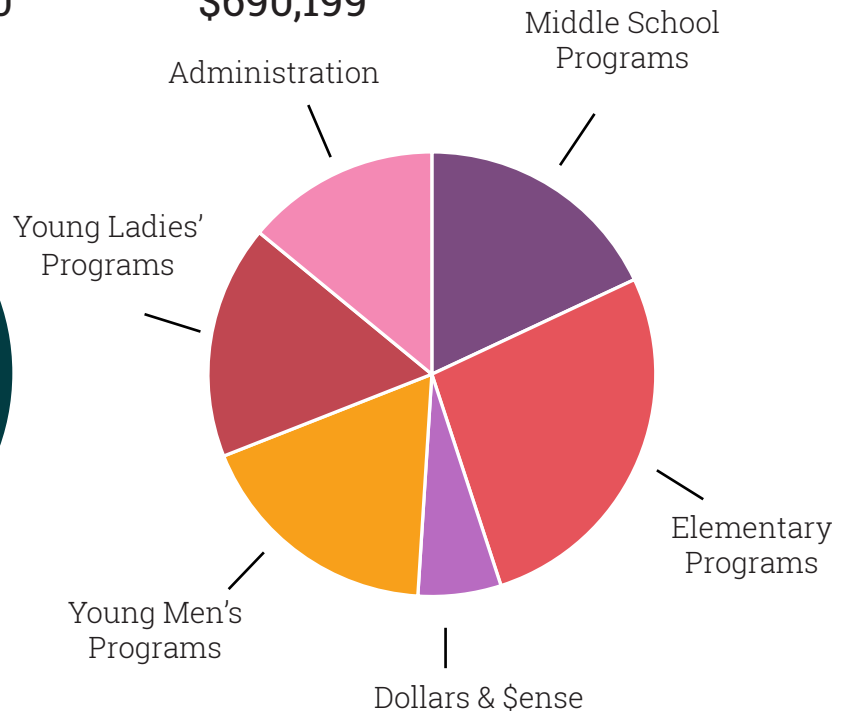
Operating Income

\$690,200



Operating Expenses

\$690,199



Board of Directors

Laura Merricks (Chair)
Colin Anderson
Joe Coleman
Jane Duffey
Tom Duffey (Treasurer)
Matthew Gillikin
Michael Guthrie
Cora Johnson

Tim Jones
Toni Kim (Vice-Chair)
Alex Meador
Amy Piedra (Secretary)
Rachel Schnorr
Shaka Sydnor
Harrison Wallace
Carmelita Wood

ABUNDANT LIFE 25 YEARS



'96

FOUNDING

In 1996, Trinity Presbyterian Church and residents of the Prospect neighborhood partnered to launch Abundant Life Ministries. Dr. Amy Sherman and Mrs. Lula Rogers worked with a team of local residents as well as Trinity members to envision new programs that could empower families to experience an Abundant Life. The ministry started with summer camps and fall after-school tutoring under the leadership of Amy Sherman at our Blue Ridge Commons apartments. Twenty-five years later, the fruit of those efforts remains.

PROGRAMS

Middle school and high school mentoring as well as adult financial programs begin.



'98

'99



LEADERSHIP

Rydell Payne becomes our Executive Director and leads the ministry for 17 years.

'03

GATHERING

We bring the whole community together for the first annual MLK Jr. celebration.



LAND

In 2004 and 2008, Abundant Life bought adjoining parcels of land on 5th Street and Prospect Avenue, to provide a new home for the ministry and provide home ownership opportunities for our neighbors. We have since purchased two houses that provide a campus large enough to house the offices of our entire staff and several programs. Abundant Life also partnered with Habitat for Humanity to provide affordable housing units for several families through a development called Harmony Ridge (pictured).

'04



GENERATIONS

The next generation of ministry takes shape under the leadership of Nathan Walton.



'12



STRIVE

STRIVE high school mentoring program begins with input from Prospect families. 100% of STRIVE participants are on-time high school graduates.

'18

FELLOWS

First Abundant Life Fellows Class arrives to support programs and catch the CCDA vision. The program also **develops leaders** from the neighborhood, a CCDA principle. Two STRIVE graduates, Luis and Cardale, have been Fellows.



'19

FULL CIRCLE

In 2021, Abundant Life welcomed Eddie Howard to staff as its new Executive Director. Eddie grew up in the Prospect neighborhood and served on staff for eight years, building deep relationships in the community and helping to launch our 5/8 Program. One of the core values of Abundant Life, which is part of the Christian Community Development model, is raising up leaders from the neighborhood who return to live and lead in the communities in which they were raised. After 25 years of presence, we are thrilled to see Eddie embody this value while he works to invest in future leaders from the Prospect neighborhood.

'21



A LASTING HARVEST:
ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

