

2020 SUMMARY REPORT



ADVENT
GROUP MINISTRIES

RECLAIMED HOPE • REALIZED POTENTIAL • RESTORED LIVES



ADVENT

GROUP MINISTRIES

RECLAIMED HOPE • REALIZED POTENTIAL • RESTORED LIVES

MISSION

To empower people to restore relationships and break the destructive cycles of abuse and addiction through the hope and healing made possible by Christ's love and quality treatment.

VISION

**Reclaimed Hope. Realized Potential.
Restored Lives.**

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

It is with tremendous gratitude and pride that we submit Advent's 2020 Annual Report.

Like many organizations, we experienced our share of challenges and trials related to the coronavirus pandemic last year. Rampant uncertainty impacted client referrals, program and administrative services had to be restructured, and rigorous social distancing and mitigation protocols had to be put in place to prioritize client and staff safety.

Amidst it all, however, Advent continued to provide high-quality, life-changing services to the kids and families in our communities each and every day across our entire portfolio of programs.

Thanks to our dedicated staff, our generous donors and committed county and community partners, we not only survived 2020, but thrived, growing our regional partnerships, improving client access to services, and enhancing our quality of care.

We remain thoroughly optimistic that the legacy of 2020 at Advent will not be the suffering we experienced, but instead the challenges we overcame together to build a stronger, brighter future for our agency and, most importantly, for the children, teens and families we exist to serve.

With hope and thanksgiving,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Mahan" followed by a long, horizontal flourish.

Daniel Mahan
Executive Director

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNSELING DIRECTOR



Advent's Counseling Services department has continued to address the mental health needs of Santa Clara County through the pandemic by seeing folks through secure video platforms and in person when necessary, offering these services for as low as \$20.00 per session continuing our mission to make mental health services affordable to anyone. The strain and stress of isolation, income loss and fear of the illness has made our work more important than ever to at least 60 individuals, couples and families each month.

What happens in therapy is private, behind closed doors to protect the confidentiality of our clients but the impact doesn't stay in the room. The department's Administrative

Assistant, Rachel Muratore, sees firsthand how clients benefit from encounters with their therapists. From her vantage point at the receptionist's desk or when working remotely from home, Rachael has been "privileged to see clients who come in for their early sessions weighted down with personal and psychological burdens. And, subsequently, I see them leave with their head up and smiling. And I know this is happening in the telehealth sessions as well because we get letters of thanks to their counselors along with their checks for their sessions."

Because of our commitment to make therapy affordable and the willingness and compassion of Advent's therapists, the department has branched out in some new and challenging directions. Recently, a team has providing "re-connection therapy" to a multi-ethnic family with limited financial means. Re-connection therapy is a specialized approach designed to "re-connect" and repair parent/child relationships when a parent has abused a child and the Court has decided it is in the child's best interest for the parent and child to reunify. Every member of the family has their own therapist as well as a re-connection therapist to bring parent and child safely together to gradually re-build trust in the relationship and to strengthen parenting skills of the previously abusing parent. The approach requires much coordination between the treating therapists and the Court. Re-connection therapy typically costs hundreds of dollars a week, out of reach for many families. Advent's Executive Director, Daniel Mahan, insisted that the team provide the services at a much reduced cost, otherwise the family could not afford the cost and this parent/child relationship could have been permanently damaged.

Advent has extended its reach into schools as well, continuing its agreement to provide counseling services to University Preparatory Academy, an academically rigorous 7th to 12th grade charter school with an ethnically and socio-economically diverse student body. Our therapists made the transition from seeing students in person at the school to visiting with them remotely last March and continued through the summer to offer support to students experiencing new heights of depression and anxiety because they are unable to spend time with friends and the continuing academic pressure. Advent is currently working with UPA to increase the hours of service we are providing due to increasing calls of the students and their parents for help, therefore we are adding an additional therapist to work with the students. According to Jill Buensuseco, UPA Academic Counselor, "We've had a student in crisis on Friday, 6 new referrals in a week, and I've had 4 requests just today from students and their parents for mental health support." Additionally, Advent's therapists presented a parent workshop last June to equip parents to support their children during the pandemic as well as a parent workshop in November on the developmental needs of adolescents. To further support student needs in other schools, Advent has branched out to provide clinical supervision for counselors who have difficulty finding qualified clinical supervisors.

One grateful mother and wife who has been in couples therapy and whose son has been seen for severe anxiety told us "I don't know what we'd do without Advent. Life is better! We're learning tools to deal with challenges differently than we used to. It's good to know we have somewhere to turn!" Her son remarked "It's been good. If I didn't have it I'd be a lot worse off. I learned not to be so hard on myself when I make mistakes."

