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# THE ACTION CENTER'S FY21 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2020  
through  
June 30, 2021

*Strengthening our Community*

## A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we look in the rear view mirror at the hurdles of 2021 and the response of the Action Center's front line team, the story is quite dramatic. As COVID continued to challenge our country, our community our neighbors with economic uncertainty and fear for our own and our loved one's health and wellbeing, The Action Center found ourselves standing strong, working to be a pillar of consistency and support.

Who could have guessed that as we were closing out 2021 COVID would continue to require that The Action Center distribute food through a drive-thru/walk-up distribution. That our staff would be working hard to connect personally with our community through the window of a car, over the phone, and online. Providing unprecedented amounts of food, clothing, rent and utility assistance and emergency financial support, and connections to critical resources that would help to

stabilize thousands and thousands of families in our community.

The continued economic fallout from the pandemic disproportionately impacted the most vulnerable in our communities. With increased cost of living in Denver Metro and the accompanying inflation, our community would continue to rely on us as a safety net.

In 2021 our participants would climb to record numbers yet again. With over 32,000 visits to our grocery, distributing close to 3,000,000 lbs. of food, and over \$2,200,000 of rent assistance, we have seen and responded to new individuals and families each week needing support. And, in the midst of these challenges The Action Center not only rose to the challenge but found ways to grow, shift and improve our responsiveness and accessibility to our community by strengthening, growing

and diversifying our team. We added four bilingual team members from the Latin/Hispanic community, we added an outreach manager to bring our services beyond our own walls, and we grew our housing support with a housing specialist.

I am proud of our team's strength, resilience and continued resolve to support our neighbors in need this year, and I am proud of the ways we have pushed ourselves to stretch and grow in the midst of the challenge. We could not have been there in strength for our neighbors, if you had not been there for us. We are so and grateful for kindness, unwavering support and generosity. Thank you!

*Paula Brice*



# A WORD FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT



*"I'm so proud of the work that our staff has done to support our community members in need. We couldn't do this without our community partners, donors, and volunteers. Thank you so much for your support of The Action Center. Your generosity is what makes all of this possible."*

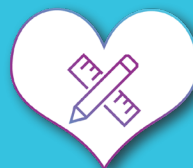
**LaDawn Sperling**  
Board President, FY21 & FY22

## FY21 HIGHLIGHTS



July 2020  
**Volunteers donate homemade blankets**

August 2020  
**State Senator Brittany Petterson and MTO Shahmaghsoudi Donate 100 Bags of Food and 250 Face Masks**



August 2020  
**School Supply Distribution**

3,842 Children received the school supplies they needed to start the school year right.



October 2020  
**Whole Foods donates a new refrigerated van to the Action Center**

December 2020  
**SCL Health donated \$30,000 to Rent Assistance Programs to help create healthier communities**



February 2021  
**The Clothing Bank reopens in a new location at 1565 Wadsworth Blvd**

March 2021  
**Dan Marks, Director of IT & Facilities celebrates 15 years with the Action Center**



May 2021 - Celebrity Chef David Bondarchuk shares a recipe made from one of the Action Center's Grocery Boxes.



**SCAN HERE**  
to watch this demonstration!





## GROCERIES

2,953,354 Pounds of Food Provided



## RENT/MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

\$2,278,805 Provided

## UTILITY ASSISTANCE

\$258,649 Provided



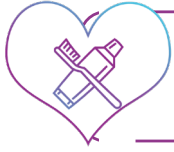
## PERMANENT ADDRESS & MAIL SERVICES

1,100+ participant utilize this service



## CLOTHING

107,836 Items Provided



## HYGIENE ITEMS

40,555 Items Provided

# OUR MISSION

The Action Center's mission is to provide an immediate and compassionate response to those in our community experiencing hardship and by offering the resources and services needed to stabilize lives and promote pathways to lasting change.

# OUR VISION

Our Vision is that one day, all individuals and families in our community will have access to the resources, jobs and housing that they need to fulfill their greatest potential.

# OUR CORE VALUES



## November 2020 Thanksgiving Distribution

5,175 warm meals were created because of the groceries the Action Center provided households.

