

# 20 ANNUAL REPORT ▶ 20



# No one should face confusing legal circumstances alone.

In a nation that pledges liberty and justice for all, no one should face confusing legal circumstances alone. However, a major report released in 2020 demonstrated 150 million Americans encountered civil legal issues and more than 80% faced those issues alone.

For 20 years, Administer Justice has entered that confusion with the help of a lawyer and the hope of God's love. We believe no one does justice alone and no one should face injustice alone. Our unique service model affirms dignity & sustainability, is biblical & holistic, and church-led, team-supported, neighborhood-based.

Our role is to equip you to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God as you meet the legal, social, and spiritual needs of neighbors. Every dollar and hour donated advances God's heart of justice for the vulnerable.

This report demonstrates the challenges of the devastating pandemic, but it also reveals the increasing opportunity to serve along with the impact of that service. As you see that 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. Enter into the joy of your Master." 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,

Administer Justice turned 20 in 2020. Like many personal celebrations, our plans were disrupted by the devastating pandemic. Instead of multiple gatherings we found ourselves isolated and working from home. The future that seemed certain became uncertain as we wondered when it would end.

I hope COVID helps us better identify with clients. Our clients picture the future a certain way and suddenly something happens: a loss of job, a health issue, isolation from abandonment. The uncertainty creates fear as they wonder when things will get better. Confused and overwhelmed, they don't know how to move forward.

The vulnerability of our clients was heightened by every day health concerns as they served as essential workers. Fear of losing a job or the reality of unemployment increased anxiety. Social media and news only fueled anxiety as a divisive national election and a series of racial reckonings paraded before them. But if there is one thing I have learned from clients over the years, it is resilience. That is a lesson we took to heart as we experienced many of the challenges of the pandemic.

Gospel Justice Centers closed. Volunteer and client numbers were down as people sheltered in place and were too overwhelmed to address legal questions. Despite the challenges, 11 new gospel justice centers opened their "virtual doors". The pandemic allowed us to pivot to virtual service offering. As we emerge from the pandemic in 2021, we are excited for the opportunity to expand our reach through live care teams and a virtual attorney. A major report released during the pandemic found that 40% of America's counties are legal deserts meaning there is less than 1 lawyer per 1,000 residents. We can now reach those places with the help of a lawyer and the hope of God's love!

The pandemic also allowed us to engage others from across the country through a 45-minute virtual "Explore Gospel Justice" event. This powerful event raises awareness and provides opportunity to advance God's heart for justice.

As we look ahead, we see a tidal wave of need. But with your support, we will rise to meet that need. Because behind all the numbers is a client like Natalie who wrote, "I can't tell you how amazing you all have been. Saying thank you doesn't feel like enough. Just know you guys are making positive changes in people's lives. You're a Godsend!"

You are a Godsend, and we thank you for your continuing support.

Blessings,



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

**Bruce Strom**  
Founder & CEO



# Help of a Lawyer

You know our pledge ends ‘with liberty and justice for all’. You probably know we fail to live up to that pledge. But did you know that the leader of the free world has continually fallen in global rankings for providing basic affordable access to justice? The 2020 World Justice Report now ranks the United States 110th out of 128 nations. As an American that should not be. As a Christian that must not be. We are called to advance a kingdom of justice and righteousness for all people

created in the image of God.

Justice should be as available as the local post office. So, we plant Gospel Justice Centers in local neighborhoods. With the help of a lawyer, we free people from the fear of confusing legal circumstances through a custom-made next steps plan for clarity, confidence, and direction. In 2020, we helped 2,613 individuals seek justice and find freedom. Our average client received help with 1.8 legal issues.

A photograph of a woman with long brown hair, seen from the back, being embraced by two other people. One person's hand is on her shoulder, and another's is near her head. The image is overlaid with a dark teal gradient.