— Bruce Pickett, Director of Counseling Services

FUNDRAISING TOTAL OF THE YEAR:

\$293,020.82

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS....

TOTAL RESIDENTIAL CLIENTS: *Served 44 Youth (26 males, 18 females)*



"I am drawn to Advent because kids are our future and they deserve to be well cared for. Advent kids in general were not well cared for by either their families or their environment and/or are simply burdened with the disease of addiction which is truly a tremendous burden. Advent offers a safe place for these kids, a place to learn how to gain freedom over their addiction, a place to continue their education, a place to interact with healthy and loving staff which give examples of goodness that they might not have seen otherwise. Advent offers healthy activity, healthy food, strives to create healthy environments, offers church for those that want to go, counseling to help with the pain and 12-step meetings to combat addiction. All this, so that these kids can hopefully avoid a potential life of jail for a productive life of purpose and connection with God (or in 12-step terminology, a higher power) and freedom from their pain and addiction."

- Matt Miller, Donor and past RC at Genesis House 2003

TOTAL OUTPATIENT CLIENTS: *69 Youth (7,097 direct hours with clients)*

Serving:

Fremont Union High School District
Campbell Union High School District

Mountain View-Los Altos Union High
School District

"I'm grateful to be affiliated with an organization that helps kids, our future, in desperate need, right here in the Bay area. Advent makes a very real difference and truly deserves our support."

- Brad Abel, Volunteer and Donor



COUNSELING: *1647 Sessions*

University Preparatory Academy Sessions: 427

Individual Counseling Services: 886

Residential Group: 104

Family Counseling Services: 48

Residential Counseling: 102

Couple Counseling: 80

Total 1647



"Sometimes, when you receive news you never expected, or when you discover your life is not what you thought, your body and mind go into a tailspin as you do not know what way to turn. Knowing that AGM is a phone call away, is the support net that you need in that moment. Not only will there be professional counseling to guide you through your difficulty but, more importantly, having counseling that is also God based can give you the strength you need. For me personally, my husband and I began counseling a few years ago, on and off and always felt it was solid, caring therapy. More recently, we have gone through a fire in our marriage, that was completely unexpected. My first phone call was to AGM and our counselor, Bruce Pickett. I would not have been able to endure this time in my life without Bruce's experience, caring, professionalism and God. It is more than just going to your counselor. It is going somewhere comforting, safe and relaxing... At this time in my life, Bruce was the only one I wanted to speak to. Not my friends, not my family. That says a great deal of the kind of place that AGM is and the people they have on staff and for that I will be eternally appreciative."

- Lena

Advent is honored to be recognized by Newsweek Magazine as one of the best treatment programs in California. More than 500 addiction treatment centers in California were extensively reviewed and scored based on quality of care, reputation, and adherence to accreditation standards. In partnership with Statista, a global data research firm, 20 states were evaluated with thousands of surveys sent out to medical experts working in addiction treatment facilities. It is both humbling and inspiring to be acknowledged by our healthcare peers who ranked us based on our quality of care, service, follow-up care, and client's accommodation. As one of only a handful of programs awarded that work specifically with teens, it is a testament to our staff and their commitment to bring hope and healing to youth and families with Christ's love and quality treatment.

It is further motivating to have been featured locally by help.org in the Best Drug & Alcohol Rehab and Treatment Center in San Jose for 2020. Their team of researchers developed 5 core metrics for evaluation that included cost, treatment approaches, and rehab services provided. Patient reviews were also considered citing an Advent patient who wrote:

"Bruce has been such an amazing therapist to see for our family. We couldn't have seen a better person for the job! Our daughter really connected with him when he allowed us to bring her with us during our marriage counsel session. Till this day we continue to see Bruce at Advent ministries, and can say it is worth the effort and time!"

ADVENT'S Awards



Certificate

Based on the results of an independent analysis, Newsweek recognizes

Advent Group Ministries - St John Home

as one of the
Best Addiction Treatment Centers 2020

Evaluated according to:

Quality of Care
Quality of Service
Quality of Follow-up Care
Accommodations & Amenities

Nancy Cooper

Nancy Cooper
Global Editor in Chief
Newsweek

Manuel Mörbach

Manuel Mörbach
CEO
Statista Inc.

