

OUR COMMUNITY
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

CHILD ADVOCACY

COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATIONS &
RESOURCES

PREVENTION
&
AWARENESS

CHILD WELFARE
AGENCIES

Angels

Against Abuse, Inc.



ANGELS



WWW.ANGELSAGAINSTCHILDABUSE.COM

Angels Against Abuse, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization

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ANGELS AGAINST ABUSE, INC

Recap of Programs

2020/2021 Annual Review

(Updated January 2021)

There is light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering, too much pain, then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.

- Mother Teresa

Angels Are Making a Difference

Recap of Programs We Provide

Annually & As Needed

Angel Mission Statement

The mission of Angels Against Abuse is to build awareness and educate the community regarding existing neglect and abuse against children. We provide support, monetarily and through hands-on volunteer hours, to neglected and abused children who are removed from an abusive situation, and to those children and families who are at risk of losing their children because of such situations. We strive to bring together all available resources to help families achieve the best possible result from available government agencies, courts and services in the fastest possible manner when help is needed most. In some cases it is as easy as pointing people in the right direction and making sure that they get there. We are making a real difference in the lives of many children who are unfortunate victims of abuse and systems that fail to help them.

The Angels take pride in the fact that we could research what the needs are within the Welfare System and work towards meeting those needs. Our ability to be the “quick responders” when it comes to a child’s needs has proven to be a huge benefit to the many agencies that we work with daily. The Angels can only touch the surface of the many needs that these children and youth need in our community, but we are making a difference and giving “HOPE” for a better tomorrow to children, youth and families who suffer at the hands of their abusers.

THE ANGEL JOURNEY

Founded in 2007, Angels Against Abuse started with four women whose hearts were captivated when they visited an emergency shelter for children ranging in ages newborn to 11 called the Sallie House. Immediately after their visit, they vowed to start a movement that would positively impact the lives and futures of the children who had unfortunately suffered from child abuse and/or neglect in our local community.

We started Sallie’s Angels and hosted our **1st Annual Blue-Ribbon Gala** fundraiser to help kick-start the capital campaign for construction of a much needed, new Sallie House. Once the new Sallie House was completed and running smoothly, it became clear that our work was far from over as we realized there were thousands of children in our local community needing our help. We formed a non-profit organization, changing our name to Angels Against Abuse Inc., so that instead of solely focusing on the Sallie House, we would additionally begin to help throughout our local community to those children and families that have unfortunately been placed into the child welfare system.

Since then, Angels Against Abuse has been blessed with the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of so many children and families who have been abused and neglected. The Angels continue to find ways to increase our assistance, develop new programs, and strive to make a difference in the lives of many. We take pride in our ability to establish strong relationships with our community partners to develop programs that will have the biggest impact on the children we advocate for. As the system changes, the programs change, and the Angels quickly adjust our programs or develop new ones to meet the need.

Directions for Living

- **Angel Assistance** – For the past, several years we have partnered with Directions for Living to fulfil the many needs that they deal with daily. These children and families have faced so many obstacles and challenges. Being able to assist with their needs has been extremely instrumental in how they move forward.
- **Campbell Park Elementary School Pre-K First Five Program/BabyCAT started in 2020 and Kings Highway Elementary School in 2021.** The Angels partnered with Directions for Living to launch a new program specifically designed to provide an Intensive In-home Service for children under 5, which is also referred to as the “First Five Program”. Their success is largely attributed to the piece of the puzzle that the Angels provide, which Directions refers to as “The Secret Sauce”, our Clinical Consultant. The Clinical Consultant works intensely with the children and their behavioral issues, the teachers, and the parents to assure the success of this program. There is a sense of normalcy and consistency in their lives during their most critical years of development. The Angels are extremely excited to partner with Directions on this program since it accomplishes our mission of breaking the pattern of abuse! Our focus is to do anything possible to eliminate abuse and allow children to grow into healthy and happy adults. As of this writing the success of this program is at 98% and this model has received a lot of attention by funders. Thanks to the success of this program and our involvement, we are now able to move into another Pre-K school in Clearwater called **Kings Highway Elementary**. We believe this is only the beginning and other schools will follow. The ripple effect of the success of this model not only impacts the child, but it also impacts our community when you convert the cost of the child welfare system every time a child is removed and becomes another statistic in the foster care system. As of this update, 298 children are not going into the foster care system thanks to this program.

