



ANSWER
Scholarship
Sending moms to college

Annual Report 2019-2020



OUR MISSION

To help women raising school-age children fulfill their dream of earning a college degree, while creating the desire, expectation and priority of a college education for their children to follow in their footsteps.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Nyakio Berry was fired at Christmas from her job at a catering company. That's just one of the obstacles the Charlotte mom has faced and overcome.

At 15, she gave birth to her first child. It took 11 more years to earn a high school diploma.

When she lost a job during the holidays three years ago, her confidence was shaken. But the mother of three was also part of our program. She sought support from her ANSWER mentor, staff, and other moms. ANSWER, she says, "took my feelings of fear and turned them into feelings of hope" for a career in human services.

In 2020, Nyakio Berry graduated from Gardner Webb University with a double major in human services and criminal justice. Her studies at the university's Charlotte campus have given her new tools for fulfilling her purpose to help others.

Berry's story illustrates what FY 2020 has been all about for ANSWER Scholarship. The strength of the women we serve carries them forward even through COVID-19.

The virus delivered a blow at first. Three of our fundraisers had to be cancelled, which reduced our available scholarship money. Even so, we were happy to welcome 19 scholars to the class of 2020-21. Our strong ties with other community agencies proved especially valuable this year. Some scholars reached out to us and our community partners during the pandemic for assistance with rent, food, childcare costs, and other immediate needs. Job loss and reduction of hours at work were key reasons why. ANSWER provided emergency educational grants to assist with tuition and books.

In May, we celebrated eight scholars who graduated from UNC Charlotte, Winthrop, Queens, and other local universities. Our Mentors For Mom and Professional Development programs, under the leadership of Mentors For Mom Program Director Martha Honeycutt, inspired moms to stay on track towards graduation and gain networking and other skills to land desirable jobs.

ANSWER donors and volunteers have stepped up to the challenge even during this unprecedented time. Your donations have helped make upward mobility possible for moms in our community. For the 2021-22 academic year, we are committed to offering college scholarships, mentoring and professional development training to 25 mothers in our region.

I'm so grateful for your support. Thank you for investing in the remarkable mothers who are ANSWER Scholarship.



SUSAN ANDERSEN

Founder and Executive Director
ANSWER Scholarship, Inc.



THEY'RE MAKING IT HAPPEN

ANSWER Scholarship unites women in Mecklenburg and the surrounding counties and provides them with resources such as tuition, mentorship, professional development, and networking opportunities. Lack of these resources creates barriers that often prevent non-traditional students from graduating and finding employment.



"With each assignment, each grade, each completed semester, I became more confident in my own abilities. I am finally proud of myself and can see my worth."

-Laurel Helms, Belmont Abbey College



"Now I realize my most important career is obtaining an education. The moment I stepped on campus to attend my first class, I saw a new world, an unveiling. Just standing there surrounded by possibilities was winning."

-Kaye Lee-Harrison, Johnson C. Smith University



"Education is more than a means to a well-paying job. It's an opportunity to develop your natural talents and fulfill your true purpose in life."

-Grace Grenga, Queens University

THEY MADE IT HAPPEN

2019 GRADUATE SUCCESS



Stacie Pompili-Towe earned a BSW in Social Work from Winthrop University and is currently pursuing a master's degree at Winthrop in the same field.

Janet Maslankowski earned a B.S. in Psychology and Human Services at Montreat College. Her employer is paying for her Master of Public Education degree at Winthrop University.



Jessica Minaya earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies with a minor in business management from Belmont Abbey College.



TAILGATE FOR TEAM PRIDE

ANSWER remains committed to ensuring its financial sustainability by continuing to expand fundraising and development efforts. In October 2019, ANSWER launched a new fundraiser called Tailgate for Team Pride.

This event was designed to bring together groups to compete in tailgate games, engage a wide audience, and establish a signature event which would grow each year.

The Tailgate for Team Pride was held at Olde Mecklenburg Brewery on October 12th with 191 tickets sold and 165 attendees.

The event raised \$25,000 and successfully reached the committee's fundraising goal. This was the largest event revenue for any event to date. Of particular importance is that \$10,000 of pre-event revenue came from business and community sponsors.

The Tailgate was a huge success, not only financially, but in terms of the exposure to many friends and families of volunteers and donors. Going forward, the Tailgate for Team Pride is expected to continue its growth and visibility and become a primary means of fundraising for ANSWER.





MENTORS FOR MOM

Mentors For Mom is ANSWER Scholarship's signature program and provides scholars with support and guidance on balancing work, life, and school from a woman who knows the challenge of going through school.

In the 2019-2020 school year, ANSWER had 19 mentors, almost triple the number of scholars in 2016.

In addition to being the 10th year of Mentors For Mom, the 2019-2020 school year was the first full year for Mentors For Mom Program Director Martha Honeycutt.

