

OUR COMMUNITY  
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

CHILD ADVOCACY

COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZATIONS &  
RESOURCES

PREVENTION  
&  
AWARENESS

CHILD WELFARE  
AGENCIES

Angels  
Against Abuse, Inc.



## Angel Program Update 2021/2022

ANGELS  




[www.AngelsAgainstChildAbuse.org](http://www.AngelsAgainstChildAbuse.org)

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

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## **ANGELS AGAINST ABUSE, INC**

### **Recap of Programs**

### **2021/2022 Annual Review**

**(Updated January 2022)**

*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 agencies that we work with daily. The Angels can only touch the surface of the 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 eleven 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 ***1<sup>st</sup> Annual Blue-Ribbon Gala*** fundraiser in 2007 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.

## **RECAP OF OUR PROGRAMS**

### **DIRECTIONS FOR LIVING**

**Angel Assistance** – For the past several years we have partnered with Directions for Living to fulfil the needs that they deal with daily. These children and families have faced many obstacles and challenges and our ability 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 five, which is also referred to as the “First Five Program.” Their success is 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% success and this model has received attention from several 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, over 350 children are not going into the foster care system thanks to this program. In 2021, due to the success of this program, our Governor funded this pilot program for the two schools mentioned above for the school year 2021/2022. If this success continues, we are hopeful that this model can be used in other schools and communities with pre-k programs. In January 2022, we added another layer of intervention for these children by adding an Intensive Case Manager (ICM) to work with elementary school age children with extreme behavioral issues and their families. Once the schools are operating in a more normal fashion, we can utilize the Clinical Consultants like the ones at Campbell Park Elementary and Kings Highway Elementary. We feel that partnering with Directions for Living to hire an ICM to address these challenges is an added layer of protection for these children in crisis mode. We are in hopes of adding additional ICM's as needed once it is determined this new added layer of protection for children is making a difference.

### **FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN MENTORING PROGRAM**

**School Uniforms** – This program consists of both girls and boys ranging in ages kindergarten thru high school. The Angels provide two uniforms per child every school year. This year we are providing uniforms and school backpacks and supplies to fifty children in our community.

**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.

**Tools for Success** – We partnered with FOTC in 2014 when these children were in kindergarten. Now most of them are in middle school and high school who have amazing mentors that commit to these children for 12 years. With schools closing due to the COVID pandemic, and everything going to virtual learning, the Mentors needed additional tools to help these children succeed. The Angels got approval in 2021 to budget a new program called “Tools for Success” that would provide educational software, additional tablets for the younger children and their mentors that are coming into the FOTC program and laptops for the middle/high school students. Also, we approved getting Tutors to assist the children with their homework who are falling behind and need a little extra help to get their grades up.



**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)**

In 2021 the Angels partnered with the GAL Foundation for a pilot program called Opportunity Outreach. 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. This was approved unanimously by our Board in 2021, and with the positive impact this program has had on the hundreds of children we have assisted in 2021, we are proud to continue this program in 2022. This program has given these children an outlet for activities and socialization that has been missing from their lives since COVID hit our country and community. Below are examples of what the Angels provide to these children:

- *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. Some of these requests are urgent, some are not a crisis, but will impact that child’s life. When the request is received, if it is more than \$500, it is sent to our Board for review and approval. The review process is completed within 24 hours. If we are unable to assist, we try to find a solution to expedite the resource needed. 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 10,000 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**) – The Angels partnered with The Kind Mouse in 2021 to provide the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office with baby bags that would assist caregivers with infants who have been removed. These bags are filled with items specifically for infants that will be distributed to not only the Sheriff’s Office, but any agency needing urgent items for infants. Every bag includes formula, 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. The Angels are proud to work with The Kind Mouse to make sure these infants have an easier transition with their caregivers.

## **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 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. These urgent requests could be uniforms, school supplies, clothing, beds, bedding, car seats, pack n plays, Gift Cards, 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 special birthday 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! Below is a current list of Agencies we worked with this past year which was comprised of approximately 350 children off all ages!

- **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! The feedback we received from Friends of the Children was beyond words. The stories that were shared and the feedback we received is why we do what we do. It is only thanks to our generous donors that the Angels can put smiles on the faces of these children.*
- **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. The stories that were shared to our members made such an impact and empowered us to keep doing what we do. Christmas is such a special time of the year for all children, but for the children in the child welfare system, it is a day that gives them Hope that there are people in our community who CARE.*
- **Pinellas County Sheriff's Office CPI** – *Due to last minute removals at Christmas, the Angels worked with the Sheriff's Office to find ways to provide Christmas to children who did not have time to put together a last-minute wish list. We purchase items in bulk for children that the Child Protection Investigators would pull together from the items donated to give these children something at Christmas. There are no words to express the gratitude that the Sheriff's Office communicated to us that these children were not left out at Christmas.*
- **Guardian ad Litem Foundation** - *We received a wish list for ten children from the Guardian ad Litem Foundation. Some of these children had special needs and their requests were so heartfelt. They ask for little, but what they ask for would make such a difference in their lives.*

# *Believe* in the magic of Christmas

CHRISTMAS GIVING 2021  
THANK YOU, CHRISTMAS, GIVING DONORS  
THANK YOU FOR PUTTING MAGIC IN THE LIVES OF  
CHILDREN WHO NEED ANGELS IN THEIR LIVES!



