



Alternatives For Girls

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



# Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to present our annual report for our 2020-2021 fiscal year. I cannot begin this message without a heartfelt thanks to all the individuals, foundations and corporations that have supported us throughout the pandemic. We could not have continued to provide such a high level of service to this community without their incredible generosity. It was only through the additional donations, grants, and in-kind support that AFG continued to maintain its robust response to our most vulnerable population – girls and young women experiencing homelessness and at-risk.



Many local, private foundations and corporations pivoted their giving to make sure the basic needs of our southeast Michigan neighbors were being met. The young women and girls we serve benefited from that outpouring of support.

While many things are beginning to normalize at AFG and some activities have begun to be held in person, we do continue to quarantine young women as they enter our shelter, masking and being vigilant about the health and safety of our participants and staff. We anticipate that as 2022 progresses, we will begin holding even more activities in person.

Despite all of the challenges of a global pandemic, our organization is strong, continues to grow, and has successes to celebrate! In the spring of 2021, 21 girls from our programs graduated from high school and all but one were college bound. This is a story of which we are particularly proud. Our focused work with school-aged girls and their families in southwest Detroit strongly supports the culture of academic excellence by providing mentors, tutoring, and developing the soft skills every young woman needs, as they continue their journey in education and beyond.

Our focus on homeless girls and young women has been no less rigorous, and in this area, our strong community partners are particularly important. Organizations such as Wayne Health and Detroit Community Health Center provide medical and mental health support to our program participants. We have a strong partnership with Great Start Collaborative-Wayne County which has promoted early childhood literacy and exposure to math, reading, science and sensory experiences among our pregnant and parenting participants, as well as trained our staff on its effective approach.

Ultimately, for every girl and young women with whom we work, our wish for them is a meaningful, productive life and to support each in what she hopes to make of her life. Most are eager to find career-focused employment, and AFG has created a new Workforce Development Initiative. By centralizing all the current employment- and training—related resources within our current programming, we have begun forging strong relationship with area training programs and potential employers. As we continue to build that effort, we expect to see even more of our participants finding and maintaining employment that is fulfilling and that will open doors for strong career opportunities in their futures.

> Continued on page 3



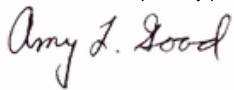
# Letter from the CEO Continued

AFG is integral to the work of the City of Detroit's Continuum of Care Committee, launched at the behest of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to ensure there are effective, coordinated efforts to address and effectively coordinate homeless services. Our "Rapid Rehousing" Project, providing rental subsidies and intensive, wrap-around support for employment and education, received funding and was launched in 2018, specifically to identify safe housing and provide supportive services for young families in Detroit facing homelessness. It was AFG's expertise in this area that made us the likely partner to fill this gap and for the expansion of our work with this target population.

AFG's drop-in Crisis Center is a welcoming place for young women in unsafe situations, victims and survivors of sex trafficking or domestic violence, as well as those over 21 years old who are not eligible for our shelter, providing supports such as a shower, food, resources, and referrals. There were 3,120 hours of intervention provided during the year both in person and over the phone. Often it is a friendly face and an encouraging word that helps these women take a first step towards believing they are valued and deserve a different, safer life.

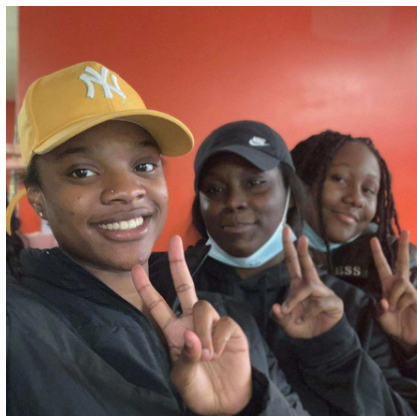
While this is only a small sampling of our initiatives and successes, we are positioned to have another year filled with great successes. I look forward to sharing those with our friends and supporters over the coming year.

Amanda (Amy) L. Good



## What We Do

Our mission is to help homeless and high-risk girls and young women avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation, and help them to explore and access the support, resources and opportunities necessary to be safe, to grow strong and to make positive choices in their lives.



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# Our Programs

## OUTREACH & EDUCATION

We go directly to the street to access teens and women in dangerous, high-risk situations such as sex trafficking, gang involvement or in other exploitative situations to provide referrals, resources, and direct services to help them transition into safer situations. AFG's Outreach Program serves as a lifeline to many young and adult women seeking to remove themselves from situations and activities that threaten their lives.

## HOUSING STABILITY

AFG's Shelter, Transition to Independent Living (TIL) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Programs provide a continuum of stability for our participants to explore and access the support, resources and opportunities to develop the resiliency and skills to make healthy life choices. Shelter, TIL and RRH participants are connected with community resources such as healthcare, school, job training and employment opportunities that will strengthen their confidence and move them toward economic independence. For those who are pregnant and parenting there is a strong focus on parenting skills.

## SHELTER

For those young women who find themselves in unstable situations with few options, our shelter and transitional living program provide individually responsive, long-term support and access to the resources and opportunities to take the steps necessary for housing stability. Program participants are connected with community assets such as healthcare and school. AFG puts a particular emphasis on teaching parenting skills to those who are pregnant or parenting, and job readiness skills are provided to all young women in the program.

## PREVENTION

AFG's Prevention Program works with school-aged girls who are at risk of pregnancy, gang involvement, school truancy and dropping out or other unsafe activities. Through our programming, girls can increase self-esteem, improve school grades and outcomes, discover untapped talents and build the resiliency necessary to reject drugs, alcohol, and other unsafe behaviors. Girls meet regularly with AFG staff and volunteer mentors. In working with high-school girls, the program focus is higher education readiness, access and completion with an emphasis on building strong study habits and gaining competencies in conflict resolution, problem solving and innovative thinking.