A mentor herself, Honeycutt recognized new and creative ways to improve the program such as establishing a Community Relations Committee in order to reach more potential scholars.

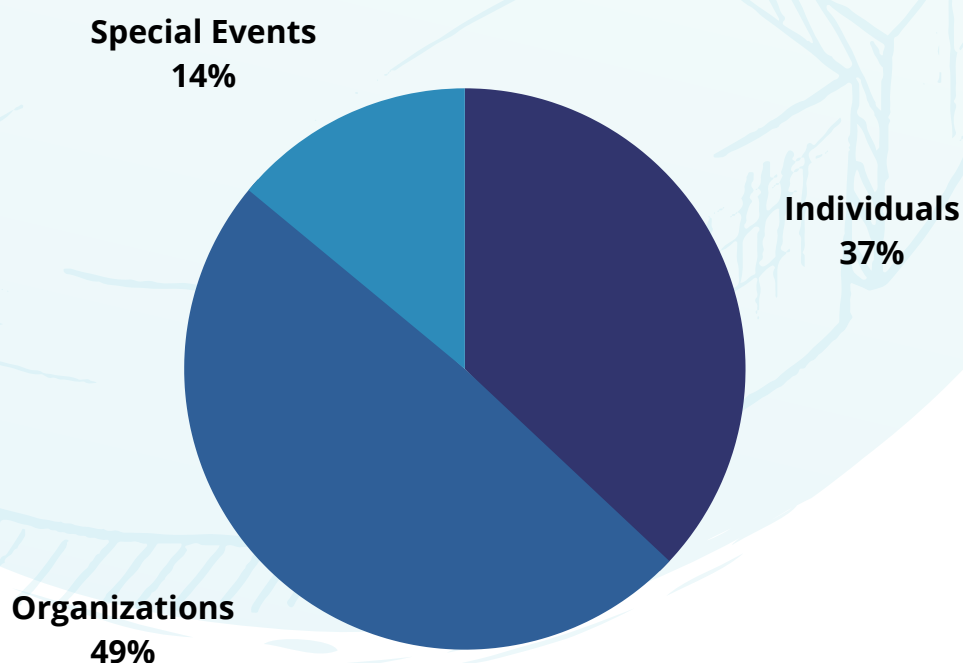
MENTORS FOR MOM PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Martha Honeycutt

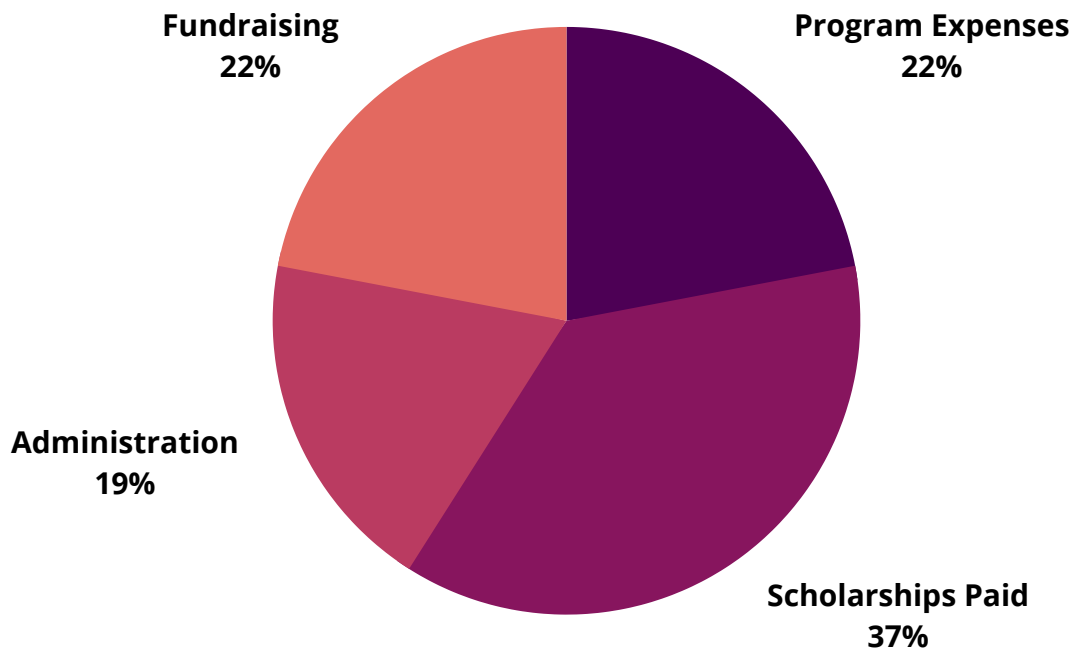


Financial Highlights

In FY2020, ANSWER Scholarship totaled \$200,137 in operating revenue and \$191,953 in operating expenses, as outlined in the charts below. Through generous giving of individuals, organizations and our own programming events, we awarded \$70,000 in scholarships last year. The average scholarship award was \$3,590.



