



Annual Report FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

139 RENAISSANCE PKWY NE, ATLANTA, GA 30308
404-874-2224 // ASCENSAHEALTH.ORG



A Letter from our CEO



Dear Friends,

This letter is a tribute to our staff.

This year was met with unexpected challenges as we continued to navigate through the pandemic. As an agency we persevered, adapted and successfully managed the unknown. This took all of us working together to care for the health and safety of our clients and staff. I am incredibly grateful to our staff whose commitment to the clients we serve never wavered.

Because of our staff's dedication to our mission and the increased support from the community and our funding partners we accomplished the following:

- We received a 3-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)
- Newsweek Magazine named Ascensa Health's Men's Program as one of America's Best Addiction Treatment Centers
- We held our first 5K Virtual Walk - Race for Recovery
- Ascensa Health was featured in Treatment Magazine
- We received the Partner Award from Federal Probation for our collaborative Outpatient Treatment Program
- John Dryman, Board Chair, received the Community Leadership Award featured in the Atlanta Business Chronicle

*"If you want to see the sunshine,
you have to weather the storm."*

---Frank Lane, American Executive in
Professional Baseball

Throughout the years we've weathered many changes and challenges, and this last year was no exception. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has led to a surge in addiction and mental health needs across the nation. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that there were an estimated 93,331 drug overdose deaths in the US in 2020. As we weathered the storm, we stayed true to our mission and did what we do best: offering help and hope to anyone seeking treatment for addiction and co-occurring mental health disorders... Recover. Rebuild. Restore.

To our staff, many thanks for your hard work and congratulations on a job well done. Having a hard working and reliable staff is a cornerstone to any business, and this organization is fortunate to have some of the best employees.

To our Board of Directors, thank you for your guidance, commitment and steadfast support. And to the Metro Atlanta community, thank you for nearly 60 years of support.

With gratitude,

Suzanne Shaffer
President & CEO



About Us

OUR MISSION

Ascensa Health provides a behavioral health system of care that sustains recovery and returns individuals to their communities and families.

WHAT WE DO

Ascensa Health's services are based on the belief that addiction is a disease and that treatment must focus on the whole person. The agency uses an evidence based approach that addresses substance abuse as well as mental, behavioral, and physical health.

WHO WE SERVE

Ascensa Health is open to anyone seeking treatment for addiction and co-occurring mental health disorders. Clients of Ascensa Health are low-income men and women, veterans and families with children. Many are experiencing homelessness, do not have health insurance, and cannot afford treatment.



Our History

For 59 years, Ascensa Health at St. Jude's Recovery Center has provided treatment for the disease of addiction and co-occurring mental health disorders, helping individuals and families rebuild their lives to become healthy, self-sufficient, and productive. In 2020, the agency began doing business as Ascensa Health. Ascensa Health was founded in 1962 as a halfway house in Atlanta to address the rising problem of chronic alcoholic court offenders in the community. Today, Ascensa Health is an accredited and licensed treatment center that is steadfastly committed to adhering to the highest standards of service delivery.

Financial Highlights

Ascensa Health owns and operates eight facilities in Metro Atlanta, and consistently operates with a balanced budget and is debt free.



Our Programs and Services

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

- Medically monitored, Sub-acute, Residential Detoxification
- Men's Residential Program
- Women's Residential Program
- Family Care Center
- Recovery Residences
- Employment Services
- Health Services
- Continuing Care

OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

- Psycho-educational Groups
- Individual and Group Therapy
- Evening Outpatient Groups
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- 12-Step Meetings
- Family Services
- Continuing Care

Our Impact

100%
of clients experienced same-day admission to residential programs

100%
of clients were below federal poverty level at admission, however

87%
of clients exited agency programs above poverty level

93%
of clients who entered the Employment Services Program became employed

100%
of clients with a prior felony became employed

87%
of employed clients improved their job position and/or income

100%
of babies were born drug free in the Family Care Center program

85%
of clients received onsite medical treatment

99%
of clients maintained or improved their physical health

93%
of clients exited agency programs to permanent housing, and

88%
of clients who were previously experiencing homelessness exited residential programs to permanent housing

"Ascensa Health saved my life. My disease of addiction spanned 30+ years. My existence consisted of living to use and finding ways to get more. I don't have enough paper to write all of the darkness and despair that addiction created in my life. But that is my past. Coming into treatment is the best decision I have ever made. My journey hasn't been easy, but this program has shown me how to find my way. I now have hope. I am able to face each day, accepting it as a new challenge for what life has in store for me. I have learned to face obstacles with determination. Because of this program I know I am enough, and as long as I continue on this path to recovery I have a chance at life."