Newsweek

statista

ADVENT'S TEAM

Honoring Advent Family



In memory of TERRI GOEHNER

It is with heavy hearts that we acknowledge the passing of a beautiful person and one of our Advent family – Terri Goehner. Terri joined AGM to lead the charge of encouraging those in the community to partner with and support

the Advent Group Ministries programs. As the Resource Development Director, Terri's heart was to see all of Advent's clients get the quality care they deserved, and that the staff who serve these clients could do so without the encumbrance of uncertainty as to how we could accomplish those things. She worked hard to help the programs receive the support, funds, donations and grants to help our clients feel valued, cared for and able to work toward reclaiming their lives.

Our prayers are with the Goehner family.

Terri, we are sad that you are gone, but know that you are whole in God's presence having "Peter Pan" days whenever you want!

AGM Years of Service: 4/4/2016 – 12/31/2019



Retirement of KATHLEEN BLAKE

We'd like to wish Kathleen Blake a heartfelt congratulations on her retirement. She has been a dedicated and inspirational member of Advent family since 1990! Her wonderful, kind and gentle spirit will be missed.



In memory of VERA DEMAY

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of former AGM staff Vera DeMay. Vera became a part of the AGM family in 1990. She served as our Office Manager/Bookkeeper until 2004. Vera was spunky, kind, hardworking, dedicated, caring...and the list could go on.

Along with her own incredible service to AGM, she also introduced 2 other women who served long and faithfully – Kathleen Blake and Ann Keller. Vera was also part of a special group of impactful, strong women of Faith made up of former AGM co-workers called the Yahweh Sisterhood (Ya-Yas). Our prayers go out to her Husband Doug and children Jeanice and Joe and their families.

Advent Staff:



**Residential
Team
25**

**Outpatient
Team
4**

**Counseling
Team
8**

**Administrative
Team
7**

**Billing
Team
2**

In a year like no other, the need for our dedicated staff was never more apparent and essential. Because of their willingness to work on the front line directly with hurting youth and to continually step up to provide extra support when resources became stressed, those most vulnerable to the pandemic received care. Even at the risk to their own health, Covid safety protocols were implemented and youth were rescued and restored. Departments Zoom'd, kitchens became offices, partnerships were formed and numerous hours were dedicated to providing counseling through tele-health and creative scheduling. Their adaptability and resilience cannot be quantified, but is greatly appreciated and a testament to Advent's faith-inspired mission to bring hope and healing through Christ's love.





OUR GIVING COMMUNITY

GIFT-IN-KIND DONORS (\$1,000 AND UP)

- Derek and Jennifer Alvis
- Mark and Abigail Chamberlin
- James and Elizabeth Cilker
- Jon Doyel
- Maryann Garcia
- Michael Kress
- Robert and Jeanne Pitman
- Loy Tingley
- Sylvia Valdez
- Alexander and Carolyn Wendell
- David and Christy Wold

INVESTORS CIRCLE (\$2,500 - \$9,999)

- John and Norma Crawford
- Jack and Teri Kent
- Matthew and Estefania Miller
- Kathryn Storton

RECOVERY CHAMPIONS - TOP DONORS (\$10,000 and above)

- Robert and Joan Leonard
- Eric and Tracy Leonard
- Jon and BJ Anderson



VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Bags 4 Teens
- Beautiful Day
- Cake4Kids
- Gift for Teens
- Grateful Garments
- K94Kids
- Martha's Kitchen
- Project Glimmer
- Recovery Chip
- Silicon Valley Food Bank
- Vertical Skillz Outreach
- YWCA Silicon Valley

CHURCH PARTNERS

- Cathedral of Faith
- Gilroy Presbyterian Church
- Living Stones Christian Church
- Morgan Hill Bible Church
- Morgan Hill Presbyterian Church
- Saratoga Federated Church
- United Methodist Women

GRANTS

- SAGA Foundation
- Mair Family Foundation
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- The Fuller Foundation
- Milligan Family Foundation

Why I volunteer...

I was introduced to Advent Group Ministries a few years ago through my membership with Stop Trafficking on Our Planet (S.T.O.P) and Saratoga Federated Church. I was saddened to learn many of Advent's clients have experienced trauma surrounding sexual abuse that has led to unhealthy addictions. As a mother myself, I long for every suffering child to be guided in healthy ways to cope so healing can begin and relationships can be restored through Christ's love. As a volunteer, I have seen the likeness and also the difference to my own teens and their circumstances. While painting the weight room at the boy's residential home, I met a sweet hard-working boy who chose to do some of the more manual labor jobs with the other volunteers. He was so gracious and looking forward to, as he put it, "bulking up in the weight room for football". He pulled a chair up for me at lunch, dug me out a diet coke from the ice chest and talked about playing high school football with his brother, missing his grandma's beef stew, his planned return to foster care for a few more months and how he was learning to ask for help in his time at Advent. Wow... His battles did not show on the outside and it was such a reminder to me of the very individual circumstances of every child and a confirmation of the heart of Advent to love through each challenging one. I walked away inspired to do more!

