



TOGETHER  
WE MAKE IT  
POSSIBLE...



A STEP AHEAD  
— CHATTANOOGA —







# Letter from Our Board President

## DEAR FRIENDS OF A STEP AHEAD CHATTANOOGA,

Despite pandemic-related challenges, 2020 was a notable year for A Step Ahead Chattanooga (ASAC). During a year when many individuals and families faced significant hardships, we were able to continue providing the information and services that ASAC has come to be known for.

As part of our strategy for providing information and access, we developed new solutions by connecting women with short-term birth control resources, began offering stand-alone removal of IUDs and implants, provided educational opportunities through Zoom, YouTube and social media, and began mailing out condom packages to individuals by request. We also opened our doors to women residing in North Georgia and North Alabama, expanding our service area to 18 counties!

Since the beginning of 2020, we have tripled our full-time staff, received national recognition as the recipient of the Clarence B. Jones Impact Award, added a comprehensive sexual health education curriculum for youth to our program offerings, and completed a federally funded educational research project. Most importantly, we have helped fill a crucial healthcare gap in our community by providing birth control services when other area providers were directing their resources elsewhere.

The need for our services remains great, especially with more women deciding to delay pregnancy or have fewer children because of the pandemic. Your contributions last year have made it possible to continue our mission to remove barriers to contraception through education, outreach, and access to free birth control. As we continue to evolve and grow, we hope you will continue to grow with us.

“  
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”

Many of you are aware that our Executive Director, Susan Vandergriff is leaving ASAC this year to pursue an exciting new entrepreneurial venture. Susan joined ASAC in 2015 and served in nearly every role within the organization before taking over as Executive Director in 2019. In 2020, Susan guided the board through an extensive strategic planning process, leaving us with a well-defined vision and goals, and solid partnerships needed to pursue them. Thanks to her leadership, ASAC is stronger than ever and well-prepared for our next chapter. We wish Susan the best in her future endeavors and look forward to introducing a new Executive Director to the community once the search process is finalized.

Sincerely,



**Stephanie Hays** | 2021 Board President



# A STEP AHEAD

— CHATTANOOGA —

## **VISION, MISSION & VALUES**

In 2020, our board of directors went through a rigorous strategic planning process, allowing us to define goals and strategies for continued growth over the next five years. We are excited to present the updated Vision, Mission, and Values statements which will continue to guide our work.

### **VISION**

A Step Ahead Chattanooga envisions a world where women become pregnant on their terms, enabling them, their families, and communities to thrive.

### **MISSION**

Our mission is to remove barriers to contraception through education, outreach, and access to free birth control.

### **VALUES**

- › Everyone has a right to knowledge about how their bodies work.
- › When individuals have access to accurate information and access to contraception, they are better equipped to make decisions right for them and their families.
- › Health services should be provided free of judgment in a caring, respectful and safe manner.
- › Every individual should be able to select the birth control method that is best for them.

## CLIENT DATA

Despite the challenges of 2020, we were able to continue providing services thanks to our dedicated supporters. Here is a snapshot of the individuals you helped last year.



# 929

individuals connected with free birth control in 2020



# 49%

of our clients in 2020 reported having at least one unplanned pregnancy before coming to us



# 74.85%

of 2020 clients reported household incomes below 250% of the federal poverty level

**INDIVIDUAL:** \$31,900/year

**FAMILY OF 3:** \$54,300/year

# 94.4%

increase in the number of calls to our appointment line that were referred by area medical providers in 2020



# 7

counties added in Northwest Georgia and Northeast Alabama in 2020



ONE OF OUR GOALS IS TO FILL THE GAPS LEFT BY TENNESSEE'S  
ABSTINENCE-ONLY SEX EDUCATION POLICY.

**Through comprehensive sex education, we aim to empower youth with the knowledge they need and ability to make healthy choices about their bodies, health, and relationships.**

**125 youths**

aged 13-18 were educated in the summer of 2020 with  
the *Power Through Choices* sex education curriculum.

*Power Through Choices* is an evidence-based, trauma-informed, LGBTQ-inclusive, comprehensive sex education curriculum that covers the following topics: reproductive biology, birth control options, sexually transmitted infections, communication styles and empowerment through making positive choices.

**After the success of this program in 2020, we are excited to continue offering the course in 2021.**

**IN 2020 WE WERE HONORED TO ACCEPT  
THE CLARENCE B. JONES IMPACT AWARD.**

The award from The Communications Network, sponsored by Heinz Endowments, showcases and honors the best of what communications in the non-profit social sector looks like so that others may learn from it, recreate it, and invest more deeply in the transformative power of communications for good.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Clarence B. Jones, a hero of the Civil Rights Movement who helped draft Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, and a paragon of what communications for good can accomplish. More than 1,200 individuals attended the keynote presentation virtually from all over the world! Members of the Communications Network include leaders from organizations such as the Ford Foundation, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Doctors Without Borders, Atlantic57, WK Kellogg Foundation, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Walton Family Foundation, and many more. We are beyond grateful for this opportunity to highlight our organization's mission to remove barriers to contraception through education, outreach, and access to free birth control.



# CLARENCE B. JONES IMPACT AWARD

FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

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