



# 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT



# Justice Made Simple.

Justice is messy and complex. Watching the news or social media creates anxiety over the massive challenge of injustice. I should care, but what can one person really do?

For 22 years, Administer Justice has worked to make justice simple. Simple for clients to access through neighborhood churches. Simple for attorneys to serve. Simple for volunteers to make a difference. And simple for churches to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Justice doesn't have to be overwhelming. Justice made simple, looks like one person sitting beside another listening to their confusing circumstances and providing clarity through specific next step plans. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40.

Our role is to make it simple for you to do justice through legal ministry. As you do, you serve Jesus. You administer true justice as you show mercy and compassion to those in need. Zechariah 7:9. Your time, talent, and treasure advance God's kingdom of justice and righteousness.

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. Enter into the joy of your Master." Matthew 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.



## 2021 was a milestone year

As the pandemic continued, more people became aware of justice issues. As our nation continued to divide over these issues, Administer Justice joined people together. The Salvation Army joined with us to promote the establishment of Gospel Justice Centers in the western 14 states. Nearly 300 volunteers joined us to do justice, not debate justice. Hundreds of donors joined us to triple our revenue. Churches joined us to double the number of new centers that opened in 2021 over 2020. A community of people who care about justice joined us at our virtual Restore Conference, AJ Book Club, and weekly prayer zooms.

Our simple and effective model moved us to launch our Open the Gates Campaign joining volunteers, donors, and churches to open 300 Gospel Justice Centers by the end of 2025.

Our divided nation seems to have awakened the church to unify around this opportunity to do justice through legal ministry. The church is at its best when it unifies through compassionate service. Churches were a light to a dark world when they saved education in the Dark Ages, taught the masses, and established the first universities. The church was a beacon of light and hope for those suffering from leprosy and plague as they established the first hospitals. The world was drawn to the church and darkness receded.

Now is the time for the church to once again be a light in the darkness by doing justice. While justice for the poor and vulnerable is the second most prominent theme in the Bible, the church has been absent in providing legal aid to the poor. Less than 200 of the 384,000 churches in America have been engaged in legal ministry for the poor. But when the world has needed light the most, Christians and the church have led the way. Now is the time to shine the light of true justice into a world in need.

Together, we are poised to push back the darkness. No one does justice alone and no one should face injustice alone. This will take a community working together to transform lives in the name of Christ. We need more churches, more attorneys, more volunteers, and more donors to step into the gap. I pray you share this opportunity with those you know. Our webinar, Explore Gospel Justice, is the best way to introduce others. This virtual event runs a few times a month and friends can register from the home page of our website, [www.administerjustice.org](http://www.administerjustice.org).

Our logo is many diverse hands shining the light of the Holy Spirit into the darkness. Let's come together to see that happen. Let's "Administer true justice and show mercy and compassion to one another." Zechariah 7:9.

**3,140**

Clients Served

**299**

Volunteers Serving

**57**

New Gospel Justice  
Centers

**4**

New Organization  
Awards

**300**

New Gospel Justice  
Centers by 2025



**Bruce Strom**  
Founder & CEO



A photograph of two women sitting on a wooden bench outdoors, laughing heartily. The woman on the left is wearing a light blue and white striped short-sleeved button-down shirt and dark pants. The woman on the right is wearing an orange sleeveless top, dark pants, and glasses. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a path. On the left side of the image, there are several thin, white diagonal lines.

Justice Made Simple

# For Clients

***“This is a wonderful mission. I was looking for a place that I could trust during these times and was not disappointed.” - Amy, client***



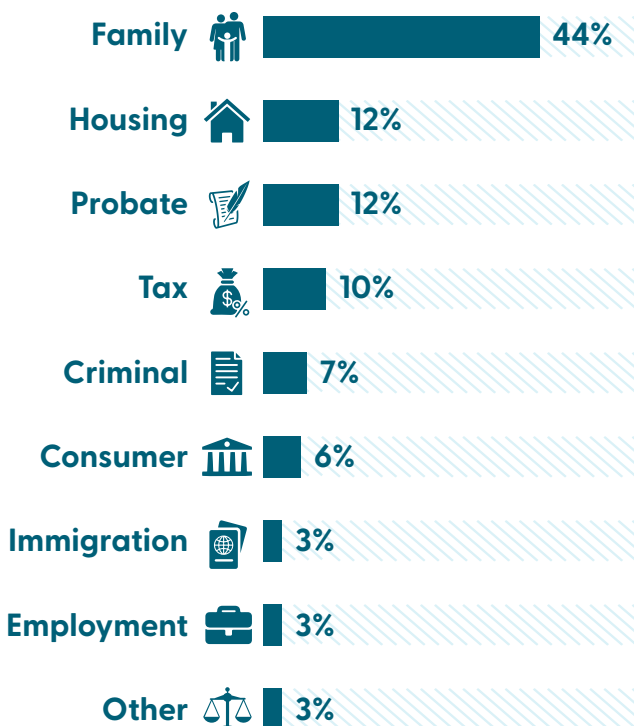
## Did you know?

