

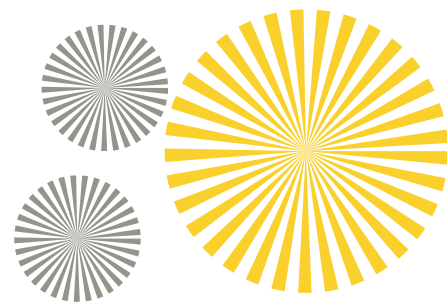
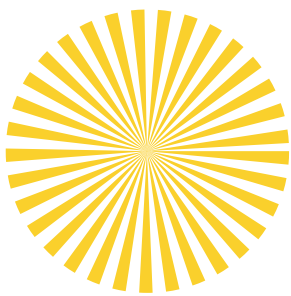


ANSWER™
Scholarship

IMPACT REPORT

2023-2024





Our Vision and Mission

Vision

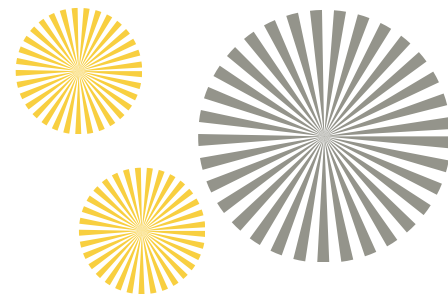
To create a brighter future for moms and their children.

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.



A Message From Our Executive Director



ANSWER scholar Porsha Sims was 17 when she gave birth to her eldest son, Christian. She had dropped out of school but vowed to herself, “I’ve got to do better, for him.”

In May 2024, Sims graduated from Johnson C. Smith University with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and management. Christian graduated from East Carolina University the same month. “I think it’s amazing,” Christian told WSOC-TV. “She showed me that if you work hard, if you want it, you can go get it.” Their story was a hit on Facebook, with more than 9,000 shares, likes and comments.

When a strong, tenacious mother trusts herself enough to return to school with financial support from ANSWER Scholarship, magic happens. Ten ANSWER mothers achieved their goal of a college education in 2023-24. They graduated from UNC Charlotte, Queens University of Charlotte, Central Piedmont Community College and other institutions.

Each ANSWER scholar receives a volunteer mentor through our Mentors For Mom program, led by Martha Honeycutt. It’s one reason why we achieved a 91% graduation rate this year. In a 2023-24 scholar survey, 100% of respondents said their relationship with their mentor met or exceeded their expectations. “My mentor is truly supportive in words and actions,” one wrote.

Our scholars take part in professional development workshops, this year focused on trust. We lived the theme by building deeper relationships with other nonprofits, including Dress for Success, HOPEMatch, and Crisis Assistance Ministry. They extend ANSWER’s resources to improve our scholars’ quality of life. We were also thrilled to increase our volunteer pool, including from Bank of America’s LEAD employee network.

The benefits of ANSWER are clear in the next generation. About 66% of our survey respondents said their children have shown better behavior since Mom started or returned to school; 75% reported their children are getting better grades. We have always believed when you educate a mom, you educate her children.

Thank you for trusting ANSWER with this important work.

Susan Andersen
Executive Director

Our Scholars & Alumnae



ANSWER Scholarship provided \$85,300 to 24 scholars in our 2023-2024 program year.

We had a 91% graduation rate with ten moms graduating in 2023-2024. These scholars attended seven different colleges across the greater Charlotte area and received degrees in business, computer science/engineering, biology, nursing, human services, and English.

Our latest alumna survey shows:

- 97% are currently employed
- 88% of the jobs require a college degree
- 91% say their position is in their field of study
- 84% are satisfied/very satisfied with their position
- 66% are making above \$50,000 a year with 10% earning over \$100,000 annually
- 80% say that their schooling has positively influenced their children

When we asked our alumnae about their children, the positive statements reassured us that the program works!

"My child is now in middle school, and we have fruitful conversations about the lifestyle changes we have experienced since receiving my degree. We can communicate why his efforts and energy matter as far as his education goes."

"Both children have a love for learning, excel in school, and have high aspirations for themselves. My oldest has applied to NCSSM (North Carolina School for Science and Math) and, even as a sophomore, spends a lot of time thinking about and discussing college and degree options."

