



CELEBRATING 30 years!



2025-6 Highlights



60+ families empowered



100% on-time high school graduation rate



90+ community partnerships



1600+ summer meals served



144 tutoring Sessions



80+ volunteers



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

From the Executive Director



Beloved friends,

I write to you with deep joy as I share the fruit of your support, prayers, and volunteerism in the Prospect Avenue community. Your faithfulness to our neighbors has been a vital catalyst in sustaining and growing this ministry. I am encouraged by your desire to walk closely with us as we plant seeds of hope and empowerment in this neighborhood.

Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries is more than a nonprofit—it is my home, my community, and my calling. More than twenty years ago, I was welcomed with open arms by Abundant Life staff and supporters. The relationships formed in those early years continue to carry me today as I walk through the doors of The Dickerson House—a place of proximity that allows me to give back to a community that never judged me or turned me away, even when I was doing more harm than good.

With God's guidance, I look forward to helping shape future leaders both from within the community and among the Abundant Life staff. Since returning in 2021, I've watched **our staff be transformed by the community and the community be transformed by our staff.** This reciprocal love is an unmistakable sign of how the love of Christ crosses every boundary and reshapes us all.

As we celebrate 30 years and prepare for the next chapter of Abundant Life, we are working to ensure that our organizational capacity grows alongside our physical space and programming. **Our Sustainability Campaign (see below) will strengthen the people, systems, and financial foundation needed to serve the Prospect community faithfully for decades to come.**

Again, thank you for your continuing prayers, support, and encouragement. The love you have for this community does not go unnoticed by me. Please continue to pray for us as we take on another year's journey - by the Grace of God.

Blessings and Peace,

Eddie Howard, Executive Director

Sustaining the next 30 years

For 30 years, Abundant Life has shown what can grow from trust, proximity, faith, and shared responsibility. Your partnership now will help ensure that the people, systems, and financial foundation are ready to sustain that impact for the next generation.

SUSTAINABILITY CAMPAIGN

Our **Sustainability Campaign** is the bridge between Abundant Life's 30-year legacy and our next chapter.

**PHASE ONE
GOAL
\$250,000**

We are **80% OF THE WAY** to reaching our **phase one goal!** **HELP US REACH OUR GOAL BY THE END OF THE YEAR** as we prioritize these objectives:

Fundraising & Development

Deepen individual giving, expand major-donor and institutional relationships, strengthen donor stewardship, and build a more diversified revenue base.

Staffing & Operational Readiness

Invest in the roles, systems, and facility coordination needed to support expanded programming without overextending the current team.

Community-led Growth

Strengthen pathways for Prospect residents to move from participant to volunteer to paid staff and leadership.

Financial Resilience

Build operating reserves and ensure growth is paced by confirmed funding.

Join us in sustaining the next
30 years!



ASPIRE: growing young leaders

Abundant Life's ASPIRE mentorship program holds a safe space for **young women ages 15 to 19 in the Prospect community**. Each youth has a mentor who walks with them through and post-High School. Once a month, mentors and participants come together to commune and share meals and stories. The connections that are being built are long-lasting relationships that are a fabric sown into the beauty of our community.

Amerial, an ASPIRE participant, has a strong desire to deepen her faith by actively attending ASPIRE and is dedicated to growing closer to God. "She is always asking for scriptures and showing a true eagerness to understand God's word. It is inspiring to see her take the initiative to make positive changes in her life and grow spiritually," says Tekisha Crenshaw, our Young Women's Program Coordinator

And Amerial is taking what she is learning in ASPIRE and through the relationship with her mentor, Kate, and serving her community. "Amerial has already gone above and beyond in this challenge, showing her servant's heart through her actions. She is always willing to help whenever she is asked. Amerial also comes to Royal Girls on Tuesdays to assist with the younger girls. She truly enjoys helping them learn scripture and encouraging them in their faith."

Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries is proud to walk alongside the many neighbors like **Amerial, who are investing in themselves and their community**. Her story is just one example of how God is using our programs to transform lives in the Prospect neighborhood. What a privilege we have to be a part of it.



"Amerial is growing into a confident young leader who is committed to bettering herself, serving God, and being a positive example for the younger girls. We are proud of the progress she has made and excited to see how God continues to work in her life."