Friends for Children Mentoring Program

- **School Uniforms** – This program consists of both girls and boys ranging in ages kindergarten thru high school. The Angels provide 2 uniforms per child every school year. This year we are providing uniforms and school backpacks and supplies to 50 children in our community.
- **Tablets** – This program does not have adequate funding for items of this nature and the mentors cannot afford this expense. The Angels have provided tablets for the Mentors and the children as well. This programs purpose is to assist with their educational needs.
- **Backpacks/School Supplies**– Each school year the Angels provide backpacks and school supplies for these children in preparation for their school year. The Angels bridge the gap for this need since there is not funding for this type of assistance.
- **Christmas Giving**– The Angels and some very generous donors provide Christmas for 55 children in the program. Their wish list is filled and there is a large Christmas Bag for every child. Our hope is to give them a reason to believe in the magic of Christmas and have Hope for a better tomorrow.
- **Educational Software (New)** – Most of these children are now in middle school and the Mentors need educational software to assist the children with their homework. The software and the tablets have been instrumental in their ability to make good grades.



Directions for Living
LIFE GETS BETTER HERE.™

BABYCAT

INTENSIVE IN-HOME SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5

FAMILY-CENTERED CARE

BabyCAT is a program that assists children in their first 5 years of life that have been identified by a teacher at one of our partner elementary and early learning schools, Campbell Park Elementary or Kings Highway Elementary, as experiencing a mental, emotional, or behavioral issue that is preventing them from being successful in the classroom. Many of these children are at-risk of entering out-of-home care due to challenges they are facing at home such as domestic violence between caregivers, substance use disorders in their household, and otherwise stressful and chaotic environments. Each student receives services from an Intensive Therapeutic Support Team, which includes a Family Counselor, Student Care Manager and a Clinical Consultant (funded in partnership with the Angels Against Abuse) who are available to provide continuous support and crisis intervention. We work to stabilize the child's behavior by providing intensive in-home services to the entire family and consultation to the teachers.

24/7 SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Services are provided in the family home. Additional service areas may be included when appropriate to strengthen and assist the family in other natural environments such as schools, parks, group homes, community centers, and places of worship. Services are available 24/7 for the families.



BABYCAT WORKED WITH ME TO BECOME THE PARENT MY CHILDREN DESERVE. THEY HELPED BRING OUR FAMILY BACK TOGETHER WHEN I THOUGHT ALL HOPE WAS LOST"

-BabyCAT Client

ABOUT DIRECTIONS FOR LIVING

Directions for Living is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit headquartered in Pinellas County and serving 32,000+ children and families each year who have experienced trauma - particularly traumas related to homelessness, mental illness, and substance abuse.

BABYCAT SUCCESS

From July 1, 2020 -
December 31, 2021:

129

Families
served

236

Children
served

98%

Children remained
stable and did not
enter out-of-home
care


Guardian ad Litem Foundation (GAL)

Due to **COVID** there were many changes that occurred that impacted some of our programs. Some programs were postponed indefinitely, some we were able to implement new programs to benefit the children we serve.

Since there are no GAL visitations at this time due to **COVID** and the Birthday Bags are not being handed out, the Executive Director for the GAL requested that the Angels consider partnering with them on a new program called the “Normalcy Program”. This was approved unanimously by our Board for 2021. Below are the details of this program and its importance.