One in three Americans cannot afford the high cost of lawyers. Consequently, every second in America someone is turned away from legal assistance. Not at Administer Justice.



One simple phone call or visit to our website allows a client to schedule a time with an attorney and caring team of volunteers to find freedom from fear and clarity from confusion.

**In 2021, we helped 3,140 individuals seek justice and find freedom, an increase of 17%.**



## Justice In Action Relationship Restored

Jack learned justice is about restoring what is broken. When Jack's grandma died, she left her house to him, his mother, and his aunt. Jack's grandma never had a good relationship with his mother. Neither did Jack. In fact, grandma mostly raised him. Jack's mother became livid when she learned that his aunt agreed to let Jack have the home. She was determined to stop that, no matter what.

Jack found a Gospel Justice Center where an attorney walked him through options from probate court to buy-outs to how to have a conversation with his mom. Jack wanted to build a good relationship with his mother. He took her to dinner and followed the coaching of the attorney. His mom broke down and cried. She explained how hurt and angry she felt that her mother died before their relationship had mended and that she had taken that anger out on Jack. She agreed to let Jack have the home and said she would seek to support him.

Jack sees God's hand at work in his mother and is rejoicing that the legal advice and prayer he received led to restoring their relationship.





# Justice Made Simple **For Attorneys**

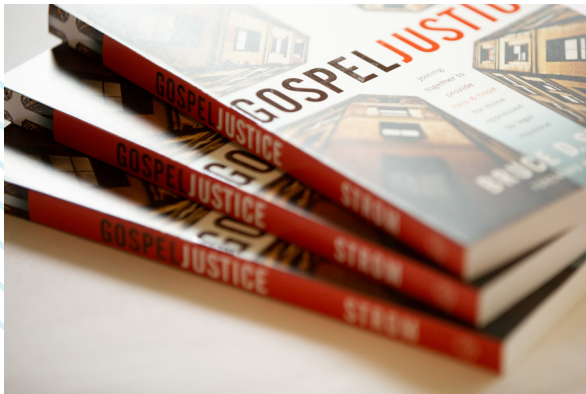
In 2021 there were only 10,479 legal aid attorneys nationwide. The gap in available help is huge. Think of it this way. Imagine you are standing on the field of a huge football stadium, say Soldier Field. The stadium is full, and every person has a legal question. There are only six lawyers available. If they spend 30 minutes answering questions, it will take them six months to meet with everyone. And that's if they

work around the clock, 24/7 without even a bathroom break. No wonder so many people give up trying to find help.

We can do better. Imagine if a small portion of the 1.33 million attorneys in America volunteered to fill the gap once a month on a Saturday morning at a local church. The stadium empties, critical needs are met, and hope is restored.



We make justice simple for attorneys through on-demand online training, insurance coverage, strong support from the national office, resources, and a local support team. In 2021, 136 attorneys volunteered over 1,800 hours. That would be equivalent to one attorney working pro-bono from January to November 15!



## 2021 Attorneys

**136**  
Volunteer Attorneys

Compared to  
**95**  
in 2020

***“I am so thankful for the opportunity to provide help and hope to the most vulnerable among us. I literally have spent every free moment immersed in all I can learn about Gospel Justice and the work being done by Administer Justice. I’ve completed my attorney training which was so easy. I’m currently reading Bruce Strom’s amazing book, Gospel Justice. I’m almost halfway through it. Very, very powerful read!***

***My head and heart are spinning with all of this, as I was not seeking this opportunity, nor did I know it even existed. It feels so perfect for me, but I still can’t believe it’s happening. I’m not kidding when I said I didn’t even know if there was another Christian attorney in America other than me. The timing of all of this coming into my life is crazy perfect and freaky cool.”***  
– Allison, new volunteer attorney



# Justice Made Simple For Churches

***“Administer Justice makes it so easy for us to impact our community. We are excited to continue our partnership with them.” - Kay, church leader***

## Equipping Churches

COVID temporarily closed the doors of most churches. What if the doors of your church stayed closed? Would your neighbors miss you?

The pandemic raised multiple issues of justice. Was justice a distraction from the gospel? Or might justice be integral to advancing the gospel? We believe justice is part of who God is and how He acts and that He invites us to reflect His character by doing justice.