—Tekisha Crenshaw, Young Women's Program Coordinator

PARTNERSHIP is key to our success!

"I have had the privilege of working alongside Abundant Life Ministries for the past two years on their annual Gospel Explosion, and each year I am reminded of the power of community coming together with purpose. This event is not only a celebration of faith, music, and fellowship but also an important fundraiser that directly supports the meaningful work Abundant Life is doing with children and families in our community. It has been an honor for Jefferson School City Center to provide a space where that mission can be celebrated, supported, and strengthened."— Kimberly Sheffield, Executive Director, Jefferson School Foundation

MADE POSSIBLE BY some of OUR PARTNERS

- **\$4,000+** worth of Christmas store gifts (FLOW Toyota of Charlottesville, Trinity Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church, Immanuel Lutheran, and many more!)
- **60 Holiday Meals** served (Immanuel Lutheran Church)
- **20+ Health Clinics + Fresh Produce** provided (UVA Health)
- **1,634 Summer Meals** served (Blue Ridge Area Food Bank)
- **14 C4K Participants** (Computers for Kids)
- **5 Participants empowered** through golf (First Tee of the Virginia Blue Ridge)
- **3 Student Short Films produced** (Lighthouse Studios)
- **29 Students encouraged in their faith** (Trinity Presbyterian Church & Cherry Avenue Christian Church)
- **46 Students empowered academically** (Charlottesville City Schools)



Why We Give

"It has been a blessing to support Abundant Life Ministries with our finances and our time because it brings faith to life in practical ways. Abundant Life doesn't just talk about transformation - it walks alongside people with compassion, dignity, and hope. We've seen how lives are strengthened, families are supported, and the community grows more whole. Giving is our way of investing in both spiritual renewal and tangible change right here in Charlottesville. We believe we are changed as we invest in Abundant Life." —Tom & Jane Duffey

30 Years in Review

For three decades, Abundant Life has built its ministry through consistent presence, trusted relationships, and the leadership of Prospect residents. Today, that foundation allows the organization to serve approximately 180 families annually and engage roughly 36% of Prospect households.

May 1996



Abundant Life is founded by Trinity Presbyterian Church and residents of the Prospect neighborhood. Dr. Amy Sherman and Mrs. Lula Rogers worked with local residents to envision programs to empower families to experience an Abundant Life. We started with summer camps and fall after-school tutoring in two Blue Ridge Commons apartments.

September 1998



Programs expand to include middle and high school mentoring as well as adult financial programs. Abundant Life currently offers programs that focus on **academic support, spiritual development, and economic empowerment.**

July 1999



Our first paid staff member is Executive Director, **Rydell Payne**. **Nathan Walton** took over leadership of the ministry in 2018 and now **Eddie Howard**, who grew up in the Prospect neighborhood, is leading us into the next season!

January 2003



We bring the whole community together with the **first annual MLK Jr. celebration.** A candlelight march through the Prospect neighborhood along with an awards ceremony honor the goodness in our neighbors.

November 2020



Housing for the community at Harmony Ridge (a partnership between Abundant Life and Habitat for Humanity) along with a **home for the ministry** take shape on land purchased in 2004 & 2008. Through this initiative and our adult programs, we have provided ways for **43 families to become first-time homeowners** over 30 years.

Staff

Eddie Howard, Executive Director
Faith Kelley, Advancement & Communications
Jonathan "JD" DeLeon, Program Director
Rebecca Goodwin-Feldmann, IT/Data Support
Jazmine Davis, IT & Data Management
Symia Tabron, Accountant & Bookkeeper
Dom Morse, V-Trades Coordinator
Calvin Kellum, Elementary School Program Coordinator
Jadiss Thomas, Middle School Program Coordinator
Bruce Boling, Young Men's Program Coordinator
Tekisha Crenshaw, Young Women's Program Coordinator

Board of Directors

Rick Moore, Board Chair
Kristine Nelson, Treasurer
Sandra Johnson, Secretary

Bob Conner
Bethany Crawley
Gwendolyn Ferguson
Kate Goodall
Dorenda Johnson

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Jacklene Martin
Maria Poole
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