

ANNUAL REPORT 19



Administer Justice

Seek Justice. Find Freedom.

Are you overwhelmed by growing injustice? Deep down do you long for God's justice? Do you want to see the resources God has given you used for life-changing impact?

We understand. For nearly 20 years, Administer Justice has expanded access to justice and Jesus for neighbors in need. God has worked through our experience to develop a distinctive gospel justice center service model. This model is biblical, holistic (addressing legal, social, and spiritual needs), team-based, dignity-giving, self-sustaining, and is rooted in and leads back to the local church.

But we do not do justice alone. We provide opportunity for you to live your calling to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. Whether as a volunteer, donor or prayer partner, your investment is multiplied as clients come to faith in Christ, have their faith restored and are freed from legal burdens so they can flourish.

As you see the impact in this report, envision God's words of assurance, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over little; I will set you over much." (Mt. 25:23)



Mission

Empowering vulnerable neighbors with the help of a lawyer and the hope of God's love.

Vision

One thousand gospel justice centers transforming lives in the name of Christ.

Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends,

Like you, I believe no one should face confusing legal circumstances alone. In a nation that pledges liberty and justice for all, everyone should have access to justice, not just the rich. As Christians, we are called to pursue a Kingdom whose very foundation is justice and righteousness.

That is why I left my law practice to start Administer Justice 19 years ago. While many things have changed, our calling to stand in the gap for vulnerable neighbors has never wavered. What began as a small clinic at a local church, has grown into a national movement located in 102 neighborhoods from coast to coast.

From the beginning, Administer Justice empowered vulnerable neighbors with the help of a lawyer and the hope of God's love. We put into practice daily the words of [Zechariah 7:9](#), "This is what the Lord Almighty said, 'Administer true justice, show mercy and compassion to one another.'" Your investment through this ministry helps neighbors seek justice and find freedom.

In 2019, you helped us serve 10% more clients (3,529) through 15% more volunteers (358) in 20% more neighborhoods (102). Your continuing support helps us advance our vision of 1,000 gospel justice centers transforming lives in the name of Christ.

Lives like Jane, who needed help protecting her grandson. "I loved the way they operate" she wrote. "They made me feel that I was just as important as anyone else. I never felt 'less than' anyone else, even though I couldn't afford an attorney. They were perfect for me, and I love you guys!"

While we have much to celebrate, we acknowledge that 2019 was a challenging year. Merging the national Gospel Justice Initiative movement with the local Administer Justice operations created confusion. By the end of 2019, our board made the decision to only use the name Administer Justice. As we roll out our new website centered on serving clients and engaging volunteers, we look forward to celebrating 20 years.

As we look ahead, I want to thank you for your support which allowed us to hire a new COO, Julie Roper, and expand our services through a Phoenix location. We look forward to launching new events, called Journey to Justice, to invite more people to explore their role in administering justice in the year ahead. We enter our 20th year with much to be thankful for. Most of all we are thankful for you!

Blessings,



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bruce D. Strom".

Bruce Strom

Founder & CEO



A photograph of a man and a woman smiling and looking at each other. The man is on the left, wearing a light-colored shirt, and the woman is on the right, with long blonde hair. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue overlay.

On the Brink

Imagine receiving a notice from the IRS that you owed \$37,000. For George and Sally, this was their nightmare. Health problems resulted in a job loss which led to a foreclosure. They were just beginning to recover, when the IRS began threatening. George's health was endangered again as fear gripped the couple. Then a friend told them about Administer Justice.

"I am very thankful to Administer Justice for the support they gave us... Our attorney was very helpful and supported us in many ways through

this process. I hope you can continue to help people because in a situation like this, you're afraid and don't know what to do. It's good to know that we can come here knowing that Administer Justice truly demonstrates the Word of God in action."

We discovered a tax preparer failed to properly report the debt forgiveness from the foreclosure. As a result, the IRS considered the money as income and was pursuing a debt that was not owed. Once our attorney pointed out the error, the IRS changed the return and removed the debt.

Help of a Lawyer

We've all heard the phrase, 'you have the right to a free attorney', but that is only true if you are charged with a serious crime. If you are the victim of a crime or need legal help, you are left to fend for yourself. 1 in 3 Americans cannot afford the high cost of lawyers. Consequently, the United States ranks 98th in the world for providing affordable access to justice. Getting legal guidance should not be limited to the rich.

With the help of a lawyer, we free people from the fear of confusing legal circumstances to provide a customized plan for clarity, confidence and direction.

In 2019, we helped 3,529 individuals find freedom from oppressive legal burdens.

“

This is a safe and caring place. My lawyer helped me have a voice to stand up for myself.