# Program Highlights

## SHELTER & HOUSING STABILITY

- **76%** of the youth were either employed, in school, or both
- **100%** of non-residential youth in Aftercare are residing in safe housing
- **41** youth were provided Rapid Rehousing services which exceeded the grant requirement to serve a total of 20

## PREVENTION

- **100%** of participants in after-school workshops, and Rise N' Shine summer camp remained drug-free and did not participate in gang activity
- **61%** of participants in the after-school program, who submitted report cards, increased their GPA and/or maintained a 3.0 GPA
- **100%** of girls in the Asset Building project established Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP) 529 education savings accounts

## OUTREACH & EDUCATION

- **2,673** hours of crisis intervention facilitated by the Crisis Resource Center
- **87.5%** of participants in the Sew Great Detroit program have remained in the program for 6 or more months
- **100%** of New Choices participants for 6 or more months made significant progress towards or completed goals of recovery, employment, and/ or housing

# Financials

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Changes in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions:	
Revenue and gains:	
Contracts and grants	\$3,694,034
Contributions	1,379,077
Special events (net direct expenses of \$29,228 in 2021)	247,498
Donated assets and goods	139,112
Investment and other income	29,722
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	105,532
Total Revenue and Gains without Donor Restrictions	5,594,975
Net assets released from restrictions	1,157,479
<b>Total Revenue, Gains, and Other Support without Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>6,752,454</b>
Expenses Program services:	
Shelter/Transition to Independent Living Program	2,275,292
Prevention Program	1,496,189
Outreach and Education Program	1,217,954
Total Program Services	\$4,989,435

# Financials

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

Expenses Supporting services (continued):	
Management and general	\$666,108
Marketing and development	488,879
Total Supporting Services	1,154,987
Total Expenses	6,144,422
Changes in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	608,032
Changes in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	1,612,600
Net assets released from restrictions	1,157,479
Change in Net Assets with Donor Relations	455,121
Change in Net Assets	1,063,153
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	4,977,157
Net Assets, End of Year	6,040,310

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Current Assets:</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$888,312
Contracts and grants receivable (no allowance considered necessary)	1,077,534
Pledges receivable (net of allowance of \$3,578 in 2021)	175,580
Prepaid Expenses	42,765
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,184,191</b>
<b>Other Assets:</b>	
Cash and investments held in endowment and designated funds	1,881,577
Fixed assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	2,208,138
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>4,089,715</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>6,273,906</b>

# Donor Honor Roll

Many thanks to all our supporters who made a generous donation to AFG from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2021.

## \$25,000+

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Elaine Stern Foundation  
Ford Motor Company Fund  
Jamie and Denise Jacob Family Support Foundation  
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Neal Zalenko

Several years ago, Donald and Christine Dieck saw a news article that made them aware of the unique mission of Alternatives For Girls. They began supporting the organization and have become more involved over time, impressed by the profound transformation of young people after completing the programs.

Dr. Christine Dieck, with 35 years of experience as a school psychologist, believes that "if you help someone at the right moment, that makes a huge difference in their lives. Alternatives For Girls targets young women at the optimal time."

Donald Dieck says, "In some organizations, too much of the money goes to overhead. Alternatives For Girls puts the money where it belongs. With a little money, we can change entire lives."



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Melissa Peregord  
Jen Pifer  
Sally Pinchock  
Pledgeling Foundation  
Glenda Price  
Public Service Credit Union  
Kim Pummill  
Kathleen Ralston  
David Ramsay  
Kristen Renner  
Denise Rieckhoff  
Jessica Rimer  
Joan Ritter  
Nina Robb  
Tarik Rodgers  
Brenda and Howard Rosenberg  
Randall Ross  
Richard Rudy  
Anne Rueter  
Juliet M. Sabit  
Kate Safford  
Harriet and Alvin Saperstein  
Gregory Scheessele  
Erin Schlemmer  
Jilanne and Michael Scholtz  
Heather Schuette  
Sarah Seger  
Annie Selak  
Gary and Cathy Semer  
Robert Sfire  
James D. Shanahan  
Jeffrey Shay  
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest  
Community  
Ann Smith  
St. Fabian Catholic Church  
St. Joseph's Church  
Yvonne J. Stacherski  
Susan Steigerwalt  
Jenny Stirling  
Jason and Sharon Stoner  
Julienne F. Strayer  
Gregory Sykes  
Katti Talaski  
Jessica Teal

The League at Novi Park  
Michael and Karen Thomas  
G. W. and Caroline Trapp  
Maryann Underhill  
Helen Velas  
Nader and Rana Warra  
Teresa Whalen Lefevre  
Helene White  
Devin Williams  
Curtis Wilson  
Madeline Wilson  
Sheryl Wissman  
Carol Woggon  
Nancy and Wesley Yee  
Lisa Zajac  
Zieben-Mare LLC

"I first became aware of the work AFG was doing as it was about to take a momentous step and build—constructing the building it occupies now. I was impressed by the optimism and excitement of the girls, most of whom were starting at a difficult place, and I have been lucky enough to be a part of that journey for one particular girl.

Due to problems at home, she was living at the shelter while finishing her senior year in high school. She was a good student and entered Wayne State University, which was more challenging than she expected. It was hard!

AFG helped her with an apartment, but she was working and struggling to keep up with her classes. Her capacity for work and her determination continue to amaze me as she juggles a job, a marriage, twins, and now, graduate school. AFG gave her the information she needed to give and receive support from her extended family without compromising her personal goals and taught her how to make a budget and stick to it. We've been together on a long journey, and she continues to inspire me."

—Ann Nicholson  
AFG Board of Directors