While major justice questions are complex, we make justice simple for churches to do in a practical, biblical way. No cost. No committees. Simply identify one leader, a Justice Champion, and our national office helps them recruit the team. Receive dashboards of impact for immediate feedback. Our turnkey model allows a church to be

relevant to your community in as short as two months.

In 2021 our simple model made it easy for The Salvation Army to recommend all their locations in the Western Territory establish Gospel Justice Centers. **In 2021 we doubled the number of new churches opening Gospel Justice Centers from 11 to 22 for a total of 57 churches across the country doing justice through legal ministry.** We make it simple to get started. All you need to do is register for an Explore Gospel Justice webinar at [bit.ly/ExploreJustice](https://bit.ly/ExploreJustice).





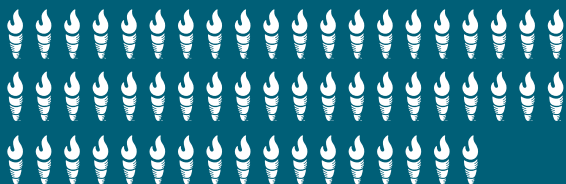
## 2019 24 Church Centers



## 2020 35 Church Centers



## 2021 57 Church Centers



### Justice In Action **Making Disciples**

Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church struggled to keep their Gospel Justice Center open during COVID. Should they shut it down? The pastoral team prayed. And neighbors came. They were busy every month. As they looked at their new membership, they realized most of the new members had come to the church through the Gospel Justice Center.



A young woman with long brown hair, wearing an orange long-sleeved shirt and a tan backpack, is smiling and looking back over her shoulder. She is standing on a red-paved city street with white directional arrows and a bicycle symbol. In the background, there are cars, a bus, and city buildings under a bright sky. A decorative vertical line of white diagonal dashes is on the left side of the image.

Justice Made Simple

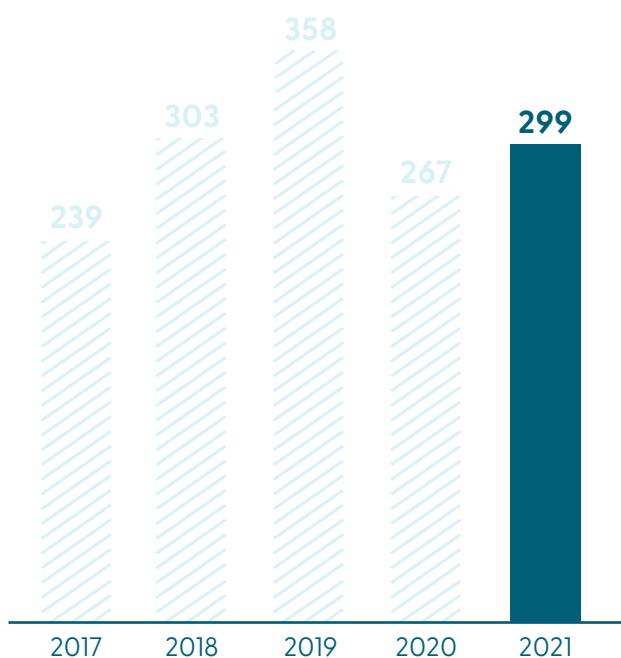
**For Volunteers**



## Training Volunteers

No one does justice alone and no one should face injustice alone. Gospel Justice Centers are church-led, team-supported, and neighborhood-based. Each person plays their part in providing the hope of God's love. We make it simple for volunteers to do justice with online on-demand training through our AJ Academy, a launch kit, support from our national office, multiple resources, and a webstore.

**In 2021 nearly 300 volunteers joined together to serve neighbors in need, an increase of 11% from the prior year.** These teams of people can experience firsthand God's redemptive purpose in people's lives.



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



## Justice In Action The Hope of God's Love

Iris grew up in a broken home, but no one is beyond redemption. Her mother was a drug addict, and her father was in prison. Following in the same path, Iris began using opiates at 13, dropping out of school and bouncing from job to job, while incurring significant debt along the way. Her drug addiction continued into her early twenties and she was arrested for possession. The Judge sentenced her to a Salvation Army Rehabilitation Program. Recognizing the legal challenges her debt was causing, they connected her with their Gospel Justice Center.

When Iris arrived, she was warmly welcomed and provided a folder with our Good News About Justice Tract. The attorney found her reading the tract and was presented with an opportunity to share God's love. Iris had questions that led to a conversation resulting in her praying to accept Christ. She was overjoyed!

To learn more about Iris' story visit [bit.ly/StoryofIris](https://bit.ly/StoryofIris)





## Torchlighter One Time Gift

Our Torchlighters provide sustainable impact through a \$5,000 gift that covers the cost to launch a new center. Once opened, the center is sustained through client copays.