Legal Issues Resolved in 2019



2,415 Family

(Divorce, Child Support, Domestic Violence)



676 Tax

(Innocent Spouse, Protection from IRS)



458 Housing

(Foreclosure, Landlord/Tenant)



457 Probate

(Guardianship, Wills, P.O.A.)



390 Consumer

(Creditor, Bankruptcy, Lending)



336 Criminal

(Record Relief for Employment)



335 Immigration

(Violence, Trafficking, Status)



198 Employment

(Discrimination, Unemployment)



504 Other

(Social Security, Health, Education, Injury)

Hope of God's love

Contrary to popular opinion, the largest poverty demographic in America is a single white mom with a child under the age of six who lives in the suburbs. **In 2019, 68% of our clients were female. Most were single moms.**

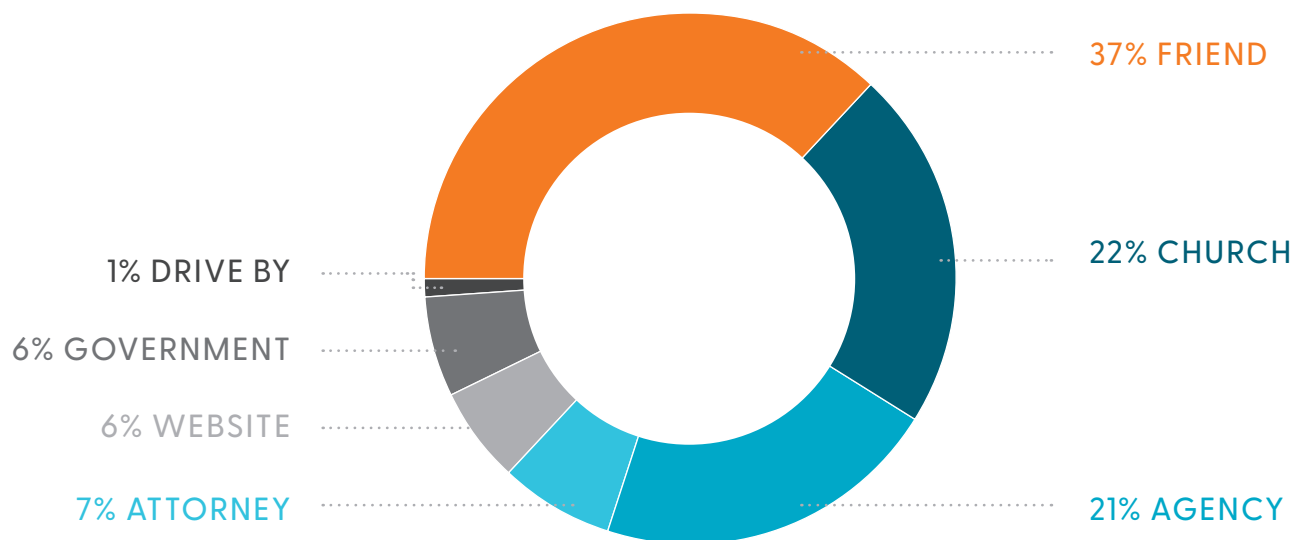
The majority of clients are victims of circumstances outside their control: a health issue, loss of job, abandonment or abuse. Whether a senior citizen, veteran, single mom, immigrant or other vulnerable person, all need the hope of God's love.

Our client advocates see people, not problems. They provide comprehensive care through social and spiritual plans. Each client meets with a client advocate after seeing a lawyer to explore additional needs and receive prayer and care. In 2019, we developed a pamphlet for clients called "Good News about Justice" that answers tough questions on why injustice exists and how hope is found in Christ.

“

I can't thank
you enough
for your legal
counsel, and
especially your
prayers, which
brought peace
to my heart.





How our clients find hope

Freedom

Donna is a single mom who came to the office in despair. She'd been taken advantage of in a scam and felt foolish, stupid and afraid. Because she had fallen prey to the scam, she wasn't able to provide Christmas gifts for her children. She felt she was failing them. After learning from the attorney that help was available to free her from the unfair lending practice, she met with the client advocate.

The advocate heard the pain in her heart from lingering shame. The Advocate shared Jesus' love and the hope of salvation. Donna prayed to accept Jesus. A couple of days later the advocate saw her at the local library happily playing with her children. Upon seeing the advocate, Donna came bounding over to share what she was learning about Jesus and how happy she was. That is how we share the hope of God's love.

North Austin

Grace & Peace Church in North Austin, Chicago opened in a low-income predominantly Hispanic neighborhood. Each team has nine distinct roles. Grace & Peace's team included an 85-year-old prayer champion and 20-year-old intake specialist. You are never too young or old to do justice.

