

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021



**BRAVING the uncharted TOGETHER**

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# MESSAGE FROM

## ABCD LEADERSHIP



*"We tapped into our entrepreneurial spirit and established new partnerships.... Together we rose to the occasion, a unified force braving the uncharted."*

Dear ABCD family and supporters,

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the families and communities we serve, and it changed life as we knew it. As the year came to a close, we had shown how nimble we could be while also scaling up our operations to unprecedented levels. By the time 2021 arrived, we had embraced essential technologies and devised new ways of delivering the programs and services that aided and empowered tens of thousands of our most vulnerable neighbors.

The year called for creativity and courage. We tapped into our entrepreneurial spirit and established new partnerships. In fact, ABCD established a coalition of human services organizations that enabled all of us to reach more people more effectively. We rose to the occasion, a unified force for braving the uncharted — together.

The need was great, but our resolve was greater. And as we came to grips with irreplaceable losses, gross inequities, and constant uncertainty, something else emerged: hope! There were several reasons. To name a few:

- Two COVID-19 vaccines were approved, ushering in mass immunization and ending the state of emergency.
- Michelle Wu became Boston's first elected female mayor and first elected mayor of color.
- Police officer Derek Chauvin was convicted of murdering George Floyd.
- The U.S. rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement, putting climate justice back on the priority list.

These events and others helped to renew the spirit as we continued to carry out our mission, implementing alternative service methods while keeping our connection to the people and neighborhoods as strong as ever.

Because of friends like you, we were able to bring emergency relief and provide resources to support long-term stability and opportunity to more than 100,000 neighbors who faced incredibly daunting social and economic barriers. May 2022 bring us greater security and a world of promise!

With gratitude,

**SEAN K. DAUGHTRY**  
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**JOHN J. DREW**  
PRESIDENT/CEO

**SHARON SCOTT-CHANDLER, ESQ.**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT / COO



# 2021

## AT A GLANCE

We're committed to helping our neighbors transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success. Whether our team is helping a young adult learn English or providing an elder with fuel assistance, we measure our impact by the lives we've changed for the better. Thanks to your support, we were able to make a measurable difference in 2021. Here's what real change looks like.



206,481

meals provided



14,773

emergency neighborhood services including food, diapers, hygiene kits, and school supplies

100,000+



Greater Boston residents served in a multitude of ways

Made  
45,000  
homes  
energy efficient

\$3.8 MILLION

in CARES & municipal housing assistance



3117

residents helped to complete their tax returns



1,962

students enrolled at ABCD Head Start & Children's Services



# SPECIAL INITIATIVES

We're ready to act, to innovate, and to evolve to do the most good. In response to the health and economic crises created by the COVID-19 pandemic, ABCD developed special initiatives and expanded programming to help meet our neighbors' needs.

## ABCD CONNECT

Created to rapidly meet the needs of people impacted by the pandemic, ABCD Connect continues to be a vital resource. Through this invaluable hotline, clients and advocates can receive professional guidance including immediate access to a case manager and referrals to specific programs and services. In its first 10 months in existence, we answered more than 3,000 calls.



## EMERGENCY RELIEF

Over the past year, ABCD utilized over \$9 million in CSBG CARES COVID-19 relief funds to increase our capacity to meet the ever-growing needs of our clients. Not only did we ramp up our own programs, we also established a network of partners throughout Boston and Mystic Valley. Through our collective efforts, we helped more than 50,000 households access healthy food, rental assistance, workforce training, and other vital resources.



## FRESH TRUCK + MATTAPAN FSC

This innovative, new partnership between the ABCD Mattapan Family Service Center (MFSC) and Fresh Truck is the perfect example of what can happen when two mission-driven organizations work together. Founded to address food insecurity, Fresh Truck brings nutritious food closer to the people who need it most. When the Fresh Truck rolls up to MFSC, clients can use their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program dollars through the Massachusetts Healthy Incentives Program to purchase fruits and vegetables.



### ESOL SUMMER ACADEMY

Acknowledging our “important, impactful work,” the Cummings Foundation awarded ABCD a generous three-year \$100,000 grant to expand our Adult ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program. With this support, we established the ESOL Summer Academy, which prevents students from losing ground by providing the opportunity to continue their learning year-round. In July 2021, we welcomed the inaugural class of ESOL Summer Academy students.



### COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER TRAINING

With a focus on integrating Community Health Workers (CHWs) into behavioral health services, ABCD developed a training program for CHWs in primary care settings whose patients struggle with substance use and/or mental health issues. A collaborative effort including the Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers, the National Association of Social Workers Massachusetts Chapter, Health Leads, and the Center for Innovation in Social Work and Health at the Boston University School of Social Work, and funded by Massachusetts General Hospital, the program helps CHWs build skills in health equity, patient advocacy, and behavioral health navigation.





# RALLY FOR RACIAL EQUITY



*Racial equity, diversity, and inclusion have always been intrinsic to ABCD, but we must be vigilant. We have the capacity and the responsibility to be champions who foster change for the better, leaders in the quest for equity for all.*

– Sharon Scott-Chandler, ABCD Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer

Since its inception, ABCD's mission has been rooted in racial, social, and economic justice. We're on the ground, in communities across Greater Boston, working to make change happen. In the last 18 months, we have recommitted ourselves to the cause. Under the leadership of the agency's Board of Directors, ABCD issued a Commitment to Racial Equity statement, and our Racial Equity Working Group and subcommittees have met regularly to discuss how to strengthen our connections with clients, stakeholders, and members of our own organization. In 2021, ABCD's Racial Equity efforts celebrated its first year of research, reflection, planning, and action. From virtual healing circles to policy updates and new programs, ABCD is taking concrete steps to help transform our community and our organization into more just and equitable places.

## ABCD COMMITMENT TO RACIAL EQUITY

*In response to the urgency of the current climate of racial unrest due to the continued violence towards Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), and to stand as an ally and resource to our communities, ABCD's Board of Directors and staff commit to reflecting on, confronting, and eradicating internal and external racism through leadership in education, advocacy, community investment, and collaboration with others involved in this work.*

*For nearly 60 years, ABCD has worked to attack the causes of poverty and to create paths to opportunity for all. Our origins are inextricably linked to the courage of those who fought for Civil Rights. We recognize that racial injustice has helped create and perpetuate poverty over generations. Therefore, our poverty-fighting mission requires us to center the power and voice of oppressed communities.*

*Today, we rededicate ourselves to challenging the embedded racism and all of the inequities that fuel destructive imbalances in every sphere of life – within our organization and in the world beyond. We pledge to hold ourselves accountable as we work together to build real and lasting change.*







## BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

On February 25, 2021, we hosted our annual Black History Month Celebration, featuring remarks from Massachusetts State Rep. Liz Miranda, Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia, and other community leaders and members. During the celebration, we honored Irvienne Goldson, Deputy Director of ABCD's Community Prevention program and a beloved friend, who passed away suddenly in December 2020. A tireless advocate for reproductive health and adolescent sexuality education, Irvienne's impact was felt throughout Greater Boston and she is greatly missed.

## A BILLBOARD FIT FOR A QUEEN

The Billboard Hope project collaborated with artist Farah Jeune to honor the late Irvienne Goldson with a billboard in the heart of Roxbury. When asked why she chose to paint Irvienne, she said, "She was a true champion, a true queen, who deserves all of the roses, even in the afterlife. Roxbury was very lucky to have such a fearless, selfless and humble individual in our neighborhood."