"My experience with ANSWER has influenced all my children to seek more in their education and they are setting various goals for themselves. They are more enlightened as well as open-minded to exploring new opportunities."

Our Expansion



This year ANSWER Scholarship expanded into Cleveland County, giving us 12 counties in the greater Charlotte area. In addition, we have partnered with five new colleges – Cleveland Community College, Gardner-Webb University, Catawba College, Appalachian State University – Hickory, and Cabarrus College of Health Sciences.

Our partnership with Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) continues to grow. We have expanded our curriculum choices at CPCC from two departments (IT and Healthcare) to also include:

- Business & Accounting,
- Construction & Trades
- Design & Architecture
- Engineering
- Healthcare
- Mathematics & Science



Our Mentors For Mom Program



ANSWER's Mentors For Mom program continues to thrive. Our theme for this scholar year was trust. Trust yourself, trust each other, trust your school and trust the process. Workshop topics included "we are in this together" and emotional regulation.

During our giveback workshop, scholars put together needed supplies and kits for Beds for Kids, HOPEMatch, and Angels and Sparrows Community Kitchen. Our scholars say this activity is a favorite as it gives them a chance to assist other nonprofits.

Mentors For Mom Director Martha Honeycutt believes the Mentors For Mom program "is essential to the success of our moms. Dedicated mentors, professional and personal development workshops and the strong relationships with our community partners are the reason our moms can confidently walk onto the stage to receive their diplomas."

Our Community

As our scholar and college reach and scope has grown, we have worked to partner with other nonprofits in these areas. ANSWER now has 54 partnerships across Mecklenburg and surrounding counties.

This year, we welcomed new partners, including Crisis Assistance Ministry Gastonia, Crisis Assistance Ministry Kings Mountain, HOPE of Rock Hill and the North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program.

These partnerships offer increased safety nets to our scholar moms which allow them to focus on their education. We are thankful for the support and abilities of these organizations.

Our Volunteers



All nonprofits rely on the passion, creativity and skill of volunteers and ANSWER is no different. Each year more than 60 volunteers give of themselves and their time, from our all-volunteer board to our mentors and committee members. Our volunteers are the secret ingredient that brings our efforts to life. Using data that puts a dollar amount on volunteer hours, we estimate more than 200 hours of volunteer time last year equated to over \$80,000 donated to ANSWER in time spent. We are grateful for all who gave of themselves.



Teri Kubbs with daughter-in-law Mandy

All of our volunteers are special but on occasion one stands out. Teri Kubbs personifies that uber volunteer who gives with such joy. Teri is a triple threat. She serves on our board. She is an ANSWER mentor. And she is our university liaison, putting endless miles on her vehicle as she visits college officials to share the opportunities that ANSWER provides. We are truly thankful for her.

We also want to thank Joanne Zukowski. Joanne was a volunteer for more than seven years, spending much of that time leading our professional development committee. For three of those years, Joanne drove more than 100 miles one way from her home in Hendersonville, N.C., for ANSWER meetings and events. This was Joanne's last year with us, but we are forever grateful for her commitment to ANSWER.



Our Events and Supporters



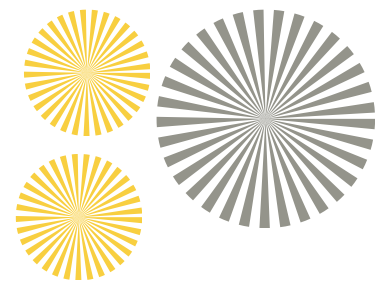
Our supporters and donors helped us do it again this year. Our two fundraisers, Fall Festival and Pancake Breakfast, raised over \$69,000.

This money supports our programs and scholar moms by providing the Mentors For Mom workshops, emergency education grants and more.