— Michele Marsh

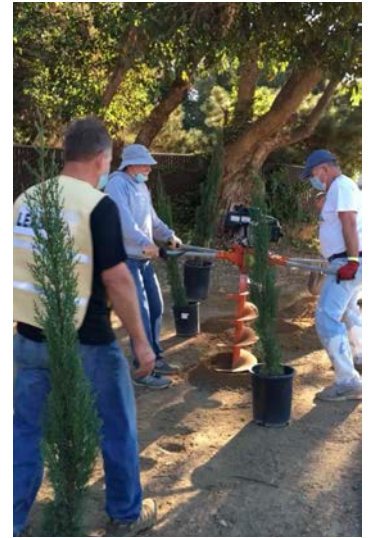


BLESSED BY BEAUTIFUL DAY



In the midst of so much challenge in our communities today, we are excited and humbly grateful to share this 2020 good news! We were chosen as a service project of Beautiful Day, an all-volunteer, annual local compassion event, to receive an estimated \$30,000+ in enhancements to our Advent's Boys' Home!

Since its inception in 2004, Beautiful Day has sought to spread compassion and kindness while inspiring neighborly goodwill. Project leaders and volunteers from all backgrounds invest in local Santa Clara communities, a weekend each year, with no-strings attached, providing hands-on skills otherwise unattainable. This year, while volunteers safely navigated the pandemic, 21 projects were tackled on the weekend of October 17th and 18th. As one of those selected projects, our St. John's residential home for young men recovering from addiction was blessed with a new lawn and garden (complete with hand-built planter boxes) as well as improvements to the gym and outdoor basketball courts. In addition to cosmetic and usability enhancements, a newly built fence now provides increased safety to the youth as an added barrier to freeway access. Amazing!



So inspiring was the selfless heart of those volunteers investing in the work at Advent, that a current teen recovering in the home actually asked to personally address the crowd of volunteers. He expressed his challenge of waking each



day to recovery and sweetly reminisced on his first thought to seeing the early morning volunteers. "You guys don't have better things to do?" he said with a chuckle. He asked a couple of people why they volunteered, what stuck out to him was the response he received of "it's something I do to relieve myself; I get a lot of help and I want to give back". He goes on to humbly acknowledge his initial thinking saying, "I wouldn't be doing this if I don't get rewarded or anything you know". But...he did choose to volunteer himself, both days, stating, "Why not do it, you know like something I see from you guys... if people are willing to come together and put in the time things can happen, you know you guys are not getting paid for this so I just want to say thank you". He goes on to share a reflection on his time at Advent and the advice he will take away to not try and do everything himself but to instead ask for help and help will be given. He ends with the acknowledgment of his reward for serving to be a movement in the heart. Wow! What a testament to the power of compassion driving community, caring for our youth, and loving our neighbor!



Favorite Activities Of 2020

While there have been many added challenges and adjustments to plans in 2020, there have been welcomed highlights that have inspired us to dedicate recognition to what our youth have expressed as some of their favorite activities in 2020. By partnering with other non-profits also dedicated to empowering underserved youth and using the outdoors as an additional resource, therapy and social distancing were able to be combined to create these memorable hits.

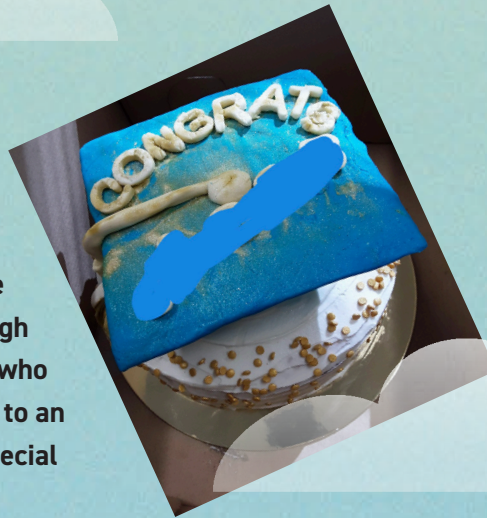


K9 4 Kids

It is through the heart-felt passion of founder Robert Yurosko, for both rescuing dogs and youth challenged with difficult circumstances that K9 4 Kids was born. Advent youth enjoy a weekly session paired with a pup to learn obedience training and grooming from a well-known trainer volunteering his time. A large outdoor space offers fresh air and the opportunity for youth to be accountable to an animal they often relate to. It is a welcome diversion to everyday problems that inspires responsibility. Ongoing visits provide the additional benefit of teaching a trade, while allowing the animals to find good homes.