REVENUE	FY 2020	2019 Short Year	2018	2017
Individuals	74,725	23,888	61,748	73,523
Organizations	98,251	56,695	89,430	92,580
Special Events	27,161	11,884	9,689	12,254
TOTAL	200,137	92,467	160,867	178,356



EXPENSE	FY 2020	2019 Short Year	2018	2017
Program Expenses	42,738	29,637	42,337	20,214
Scholarships Paid	70,000	79,031	66,986	54,500
Administration	36,541	15,232	21,848	25,896
Fundraising	42,675	11,768	19,846	16,142
TOTAL	191,953	135,669	151,017	116,752
Operating Net Income (Loss)	8,183	(43,202)*	9,850	61,605

OTHER INCOME/ EXPENSE	FY 2020	2019 Short Year	2018	2017
Investment Income/(Loss)	9,331	44,900	(27,280)	45,365
Investment Expense	12,470	8,802	13,174	12,682
Non-Operating Gains (Losses)	(3,139)	36,098	(40,454)	32,683
Change in Net Assets for the Year	5,044	7,104	30,604	94,287

*2019 was a short year and ran from January 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019. All 2020 scholarships were paid during the short year, causing an Operating "Net Loss."

ANSWER IN THE COMMUNITY

In 2019, ANSWER expanded its reach to the broader community by launching a speaker series called Community Innovations.

The purpose of this bi-annual event is to encourage dialogue about key topics affecting women, families, and economic mobility in our community.

In partnership with TIAA, the Community Innovations event in September 2019 focused on the intersection between parenthood and career advancement.



Susan Andersen (right) was recognized by two local media outlets for her community leadership and contributions to the Charlotte region. The Charlotte Ledger awarded Susan its **40 Over 40 Award** and the Mecklenburg Times named her one of the area's **50 Most Influential Women**.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

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The Book Rack
The Charlotte Woman's Club
The Davidson Center for Learning
The Leon Levine Foundation
The Peninsula Community Foundation
TIAA
TMCC, Inc.
Truliant Federal Credit Union
UNCC
Unmediated
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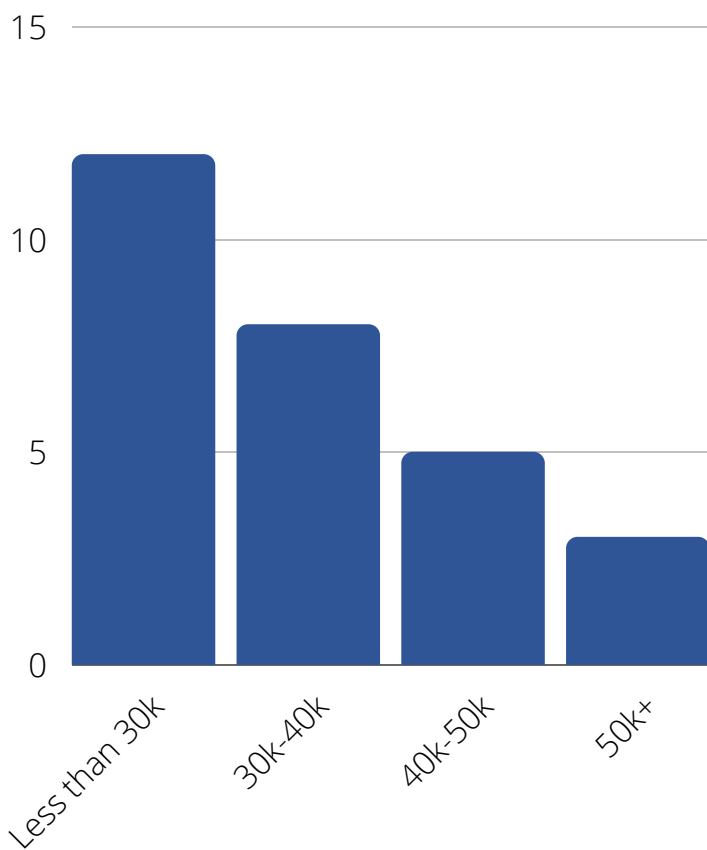
ANSWER'S ALUMNAE

Every year, ANSWER Scholarship sends a survey out to all alumnae. This year the survey had a 57% response rate, up by 26% from the previous year. Of those alumnae who responded, 70% reported that they were working in their chosen career field, 77% reported that their job required a degree, and 77% reported good or excellent job satisfaction.