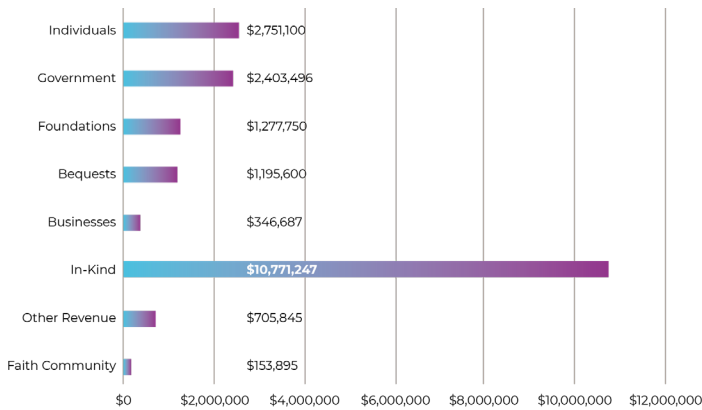


## December 2020 Holiday Gift Shop & Adopt-a-Family

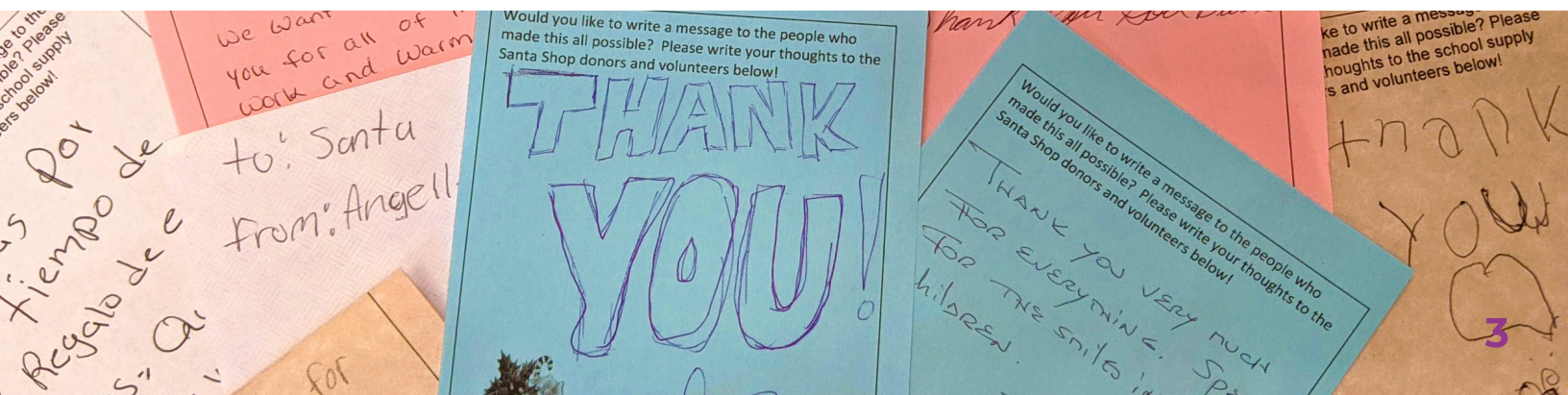
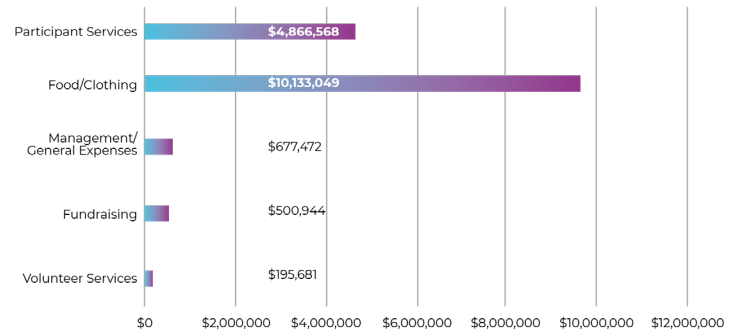
2,992 children received gifts making the holidays magical in 1,055 homes.

# ACTION CENTER FINANCIALS

## FY21 REVENUE



## FY21 EXPENSES



September 2021 -  
 Volunteers collect  
 donations at  
 Lakewood's annual  
 clean up day at Rooney  
 Road.



## MEET COURTNEY

"I just wanted to reach out and thank you and the team at Action Center! This year has been, hands down, the most upside down year of mine, and my families life. Between losing our jobs, moving across states early in the pandemic, trying to find housing with no proof of income, and many other hurdles along the way, we have always found a way to keep our heads above the water. I've always considered us a successful and incredibly motivated family. My husband was Vice President of sales for a golf club manufacturer in southern CA and I was a previous Law Enforcement Park Ranger with a bachelors in Parks and Resource Management, but, despite all of the government "kick backs" we still struggled to stay ahead of the game. Our 3 children are our world and the older 2 just started school this year at Slater Elementary, which is where I learned about your services. We've never turned to help from others or even community support, but when we were approached in such a welcoming and friendly manner from the folks working for the Action Center, it was very humbling, comforting, and offered a bit of financial relief. The staff is always so non-judgmental! I've never pictured myself accepting help like this. I just wanted to thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for all of the help, support, and information you have provided. It's clear that you can't place a "look" on those who are struggling in life. I'm confident in our will to survive, and I know we will make it through this, but your team/organization is helping us through! I don't know if you hear it enough, but thank you for the help and the resources you have provided to me and my family! We are forever grateful, humbled, and thankful."



## VOLUNTEER POWERED

Since 1968 the Action Center has relied on the generosity of thousands of conscientious volunteers who dedicate their time and livelihoods to the Action Center.



**32,277** hours dedicated  
in FY 21

**966** volunteers

**66+** volunteer roles  
offered

## FY21 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LaDawn Sperling | President

Barbara Goodman | Vice President

Dave Norwood | Treasurer

Diana Wilson | Secretary

Cindy Baroway | Past President

Jon Alesch

Michael Kosakowski

Martin Eckert III

Denver Maw

Michelle Foley

Lorie Rubio

Dr. Lisa Fowler

Sharon Trefny

Scott Gilbert

Joel Varnell

Robyn Korkus

## STAFF LEADERSHIP

Pam Brier  
Executive Director

Carolyn Alexander  
Senior Director of Business Operations

John Covert  
Director of Development

Marilyn Katopodes  
Director of Finance

Dan Marks  
Director of IT & Facilities

Laurie Walowitz  
Director of Programs