



2020 IMPACT REPORT

Building on Our Community Partnerships

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MISSION

To strengthen and preserve healthy kinship families for children.

VISION

To be the nation's foremost thought leader on kinship care and premier provider of the highest-quality kinship care services to the triad; to give all youth the opportunity to grow into responsible adults; a world where abuse and addiction cycles are broken.

MANTRA

Every child touched by A Second Chance, Inc., has a right to be safe and must thrive.

OPERATING VALUES

Providing service with conviction, dignity, respect and honesty.



Dr. Sharon McDaniel

LETTER FROM THE CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

Before reflecting on 2020, I first want to thank our families, staff, and government and community partners for sticking by us and one another through what was an extremely trying year (and now, another trying year). But that's the point—we did it together. Through our shared kinship, shared community, and shared hope,

we managed to continue ensuring the safety and well-being of children and families in our charge despite our society's turmoil amid systemic racism, police violence and COVID-19.

We have had to adapt and do things differently, that is true. We have shared resources to be able to offer those struggling with free meal delivery, hybrid learning assistance and other supportive services. We have mastered digital platforms in order to share our time with children and families, continue our support groups, offer online youth activities, nurture community partnerships and bring together leaders across the country for crucial discussions on racial equity and justice.

And we have made sacrifices, as well. Staff miss sharing handshakes and hugs, holding events and visiting with clients. And I think each of us misses sharing in our respective communities' togetherness and being with our extended families and friends. Plainly, life has changed.

But the daily trauma of COVID-19 and violence against people of color has not stopped us from fighting to keep families together; keep children connected to their communities and cultures; ensure youth achieve permanency; fulfill essential needs of families and individuals in our communities; or break down the child welfare system in the name of racial equity.

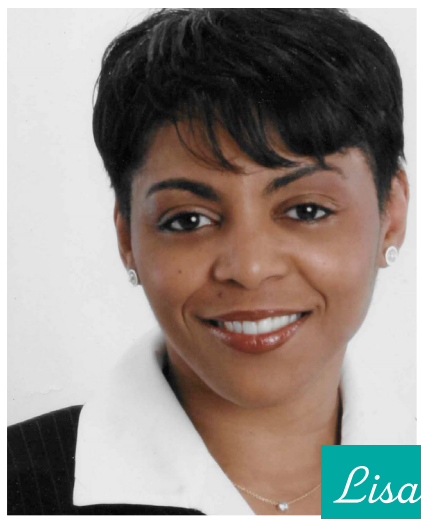
Our mission prior to the pandemic was to strengthen and preserve healthy kinship families for children, and that mission will remain uncompromised once the pandemic is behind us. My sincerest wish is for that to happen as soon as possible, but if 2020 taught me only one lesson, it is that even if this new way of life persists, we will make the most of it and continue moving forward together.

Knowing this to be true, I am feeling hopeful in 2021. Did you know it is the Year of the Ox? It represents honesty, hard work, diligence, strength, positivity and determination. I see these qualities every day in our families and communities, and in our staff and partners. I see them in all those fighting for equity and reform. I see them in all of us who are doing the work.

Remember, each day offers another opportunity to service others, fulfill our missions and make lasting change, together.

With hope,

Dr. Sharon McDaniel



Lisa Holt

Throughout ASCI's history, we've welcomed changes and challenges as new opportunities to build toward a greater future. This past year, we have shared common experiences and difficulties, but we have also shared our empathy, solutions and hope.

With gratitude, the ASCI team has shared themselves by letting our value for family guide their work. Staff have kept families, the community and one another connected to services, provided resources and instilled a sense of hope. I am very proud of ASCI's response. I am proud of what the agency did, the way they did it and how they continue to step up in meeting changes and challenges, which can evolve by the hour. On a personal note, this year's annual Rhonda D. Wright Red Hat Healthy Heart Luncheon was extra special, as staff were able to touch so many people through the sharing of information, knowledge and care.

Dr. McDaniel's values have been unwavering during this time, as well. Her dedication to doing what is right and just for children and their families and communities remains the driving force behind her staff's dedication and willingness to get better for children and families each day. The board joins me in thanking the staff of A Second Chance, Inc., because they not only care, but also share of themselves all day, every day for children. They do not share because they have to, but because they want to, and that makes all the difference.