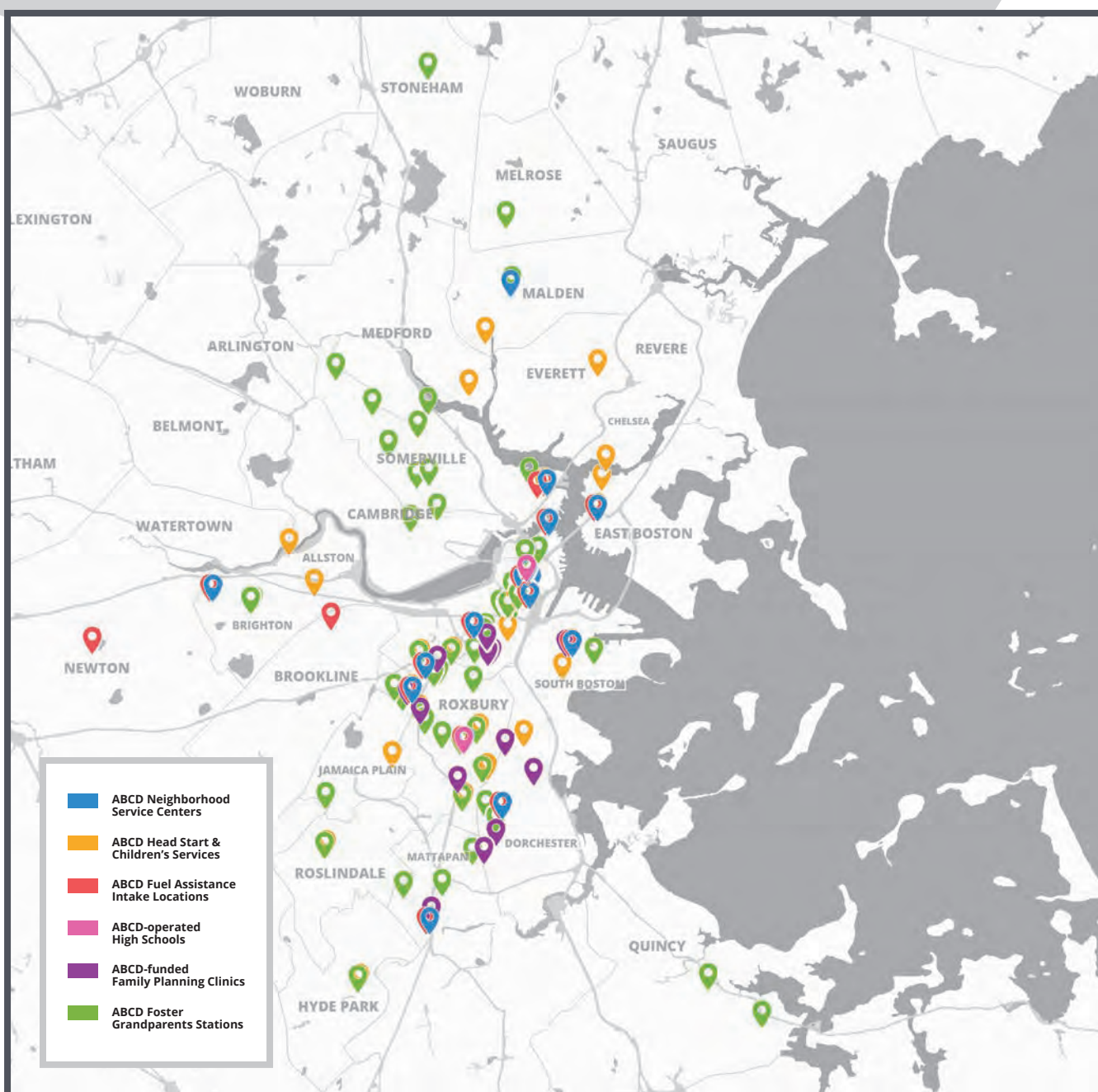


# SERVING PEOPLE WHERE THEY LIVE AND WORK

Each year, ABCD serves **more than 100,000** Greater Boston residents. From providing education to fighting hunger, we respond directly and efficiently to help meet their essential needs and equip them with resources and opportunity that empowers them to build a better life.

Notably, the ABCD Community Coordination department operates 11 neighborhood centers and partners with two agencies — the Asian American Civic Association and John F. Kennedy Center — to provide more than 75 programs and services in every Boston neighborhood as well as in Malden, Medford, and Everett.

But the ABCD neighborhood network extends much further. For example, ABCD's Health Services and Energy Services operate regionally and statewide, respectively.





# MEETING NEEDS. BUILDING COMMUNITY.

*Thanks to our partners, community, and supporters like you,  
we are making incredible progress toward our goals to:*



**EDUCATE THE NEXT GENERATION**

**p.10**



**IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY**

**p.20**



**EASE HOUSING INSECURITY**

**p.22**



**ADVANCE CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

**p.26**



**BUILD A FINANCIAL FUTURE**

**p.32**



**CARE FOR OUR ELDERS**

**p.34**



**INCREASE COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH**

**p.38**



**DRIVING CLIMATE EQUITY AND IMPACT**

**p.40**



**CULTIVATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH CHANGE AGENTS**

**p.42**



# EDUCATE THE NEXT GENERATION



*Despite the pandemic, the mission of Head Start never stopped. We continue to support families where they are — both face-to-face and virtual.*

– Yvette Rodriguez, Vice President, Head Start & Children's Services



## HEAD START & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

When the pandemic derailed in-person education, our responsive staff swiftly transitioned to a virtual environment. And if parents and children couldn't come to us, we went to them with educational materials, meals, and basic needs packages. As pandemic restrictions eased, in September 2021 we welcomed all children back to the classroom, serving Early Head Start and Head Start children and families once again.

Head Start & Early Head Start are more than early education and care; they are proven comprehensive family development programs focusing on school readiness, social and learning skills, nutrition, physical and family wellness, and intensive parent engagement from the time children are infants — when the brain develops fastest — through age 5.



1,962

students enrolled in  
Head Start and Early  
Head Start

**“We feel we are part of a team working together for our children and community. It’s a powerful and enriching feeling to understand that we are all in this together.”**

– Zainab Hmito, parent of two children in Head Start, ABCD Head Start Parent Policy Council member, and ABCD Head Start representative on the ABCD Board of Directors



**CHILD CARE CHOICES  
OF BOSTON**

#### **CHILD CARE CHOICES OF BOSTON (CCCB)**

CCCB is the Child Care Resource & Referral agency for Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Revere, Somerville and Winthrop. CCCB plays a key role in making child care work for everyone by providing support, resources, technical assistance, training and child care expertise to a very diverse community of several thousand families and child care providers. In 2021, CCCB distributed more than \$53 million in state-funded vouchers to more than 4,392 families with 6,335 children.

### SPEAKING OUT FOR THE CHILDREN



On March 31, U.S. Senator Ed Markey and U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley held a joint press conference in front of ABCD's Mattapan Family Service Center. Hosted by Sharon Scott-Chandler and our Mattapan staff, the event highlighted how the Child Tax Credit expansion would benefit **more than 100,000 Massachusetts children** and lift many out of poverty.



**FEATURED STORY:**

## MEET OUR TEACHERS

*Being a Head Start or Early Head Start teacher takes exceptional dedication and professionalism. Our teachers are key to our 360° wrap-around services that provide each child and family with everything they need to be successful in school and in life.*



### **AI JUAN (AIPHY) LI**

*Infant & Toddler Teacher,*

*ABCD Early Head Start*

*Joined ABCD Head Start in August 2021*

Inspired by a cousin who spent most of her 25-year career with ABCD Head Start & Children's Services, Ai Juan Li, also known as "Aiphy," loves to work with children and is committed to the Head Start mission to provide high quality education and family supports to underserved children and families.

*"It's amazing to see the children growing and learning every single day."*

Aiphy holds an associate's degree, is enrolled in classes to advance her English skills, and plans to pursue bachelor's and master's degrees in early education. Why did she choose ABCD Head Start? She has high praise for our investment in professional training and development for educators and staff.



*"It's amazing to see the children growing and learning every single day."*

## HILDA PANIAGUA

*Infant & Toddler Teacher,*

*ABCD Early Head Start*

*Joined ABCD Head Start in September 2021*



*"You have to have a passion for it, of course. You have to have a positive mindset. You'll be around children and you have to understand that — make it fun, and transmit that positive energy."*



The mother of a 12-year-old, Hilda Paniagua has been working with children for six years and joined ABCD in September 2021, eager to work with children and families facing serious challenges due to the pandemic. "People said 'we're all in this together,' but some families got hit harder," she said.