- **Normalcy Program** –This program is a direct benefit to the children allowing them to have real, “normal” kid experiences. These funds help to make sure that they can participate in the school, church, and/or community activities that they are interested in without putting the burden of funding on the child or foster parent. Some examples of funding requests include:
 - *Registration fees for school sports and the equipment needed to participate.*
 - *Going on a school field trip or church/YMCA outing*
 - *Going to homecoming or prom and purchasing a dress or suit*
 - *Getting a bike*
 - *Being able to purchase school pictures*
 - *Taking dance, karate, or music lessons after school*
 - *Covering the cost of a cake for a birthday party*
 - *Attending summer camp*
 - *Taking swim lessons*
- **Angel Assistance Program** – All of our programs that we have developed with our Community Partners have requests that occur that are either under-funded or not funded at all that are important to a child’s well-being. These requests range from an immediate need to a need that will benefit the child. When the request is received, if it is more than \$500, it is sent to our Board for review. The review process is completed within 24 hours. If we are unable to assist, we try to find a solution. The Angels work closely with our Community Partners to assure that we are addressing these needs and making a difference in the lives of these children.

The Kind Mouse

- **Mouse Nibbles Program** – We partnered with The Kind Mouse to assist with the growing population of hungry children in our community. There are over 7000 children in Pinellas County going hungry every day at the elementary school level and the Angels feel no child should go to bed hungry. We want to be a part of this solution.
- **The Kind Mouse Operation Angel Baby**  **Mouse Nibbles Program (New Program)** – These bags will be filled with items specifically for infants that will be distributed to any agency needing urgent items for infants. There has been a big increase in 2020 of infant removal. The Angels have partnered with The Kind Mouse to make sure no babies are going without! These baby bags will include items that will make a difference until they are placed with relatives or in foster care. The bags will include pre-mixed formula or baby food depending on the age of the infant, diapers, wipes, baby wash, diaper rash ointment, clothing

based on age and gender of infant, washcloths, bibs, baby book, pacifier, rattles, and baby bottles. The Sheriff's office said the average removal per month of infants right now, is around 15-17 a month. We feel this is a need that should be addressed.

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office CPI Division

- **Wish List Requests** – Throughout the year, the Child Protection Division of the Sheriff's Office requests items from the Angels which is largely based on removals. These requests are for items for children of all ages that are usually needed immediately. Thanks to The Kind Mouse, the food pantry makes sure their snacks are taken care of which has been a benefit to the Angels. Some of these urgent requests could be uniforms and school supplies, clothing, beds, bedding, car seats, pack n plays, etc.

Sallie House/Children's Village

- **Themed Birthday Parties** (Donated by Diana & Kerry Helinger) –For over 14 years this amazing couple has provided birthday parties for children who would have never been given a themed party designed just for them. Diana and Kerry Helinger generous hearts have made such a difference in the lives of the children staying at Sallie House. They have given them a very special birthday that they will always remember.

Christmas Giving Program

- **The Angels give Hope at Christmas** - Every Christmas the Angels create magic at their Christmas Giving Event! This day is special to us because it is a day where each of us realize and **BELIEVE** there is good in the world and good people all around us. The Angels help you **BELIEVE** in miracles and everybody needs an Angel in their life and especially the children and youth that the Angels advocate for! Here is the current list of Agencies we worked with this past year which was comprised of approximately 400 children and youth!
 - **Healthy Start PAT+** - *New moms who are struggling to be good moms and in need of encouragement and assistance for their babies who are unable to provide for themselves much less have presents for their child on Christmas Day, we give **HOPE***
 - **Friends of the Children Mentoring Program** - *The children who are at most risk who have been assigned a mentor on their life journey from elementary school age to high school who need something to look forward to on Christmas Morning that will make them feel special, the Angels made it happen!*
 - **Directions for Living** – *Children from all walks of life who need something to smile about and in need of Angels in their lives. Families living in a motel that are homeless and struggling from day to day to get back on their feet , these are the people Angels gave Christmas to,*
 - **Pinellas County Sheriff's Office CPI** – *A family who has faced some very tough challenges due to COVID and is struggling who is most in need of our Angels to give Hope for a better tomorrow.*