Lisa Holt

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LISA HOLT
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DR. SHARON L. MCDANIEL
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SECRETARY

SONIA THOMAS

JEFFERY WORTHY

DR. ERVIN DYER

LESLIE WALKER

ANTHONY SOSSO
GENERAL COUNSEL

IN 2020, ASCI

PROVIDED SERVICE TO

2,656

CHILDREN

1,828

KINSHIP
CAREGIVERS

1,359

BIRTH PARENTS

ENSURED

728

YOUTH ACHIEVED
PERMANENCY

TRAINED & CERTIFIED

1,817

KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

DELIVERED

171,728

FREE MEALS & FOOD
BOXES TO FAMILIES
& COMMUNITY
MEMBERS IN NEED

COMPLETED

10,440

TRANSPORTS
FOR CHILDREN &
FAMILIES

SHARED RESOURCES TO SERVE CHILDREN & FAMILIES



- 14.28%**
General & Administrative Support Expenses
- 85.72%**
Direct Programmatic Expenses

AREAS OF FOCUS IN 2020



Education



Food Security



Youth Engagement



Permanency



Caregiver Support



Professional Excellence



Raised Awareness

EDUCATION

"ASCI ACHIEVES" AFTER-SCHOOL HYBRID LEARNING HUB

At the beginning of the 2020 school year, ASCI was approved for funding to become a Community Learning Hub to respond to family needs amid COVID-19 in Allegheny County. ASCI Achieves is an after-school program assisting students with their homework, offering tutoring, engaging students in STEAM activities and providing virtual engagement.

“ This is the most awesome program in this area that I’ve seen in years. The impact that it has had on my grandchildren, I don’t even have the words to describe. I got them in January [2020], and as soon as [ASCI] opened the summer hub, I signed them up not really knowing what to expect. But it was something that my grandchildren loved. ”

“ My grandson couldn’t even hold scissors, and now he is creating puppets and having puppet shows. My granddaughter is in first grade and is already reading at a second-grade level. Her scores on recent tests that she took, she was in the top third percentile in geometry, reading and reading comprehension. My grandson—who had a traumatic experience in pre-K and started kindergarten behind other students—he’s now already equal to the other students. That speaks volumes! ”

—Mrs. Jaqueline,
ASCI kinship caregiver



ASCI Achieves provides student kits to participating youth:

Bookbags that include all the school supplies students need to complete their schoolwork.

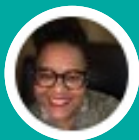


HELPFUL DELTAS

Members of the Pittsburgh Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. have shared their time with ASCI children and families through the learning hub. They “provided assistance to caregivers and students at the beginning of the COVID-19 shutdown in March with remote learning by communicating by phone,” says ASCI Education Liaison Dr. Christine White-Taylor. “They offered and provided tutoring and support if needed. Members also assisted with computer issues, devices and connectivity.”

“ Through the Learning Hub and through Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., we were able to have six of us accessible to families and to scholars if they needed help with technology, logging on to classes, accessing their schoolwork or even tutoring. Moving forward, we have to acknowledge that it’s difficult for students, parents and scholars because the time is so different. So, we just have to figure out how to best make this new normal work for us until we’re able to get back to what we know. ”

—Kharma Lowe, special education teacher and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Deborah Ann Diamond

Awesome job Dr. Brock and team! Dr. McDaniel, your vision has been a true blessing, to our Community, we appreciate you much!





 **171,728**
MEALS TO FAMILIES

FOOD SECURITY

FREE MEALS FOR FAMILIES & COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Since the onset of COVID-19, ASCI has delivered 171,728 free meals to community members in need. This first began with our kinship families but has since expanded to the entire Penn Hills community—the largest municipality in Allegheny County—in partnership with Eat 'N Park Hospitality Group and the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania. We have also delivered boxes of food that feed families of up to four, in partnership with the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank.

In a community lacking adequate access to fresh produce and food and minimal access to transportation, these initiatives have been essential to children, families and seniors, given the varying impacts of COVID-19.

Our staff in Philadelphia also provided food to families in need in 2020! Our Thanksgiving food drive was successful in providing every family who needed it with a box full of Thanksgiving groceries and a gift card to purchase a turkey. “The baskets were a hit!” says Director of Intake and Operations LeVellé Alexander. Several dedicated employees and executives made donations and volunteered to organize, pack and deliver the boxes to ensure our Philadelphia families were fed.

“ When [the food distribution] started, holy cow. Maybe a month or so after the pandemic started, we started seeing all these sandwiches showing up. There are people who look forward to it. For those seniors who really need it, it’s been helpful. We’ve had a very positive outcome, even during COVID. ”

—Nan, senior resident at Jefferson Manor, Penn Hills

“ I’m 88 years old and I’m still driving myself, thank goodness. I volunteered before at the senior center in Penn Hills, but since they closed because of COVID, I decided to do this for the ones in the senior high-rise. I have six [food] boxes I pick up, and everyone has been wonderful. As polite as can be. The seniors love it! They really like what you guys pack for them. Rain or shine...Dr. Brock couldn’t be a more considerate director on this program. ”

—Ruth, senior resident and food pick-up volunteer at Beacon Place, Squirrel Hill



“ Dr. Brock and the ASCI team have been great to work with. I know the recipients of those meals rely on ASCI to make those deliveries and are very appreciative that this service exists. Without it, I'm not sure how people would access food and basic necessities. It's been heartwarming and inspiring to see so many agency partners and organizations come together to help community members.