One reason she chose ABCD Head Start & Early Head Start was the diversity. Noting that she works with people from many different cultures, she enjoys learning and experiencing a range of heritages — which ABCD embodies and celebrates every day.

Hilda was born in El Salvador. She said she appreciates the opportunities that America provides, and she loves working with the children.

"You have to have a passion for it, of course. You have to have a positive mindset. You'll be around children and you have to understand that — make it fun, and transmit that positive energy." She adds that it's difficult to describe how rewarding she finds the work. "I know the children are learning, and I get such satisfaction from that."





## MEET OUR TEACHERS (cont.)

### ANNIE HINDS

*Infant & Toddler Teacher,  
ABCD Early Head Start  
Joined ABCD in 1997*



Annie Hinds remembers consulting with colleagues and working with the parents of a little boy who presented some learning and behavioral challenges; she remembers how gratifying it was to strategize and come up with a plan. And it worked. He got better at expressing his ideas. He started to shine. When he went to first grade, his mother asked Annie to talk to his new teacher, which she did. That young student was soon at the top of his first grade class, and he never looked back. He's now in college.

She said that several former students have gone on to become teachers, and her granddaughter, also a Head Start alum, is in college and intent on becoming a teacher. "It makes me cry" with joy, Annie said.

Annie joined ABCD Head Start as an assistant teacher 25 years ago, and she kept progressing, ultimately becoming a lead teacher. She decided to move out of the city — in fact, out of state — but she couldn't leave her students and colleagues. She drives from Maine to Dorchester every day! "I started here, and I'm committed to this community," she said.



FEATURED STORY:

## FROM OVERWHELMED TO OVERJOYED: MOM SAYS HEAD START IS “THE WHOLE PACKAGE”



*“Head Start is not just a classroom. It’s a community.”*

–Zainab Hmito, parent of two children in Head Start, ABCD Head Start Parent Policy Council member, and ABCD Head Start representative on the ABCD Board of Directors

Zainab Hmito and her husband Kamal learned about Head Start when their son Omar was born premature and the nurses in the newborn intensive care unit told them about Head Start. They applied, and immediately Zainab could see that it would be very good for their then-four-year-old daughter Alia as well.



It was. Alia learned letters and colors and shapes, but she also gained skills “that you wouldn’t assume would be part of the curriculum, but they are: interacting with others, an understanding of personal space, how to build healthy friendships — it’s a whole package,” Zainab said.

Zainab and Kamal were also impressed by the diversity not only of the students and families but of ABCD Head Start’s teachers and staff. The children learn that differences are not bad; they can make friends with people of different backgrounds. “I thought it was wonderful that my children are experiencing this.”



Parent engagement is a big part of Head Start, and Zainab took that responsibility seriously: she joined the ABCD Head Start Parent Advisory Council and represented Head Start on the ABCD board of directors.

With Alia now in first grade and Omar in Early Head Start, she also works in a school cafeteria while going to school to become a registered nurse. “Head Start is not just preschool or daycare; it’s a community” that gives children and families a range of supports that help them thrive. “I can’t be grateful enough,” Zainab said.



“

*Students had to overcome major barriers this year, and I am thankful we had a stellar team in place that helped manage it all with grace and integrity.*

– Sherann Jackson-Alkins, Head of School/Director, University High School

## UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL

Designed for students who have struggled in traditional settings, University High School — which ABCD operates in partnership with Boston Public Schools — provides a place where young people can thrive. In 2021, the dedicated staff went above and beyond to help meet unprecedented need for everything ranging from food to mental health counseling to laptops for home learning. Against all odds, the students of University High Schools rose to the challenge to continue their education and pursue their goals.



*Following stringent health and safety protocols, we were grateful to celebrate our University High School students' success during an outdoor commencement ceremony.*



*“It feels amazing. I feel like it’s a new beginning for my life. It was a hard journey, but I did it and I’m proud of myself.”*

– Joleena Smith, 2021 graduate, University High School



*Ostiguy is committed to working with students in all stages of their relationship with drugs and alcohol.*

– Roger Oser, Principal, Ostiguy High School



## WILLIAM J. OSTIGUY RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL

Operating in partnership with Boston Public Schools and the Gavin Foundation, ABCD's Ostiguy High School serves young people impacted by substance use and abuse. Dedicated to meeting students where they're at, the team at Ostiguy High School helps students change their relationship with drugs and alcohol. Beyond the walls of Ostiguy High School, the team works directly with students at Boston Public Schools through their innovative Prevention Project, which provides:

- Substance use education groups.
- Access to enrichment activities like cross fit, rowing, and drama.
- Stipends for student participation.
- Staff support on substance use policies and procedures.
- Direct connection to referral sources for additional services.



*The Ostiguy High School graduation ceremony marked the achievement of students who have overcome so much to earn their diplomas.*

This year, Ostiguy High School also began a partnership with the Eskolta network to provide professional development to support anti-racist work during the 2021-2022 school year.

### MULTI-YEAR GRANT SUPPORTS STUDENTS IN RECOVERY

In 2021, Ostiguy High School received a **\$324,000 multi-year grant** from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Substance Addiction Services to expand comprehensive year-round, after-school, and out-of-school services and supports for youths with substance use disorder.







**FEATURED STORY:**

**BUILDING A  
NEW LIFE,  
WORD BY WORD**

—

**ANALÍAS AYBAR SANTANA**

*ABCD ESOL student,  
ABCD Summer Academy*

“

*“My goals are to take advantage of all the opportunities, to study and work as much as I can and to give back to this country with my talents.”*

There's nothing easy about learning a new language. It takes patience, passion, and constant practice to succeed. Analias has applied all three to her English language studies.



When she arrived in the U.S., she drew on the basic English skills she had learned in the Dominican Republic. But it wasn't enough. Starting her new life in Boston, she realized, would require her to improve her speaking and writing skills.

When a neighbor told her about ESOL courses at ABCD, Analias jumped at the opportunity.

Having worked as a teacher in the Dominican Republic, Analias is no stranger to the classroom. "I taught all different subjects, like math, art, science, social studies," she explains.

With the goal of resuming her teaching career in the U.S., Analias poured herself into her ESOL coursework, even when it was hard. "I'm not always able to understand what the teacher is saying," she admits.



The challenge only fanned her flame to succeed. Studying became a way of life: "I practice when I go to the grocery store, when I'm on the bus, I read magazines, Bibles, dictionaries. I watch television programs for children and practice when I go to the doctor and in taxis," she explains.

Last spring, Analias welcomed a new baby into her life. Despite the demands of parenting a newborn, her dedication to improving her English hasn't wavered one bit. Now, she's getting noticed for the quality of her classwork, with her ABCD ESOL instructor remarking that Analias is doing an excellent job incorporating course vocabulary into her presentations.

A new country, a new language, and a new baby: It's been a period of profound changes for Analias. ABCD is here so she doesn't have to navigate them alone.







# IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY



*At the height of the pandemic, three to four times as many people were coming to ABCD's food pantries for help.*

– Josh Young, Director, ABCD Field Operations

The pandemic exacerbated existing economic inequality, and many of our clients are struggling to put food on the table. To help meet the need, we increased support to our five food pantries serving Allston/Brighton, East Boston, Mattapan, Parker Hill/Fenway, and Roxbury/North Dorchester, and we saw an opportunity to expand our reach and impact significantly by directing pandemic-related stimulus funds to key partners. We also provided grocery gift cards and, if residents were homebound, we delivered food right to their doors.



ABCD directed **\$2 million in CARES funds** to the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), the largest hunger-relief organization in New England. The effort provided food, with an emphasis on fresh produce, to **255,335 individuals**.