## GOODBYE 2021 AND HELLO 2022

Thank you for putting smiles on the faces of children who have little to smile about; children who are victims of abuse and neglect. When we said goodbye to 2020 with the hope and anticipation that 2021 would be rid of the pandemic and lives would return to normal, little did we know the road ahead! BUT once again, we came together and became even stronger with all the challenges that each of us faced daily in hopes of a better tomorrow. We were even more generous; we were filled with more compassion and love than any of us could imagine and found ourselves paying our blessings forward.

2021 was a FANTASTIC year for the Angels thanks to the generosity of individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations. Our Christmas Giving Program was our best and it is hard to imagine that we could top previous years, but we did. This year we provided Christmas for approximately 350 children who would not have experienced Christmas without us. Of course, this would not have happened with our Christmas Giving Donors. There were many large sibling groups in need of adopting for Christmas, young mothers with babies needing gifts for their little ones, homeless families who desperately wanted to give their children something to smile about that could because of the Angels. There are so many children in the system who dream of experiencing Christmas morning like our children have experienced which is why we do what we do! Thanks to each of you that adopted a child, a family or sibling group, we were able to put a smile on their faces Christmas morning. God Bless you for making their dreams a reality. Without YOU, we could not make it happen. Children of all ages need to BELIEVE in the Magic of Christmas and

that is a dream come true for the Angels that we can make it happen for the list of children we received. For those of you that had the opportunity to attend our Christmas Celebration December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at Pasadena Community Church, we are sure you walked away feeling proud to be a part of our special celebration and what a wonderful way to start your day! The Church Gym was decorated from top to bottom and there were gifts surrounding the room with the various agencies we partnered with this year. There were hundreds of decorated bags for every child that were personalized and organized by agency. As the community leaders walked to the podium to share their stories of why Christmas Day was so important to these children, it was impossible to not have tears of joy knowing the difference we were making in the lives of these children. For our Angels, this celebration is our Christmas Day.

As the Founder and President of Angels Against Abuse, Inc., I would like to say "Thank You" once again! Thank you for your kindness and generosity for giving light to these children's darkest days and putting ***Magic in their lives***, if only for one day, Christmas Day! The Angels want every child in need to feel ***Hope, Joy*** and ***Believe*** that all things are possible when Angels are watching over them who care. Our ability to accomplish this is only thanks to each of ***YOU*** and your generous hearts!

God bless each of you and thank you for all you do!

Thank  
you 

Have a Wonderful and Blessed New Year  
2022 is on the Horizon...

Sandy Kearney, Founder  
Angels Against Abuse, Inc



# Christmas Giving 2021



The Angels Believe  
In The  
Magic of Christmas!



## 2021 DONORS WHO MADE CHRISTMAS MAGIC

Abstract Electronics  
Al & Susan Bennati  
Alexandra Bryant  
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## **2021 DONORS ANGEL ASSISTANCE**

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## **The Angel Visitation Center**

**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 be with their biological parents and be in a room that was age appropriate to them. There are three 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 –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.

We are now approaching our fifth year since we started our journey to provide a beautiful place for children to go to visit with their parents. During COVID, the Angel Center made it possible for these visits to take place because we realize the importance of these visits to the children. COVID was a very difficult time for all of us, but especially for these children who have so many challenges and obstacles to overcome and COVID just added to their problems. Presently we are operating at full capacity and as the Pandemic slows down, we will be on a wait list for visits like before the COVID days. We take all the proper precautions to keep children safe by sanitizing before and after visits.

The Center is conveniently located across the street from the new Lead Agency, Family Support Services of North Florida Inc. (FSS), 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.

Over the past five years, it has become apparent that the Angel Center is a powerful tool in the Foster Care System. If we can be a part of helping to break the pattern of abuse, then we have accomplished our mission. Please visit and see for yourself that you should never give up on a dream, we did not! Contact Sandy Kearney at [sandy@sandykearney.com](mailto: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 takes all of us to collaborate with our community partners to provide all the resources needed for these children, and to some daybreak the pattern of abuse.

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 over the past 15 years. It is because of their generous hearts that we can sustain our ability to give and grow.

Special thanks to all our amazing volunteers who 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 give their life's blood, but everyone has something to give!

Sandy Kearney, Founder  
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