The pandemic has obviously lasted longer than most of us expected, and the road to recovery is long. As long as people are out of work and still struggling to make ends meet and put food on the table, this work will be needed. ”

—Tennille Shields, Program Coordinator,
United Way of Southwestern PA

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SERVICES (YES) GOES VIRTUAL

“ Around the time COVID was going on, [YES] was kind of like a getaway for me. I was able to talk to the staff about any problems I was having. They also helped connect me with different resources to be able to do things like getting my birth certificate. The Wednesdays I was off of work, I made sure I was definitely on the group calls.

My favorite part about the YES group this year was participating in volunteer work. We went to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and we packed food for families. We were assigned stations and partners, and I really enjoyed that. ”

—Icyss, recently exited kinship youth

“ We had virtual group meetings...[and talked about] current events, like what's happening in the world. Like the Black Lives Matter movements and stuff. I started coming to the program at 14. Because I did Dance for Life at the time, every day Mr. Rob [Hinton] would be in the room and just talk to me. We had small talk like, 'How's your day?' Mr. Rob knew me and said that I could come [to the KYAB]. I hope we can go back [to the ASCI office after COVID-19]. It was better for me. I like going to the building better because I can see everyone. ”

—Travis, Kinship Youth Advisory Board member

FREE BASKETBALL CAMPS FOR ASCI YOUTH



PRO SKILLS VIRTUAL BASKETBALL CAMPS

Pro Skills' basketball camps are designed to give players the fun and educational experience of one of their in-person summer camps right from the safety and comfort of their own home.

These intermediated/advanced virtual summer camps are for more serious, competitive level players regardless of age who want to be challenged with more specialized drills and competitions.

PSB Virtual Basketball Camps are an excellent opportunity to help your child stay active and fit, engaged with other kids and working on their basketball skills, all while in a low-virus-risk environment. ASCI youth were offered cost-free spots in the camp this summer.

THE SAN ANTONIO SPURS SPORTS ACADEMY



The San Antonio Spurs Sports Academy teaches teamwork along with the physical and mental skills needed to be the best teammate possible—laying the groundwork for success both on and off the court for seasons to come. Athletes work toward becoming better players by learning basketball fundamentals and practicing drills while focusing on positive values and fun,

through live and recorded sessions.

Each week featured special Spurs guest appearances, as well as sessions with Train the Mind, Positive Coaching Alliance, daily contests and prizes, and live Q&As with Spurs Camp Coaches. ASCI youth were also offered the opportunity to attend this camp free of charge.



CAREGIVER SUPPORT



To ensure the well-being of ASCI’s kinship caregivers and foster parents in Philadelphia, Permanency Supervisor Tulleesha Burbage organized a virtual support group that meets Wednesday evenings, replacing the in-person group until COVID-19 is safely behind us. “We are playing it safe, and people can share from the comfort of their homes,” Burbage shares.

It became clear soon after the stay-at-home order was given in Pennsylvania that caregivers and foster parents were missing that peer support. “In the words of one of my caregivers, ‘I need to talk to somebody,’ Burbage explains of how the virtual group got started. “The caregivers are [now] able to connect with others who can relate to their situation, express how good or bad they are doing, and we all bring resources to the table, even the other parents.”

Burbage says participating caregivers talk about “everything: self-care, grief and loss, teenagers, parenting styles, healthy food, social media, substance abuse, meal prep and more. Each week, the meeting is given a theme to guide the conversation, depending on the needs caregivers express. For example, “Grief and loss was chosen because a caregiver expressed pain after experiencing a loss, so we decided it would be a good idea to talk about that at the next group.”

Through this group, Burbage sees firsthand the value of caregivers relying on one another for support. “I watched caregivers exchange numbers, and two actually found out they live down the street from each other. They rely on each other for support, respite or just having someone to pray with.”

PERMANENCY

National Adoption Day 2020 occurred Saturday, November 21. With COVID-19 cases on the rise across the country, Adoption Day looked a little different this year, but that didn't stop more than 70 ASCI kinship families and their caseworkers from celebrating successful adoptions virtually!