## PARTNERING TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY THRIVE

In 2021, ABCD neighborhood centers provided **14,733 emergency services** to the community including food, diapers and wipes, hygiene kits, and school supplies. By directing emergency relief funds to some 20 organizations including the Greater Boston Food Bank, Cradles to Crayons, Lovin' Spoonfuls, and Hillsong Church Boston, we expanded our reach considerably.

Through our partnership with Stop & Shop's Peapod home delivery service, we provided 736 households with monthly groceries and 547 households received monthly gift cards in lieu of the grocery delivery. We also distributed Stop & Shop gift cards to University High School, Ostiguy High School and Head Start students and their families to help over the summer.







## PROVIDING LIFE'S ESSENTIALS

Beyond food, we also helped clients access essential goods; for example, we distributed:

- **Nearly 34,000** diapers to Head Start households.
- **46,156 diapers** to non-Head Start ABCD households.
- **More than 8,000 gift cards** to ABCD clients and families to defray the cost of household essentials and holiday toys.



### MYSTIC VALLEY YMCA'S FOOD PANTRY GOES HIGH TECH

To help make it easier for clients to access food assistance, ABCD supported the Mystic Valley YMCA's development of its web-based food pantry application. With this handy app, clients are able to schedule food pick-ups or home deliveries, inform the food pantry about specific dietary needs, and more. During our partnership, the YMCA provided food to nearly 5,000 households and added new food pantries to the software application. To date, 43 pantries across 12 agencies are utilizing the system.

### FOOD IS LOVE

During the 2021 holiday season, we put the holiday spirit into action by providing 820 neighbors with healthy and heart warming holiday meals.





# EASE HOUSING INSECURITY



*We've seen a lot of people who would have never applied for housing assistance in the past. But their savings were just wiped out and they desperately needed the help.*

– Anne Corbin, Director, ABCD Housing & Homelessness Prevention

Foreclosures, evictions, floods, fires — many families in Boston and the Mystic Valley were in crisis this year. To help people who are homeless or at risk of losing their homes, ABCD provides a wide range of housing services. In 2021, ABCD helped 937 families have a place to call home.

## ABCD HOUSING

### ABCD RENTAL AND MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

Our staff worked tirelessly to meet the increased need for housing this year. **Nearly \$3.8 million in CARES and municipal funds** from Boston, Medford, Malden, Everett, The United Way, and the Cambridge Community Foundation was spent to provide rental, mortgage, and move-in cost assistance to families in need. Plus, we offered critical stabilization counseling including working with landlords, budgeting, and payment plans.

### RAFT (Residential Assistance for Families in Transition) and ERMA (Emergency Rental & Mortgage Assistance)

In partnership with Metro Housing Boston, ABCD helped **266 additional families** apply for RAFT housing assistance.

### ABCD DIRECT RELIEF FOR CRISIS NEEDS

With the ending of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), many clients had no sources of income at all. To help stabilize families during the pandemic, ABCD has supported more than **\$436,401** in requests for help from this Cares Act-funded program to cover expenses for utilities (not covered by Fuel Assistance), Internet, car repairs, and more.







### MOBILE HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

ABCD provided emergency support and resources to homeless individuals and families throughout the Mystic Valley Areas utilizing the ABCD Homeless Mobile Outreach Van.

When we heard that 90% of federal rental assistance funds had yet to be distributed, we knew we had to act. In response, ABCD and the City of Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development mobilized to get the word out and applications in. Funded with a \$20,000 grant from the City, ABCD used the Mobile Homeless Outreach Van to host a series of pop-up events in seven Boston neighborhoods to help residents determine eligibility for assistance and walk them through the application process.



### ELDER AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Over the years, with funding from the federal Department of Housing & Urban Development's HUD 202 program, ABCD has developed four elder housing complexes in the low-income neighborhoods of Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and the North End, providing 206 units of elder affordable housing for seniors in need.

### HOLISTIC HELP FOR LOCAL MOMS

We supported our CARES coalition partner, the Jeremiah Program, in their mission to help single mothers on their path to higher education. By providing rental assistance, one-on-one coaching, and tutoring services for school-aged children, the Jeremiah Program helps women stay on the path to success.







**FEATURED STORY:**

## FULL CIRCLE, AND FULL OF HOPE

—

**TASHANI STROTHER**

*ABCD Rental Assistance*

“

“I was not made to feel judged. I was made to feel like, ‘We’re going to help you however we can and if you ever need any more help, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us.’”

Tashani's three daughters are her life. A single mom working overnight shifts to make ends meet, times were tough for the Roxbury resident even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. With her 10-year-old daughter Charlene experiencing PTSD and behavioral issues from relentless bullying at school, Tashani felt the world was closing in on her.



Getting Charlene the care she needed was a constant challenge. Without a car, Tashani was exhausting her paychecks on Ubers and commuter rail trips back and forth to essential medical appointments in Newton or Worcester.

"I was feeling totally alone, like there was no way out," she says.

By the time the pandemic shut Boston down, Tashani was already behind on rent payments. But with three kids at home attending Zoom classes, she had no choice but to quit her job. She kept up the grueling schedule as long as possible, but sleepless and stressed, she was on the brink of collapse. "I was like a walking zombie," she remembers.



Struggling to secure unemployment payments, Tashani reached out to Greater Boston Legal Services, who helped her get unemployment and put her in touch with ABCD. "It was amazing to have the help, especially during the pandemic, and to know that there is help out there," Tashani says.



Now, with rental assistance from ABCD and other local organizations, Tashani is moving forward with a strong support network — and the stability has been life-changing. With a new job that empowers her to make a difference, she has renewed hope for the future.

"I'm a resident services coordinator now for Winn Management, helping connect other single moms and families to the support services they need," Tashani says. "I'm able to help on the other side now. I actually just called ABCD to refer others for fuel assistance."



# ADVANCE CAREER DEVELOPMENT



*We learned a lot in 2020, and we built on those lessons in 2021. We're thankful that more opportunities are opening up for the youth we serve.*

– Jessica Rosario, Deputy Director, Workforce Development

## YOUTH SERVICES

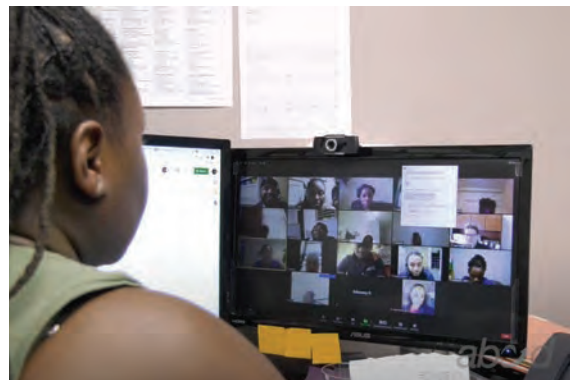
We partner with schools, businesses, and community partners to provide career development programs to help young people earn, learn, and achieve success. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to transition programs to virtual environments, but in 2021, we were able to offer many hybrid and in-person opportunities.

**CAREER EXPLORATIONS** offers older and out-of-school youth opportunities to explore careers through training and work experience. This year, we focused on culinary and early childhood education tracks.

### GET STARTED

This 12-week paid internship at an early childhood education center also provides the opportunity for Boston residents ages 17 to 21 to take up to two college-level early education courses and apply for a position at ABCD Head Start.

**HOPES**, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and the National Restaurant Association, offers training in the culinary field to youth involved in the criminal justice system. In 2021, all the participants were homeless, so we also focused on finding them stable housing.





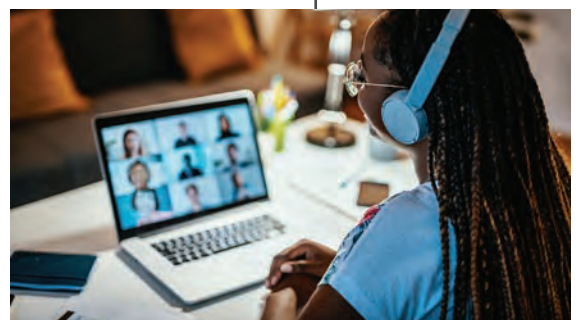


**RYSE**, funded in part by the CARES Act and a grant from Commonwealth Corporation, provides a compelling range of career training and certifications through online education leader Coursera.