“

**My lawyer was very professional and explained everything very clearly. I loved that she prayed with me and offered to do that!**

# Legal Issues Resolved in 2020

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## **2,119 Family**

(Divorce, Child Support, Domestic Violence)

## **403 Probate**

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

## **125 Immigration**

(Violence, Trafficking, Status)

## **663 Tax**

(Innocent Spouse, Protection from IRS)

## **247 Consumer**

(Creditor, Bankruptcy, Lending)

## **152 Employment**

(Discrimination, Unemployment)

## **439 Housing**

(Foreclosure, Landlord/Tenant)

## **248 Criminal**

(Record Relief for Employment)

## **190 Other**

(Social Security, Health, Education, Injury)

The pandemic made a confusing court system even more confusing. Sherry did not know how to protect herself from an abusive husband. His loss of job and stay-at-home mandates made the situation dangerous. She needed guidance. Once protected she needed help through a divorce and navigating Zoom court. Sherry is a picture of resilience. Her advice to others:

“To anyone out there who feels as though they need help within the court system, or possibly finds themselves in a situation where they have no other choice than to represent themselves in court - I know firsthand how hopeless and broken one can feel. I also know help is available. Call Administer Justice and take the first step. Everyone is wonderful and walks you through the process step by step. I know in my situation, I had no idea what I was



doing or how I was going to do it, but the attorneys never lost patience with me or made me feel less. Whatever the situation may be, take the first step. The first step leads to a couple more steps. Help is available, take advantage of it. It is the road to becoming unburdened. You can do it!”

# 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 2020, 69% of our clients were female. Most were single moms.

Most 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.

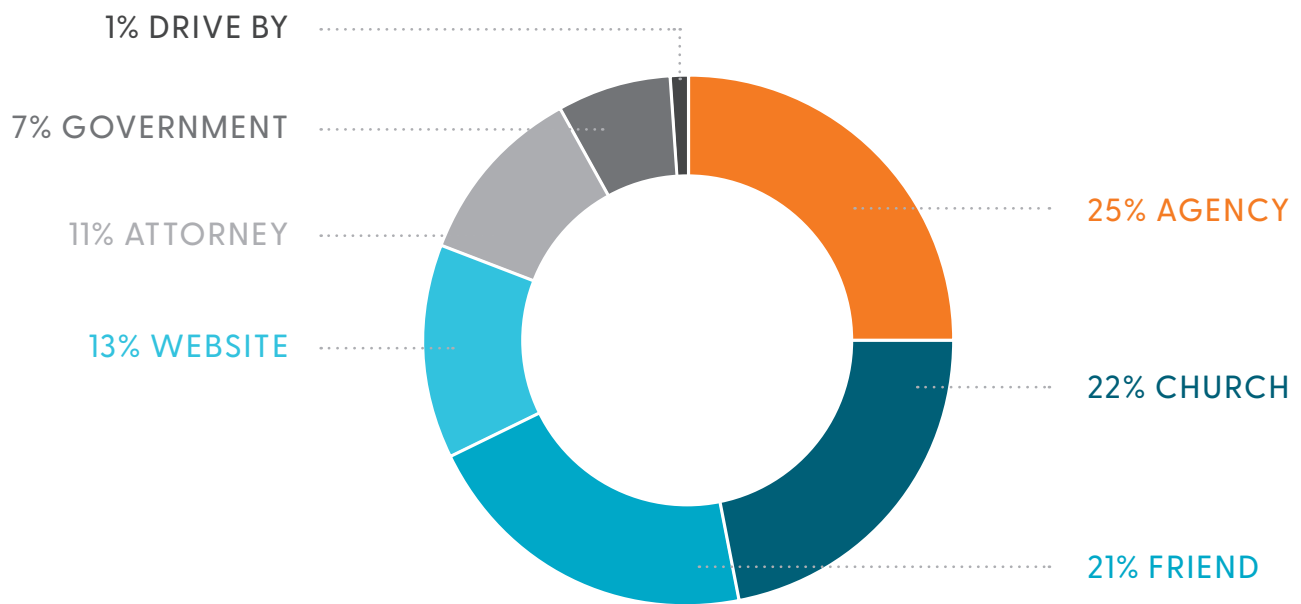
Our Client Advocates see people, not problems. They join a team of people doing justice with, not for, neighbors through custom-made plans. Each client meets with a Client Advocate after seeing the Attorney to explore additional needs and receive prayer and care. In 2020 we developed virtual training for Client Advocates and other team members.

