ABCD is incorporated to provide urban “human renewal” with a $1.5 million grant from the Ford Foundation and funding from the Permanent Charity Fund (now the Boston Foundation). ABCD holds first Community Action programs like a successful class action lawsuit to prevent President Nixon from abolishing the Office of Economic Opportunity and destroying the community action network. Congress passes the Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) that creates the War on Poverty. ABCD is designated Boston’s antipoverty agency.

ABCD becomes the Community Health Workers project started by ABCD. The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act provides significant funding that enables ABCD to launch comprehensive weatherization, job creation and community initiatives that address unmet needs. ABCD develops a place-based model for interrelated services with one-stop access to benefits. Robert M. Coard, renaming it the Robert M. Coard building.

ABCD establishes Massachusetts HealthCare & Housing Development Corporation, with $3 million from the U.S. Department of Labor to help welfare recipients find and keep jobs. Gary C. Allen, renaming it the Gary C. Allen building.

ABCD starts WorkPathways project with $2.8 million from the U.S. Department of Health to help welfare recipients find and keep jobs. Congress abolishes the War on Poverty.

ABCD renews federal funding from The Ford Foundation. ABCD’s Community Action programs like a successful class action lawsuit to prevent President Nixon from abolishing the Office of Economic Opportunity and destroying the community action network. ABCD holds its first Hoop Dreams tournament fundraiser with 10 corporate teams paying to play in a basketball tournament on the famed TD Garden parquet floor. ABCD renovates an historic building on the ABCD campus and names it for Thelma D. Burns, ABCD’s legal services program an independent entity, thereby creating Greater Boston Legal Services.

ABCD scores significant funding from Ford Foundation and funding from the Permanent Charity Fund (now the Boston Foundation). ABCD becomes Executive Director. ABCD establishes Massachusetts Immigration & Refugee Assistance (MIRA) to ensure immigrants’ rights are protected. ABCD receives the Ford Foundation’s Social Change Grant to benefit 3,000 charities.

ABCD opens Willard J. Orrigo High School, one of three recovery high schools in Massachusetts. ABCD makes its legal services program an independent entity, thereby creating Greater Boston Legal Services.

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act provides significant funding that enables ABCD to launch comprehensive weatherization, job creation and community initiatives that address unmet needs. ABCD develops a place-based model for interrelated services with one-stop access to benefits. ABCD dedicates its main building at 135 Tremont Street, Boston, to Bob Coard, renaming it the Robert M. Coard building.

ABCD opens the William J. Ostiguy High School, one of three recovery high schools in Massachusetts. ABCD receives the Ford Foundation’s Social Change Grant to benefit 3,000 charities.

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With the aid of a $7.4 million HUD grant, ABCD and the Church of the Holy Spirit establish 45 units of elderly affordable housing in Mattapan. This is the first of four such initiatives that brought $32.2 million in HUD funds to Boston and created 206 units of elderly housing in those neighborhoods.

COVID-19 poses unprecedented challenges for ABCD and the world, but ABCD turns adversity into action by scaling up emergency services, using technology to meet people where they are, and providing direct relief to community members who need it most.

Urban College Program begins. The ABCD Board of Directors elects John J. Drew President/CEO of ABCD. ABCD makes its legal services program an independent entity, thereby creating Greater Boston Legal Services.

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