**SUMMERWORKS** places under-resourced Boston-area youth in paid positions at nonprofit employer sites. In 2021, 394 youth were placed at a worksite or engaged in online work over a 6-week period. In addition, ABCD held several workshops on interview skills, banking, and other job-readiness skills.

**WORKSMART** offers eligible Boston high school students academic support, career-readiness, mentoring, and supervised paid internships.

**YEA! (YOUTH ENGAGED IN ACTION)**, supported in part by Capital One and Junior Achievement, provides a meaningful summer experience for income-eligible 13-year-olds. This year, students completed a one-week, virtual course in civic engagement, financial literacy, job-readiness and online safety training.



#### **BOSTON RED SOX STAFF MENTOR ABCD YOUTH**

On January 27, ABCD hosted a two-hour virtual event with Boston Red Sox employees and ABCD youth. In this inspiring conversation, Red Sox employees shared their experiences and discussed “behind the scenes” sports jobs.

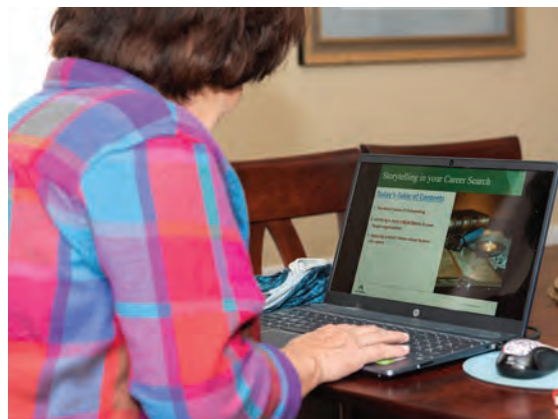


*We meet client-participants where they are, help them identify the path forward, stand with them on their journey, and applaud them once they have achieved their objectives.*

– Ron Marlow, Director, Workforce Development

## ADULT SERVICES

As millions of people lost jobs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, ABCD has intensified our efforts to connect people with training, job placement, and other career development opportunities. To support clients' job search and work efforts, ABCD purchased and distributed hundreds of Wi-Fi-enabled tablets.



### GATE

In 2021, we successfully concluded the Department of Labor-funded *Generations Advancing Together through Education (GATE)* program — an innovative initiative that enabled income-eligible parents to start a promising career by getting the training they need, along with affordable childcare while they learn. A national model for multigenerational workforce development, the program made a major difference in the lives of the clients who participated in it and continues to influence the structure of successful programming.



### 2021 GATE STATISTICS:



**194**

clients enrolled



**183**

entered job training



**138**

completed job training (75%)



**110 earned**  
a credential (80%)

**73%**

of the participants entered gainful employment while their children were receiving quality child care services to enable their parents to engage in this training



### GATEWAY

GATEWAY is a 10-12 week online job training program that prepares participants with practical and general career development skills including: job interviewing, resume and cover letter training, communications, math and English in order to pass skills assessment tests required for job placement. In addition to building skills, participants receive support with job placement and future career advancement in competitive training programs.

### FIRST STEPS INTO CHILD CARE

First Steps gives enrollees the opportunity to learn and earn at early childhood education centers. They also take an accredited early education college course and upon completion of the program, have the opportunity to apply for a position at ABCD Head Start.

### MASSHIRE METRO NORTH CAREER CENTERS

As the operator of the Masshire Metro North Career Centers, ABCD brings extensive experience with developing and managing workforce development programs, strong ties to the local community, and an expansive partner network.

Our staff provide exceptional job training and placement services to residents, including many who are struggling with pandemic-related job loss. The program offered both in-person and remote services to accommodate diverse needs.

In recognition of the team's impactful work, the Metro North Career Centers was named the Gold Award Winner of the 2021 Jobs for Veterans State Grant Incentive Award.

### ESOL OPENS DOORS

Our ESOL programs continue to operate remotely, which has helped students rapidly acquire impressive digital literacy skills. In fact, several participants have been hired at local businesses or have begun degree programs at Bunker Hill Community College. Beyond providing English education, teachers are also a vital lifeline connecting students with much-needed housing support, food, and basic essentials. In particular, the Roslindale Community Stabilization Fund helped sites support students in crisis.







**FEATURED STORY:**

## REFRESHING SKILLS: GETTING CAREER-READY

—

**ABRAHAM PARKER**

*MassHire Metro North  
Career Center*

“

*“I want to live differently. I want to move forward. Now, I’m fully meeting my passion. I’m not burning inside anymore.”*

When Abraham arrived in the U.S. five years ago, he brought 15 years of database management experience with him from his career in Liberia. But it didn't take long for him to realize the gap, as he calls it, between his experience and the all-consuming digital world in which many Americans are raised.



"I used a lot of different applications while working in database management in Liberia, but nothing super high-tech like you find here in the U.S. It became a really, really huge wall between my experience and my society where I now live," he explains.

Unable to find data-related work, Abraham took any job he could find. From restaurants to warehouses to working as a mover, he did whatever it took to earn a paycheck, even when it was grueling and didn't align with his dreams. When he found the MassHire Metro North Career Center, which ABCD operates, he jumped at the opportunity to enroll in a free data analytics course.



"I'm really glad that I was able to get connected with the Career Center. It has been a relief, a true relief for me to be proud of what I can do and fulfill my potential," he says.



The MassHire Metro North Career Center provided Abraham with a laptop for his coursework and job search, as well as discounted internet service. Now, Abraham is pouring himself into his studies, frequently checking in with his Career Center counselor with updates on his progress. His counselor, he says, helped him narrow down his focus within the broad field of data science, so he can direct his studies towards a clear career goal. "They were able to help me align my skills, my passion, with something that I can do and love and make income out of," he says.

In the long term, Abraham dreams of establishing a website where potential donors can see up-to-date information on many different charitable organizations in the same place. But for today, he is laser-focused on a more immediate goal: "I want to be employed and I want to have job security. That's number one."



# BUILD A FINANCIAL FUTURE



We're committed to helping under-resourced residents manage their money and build a secure financial future. As we do every year, ABCD staff and IRS-certified volunteers provided free tax preparation assistance to income-eligible residents.

In 2021, **75 IRS-certified ABCD volunteers working at 11 of our neighborhood sites submitted 2,517 state and federal tax returns generating \$6,076,646 in refunds** to taxpayers from Boston, Everett, Malden, and Medford. A total of 744 individuals filed for the Earned Income Tax Credit and 363 filed for the Child Tax Credit.

In addition, the VITA program utilized volunteer financial check-up guides to pull credit reports and work with clients to come up with a financial plan to address significant credit challenges.



With the near economic collapse caused by the pandemic, an **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** rule introduced under the COVID-related Tax Relief Act of 2020 helped people impacted by a job loss or change in income in 2020: Taxpayers were able to use their 2019 earned income if their 2019 earned income was more than their 2020 earned income. The same was true for the Additional Child Tax Credit.





Led by the City of Boston, ABCD and a host of other community partners and volunteers make up the **Boston Tax Help Coalition**. ABCD, which played a role in founding the Boston coalition in 2001, also partners with **MASSCAP**, the Massachusetts Association of Community Action Programs, to serve additional Massachusetts communities as part of the Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

For these taxpayers, free tax preparation can mean the difference between paying their rent and being at risk of losing their homes; it can help not only with immediate expenses like food and medication and utility bills, but also help families find financial footing.





# CARE FOR OUR ELDERERS

“

*We’ve yet to return to many in-person services because of health and safety concerns, but we’ve been able to help elders stay engaged and connected with new technology.*

– Anne Corbin, Director, ABCD Elder Services/AmeriCorps Seniors

Lower-income elders are particularly vulnerable not only to the COVID-19 virus, but to financial hardship and isolation. That’s why we’ve been doing everything in our power to connect local elders to community resources and support services. And if elders couldn’t come to us, we went to them. Our team met with elders in parks, on front porches, and throughout the community bringing the gift of food and support.