Yvette was raising her 6-year-old autistic grandson when she received the eviction notice. A big landlord company wanted to remove section 8 renters and filed eviction notices against tenants because a drug dealer had been seen on the premises. Yvette could prove she was nowhere near the apartment at the time with receipts. As a grandma she had nothing to do with this drug dealer, but the big company would not listen. She was terrified of being homeless but learned of a Gospel Justice Center where she should go for help. After the attorney put her at ease and provided a plan, Yvette met with the Client Advocate. During their conversation, the Client Advocate asked if Yvette knew Jesus. Yvette began crying and

prayed to accept Jesus. The big company backed down when a lawyer contacted them. Yvette and her grandson had a place to stay just as the pandemic hit. She was almost homeless but now has the hope of God's love and the assurance that she has a home in heaven she can never be evicted from.







## How our clients find hope

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**My life is stressful. Everyone in the Administer Justice family cares and wants to help me see light and find justice.”**

## Our Team

Making The Hope Of God's Love Available





Colleen Anderson (right of banner) was feeling called to do justice in a practical way for her neighbors. She was praying for justice but wanted to be more hands on and participate in doing justice. Not being an attorney, she did not know what she could do, but she found Administer Justice's website and learned all she needed to do was pull together a small team of people to meet at her church one

Saturday morning a month.

"I've been really pleased that Administer Justice partners up with you to get the Gospel Justice Center opened so it's not something you have to figure out. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. They're going to come alongside you and show you how to do it. The need is there in your community." - Colleen

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**There is a need to empower people and Administer Justice will partner with you to make it happen.**

**– Colleen**





# Home of the Church

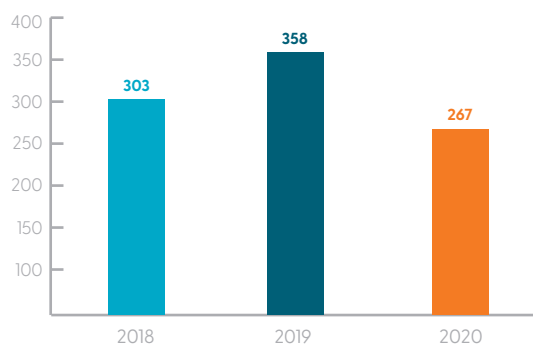
For some justice is viewed as a distraction from the gospel. But the heart of justice is the cross of Jesus. The very center of the word justice is a cross. Justice for the poor and vulnerable is the second most prominent theme in the Bible. Justice and righteousness are the foundations of God's throne. As the Bride of Christ, the church must be leading the way in justice for the poor and vulnerable – right?

While there are more than 384,000 churches in America, less than 1/10 of 1% are involved in doing justice for the poor through legal ministry. While the church historically began hospitals and schools, it has been absent in doing justice for neighbors in need. The perceived lack of concern is causing a generation to move away from the church. Gospel Justice Centers are helping change that story.

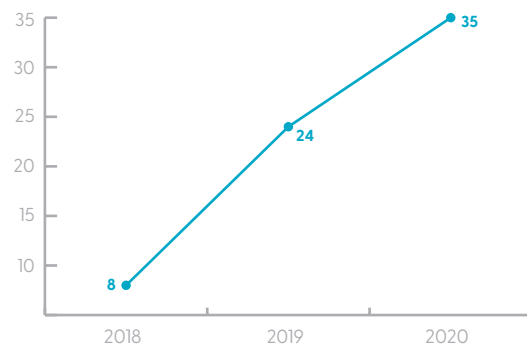
Every church has legal needs near them. Every church has members who care about justice for neighbors. The church simply needs a specialist organization to equip them to do justice in a practical way for neighbors in need. Administer Justice removes all the barriers to service. As one pastor in 2020 said,

“Now that I know the impact and how easy you make it, we would be negligent not to act!”

In 2020 we opened 11 new Gospel Justice Centers in churches across the country. Because of the pandemic volunteers serving decreased but training to prepare for the coming need increased. We trained 123 attorneys and 267 volunteers in 2020.