- Evelyn S.
Residential Client

Thank You to our Donors

BUSINESSES

Accenture LLP
Alliance Data Systems, Inc.
Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors
Atlanta Forum
Carlen B. Inc.
Delta Community Credit Union
Heaverly's Furniture Company
Hensler & Associates
Melvin JH Washington DMD, LLC
Morrison Healthcare
Network for Good
Sterling Seacrest Pritchard, Inc.
Terrell Law LLC

FOUNDATIONS

Akers Foundation, Inc.
Ballard Family Fund
Bank of America Foundation
Conrads Family Foundation
Jim and Stacy Scott Foundation
Judi North Fund
Laura Lofano Freeman Charitable Fund
Loomis Foundation
Lundberg Family Charitable Gifting Fund
Harding Family Ambassadors
Means Family Fund
Merck Foundation
Paul B. & Mildred Seydel Foundation, Inc.
PayPal Charitable Gifting Fund
Sartin Lanier Family Foundation, Inc.
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Thalia & Michael C. Carlos Foundation
The Hanley Family Foundation
The Sals Family Foundation
W. Emory Waters, Jr. Charitable Trust
Wink & Mark Wynne Fund
Vanguard Charitable

GOVERNMENT

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability (DBHDD)
Emergency Food and Shelter Program
Fulton County Community Services Program
Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority (FDHA)

INDIVIDUALS

Alexander W. Stephens
Alicia Hines
Alyssa Savino
Amy Fossett
Andrea McLarty
Andrew and Tracey Harding
Andrew Billing
Angel Flores
Ange Purvine
Bernard Gray
Brent E. Johnson
Brooke Eder
Brooke Wilds
Carl Vann
Candlyn Dixon Wynn
Christi Savino
Christopher Withers
Craig B. Jones
Cynthia Livingston
D. Royce
Dale Lewis
Dean Briggs
David Fox
Dean Rogers
Debra Koons
Diane Hanson
Diane Hines
Don and Donna Major
Douglas C. Justice

INDIVIDUALS CONT.

Emmett and Lori Bradford
Gail Cordial
Gay Colyer
Gustavo Silva
Hamilton and Julia Reynolds
Helen Terrell
Ioannis Papadakis
J. Stephen Olsen
James Madden
Jamie Pennington
Jason Guillorn
Jennifer Messer
Jennifer Moss
Jessica and Josh Baker
Jessica Griner
Jim and Patty Hatcher
John and Annette Meeks
John Bonds
John Lochridge
Jordan Bayersdorfer
Khali Johnson
Kim Weaver
Kylie Jenks
Laci C. Post
Lewis G. Regenstien
Lisa Cleary
Lisa Mathieu
Louise Gardner
Lynne Riley
Marrin Kraushaar
Marion McCellan
Mark L. Docterman
Mary Jean Millikan
Melissa Jacobs
Michael and Trudie Bisciotto
Michael S. Brown
Molly Parker

INDIVIDUALS CONT.

Nancy Hernandez
Neal Gark
Norma Ryan
Oregon Emerson, III
Patrick Joseph
Paul Matthew Hawkins, Jr.
Philly Schmidt
Richard Bondurant, Jr.
Robert and Cynthia Cashill
Robert Burke
Robert M. Fink
Robert Strickland
Robyn Degnan
Ronald and Leigh Briggs
Rosenia D. Bailey
Russell Gray
Samuel Hyde
Sheldon Taylor
Shelly Taylor
Stacie Kaplan
Stephen C. Owings
Sue and Mike Wiggin
Suzanne Shaffer
Tal Dryman II
Theresa Calozzo
Tony Hampton
Trinity Bordan
Virginia Kirkland
W. Grant Williams, III
Wendell Evans
Wesley Dobbs
William J. Trumble
William Koons
William R. Bridges

UNITED WAY

Bergen County's United Way
SunTrust United Way
United Way Mile High
United Way of Central Maryland
United Way of Central Ohio
United Way of Greater Atlanta
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
United Way of Metro Chicago
United Way of the Mid South
United Way Suncoast

WORKPLACE GIVING

AT&T Employee Giving Campaign
Bank of America Employee Giving
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Charities Aid Foundation
Charityvest
Costco Employee Giving
DeKalb School Employees Foundation
Exelon Foundation Employee Giving
Frontstream
GA Power Club of Hearts
Giving Foundation, Inc.
IBM Employee Giving Campaign
IBM Retiree Charitable Campaign
International Paper
Lexus Charity
Shell Employee Giving
Target Corporation Employee Giving
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
The Home Depot Charity Trust
TisBest Philanthropy
Trust Employee Giving
UPS Bank Employee Giving
UPS Employee Giving
YourCause

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Dryman, Chair
Jared DiGnan, Vice Chair
John Dickson III, Treasurer
Joe Orr, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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