During the pandemic, the 131 members of the **ABCD FOSTER GRANDPARENTS** program, part of the federal AmeriCorps Seniors program for volunteers age 55 and older, participated in training to improve their technology skills and attended virtual monthly meetings. We purchased iPads for every member as part of the national Cyber Seniors program. By training “grandparents” to Zoom and use other online tools, we help them stay connected to their classrooms, families and friends. In December 2021, our volunteers eagerly began returning to in-person service.

As part of the Foster Grandparent National Board, ABCD advocated to have the Temporary Pay Allowance extended beyond September 30, 2021. The ability to continue to receive their stipends throughout the pandemic has been a critical resource during the crisis and has been one of the reasons the volunteers have been able to remain with the program.







## TOGETHER AGAIN

On July 28, Parker Hill/Fenway organized a Senior Celebration event for the center's elder participants. This was the first time in over 18 months that the seniors were able to take part in any type of in-person activity. The 40 seniors came together to play Bingo, enjoy great food, and simply spend quality time together like they did before the pandemic.



*The end of January marked a bittersweet milestone for Maria Stella Gulla, who retired after 25 years of service with the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NE/WE NSC), nearly 8 of which she was director.*







#### FEATURED STORY:

## ELDER VOLUNTEERS BECOME TECH SAVVY, OVERCOME THE PANDEMIC BLUES

Before the pandemic, as volunteer “Foster Grandparents,” they would sing infants to sleep and read to preschoolers. These elders and little ones would warm each other’s hearts; they forged beautiful bonds. But COVID-19 changed everything. Life virtually stopped — and shifted to “virtual.” The seniors grew worried about contracting the coronavirus, grew isolated, and felt left behind.

ABCD reached out to be sure their basic needs were met, providing food and masks and hand sanitizer. We also provided iPads and, critically, offered instruction so the elders could learn to text, email, and take part in video calls with their children and grandchildren. They learned to search the internet, and each made discoveries that enriched their daily lives including watching exercise videos, learning how to plant a vegetable garden, and improving their artistic skills.

The 131 **ABCD Foster Grandparents**, part of the federal AmeriCorps Seniors program, were divided into four small groups to connect online. Students of Chinese heritage from Northeastern University also supported the elders. In turn, the elders taught the students about the Mandarin language and offered insights into their history and culture. Once vaccinated, they all began meeting weekly in person to connect, laugh, and learn together.



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS



"Everyone was scared, and it was like the end of the world.... Because of our inability to shop online, we had to ask our son via WeChat to place online orders and notify the pharmacy to ship medicines. Later, we concluded that we could not sit back and wait for death; we should actively save ourselves, increase nutrition intake, and exercise regularly to improve immune system. Through reading books and newspapers, using WeChat, watching news, listening to music and doing handcrafts, we exercised both our brains and hands."

- Zhang Guang and Chan Xiulan



"As schools and kindergartens closed one after another, I became depressed and was unable to see the light...." But through attending the ABCD group, "I was lifted from my emotional turmoil and depression, as I was treasured by people. I felt alive once again.... As senior citizens, although we've lost our vitality and young appearance, we still have our life and we shouldn't lose our grasp of it. We need to take time to expand our knowledge base and increase our abilities, and to make 'old trees' grow new branches and leaves once again, adding color to the scenery around us while serving the future social work with vigorous vitality."

- Sun Shuhua



"When COVID-19 first hit, I was scared, helpless, and stayed at home the whole time because I was afraid to get infected. During that time, ABCD sent us letters to remind us how to prevent the contagious disease and sent masks and gloves. ABCD also sent monthly food packages, which helped us to increase nutrition intake and boost our immune system to fight against the virus. We were basked in warmth and increased our confidence in fighting the pandemic. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to ABCD for the kindness you have given to us. I will conclude with the saying 'the road is tortuous; the future is bright,' I believe humankind can absolutely win the war against the virus and secure the final victory!"

- Sun Deying



# INCREASE COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH



*We're rebuilding our network and expanding our scope to reach more clients.*

– Jessica Aguilera-Steinert, Director, Health Services

Since 1970, Title X has made reproductive health services accessible and affordable to people who might otherwise be unable to pay. And in a victory for this impactful program, on October 4, 2021, the federal Office for Population Affairs (OPA) published revised Title X regulations reinstating the 2000 rule with updates and completely revoking the 2019 rule. In response, ABCD updated program policies and staff training to provide comprehensive options counseling for sexual and reproductive health services.

## IMPROVING EDUCATION AND SUPPORT IN MASSACHUSETTS

For 50 years, **ABCD FAMILY PLANNING** has provided reproductive health services including comprehensive clinical and counseling services to clients in the Boston area. In 2021, we expanded our reach to Worcester and Milford through a new partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center. In addition, our team began working with Victory Programs, Boston Medical Center, The Dimock Center, and other organizations to provide vital services to individuals receiving substance use treatment.

To further broaden our reach, we're collaborating with Partners in Contraceptive Choice and Knowledge (PICK) to develop a comprehensive fact sheet, which will be translated into eight languages and distributed to health centers statewide. By deepening our collaborative efforts, we're able to reach more people with the vital reproductive resources they need.

The **ABCD FAMILY PLANNING TRAINING INSTITUTE** provides training on family planning, reproductive health and sexuality education for health care providers, counselors, educators and community health workers.







### HELPING YOUTH TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR HEALTH

ABCD's Health Services Community Prevention team co-sponsored Codman Square Health Center's first Annual Youth Sexual Health Conference. Seventy-five youth attended.



**Community-based Prevention programs** reach youth and adults who may not use — or trust — conventional sources of care and information. They include: Young Women's Health Leadership Academy; Sister2Sister; #BossUp, Adolescent Sexuality Education; Community Health and Wellness; and HIV/ STI Testing Initiatives.

## VACCINATING OUR COMMUNITY

Since the COVID-19 vaccines were released, we've been working to get the word out and provide access. From educational webinars to posting on social media to in-person community outreach to vaccination clinics, we've been actively raising awareness, providing resources, and helping people get vaccinated.





# DRIVING CLIMATE EQUITY AND IMPACT



*Energy prices are rising to levels that we haven't seen in years. And people are already having trouble paying for essentials like food, prescriptions, and rent.*

– Kathy Tobin, Director, Energy Services

From boiling water on the stove to running a gas oven all day, people are often forced to resort to dangerous heating alternatives when they can't afford to pay their utility bills. To help residents stay warm and safe in the life-threatening cold of winter, ABCD provides fuel assistance to help defray the high cost of heat.

## FUEL ASSISTANCE

During the 2020-2021 winter heating season, the ABCD Fuel Assistance program received **21,473 applications** for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) — an increase of more than 2,000 applications from previous program year. The 2021-2022 season opened with increased demand, generating more than 16,000 applications by December 2021.



## WATER ASSISTANCE

The newly formed, federal **Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)** — funded through the American Rescue Plan — is designed to help people pay for their water and wastewater bills. In late 2021, ABCD worked closely with the state of Massachusetts to launch this important program.



## REDUCING ENERGY COSTS, IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

**ABCD ENERGY CONSERVATION** services provide vulnerable Boston households with heating system and appliance repairs and replacements, weatherization, lighting, and more. Beyond saving millions of dollars a year, these efforts also reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In line with federal and state efforts to reduce fossil fuel use, in 2021, the ABCD Energy Services team was increasingly involved with whole-house heat pump conversions to help reduce clients' energy costs and carbon footprint.

As one of the co-founders of **LEAN (Low Income Energy Affordability Network)** and the lead vendor for Eversource, ABCD helped to design and implement statewide programs for 45,000 low income households under the Massachusetts Green Communities Act. By using local weatherization, heating and lighting vendors, this work also provides jobs and supports the economy. In fact, ABCD manages roughly \$50 million of support from National Grid, Eversource Gas, and Eversource Electric to improve the heating systems in multi-family apartment buildings and complexes across the state.



