



# 2020-2021 Impact Report

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## Our Mission

To mentor and prepare mothers of school-age children to achieve a college education and inspire them to be role models of academic, personal, and professional success for their children.

## Our Vision

To create a brighter future for moms and their children.



# A message from our Executive Director

ANSWER scholars are the most motivated women I've ever met. In this fiscal year they were an unstoppable force, balancing parenthood, work, university-level academics, and all the effects of COVID-19.

Here's the proof. ***For the first time in our history, 100% of our college seniors graduated. Of our 12 graduating moms, 10 graduated with honors.***

Think about that. Some of our scholars faced illness in themselves or loved ones. All had children at home for virtual school. Each mom showed incredible fortitude and perseverance.

I'm thinking of mothers like Blanca Nowlan, who earned a bachelor's degree from Johnson C. Smith University, studying entirely in English, her second language.

Or Maighia Vang, who will use her undergraduate degree from Queens University to empower those affected by trauma and adversity. She is now pursuing a master's degree in social work.

Or Laurel Helms, who says her achievements at Belmont Abbey College and in ANSWER's program gave her confidence she once lacked.

To be sure, COVID-19 continued to create challenges. ANSWER provided emergency grants to seven scholars to cover books, computer needs, and fees for school. The number of emergency needs was unprecedented.

COVID-19 also influenced the number of applications to our program for the 2021-22 academic year. The stresses that some potential applicants and their families are facing during the pandemic made some moms postpone their hopes for a college education.

While the number of applications was down, the applicant pool was our best ever in qualifications and ambition. We expect great accomplishments from the 18 women in ANSWER this year, representing universities from Winthrop to Carolinas College of Health Sciences. We hope to offer even more scholarships next year if the pandemic is under control.

As always, our Mentors For Mom program supported and cheered on women to graduation day. ***Scholars have told us that our mentoring and professional development training, under the leadership of Martha Honeycutt, are just as important as the scholarships towards tuition.*** More than 60 volunteers make these programs a success.

We're so grateful to them and to you. In a time of uncertainty, your donations help make upward mobility possible for moms in our community.



Susan Andersen  
Founder and Executive Director



# Mentors For Mom The "Secret Sauce"

## Our scholars and a year like no other

## ANSWER and our community

Our graduates say the program has been essential to their success. Through one-on-one mentoring and monthly workshops, scholars gain support and guidance on balancing family, work and school. These workshops allow our scholars to share experiences and learn important life skills from experts.

Even in a year when COVID-19 dominated the headlines, ANSWER and its innovative Mentors For Mom program attracted plenty of media attention: [WBTV](#), [Spectrum News](#), [Charlotte Five](#), and the [ManListening podcast](#) are among the media outlets that interviewed ANSWER's leaders and reported on how our organization was rising to the challenge during the pandemic.

Learn more on our Mentors For Mom program:  
[Mentors For Mom](#) | [ANSWER Scholarship](#)

Not even COVID-19 stopped these moms. The students braved so many disruptions and still they persisted. In this year's class we had scholars earning degrees from nursing to mathematics, degrees as diverse as the women themselves. These women are true examples of determination and grit. ANSWER is proud to be part of their journey.

ANSWER builds and fosters relationships in our communities. Our scholars have attended 13 colleges across 11 counties. Last year alone our scholars attended Queens, Johnson C. Smith, Belmont Abbey, York Technical, Gardner Webb, Carolinas College of Health Science and UNC Charlotte.

Over the last 12 months we have added additional community partners, including Dress for Success-Charlotte, Moms and Munchkins-Lincolnton, Next Level Church Auto Repair and Moms Moving Forward. These partners provide support and services to our scholars and help ANSWER identify possible scholarship recipients. These relationships are key and critical to our continued community outreach.

In 2021 ANSWER continued Community Innovations, a bi-annual speaker series focusing on topics relevant to women.