## Torchbearer Monthly Support

Our clients pay a one-time \$30 copay for legal services. Our Torchbearers can identify with a client through the financial support of \$30, \$60, or \$90. These contributions help support Gospel Justice Centers.

## Lifetime Impact

**\$5,000**  
Investment

**1**  
Gospel Justice Center  
Funded

**10**  
Volunteers Equipped

**50**  
Clients Reached Annually

**\$24,000**  
Dollars Returned Annually in  
Attorney Time & Client Copays



## Justice In Action Coming Alongside

"I think we are the best stewards when we come alongside people to help them, to bless them, and even when we never meet them can know that an organization like Administer Justice is caring for them. What I really like about Administer Justice is they help real people with real wounds. The most important thing is to be a blessing to others and to come alongside organizations like Administer Justice who help so many."

– Joe and Mary Slawek, donors

To hear more from Joe on the four stages of life and the importance of giving back, visit [bit.ly/JoeSlawek](http://bit.ly/JoeSlawek)



## Financial Statements

God entrusted us with incredible financial resources and highly qualified new staff this past year. We recognize that managing those gifts well is critical for success. In 2021, we achieved the highest platinum level of good governance and fiscal management with Guidestar. We were also recognized as a Best Christian Workplace by Best Christian Workplace Institute.



Support & Revenue	2021*	2020	2019
<b>Contributions</b>	\$2,587,718	\$695,785	\$719,147
<b>Grants</b>	\$402,546	\$309,081	\$115,500
<b>In-Kind Contributions</b>	\$447,923	\$571,946	\$1,274,001
<b>Program Fees</b>	\$42,009	\$26,890	\$40,509
<b>Other Income</b>	\$29,381	\$7,225	\$3,104
<b>Total</b>	\$3,509,578	\$1,596,964	\$2,152,261

Functional Expenses	2021*	2020	2019
<b>Program Services</b>	\$1,490,496	\$1,365,228	\$1,948,538
<b>Management &amp; General</b>	\$114,394	\$57,888	\$41,599
<b>Fundraising</b>	\$28,658	\$22,829	\$50,408
<b>Total Functional Expenses</b>	\$1,633,548	\$1,445,945	\$2,040,545
<b>Other Revenue - Market fluctuations / Capital Gains</b>	\$135,883	\$0	\$0
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	\$2,011,913	\$151,019	\$111,716
<b>Net Assets – Beginning of Year</b>	\$756,481	\$587,623	\$475,907
<b>Net Assets – End of Year</b>	\$2,768,394	\$756,481	\$587,623

\*unaudited



# Looking Forward

As we seek to Open the Gates for Justice & Hope through a national campaign, we will invite more individuals, attorneys, and churches to join us.

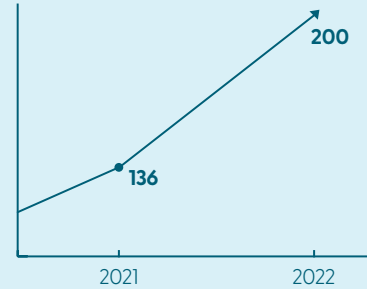
## Church Focus

We intend to double the number of new churches establishing Gospel Justice Centers from 2021. That is 44 new Gospel Justice Centers reaching their community with the help of a lawyer and the hope of God's love.

2021

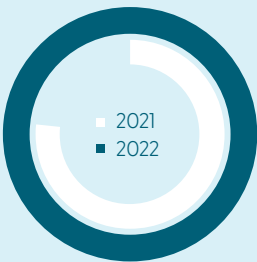


2022



## Attorney Focus

We are launching intentional efforts to invite more attorneys to use their unique gifts alongside a caring team in bringing clarity to confusion through custom next step plans. This will mean increasing our attorney base by 50% (136 to over 200).



## Client Focus

We intend to enhance the client experience through new tools and training to serve 30% more clients in 2022.

## Donor Focus

We intend to hire a VP of Engagement to continue to invite more people into using their resources to advance God's Kingdom of justice and righteousness. We will develop opportunities for existing donors to go deeper in understanding and impact.



## Campaign for 300

Our five year Open the Gates campaign seeks to establish 300 Gospel Justice Centers by the end of 2025. This \$7 million dollar campaign will engage:

**300 churches**, more than any time in US history

**450+ attorneys**

**2,400+ volunteers**

**15,000+ clients**

**\$6,750,000** in annual in-kind contributions

**\$450,000** in annual client copays

The 2021 launch raised \$3.2 million and over \$500,000 in commitments. Will you pray to be part of this historic movement? A commitment of \$1,000 a year for five years changes one community forever. That impact is multiplied at \$5,000, \$10,000 or more each year. Or consider being a monthly donor by helping one client with \$30, two with \$60, or three with \$90 a month.





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