**587**  
homes  
weatherized



**405**  
multi-family projects  
completed benefiting  
26,265 individuals



**\$41M**  
in funds  
(weatherization &  
multi-families)

**MAKING A BIG IMPACT IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS**

In 2021, in partnership with local community action organizations we completed a weatherization project for two Public Housing Authorities located in western Massachusetts — the Birch Park Circle project in Springfield and the State Street Housing property in Ludlow. Combined, these locations provide housing for individuals and families in 16 buildings with 853 units.

**“ABCD always comes through. They’ve really been a big help in keeping me afloat as far as heat.”**

*– Paulette Gray, ABCD Heating and Fuel Assistance recipient*





# CULTIVATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH CHANGE AGENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken so much from us, yet it has also given us the opportunity to deepen our partnerships with community-based organizations, volunteers, donors, and friends. We are so grateful for your support.

## COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

*It takes all of us to make real impact.*

In 2021, we cultivated a broad range of community-based organizations — each with a distinct, powerful mission. These partnerships resulted from CARES Act and other pandemic emergency response funding. Here is just a small selection of the amazing partners we collaborated with to serve our neighbors in need.

JFK Center	Cape Verdean Association of Boston
Urban College of Boston	ICNA Relief
Higher Ground	Metro Housing Boston
Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation	Winn Companies - Connecting Communities
Project Hope	Boston Medical Center
City Mission	Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
Jeremiah Program	CommonWheels
More than Words	Malden Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Operation A.B.L.E	Everett Community Aid Network
Greater Boston Food Bank	Mutual Aid for Medford and Somerville
Breaktime	Malden YWCA
Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation	Housing Families
Everett Family Resource Center	Massachusetts COVID-19 Contact Tracing Team
Boston Chinatown Main Street	

## ABCD + GREATER BOSTON FOOD BANK

In 2021, ABCD and the Greater Boston Food Bank undertook a groundbreaking **\$2 million initiative to provide 2.5 million pounds of fresh foods to approximately 260,000 individuals** in need across Greater Boston.

*"Partnerships are key in the work to end hunger in our communities, and ABCD has been one partner that is essential in GBFB's COVID-19 response. Beyond partnering since 1989 as a pantry food distributor in the Greater Boston area, they have stepped up to provide critical funding to enable GBFB to distribute healthy and nutritious food for all partners in this region during this challenging pandemic."*

– Catherine D'Amato, President and CEO  
The Greater Boston Food Bank



## VOLUNTEERS

*Offering your time, energy, and talent to help someone else is the greatest gift.*

At ABCD, we're incredibly fortunate to have a team of more than 300 volunteers help us meet critical needs in Head Start, Elder Services, Youth Programs, ESOL, immigration services, tax assistance, and food pantries every year. Offering essential leadership and guidance, 51 committed volunteers serve on the ABCD Board of Directors and more than 100 serve on neighborhood boards.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, ABCD volunteers made a difference every day working in food pantries, making deliveries to homebound seniors, and providing essential support with endless compassion.



In 2021, **more than 300 volunteers** made a major impact. Here's just a small selection of their contributions:

Students in the Boston College PULSE program supported outreach efforts through our neighborhood opportunity centers, William J. Ostiguy High School, and Elder Services. Northeastern University students made vital connections with Elder Services. Jumpstart volunteers were welcomed back into ABCD Head Start classrooms to promote literacy skills. LifeWorks Arc lent invaluable assistance during brown bag lunch distribution days, and Hillsong Church held community events and contributed to food deliveries.

## THANK YOU!

We're so very thankful to you — our volunteers. If you're interested in volunteering at ABCD, please call **617.348.6591** or email **[volunteer@bostonabcd.org](mailto:volunteer@bostonabcd.org)**.

# DONORS

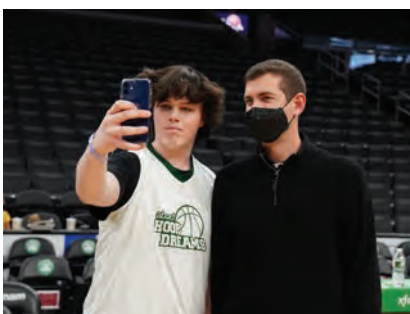
*Giving to ABCD is a powerful way to put your values into action.*

Friends of ABCD stepped up in a major way to help those in dire need. In 2021, we raised **more than \$4.7 million** to fuel our mission to serve low-income residents in the Greater Boston area. And this year, we were thankful to be back together again at the fundraising events that are near to our hearts.

## FIELD OF DREAMS

The iconic annual fundraiser Field of Dreams returned to Fenway Park on June 16. Thanks to donors' generosity and the Boston Red Sox, Field of Dreams raised an astounding **\$150,000 for ABCD SummerWorks**, a summer program dedicated to placing Boston's underserved youth in paid jobs, starting them on a path toward their dream career.

A special thanks to Red Sox President/CEO Sam Kennedy for opening the park to us, as well as to Chair Lew Eisenberg, partner at Cosgrove, Eisenberg & Kiley, P.C, who has co-championed this summertime fundraiser since its inception 22 years ago, and our emcee, NESN anchor Adam Pellerin. We're also grateful to sponsor teams from *Mass General Brigham, Ropes & Gray LLP, Shields Health Care Group, DMB Financial, and Slalom*; event contributors *John Hancock, Eaton Vance, and Peter Damato*; as well as the Boston All-Stars, drafted by NESN anchor Tom Caron.



## HOOP DREAMS

On November 2, the action-packed ABCD Hoop Dreams fundraising basketball tournament returned to TD Garden with NBC Sports Boston's Michael Holley as emcee. Co-hosted by Celtics President of Basketball Operations Brad Stevens and sportswriter Bob Ryan, and co-chaired by Charlie Titus, retired vice chancellor at UMass Boston, and Peter Damato, CEO of Merchant Resource Group, the event was a breakaway success raising funds to support ABCD SummerWorks. Thanks to the generosity of TD Garden and its President Amy Latimer, Garden Neighborhood Charities, the Boston Celtics, and participating businesses and friends, each year Hoop Dreams helps make a major impact in the lives of Boston youth.



### YOUR GIFT MATTERS

To donate to support ABCD, please visit [bostonabcd.org/donate](https://bostonabcd.org/donate) or call **617.348.6559**.



## FRIENDS

*There's nothing like gathering with neighbors in our community.*

2021 marked the return to many in-person events. Equipped with masks, hand sanitizer, and safety protocols, our teams enthusiastically hosted several community events to connect with neighbors and leaders such as State Representative Kevin Honan, Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia, Boston City Councilor Liz Breadon, and Boston City Councilor (now Mayor) Michelle Wu. Every event was designed to spread the word about resources available to help residents with food, clothing, heating, tax assistance, and more.



The **ABCD Parker Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Service Center** hosted a Block Party on August 18. Several organizations participated in the event and the Red Sox even sent a trophy for fun photo opportunities.



**ABCD Roxbury/North Dorchester Neighborhood Opportunity Center** hosted their first block party to unite the community. During this fun event, volunteers scooped ice cream, painted faces, and provided more than 200 families with backpacks.



On October 2, the **ABCD Allston/Brighton Neighborhood Opportunity Center** partnered with the Presentation School Foundation and Family Nurturing Center to host the Allston-Brighton Block Party. More than 300 people attended the event and enjoyed good food, games, and resources from 14 community organizations.



Our dedicated volunteers made the holidays special for families in need through our **Holiday Toy Drive**, **Thanksgiving turkey distribution**, and **Adopt a Family Program** which matched 114 generous donors with 147 families to date.

## BREAKING BREAD WITH OUR LEGISLATORS

On March 24, 2021, ABCD hosted its annual **Legislative Breakfast** via Zoom. Co-hosted by State Representative Paul Donato and State Representative Chynah Tyler, the Chair of the Boston delegation, the meeting had several legislators, ABCD staff, and ABCD board members in attendance. "We've had to meet extreme needs, help neighbors who are victims of this crisis through no fault of their own. We couldn't do what we do without you. We're grateful for your friendship and your support," said John Drew, ABCD President/CEO.