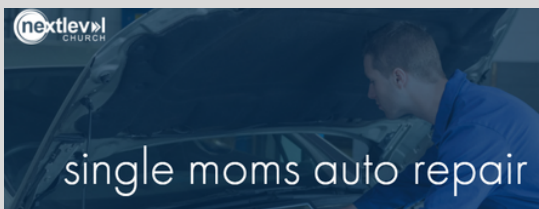


Photos taken prior to COVID-19 shutdown



19 SCHOLARS STARTED AND COMPLETED THE YEAR

12 GRADUATED, 10 WITH HONORS





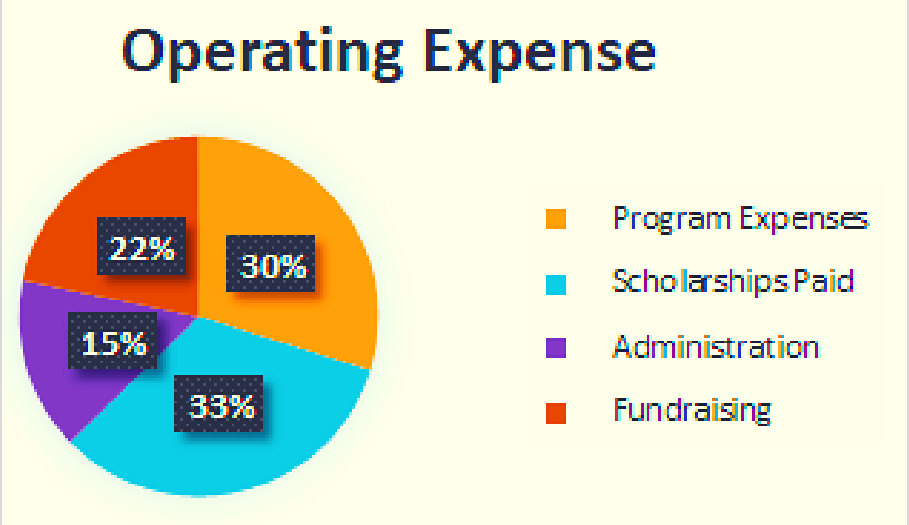
# Our Supporters

We want to take a moment to thank all who supported us this year. Even in the midst of a pandemic you stepped up and gave of your time, your money and your passion. Our organization would not be as successful without this support, from our volunteers to our donors to the grant support we have received. You make ANSWER what we are and for that we are incredibly grateful.

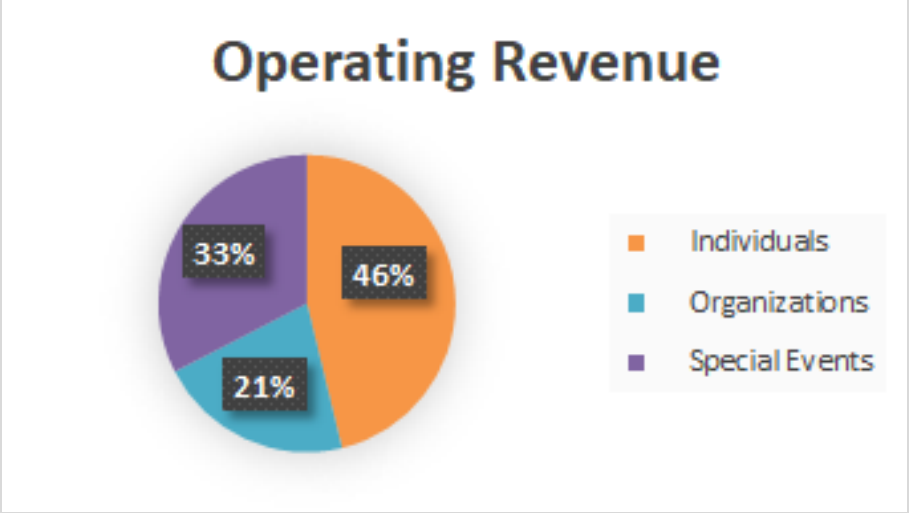
*The Leon Levine Foundation “focuses on highly effective leadership, a track record of impact, and financial sustainability. ANSWER has done a fantastic job in each of those areas. We’ve been lucky to see the growth of ANSWER from the very beginning and have been proud to be on that path with such a great partner.” Tom Lawrence, President, The Leon Levine Foundation*

Check out more on this remarkable group: [Donors and Supporters](#)

# Financials



**\$70,250 in scholarships to 19 moms in 2020**



**Since 2006, \$467,302 awarded via 155 scholarships to 88 moms**

For full information on 2020-2021 Financials:

[Financials](#) | [ANSWER Scholarship](#)

For More information on ANSWER Scholarship or to Donate: visit us [www.answerscholarship.org](http://www.answerscholarship.org)

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