Cake 4 Kids

Birthdays are a celebration at Advent! A gracious local volunteer bakes a special cake just for an Advent client through the Cake 4 Kids organization, who has a mission to bring a smile to an underserved youth on their special day. Mission accomplished!



Boxing with Vertical Skillz

A visit from Vertical Skillz Outreach teaches boxing skills and techniques our youth love to learn while strengthening their character both mentally and physically. Taught by Dalia "La Pantera" Gomez, a professional boxer, motivational speaker and Oakland Unified School District teacher, it is a requested favorite and empowers each youth with life skills and a physical outlet they can take with them.





Art Therapy

Weekly art therapy groups offer healing to our residential youth as they express themselves through their hands and creative minds. Led by residential staff trained in First Aid Arts Therapy, our weekly art-based groups are not only fun, but give teens a creative outlet to express trauma and relieve anxiety.



Group Time

Sometimes a little down-time around a bonfire is the best therapy! Outdoors and covid-safe the opportunity to share stories with caring Advent staff and other peers provides a camp-like setting both staff and kids look forward to.

Gift for Teens

Although the Christmas season is difficult for many of our youth, Gifts for Teens helped us make each child feel special and loved with practical and unique personal gifts wrapped in a backpack. Our kids' favorite item...a personal note of encouragement from a local teen.



Gifts for Teens
director Elaine Benoit serving
the bay area kids for over 20 years!

Christmas 2020

Our Counseling
Director/Santa
Bruce Pickett
brightening up
our clients

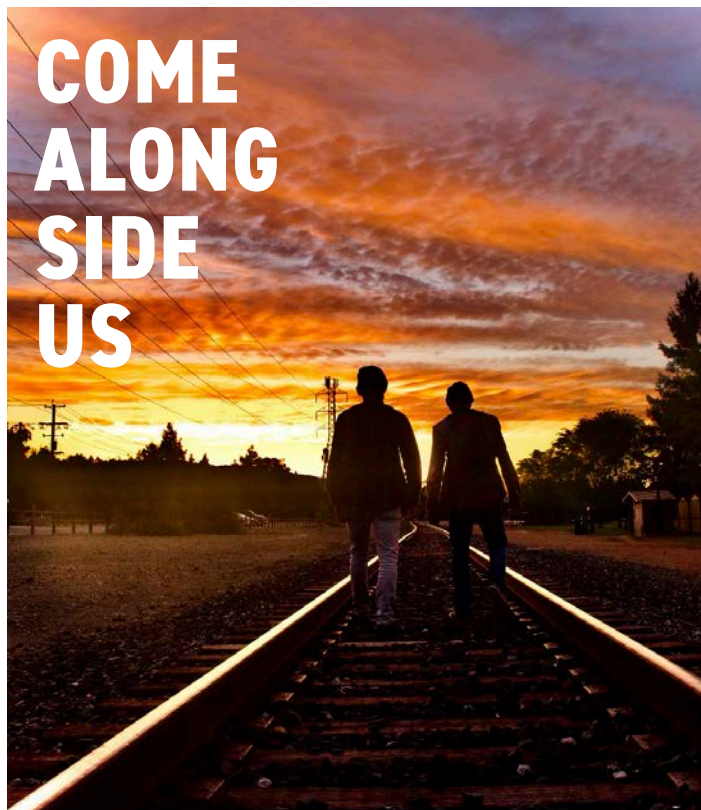


Our wonderful and
dedicated staff
shopping for our
clients during
Christmas

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Pacific Printing

WAYS YOU CAN HELP



- Consider giving an automated monthly donation of any amount. Go to our website <https://adventgm.org/>
- Check to see if your employer will match your donation
- Sponsor a family or youth in counseling
A gift of \$20 provides a counseling session with a mental health professional
- Provide \$5-10 Gift cards for birthdays, graduations, incentive rewards, and other special occasions (Target, Amazon, In-and-Out, Jamba Juice, Starbucks etc.)
- Donate your vehicle
- Join our newsletter
- Follow our social media pages. Share and like posts to widen Advent's outreach
- Tell a friend about Advent
- Commit to pray for Advent staff and clients
- Write a note of encouragement to a teen
- Create a colorful picture of encouragement to hang in our residential homes
- Let's inspire each other. Share why you choose to support Advent Group Ministries

WAYS TO DONATE

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TO ADVENT GROUP MINISTRIES



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Advent Group Ministries
90 Great Oaks Blvd Suite 108
San Jose, CA 95119

Phone: (408) 281-0708

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