From left to right: McKenzie, Christina and Camryn

“Being invited to virtually participate in two different adoptions was an amazing, humbling experience,”

shares ASCI Kinship Navigation Caseworker IV Tiffany Pitts. “This experience has reminded me about [the importance of] my role as an ASCI caseworker and the impact we have on our families’ lives. I watched [one] family pray for over 500 days to finally call this sweet baby girl their daughter. Another family, although they had already closed several months ago, wanted me there to witness this moment. All the years of frustration finally had an end date.”

Kinship caregiver (now adoptive mother) Christina shares how excited she was to finally adopt her niece, Camryn. “She was already my daughter. She’s been my daughter since she was born,” Christina shares. “[Christina] is all about us,” Camryn says. “She’ll get us things before she does something nice for herself. It felt exciting [to be adopted],” Camryn says, adding that even though the adoption process was long due to various meetings, canceled plans and having several caseworkers visit their home, it wasn’t a bad experience because she understood that the end goal was important. “I’ve been through it for a long time now,” she says.

Christina’s biological daughter McKenzie shares the same excitement about her cousin’s adoption. “I was excited because she was becoming my sister. She was already in my family, but she’s now officially in my household,” she says.

“ I was excited because she was becoming my sister. She was already in my family, but she’s now officially in my household. ”
— McKenzie

The time spent between Christina, Camryn and McKenzie is shared by going to Dave & Buster’s, shopping, having nail dates and dying one another’s hair.

Cousins-turned-sisters Camryn and McKenzie share a deep connection. Christina explains, “My daughter, like me, with every last breath of her, has fought for Camryn, physically and mentally. If something is going on with Camryn, my daughter feels it and goes through it, as well.”

These two are the best of friends. They’ve been like sisters from the very beginning. “When I was pregnant [with McKenzie], [Camryn’s] foot would be on my stomach. They had that bond from day one,” Christina recalls.

Camryn and McKenzie share a love for math and softball, and when speaking of future plans, neither teen is sure which road to take. “I’m having trouble figuring out what I really want to be,” Camryn explains. “I thought I wanted to be a nurse last year, but once I got into the classes, it wasn’t what I was really interested in. Now, I’m in early childhood education.”

McKenzie insists that whichever paths they choose, she just wants to “succeed with Camryn.” It is abundantly clear that nothing but love flows through this home! The girls are closer than ever before and will surely support one another as they mature and go after their goals.



PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE



ASCI received a distinguished Three-Year Accreditation (the best possible) from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for our kinship care programming!

CARF is an independent, nonprofit organization focused on advancing the quality of services provided by organizations such as ASCI, that meet or exceed National Best Practice Standards for the best possible outcomes for families. Providers that meet their standards in their service areas have demonstrated their commitment to being among the best organizations available.

We chose CARF as the accrediting body because their holistic approach to working with families very much aligns with ASCI's value for the family.



Valerie Waters

Congratulations on a wonderful program and thank you to the Second Chance team for all the support you provide the community.



RAISED AWARENESS

2020 PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

“Transforming Child Welfare: Seeing Kinship Care Through a Racialized, Cultural Context and Community-Centered Lens”

published by the Children’s Bureau,
written by ASCI CEO Dr. Sharon McDaniel



“Moving Upstream on Child Mental Health,”

an episode of the Imprint’s Weekly Podcast with special guest ASCI CEO Dr. Sharon McDaniel

“White Privilege in Child Welfare: What Racism Looks Like,”

an op-ed written by ASCI CEO Dr. Sharon McDaniel for the Imprint (formerly the Chronicle of Social Change)

“Permanency on Purpose,” written by ASCI CEO Dr. Sharon McDaniel for the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare’s **“Permanency & Transitions to Adulthood”** issue of *CW360°*



“Pathways to Permanency: How the evolution of child welfare policies and practices intersects with my personal and professional journey to help more youth find forever homes,”

written by ASCI CEO Dr. Sharon McDaniel and published by the Child Welfare League of America in *Reflections on Kinship Care: Learning from the Past, Implications for the Future*



A SECOND CHANCE INC.
Kinship Care

2020 Impact Report

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ASCI is also registered in the states of AZ, CA, DE, GA, NJ, RI, TX, VA

A Second Chance, Inc. is a private, community-based, not-for-profit kinship care agency, committed to providing safe, secure, and nurturing environments for children placed in kinship care. Our primary goal is to promote family wellness and provide culturally responsive services through our holistic approach.

Additionally, A Second Chance, Inc. will assist all communities in their efforts to preserve healthy families and support all children in their right to have a permanent, consistent and stable family environment. We aspire to increase the reunification of children with their birthparents whenever possible, and to promote alternative permanency options, when necessary to provide a more permanent status for our children.



The official registration and financial information of A Second Chance, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