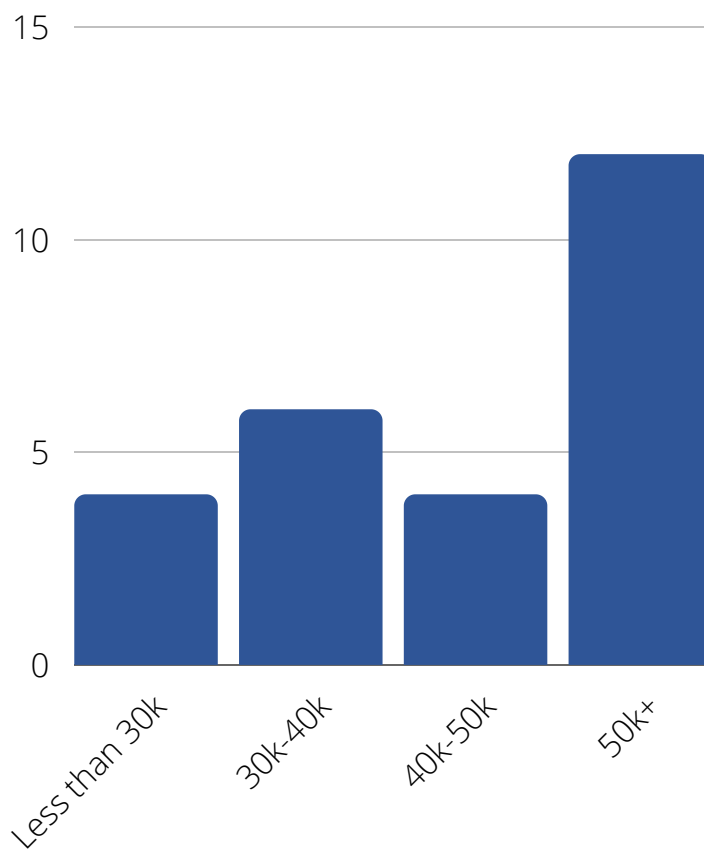
39% of alumnae are either currently enrolled or have obtained a master's degree, PhD., law degree, medical degree, or professional certification

32% average salary increase was reported by alumnae after graduation

Alumnae Salary Upon Graduation



Current Alumnae Salary*



*This data includes those currently pursuing graduate and professional degrees as well as those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

FACTS & FIGURES

75%



of scholars reported that their children have exhibited better behavior since they returned to college

67%



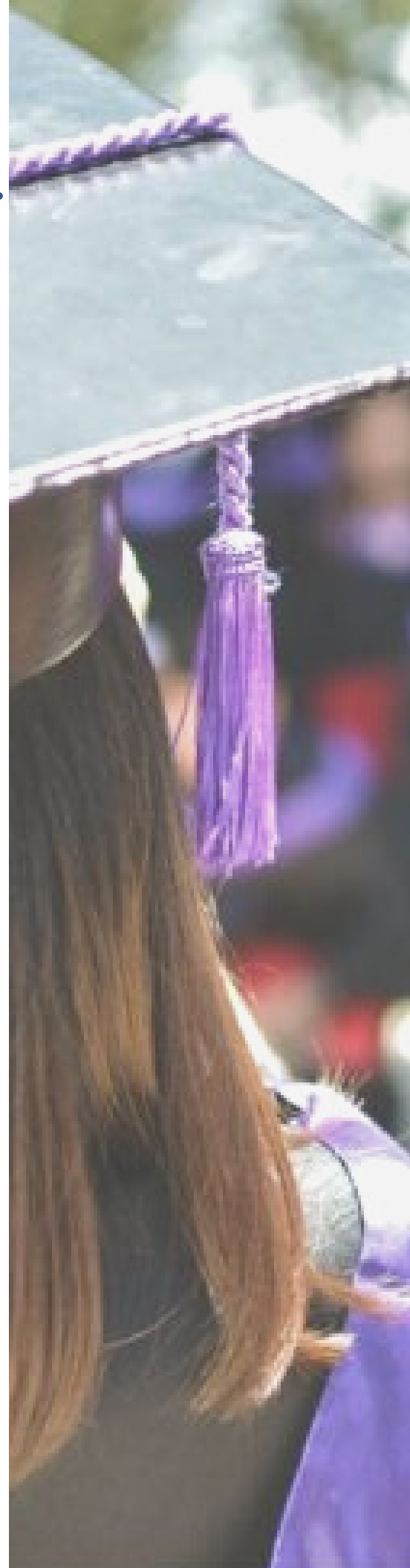
of scholars reported that their children have gotten better grades since they returned to college

89%



graduation rate for scholars in the 2019-2020 school year

Since 2006, **88 mothers** have been served and **\$467k in scholarships** has been awarded.





KEEP IN TOUCH

Make checks payable to
ANSWER Scholarship Inc
6420 Rea Road Suite 112
Charlotte NC 28277

DONATE



Founder and Executive Director
Susan Andersen

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