On opening day, two attorneys served. Neither felt qualified to help, but both left knowing God showed up in miraculous ways to meet the needs of clients. Brandt learned he quickly needed Kleenex as he prayed for clients. Most clients don't expect such compassion from a lawyer.

Our CEO's book, Gospel Justice, tells

the story of the impact of the Good Samaritan being the least likely person to stop and serve. Lawyers are modern day Samaritans. When they stop to serve, the impact is significant. This impact extends both ways. As one volunteer attorney said, "Administer Justice has helped bring a perspective and purpose to my life and practice of law that I could have never imagined. We are all so truly blessed to have this opportunity to serve in the ministry!"



Hands of Impact

The foundation of our democracy is built upon our pledge of 'justice for all'. Yet more than 40 million Americans are turned away from legal help every year. Someone close to you is turned away from accessing justice every second of every day. That should not be. Administer Justice is committed to changing that story.

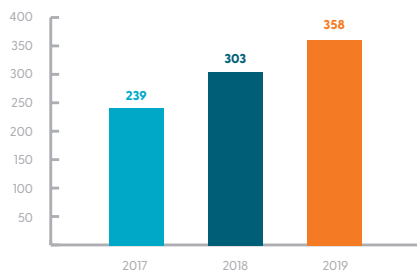
“

The process of starting this legal clinic has been amazing. It has softened my heart to the needs of so many people living right around us.

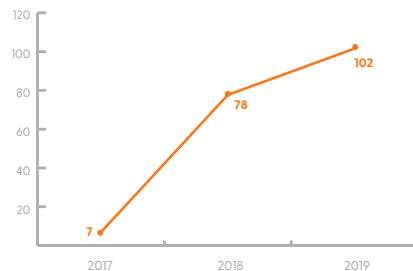
Through thought leadership, strategic partnerships, a national Restore conference, and an easy neighborhood clinic model, many hands join to impact justice for all. Our unique model creates self-sustaining, no-cost, turnkey gospel justice centers with specifically trained team members. We partner primarily with local churches to host neighborhood site locations.

In 2019, we developed a new strategic partnership with Together Chicago which is helping expand legal ministry across the city.

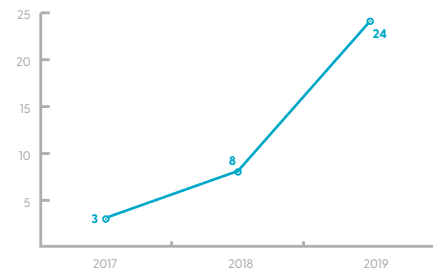
We engaged 358 volunteers training them in legal, social and spiritual ministry. Our premise is to coach clients by doing service *with* them instead of *for* them. Each client contributes a \$30 dignity fee which allows us to sustain local neighborhood operations. Opening a new center only costs \$5,000. A donor provides this support, recognizing their one-time gift provides a life-time of impact.



Volunteers



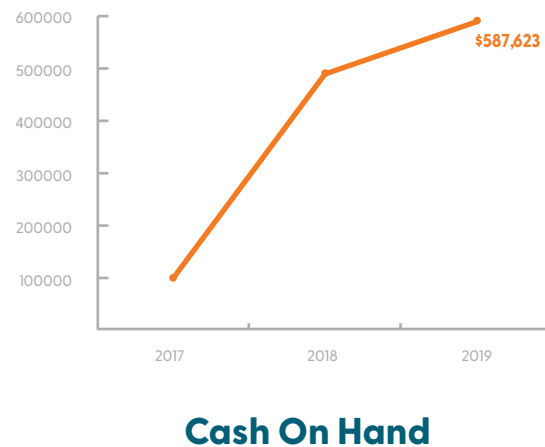
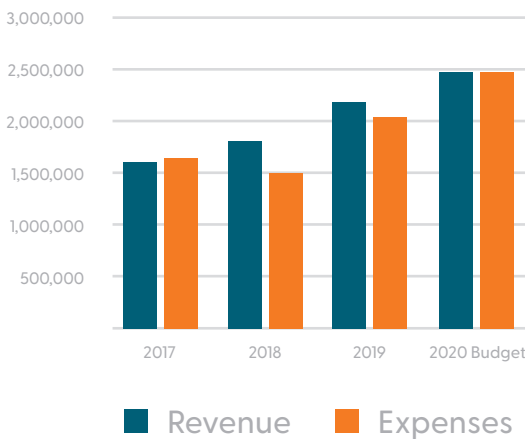
Neighborhoods



Gospel Justice Centers

2019 Financials

Total donations surpassed \$2.1M in 2019 up 15% from the prior year. Since our merger with Gospel Justice Initiative in 2018, we have continued to experience strong fiscal growth finishing 2019 with \$587,623 cash on hand.