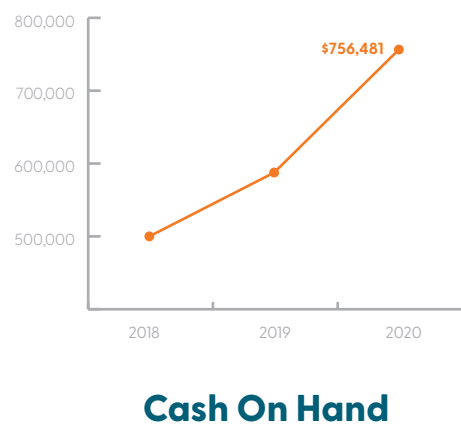
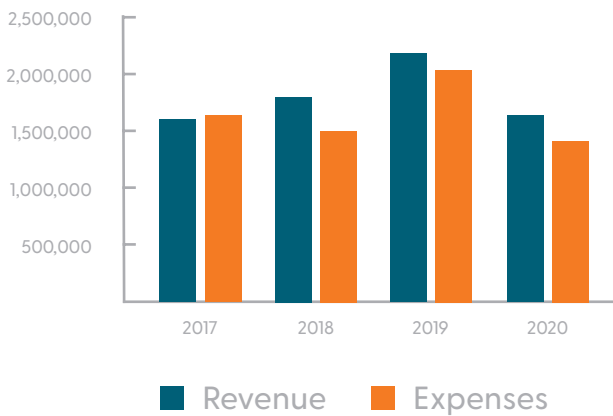
**Volunteers**



**Gospel Justice Centers**

# 2020 Financials

Cash donations grew by 15% in 2020 while donated service revenue was down as a result of the pandemic.



## Statement of Financial Activities

Support & Revenue	2018	2019	2020
Contributions	\$539,553	\$584,741	\$636,658
Special Event	\$120,871	\$134,406	\$59,127
Grants	\$119,250	\$115,500	\$209,781
In-kind contributions	\$813,799	\$1,274,001	\$571,946
Program Fees	\$31,644	\$40,509	\$26,890
Other Income	\$5	\$3,104	\$7,225
Donated Property	\$200,000		(\$13,963)
PPP Grant			\$99,300
Total	\$1,825,122	\$2,152,261	\$1,596,964

Functional Expenses	2018	2019	2020
Program Services	\$1,413,981	\$1,948,538	\$1,365,228
Management and General	\$51,798	\$41,599	\$57,888
Fundraising	\$50,639	\$50,408	\$22,829
Total Functional Expenses	\$1,516,418	\$2,040,545	\$1,445,945
Change in Net Assets	\$370,940	\$111,716	\$151,019
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	\$104,967	\$475,907	\$587,623
Net Assets – End of Year	\$475,907	\$587,623	\$756,481

"I never thought as a business owner that I would be so on the front lines of people hurting, hearing a need, and meeting a need that I did not know I could meet. Like the Good Samaritan, God was calling me to not walk by. I had to stop. My husband and I were praying. What are we going to fund? And without a doubt it was a resounding we are going to get behind Administer Justice. The fact that as a business owner I could take \$5,000 and actually influence an entire population of hurting people is amazing." – Renee

You can hear more of Renee's story on [bit.ly/AJTube](https://bit.ly/AJTube)



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### **Bob Thurow**

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## **Volunteer Focus**

We intend to multiply impact by equipping more than 300 new volunteers doubling our capacity to serve the increase in client need.



## **Neighborhood Focus**

We intend to double the number of Gospel Justice Centers based on pent-up demand from the pandemic. That is 35 new gospel justice centers expanding access to justice for neighbors in need.



## **Client Focus**

We intend to enhance the client experience through new tools and training to serve 50% more clients in 2021.



## **Expand Operations in Arizona**

We are hiring a new Development Manager for the Phoenix area in early 2021 and intend to significantly expand Gospel Justice Centers, volunteers and donors in Arizona.

# **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.



## **Grow Donor Base**

We launched an introductory Zoom tour in 2020 to invite people to discover God's heart for the vulnerable and their role in administering justice. Through intentional relationship development we will expand involvement and investment in the ministry.



## **Develop New Website**

We will finish a new website to make it easy to get help, get involved, or give.