The Angel Visitation Center

- **2021 Update** - The Angel Center is operating at full capacity after having to deal with the **COVID** pandemic in 2020. We had to close our doors for 2 months, but we realized the importance of these children seeing their parents, so we wanted to make our Center available with the proper precautions in place. Although attendance was down significantly, we kept the Center operating with our Supervisor supervising the visits. As a result, there have been reunifications and parents able to work their case plans during **COVID** in hopes of expediting reunification. Our Angel Center is as beautiful as the day we opened in 2017 which is why we are so successful. The parents, case managers and foster parents love coming into a beautifully kept facility that is stress free, clean, and safe! This was always our vision to have everyone who walks through our doors to feel welcome and happy to be our guests.

- **History of the Angel Center** - It is only thanks to the generous hearts of Nick and Kay Catizone, a couple who loved children but had none of their own, that gave the Angels the gift that keeps giving. Thanks to their generous hearts, they will have created a legacy that is making a difference in the lives of children in our community every day. Thanks to the generosity of Clearwater Marine Aquarium, the theme of our Center is based on the two successful movies, Dolphin Tale 1 and 2. The murals that cover the walls bring life to the Center that creates an atmosphere for children that is soothing and comforting. We wanted to create a place for children of all ages to come be with their biological parents and be in a room that was age appropriate to them. There are 3 amazing rooms and a Learning Center for larger sibling groups, board meetings, private meetings and training and orientation. The four rooms that are utilized at our Center range in ages as follows:
 - **Hope Room** – *infants to toddler ages*
 - **Winter Room** – *4 to 9 ages*
 - **Rufus Room** – *10 and up and large sibling groups*
 - **Mavis Room** – *our newest space The Learning Center*

The Angels have paid a great deal of attention to every detail in these rooms to insure successful visits between the child and their biological parents. The anticipated goal for these supervised visits is a successful reunification for the child to be reunified with their biological parents and hopefully breaking the pattern of abuse. In those instances where reunification does not occur, the Angel Center has been a healthy environment for that determination to occur. The Case Managers can evaluate the parent's behavior and make the determination of what is in the best interest of that child. Our Center is always impeccably clean which has been such a positive for the heavy traffic we see daily, and we have cameras in all the locations where visits occur to assure safety for all our visitors.

The Center is conveniently located across the street from Eckerd Connects and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for convenience for the various parties who represent the children and on a main bus route for the parents to get to and from their visitations. The physical address is 2200 Tall Pines Drive, Suite 100, Largo, FL. We encourage tours of our facility by all our community partners and our donors to get a better understanding of what this Center is all about.

The Angel Center is a powerful tool in the Foster Care System for visitations and we are currently have a wait list for visits since we are the only free visitation center in Pinellas County. If we can be a part of helping to break the pattern of abuse, then we have accomplished our mission. Please come visit and see for yourself that you should never give up on a dream, we did not! Contact Sandy Kearney at sandy@sandykearney.com to schedule a tour.



ANGELS give **HOPE** for a better tomorrow...

The Angels would like to thank everyone who has made it possible for us to grow and keep the momentum of our non-profit to continue to make a difference in the lives of our most precious asset, the children who represent our future. Every program we have developed has been successful and had a huge impact on the children we advocate for 24/7. Our famous Mad Hatter Tea Party was a special day for children needing a smile, our highly anticipated Child Advocacy Expo brought our community partners together to collaborate and network with one another to become ONE strong force in our community. These programs will live on thanks to the generosity of people with the same passion as the Angels. This will pave the way for the Angels to focus on new programs that will have the greatest impact on the children and youth needing our assistance .It will all us to work with our community partners who do not have the means to provide all the resources needed for these children.

The Angels want to thank all our many supporters, organizations, foundations and businesses for their support and their belief in what we do for these children. It is because of their generous hearts that we can sustain our ability to give.

Special thanks to all our amazing volunteers. Volunteers are the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future for which we can all be proud. Some people give time, some money, some their skills and connections, some literally give their life's blood, but everyone has something to give!

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