ABCD program directors also took the opportunity to emphasize legislative priorities including funding for workforce development and education, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) whose benefits include better child health and education outcomes, and affordable housing and homelessness prevention.

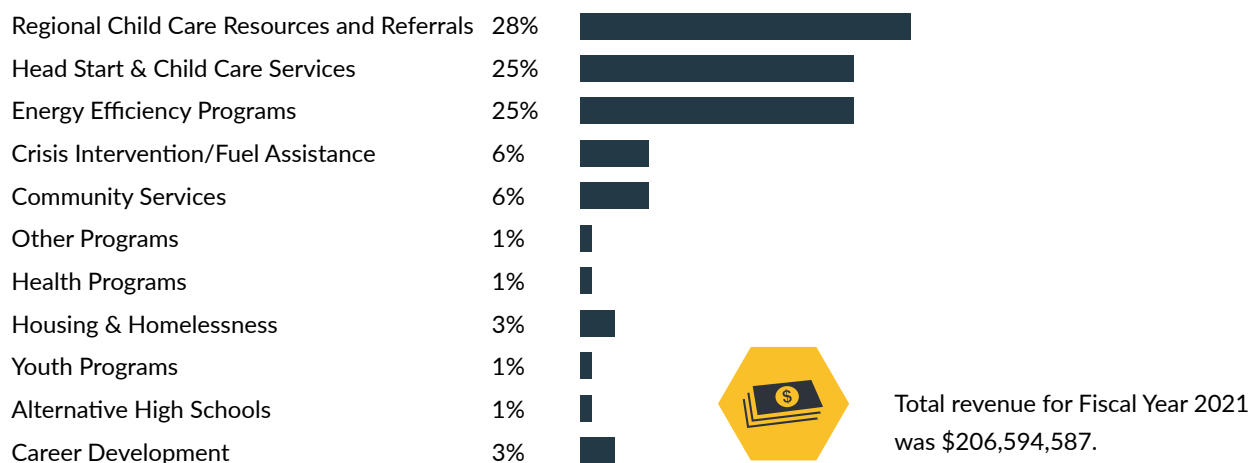
The legislators, including Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Rep. Rob Consalvo, and Rep. Kevin Honan, voiced their ardent support for the organization's work. In closing, Rep. Tyler, noting that she got her start at ABCD's Walnut Grove Head Start, said, "ABCD is hands-on in addressing the most dire needs of the people of Boston and throughout the Commonwealth. And we are here for you."

## ABCD NUMBERS

# FINANCIAL REPORT

- **98% of ABCD revenue** in FY-21 was program specific.
- Payments made on behalf of program participants were **57.8%** of total revenue.
- Contributions to ABCD in FY-21 totaled **\$4,774,335**.
- Administrative costs for ABCD FY-21 made up **3.3%** of total costs.

## USES OF FUNDS



## ABCD FUNDING COMES FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES INCLUDING:

- Grants and allocations from the federal government — some awarded directly to ABCD and others flowing through the State and City to ABCD programs
- Funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, City of Boston and utility companies
- Private Foundation grants
- Individual donations

### QUICK TO ANSWER THE CALL

In the heart of the pandemic, ABCD's planning and fundraising team explored every available opportunity to generate the funds necessary to help people who were struggling. In particular, they launched the **ABCD COVID-19 Relief Fund, which has raised more than \$500,000**, developing cross-departmental task groups to develop a strong proposal that **brought \$9.5 million in CARES Act funding** to ABCD along with significant funding for Head Start and Fuel Assistance/Weatherization.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

The heart of our organization, the ABCD Board of Directors helps us shape our strategic vision and respond to the needs of the most underserved and at-risk people in Boston and the Mystic Valley region. This diverse board represents public, private, and neighborhood sectors, with the neighborhood sector making up the majority of board members.

“ We're grateful to our board members for their dedication, commitment, and support. Each and every one epitomizes what it means to be a true community leader.

– ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew

## OFFICERS

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Marie Greig

Edward Katz

Rev. Dr. Florence King

James Owens, Jr.

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### President/CEO

John J. Drew

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Syvalia Hyman, III — Roxbury/North Dorchester

James Owens, Jr. — Roxbury/North Dorchester

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Collique Williams — Greater Boston Labor Council-AFL-CIO

Marian Walsh — Operation A.B.L.E.

Kristen Rupert — Associated Industries of Massachusetts

Nancy Dickerson — BMA Tenpoint

Shirell Williams — Homes for Families

Samuel DePina — Boston Public Schools

George Montgomery — La Alianza Hispana

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Representative Kevin Honan

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# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Your generosity enables ABCD to empower low-income residents to transition from poverty to stability.

## GIFTS \$100,000+

Liberty Mutual Foundation  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
State Street Foundation, Inc.

## GIFTS \$50,000 TO \$99,999

Bank of America  
Cambridge Community Foundation  
City of Boston Treasury Department  
Eastern Bank Foundation  
English for New Bostonians

Mass General Brigham  
The Boston Foundation  
The Klarman Family Foundation  
United Way of Massachusetts  
Bay and Merrimack Valley

## GIFTS \$25,000 TO \$49,999

A.C. Ratschesky Foundation  
Cabot Family Charitable Trust  
Dell Technologies  
OneWorld Boston, Inc.  
The Boston Society of New  
Jerusalem, Inc.

The SWAN Society in Boston, Inc.  
Virginia J. Brady Trust

## GIFTS \$5,000 TO \$9,999

Atlantic Elevator Services  
Boston Children's Hospital  
Patricia Christian  
Aaron A. and Polly M. Ford  
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Michael and Kelly Hogan  
Howard and Geraldine Polinger  
Family Foundation  
M2 Holdings LLC  
Marin Community Foundation  
Massachusetts Association for  
Community Action Programs  
Medical Academic and Scientific  
Community Organization, Inc.  
MerlinOne  
Robert Moeser  
National Philanthropic Trust  
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PPI Benefit Solutions  
Amy Pearlman  
RBC Foundation-USA  
The Claddagh Fund Charities, Inc.  
The Frederick E. Weber Charities  
Corporation  
Renee Viens  
White Family Foundation

## GIFTS \$2,500 TO \$4,999

Blue Cross Blue Shield of  
Massachusetts  
Brighton Marine, Inc.  
Dedham Savings Community  
Foundation  
Eagle Bank  
Harvard Medical School  
JMG Development, LLC  
Needham Bank  
Softworld, Inc.  
Joanne T. Fabiano  
Michael E. and Joan Gallant  
L. Gardiner  
David Haigh  
Stephen Johnson  
Mary Lyn Stein and Jonathan Levy  
Joanne Vaccaro

## GIFTS \$10,000 TO \$24,999

Berkshire Bank Foundation, Inc  
Cambridge Savings Charitable  
Foundation, Inc.  
Cambridge Trust Company  
Capital One Services, LLC  
Charlesview, Inc.  
DMB Financial, LLC  
Eaton Vance Investment Managers  
First Church in Malden  
Congregational  
Hemenway & Barnes LLP  
Hillsong Boston, LLC  
John Hancock Life Insurance  
Company  
PayPal Charitable Giving Fund  
People's United Community  
Foundation of Eastern MA  
SFE Energy Massachusetts, Inc.  
Shields Health Care Group, LP  
Slalom LLC  
Sonesta International Hotel  
Corporation

## GIFTS \$1,000 TO \$2,499

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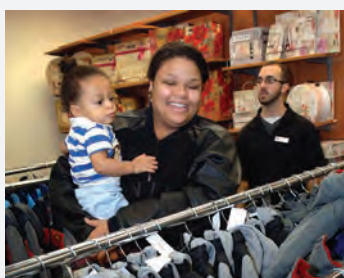
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