2020 Year in Review
March 1st, 2021

The year 2020 was a most challenging year, not just for our organization, but for our community, country, and the world. We began 2020 renewed and ready to build upon the momentum from past accomplishments. The goals we set for 2020 focused on online service expansion and the implementation of online enrollments and virtual services. Little did we know the world was about to change. At the time of the lockdown, we charged forward and through the stay-at-home orders, our essential business continued safely, and clients had access to all programs without any disruption to services.

2020 became a year of strength and resolve. We routinely spoke about being “tired but inspired”. Our company motto, “It’s not what we do, but what we make happen” took a life of its own and showed through our leadership, teamwork, transparency, communication, and, most importantly, the ability to pivot and adapt. Looking back, it’s through this lens that our accomplishments are magnified.

Advocate Program forged through, launching a new website, implementing telehealth, and serving nearly 7,500 clients across all programs. In our Community Corrections division, completions and compliance rates increased, largely because virtual access made things easier for our clients. We maintained a safe and healthy work environment and provided over 1.5 million in temporary financial assistance to veterans and families exposed to violence.

We enter 2021 hopeful and celebrating 50 years strong in service to our community. We are focused on a new plan. One that creates opportunities and meaningful change after a year of grief and loss. Our commitment for 2021 is to create and partner with initiatives that bring hope, health, and safety to our clients. Our focus is to create economic opportunities for those we serve. That means living our namesake and advancing for restoration of rights, homeownership opportunities, apprenticeships for our clients in high growth field such as technology, energy, climate science, and agriculture, and finally advocating for Medicaid expansion in Florida to ensure that our clients have access to healthcare. We are excited to forge new partnerships that will bolster these efforts and increase our impact.

Finally, a major theme of 2020 is gratitude, and we are thankful to all our partners, funders and Board of Directors for their continued support. We are grateful to our employees for excelling in our mission despite the most difficult of challenges. Most of all, we are in a world of debt to all the healthcare workers, first responders, and scientists that have given us hope for a better 2021.
Our Purpose

- Family & Victim Safety
- Accessible Housing
- Safe Driving
- Public Safety
- Pro-Social Change
- Child and Family Wellbeing
Our Programs

**OFFENDER SERVICES**
- Probation & Diversion Programming
- Electronic Monitoring
- Domestic Violence Offender Monitoring
- Assessments
- Education & Intervention

**DUI & TRAFFIC SCHOOLS**
- Certified DUI School
- Online Traffic School
- Programs for clients with extended license revocation terms.

**OUTPATIENT PROGRAMS**
- Accredited treatment programs.
- Outpatient Adult Substance Abuse Interventions
- Individual Counseling Services

**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES**
- Home Based Services for Children Exposed to Family Violence and Conflict
- Supervised Visitation
- Co-parenting Programs

**VETERAN SERVICES**
- Housing for Veterans and Veteran Families
- Temporary Financial Assistance
- Outreach & Support Services
Service Continuity
Advocate Program implemented online enrollment and virtual services in March of 2020. Clients were able to access needed services safely throughout the pandemic and stay at home orders. In total, we served 7,415 individuals in 2020.

Justice Response
Advocate Program ensured that justice involved populations had access to needed services. Compliance and successful terminations rates improved by 8% in 2020 for a total compliance rate of 75% across all supervision programs.

Veteran & Family Safety
In 2020, Advocate Program provided $1,540,500.58 in temporary financial assistance to veterans & families, placing Veterans who were previously sheltered in congregate care in hotels for safety. We also provided food to veterans in partnership with the United Way’s Mission United.

Employee Safety
We maintained a safe work environment, acquired personal protective equipment for staff, and implemented a hybrid work schedules in 2020 to ensure employee safety. Advocate Program also implemented weekly virtual support groups to provide a safe outlet for staff to discuss challenges.

New Website Launched!
Advocate Program launched a new website in 2020 providing more comprehensive services and easy to navigate menu options for clients to engage in the new virtual services provided.
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Client Testimonials

“When you become homeless you go through more than not having the money to get things done but you also go through the psychological stresses of feeling inadequate. With The Advocate Program I was able to gain the support I needed to get back on track. They provided a safe space for me to organize not only my life but my goals too. My caseworker was very supportive and a good listener. There’s so much you can work your way through once you have someone to talk to and through this program, I was provided with a caseworker that really listened. With The Advocate Program I had another chance and for that, I am very grateful.”

Danielle K.- BFC Program Service Recipient
"I’m a 62yrs. of age, a native of Miami. I became homeless after a devastating life event, with no one or place to turn to. My Case Managers have been with me every step of the way with support, encouragement and the financial means to get my life back in the right direction, and to become the man I was accustomed to being and giving me back the respect and acceptance from my family, and fellow man, to become productive again. It has been very inspiring and instrumental in my life, truly a blessing."

James D.-VSSU Service Recipient

“I just finished my last Anger class with your Instructor. I wanted to tell you what a pleasure it was to be in her class. She was a wonderful instructor, always well prepared, handled herself very professionally, and I felt that she truly cared.”

L.G.-Community Corrections Service Recipient

“I really appreciate your organization’s mission and dedication. Each Case Manager I’ve had the pleasure of working with has been very thorough and attentive. The Advocate Program is always there for me and eager to help”

Mr. Maurier-VSSU Service Recipient
2021 Goals
Improved Economic Opportunities
Justice-involved individuals have many barriers to employment. Our focus will be to advocate the business sector to expand opportunities to those with criminal backgrounds and for educational and apprenticeship programs in high paying, high growth fields such as energy, science, and technology.

Increase Homeownership Opportunities
Affordable housing continues to be a challenge in our community. Our focus will be to work with local developers and lenders and advocate for increase homeownership opportunities for veterans and families.

Improve Health Indicators
Along with COVID-19 cases, suicide, addiction, and domestic violence is also on the rise at an alarming rate. Our commitment is to work to provide accessible and effective services to meet the needs of our community as we work through these challenges.

Advocate for Medicaid Expansion
Medicaid Expansion in Florida would significantly increase access to healthcare, including behavioral health for justice involved individuals. This would reduce local and statewide costs to provide care, would increase public safety, and increase individual wellbeing.

Advocate for Criminal Justice Reform
Our goal is to merge social justice and science to advocate for a system that provides for rehabilitation and restoration, while reducing the need for incarceration and increasing public safety.

Collaborate on Community Initiatives
Our goal will be to expand our reach and create symbiotic relationships across initiatives that address an array of social issues that include food insecurity, poverty, health, and climate change.
Thank You Partners & Funders!

Thank you to all the Judges, Judicial Assistants, and staff of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, the Miami Dade County Clerk of Courts, all criminal justice stakeholders, The US Department of Veteran Affairs and the Miami VA Healthcare System, the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust and Homeless Continuum of Care Partners, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and all our community partners and coalitions.
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It’s not just what we do, but what we make happen.

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If you are interested in partnering, joining our Board of Directors, or just learning more, contact us at info@advocateprogram.org