Statement of Financial Activities

Support & Revenue	2019	2018	2017
Contributions	\$584,741	\$539,553	\$374,315
Special Event	\$134,406	\$120,871	\$53,229
Grants	\$115,500	\$119,250	\$112,500
In-kind contributions	\$1,274,001	\$813,799	\$1,100,586
Program Fees	\$40,509	\$31,644	\$12,176
Other Income	\$3,104	\$5	\$7
Donated Property		\$200,000	
Total	\$2,152,261	\$1,825,122	\$1,652,813

Functional Expenses	2019	2018	2017
Program Services	\$1,948,538	\$1,413,981	\$1,592,849
Management and General	\$41,599	\$51,798	\$40,346
Fundraising	\$50,408	\$50,639	\$35,083
Total Functional Expenses	\$2,040,545	\$1,516,418	\$1,668,776
Change in Net Assets	\$111,716	\$370,940	(\$15,964)
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	\$475,907	\$104,967	\$120,931
Net Assets – End of Year	\$587,623	\$475,907	\$104,967

Multiplied

This is the one thing I have learned: that I would desire God's favor above everything else. My job is to see how much I can multiply what has been entrusted to me for Him and His work.

We are His hands and feet in the world. It is through the Holy Spirit that we do

His work in this world, and resources are so often a part of that work.

Personally, it is a blessing that God would allow me to support that ministry through Administer Justice because of the impact that it makes. " – Earl Seals

Board of Directors

Steve Keist, J.D.

*Board Chair, Governance
Committee Chair
Sr. Partner, KTO Law Firm
Glendale, AZ*

Dan Arnold

*Board Treasurer, Business Affairs
Committee Chair
Director of Project Management,
Exhibit Concepts
Troy, OH*

Tempia Courts, J.D.

*Board Secretary
Attorney, Pluymert, MacDonald,
Hargrove & Lee, Ltd.
Melrose Park, IL*

Joe Abraham

*Advancement Committee Chair
Entrepreneur & Founding
Partner, LifeZone 360
Elgin, IL*

LaVon Koerner

*CRO, Revenue Storm
Schaumburg, IL*

Clement Leslie, J.D.

*Major, The Salvation Army
Glendale, AZ*

James Charlton, J.D.

*Director of Ministry Dev., Alpha U.S.
Naperville, IL*

Jennifer McHugh

*VP of Volunteer & Investor
Partnerships, Water Mission
North Charleston, SC*

Kevin Drendel, J.D.

*Senior Partner, Drendel &
Jansons Law Group
Batavia, IL*

MaryAnn Mings

*Vice President Operations,
Suncast Corp
Batavia, IL*

Bruce Strom, J.D.

*Founder & CEO, Administer
Justice, Author, Gospel Justice
Elgin, IL*

Staff

Bruce Strom, J.D.

Founder & CEO

Judith Miller, J.D.

Executive Director

Tara Linta

*Director of Finance
& Administration*

Carissa Jimenez

*Development
Director*

Nancy Allen

*Marketing &
Communications
Coordinator*

Angela Seiner, J.D.

*Legal Services/Low
Income Taxpayer
Director*

Theresa Buskey, J.D.

*Senior Staff
Attorney*

Itzel Alamos

*Virtual Services
Manager*

Lisa Cook

Volunteer Director

Chris Rodriguez

Intake Specialist

Phil Thacher

Compliance Officer

Bob Thurow

Chaplain

Looking Forward

Equipped with a proven, scalable model we are moving forward in faith to bring the help of a lawyer and hope of God's love to more people in more neighborhoods. To accomplish this, we will invite and equip more volunteers.



20+ New Gospel Justice Centers

We intend to expand access to justice for neighbors in need into 20% more neighborhoods in 2020 by partnering with local churches.



Equip 100+ New Volunteers

We intend to multiply impact by equipping more than 100 new volunteers in 2020, increasing our capacity by nearly 1/3.



Enhance Client Experience

We intend to enhance the client experience through new tools and training to serve 20% more clients in 2020.



Develop New Website

With our decision to move forward as Administer Justice, we will rebrand and redevelop our website so anyone can easily get help or get involved.



Grow Donor Base

Our new Journey to Justice program will invite people to discover God's heart for the vulnerable and their role in administering justice. Through intentional relationships, we will expand involvement and investment in the ministry.



Launch Open the Gates | Friday - November 6, 2020

Dr. Tony Evans will keynote our 20th anniversary gala to launch a campaign to Open the Gates of justice and hope for all. This multi-year campaign will invite those passionate about God's justice to become Torchbearers to invest in expanding impact through new neighborhood locations.