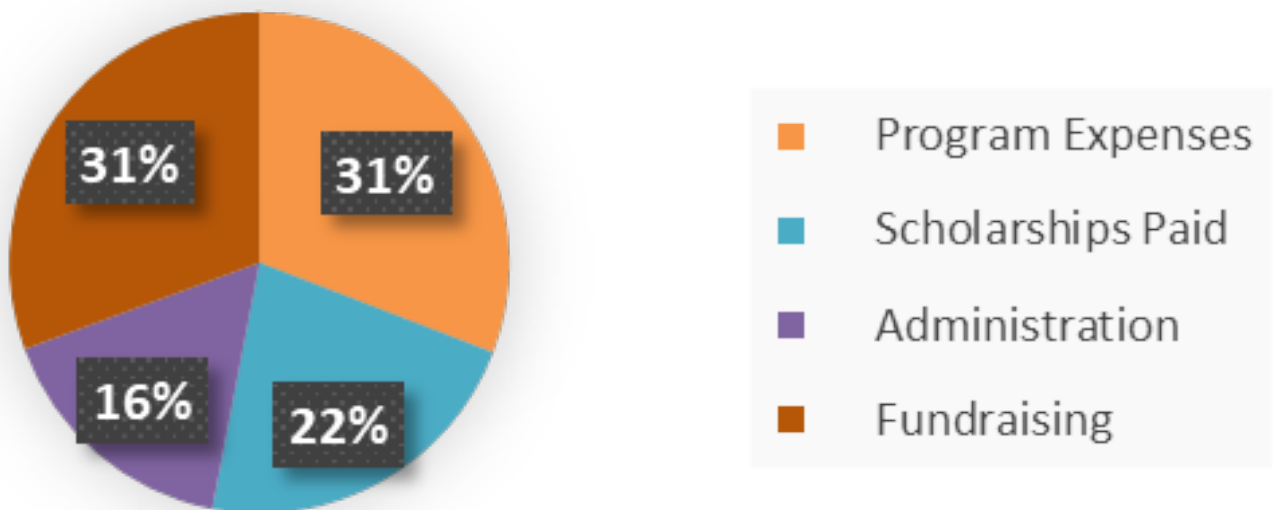
ANSWER has an incredible base of support from generous people and organizations. People like Keith and Lu Ann Driscoll, who have sponsored many of our fundraisers through their company, Atlantic Forklift Services. Jeff and Susan Purser support ANSWER each year in ways they understand will help our scholars. Metrolina Greenhouse, Ally and iSolved contributed to the success of our events and fundraising this year. Community organizations like North Mecklenburg Woman's Club and Peninsula Community Foundation gave to ANSWER this year. It is companies, organizations and people like this who truly understand that when you educate a mom you educate her children.

Your confidence in us and your generosity allows ANSWER to continue to strengthen our mothers, their families and our communities.

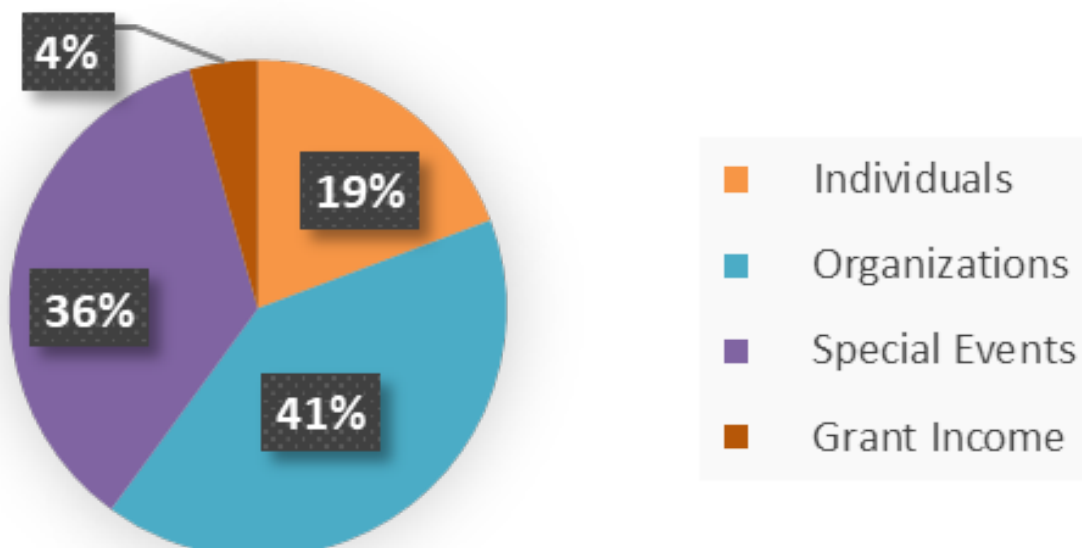




Operating Expense



Operating Revenue



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