Annual Report 2020
Welcome!

What a year 2020 was. Many started off the year with a clear vision for the future, and then like a rug pulled from under their feet, many lives fell apart. The pain of the fall had long-lasting devastating effects, from the senseless loss of Black lives to the tragedy that COVID-19 brought. Our cities felt the cries of the marginalized and the heartache of those who have lost a child, a mother, a sister, or a brother.

We felt the need and heard the cries for hope and justice. Hope looks like a small organization in South Dallas you can count on, an organization that says, “I see you.” Justice looks like what you will see in the following pages.

I find myself so focused on fulfilling the mission that it often takes my team and mentors reminding me to stop and take a look around to soak in what Abide has become. And when I look around, I see GROWTH. We grew in part because the mission is worthy and the need is great. We grew in part because people felt a need to support justice in the wake of Black extrajudicial killings. Abide Women’s Health Services grew in a year where there was so much loss, so much devastation and so much grief.

We grew...with a deep inhale and an exasperated exhale...we grew.

On Oct. 13, 2020, Abide Women’s Health Services officially opened its doors as the first maternal justice organization of its kind in Dallas County, offering ease of access to prenatal care, postpartum doula support, childbirth education, lactation support, material goods, and referrals in an anti-racist, culturally relevant environment. With Grand Midwife Jennie Joseph as the inspiration behind our organization, we are overjoyed that after so much hard work, we could open our doors to provide much-needed support for our community. I can confidently say that we have provided a safe space for Black, Indigenous and People of Color to be our authentic selves.

Justice and equity will always be the driving forces behind our decisions and the policies we create, which is why our organization is predominantly led by Black women and people of color, a reflection of those we serve. We have the unique ability to create the blueprint for which we choose to operate and our policies will always be created with the spirit of rest, resistance, and restoration in mind. These three R’s center our humanity over policy. And it’s these three R’s that will catapult us into the next level of growth.

Cessilye R. Smith  
Founder & Executive Director
2020 at a glance

2020 showed us the resilience of our team, our clients, and our community. It showed us all the amazing things we can achieve if we work together.

In 2020 Abide Abide Women’s Health Services:

- Secured our clinic space on MLK Jr. Blvd.
- Doubled our staff by hiring our first Clinic Director, Paige Y. Jackson, our Client Resource Specialist (CRS) Contessa Fowler, and we welcomed our first intern, Tiara Rivers
- Launched our Easy Access Clinic on October 13, offering low cost/donation-based prenatal/postnatal care and free pregnancy testing to families in Dallas
- Launched our Covid–19 Material Goods Relief Program
- Raised over 24K on Giving Tuesday, our highest amount ever
- Awarded two scholarships in the First Annual Black Student Midwife Scholarship
- Served over 600 people and 350 families

We thank everyone who makes our work possible and believes in our mission. In 2020 Abide won different recognitions for our work in the community:

- Awarded Non Profit of the Year (Micro) by D CEO Magazine for their Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship Awards
- Executive Director Cessilye R. Smith was awarded the Visionary Award (Honorable Mention) at the 3rd Annual Juanita Craft Humanitarian Awards –Fall/Winter
In order to respond to our clients' needs during such a difficult time, we launched our COVID-19 Material Goods Relief Program to provide contactless porch deliveries within Dallas County. Our organization gifted basic human needs that no family should have to worry about.

We distributed items such as diapers, wipes, menstrual products, breastfeeding supplies, baby food, baby formula, bottles, baby clothing, and so much more, thanks to our generous donors.

We moved our Intro to Childbirth Education class with Althea Hurd, our Lactation Support with Karen Bell, and our Baby Café Lactation Support Group with Amanda Alvarez to a virtual platform in order to protect the health of our staff and the families we serve.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24,910</td>
<td>Diapers Distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32,472</td>
<td>Menstrual Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>539</td>
<td>Breastfeeding Supplies Distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>760</td>
<td>Material goods deliveries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>353</td>
<td>COVID Relief Families</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"I'm so grateful for this organization. I was forced to stop working a month prior to my original plan which set me up with financial challenges and I'm so grateful for what Abide has done for my family."

– Maria

"My experience with Abide has been amazing. The organization has supported me and my daughter by bringing us items that make us feel better and keep us protected. Thank you, God bless you."

– Yesenia

"I just want to send a huge thank you for my porch drop off last week. Everything in the bag was just what I needed. God is really amazing. Thank you so much for being the vessel for mothers like me. I will be in touch next month. From my heart to your ears, thank you!"

– T. Jones
Our Work

Easy Access Clinic
In 2020, we had the soft launch of our Easy Access Clinic where we offer low cost/donation-based prenatal and postpartum care for anyone in need. We also offer free pregnancy testing.

Lactation Support
Our free Virtual online breastfeeding support group is designed to provide breastfeeding education and support to families through Baby Cafe as well as free lactation support from IBCLCs.

Childbirth Education
We believe that the knowledge about physiological birth empowers people to take ownership of their bodies during and after birth. We provide free and culturally relevant community Childbirth Education classes and resources for everyone who comes through our doors.

Resources, Goods, and Referrals
We offer material support (diapers, wipes, lactation supplies, menstrual products, etc.) and referrals for complementary services (chiropractic, massage therapists, OBGYNs, Birth Doula services, etc.)

“Serene, peaceful and transforming are a few of the words I would use for this amazing organization. When I first walked into the clinic, I immediately knew that I was about to be a part of something epic! As a public health student, you look for organizations that truly make a difference in the communities they serve. When you walk into Abide, you feel a presence of peace. No matter the patient’s situation, these amazing women make sure that everyone is treated equally. Although Abide may transform the lives of families in the DFW Metroplex, I see this organization growing and transforming the lives of women and families throughout the country.”

– Tiara N. Rivers
$110,000+
Invested in our programs benefiting mothers and families in Dallas TX.

60,725+
Items distributed to our families including diapers, wipes, menstrual products, breastfeeding supplies, formula, baby food, among others.
Our Team

Staff & Leadership:

Cessilye R. Smith  
Founder & Executive Director

Paige Y. Jackson  
Clinic Director

Brianna Davila  
Office Manager

Contessa Fowler  
Client Resource Specialist

Jennifer Mozeke, CPM, LM  
Midwife

Kelli Bankes, LM  
Midwife

Roxanne Anderson, CPM, LM  
Midwife

Althea C. Hurd  
Childbirth Educator

Amanda Alvarey, IBCLC  
Lactation Consultant/Baby Cafe’

Tiffany Morgan  
Volunteer Coordinator

Beth Lamb  
Donations Manager

Luisa Moeller DNP, RN  
Development and Donor Relations

Board of Directors:

Roselle Tenorio  
President

Sharifa Stevens  
Vice President

Esther Villarreal  
Secretary

Rhyan Brown, APRN, CPNP-PC  
Board Member

Smitha Caroline Dante  
Board Member

Savohna Brown  
Treasurer

Advisory Board:

Lenita Dunlap

Quantrilla Ard

Cherilyn Hollaway

Roxanne Anderson

Amber Webb Booker
We are mothers, daughters, sisters, family.
**Financials**

**Support Income**

$328,702

Total Support Income in 2020

- Individuals - 44.1%
- Earned Revenue - 30.2%
- Grants - 23.7%
- Others - 1.9%

**Expenses**

$163,194

Total Expenses in 2020

- Program Salaries - 49%
- Management & General - 19%
- Program expenses - 18%
- Fundraising Expenses - 14%

67% of total expenses in 2020 went directly to our mothers and families. 33% covered overhead and fundraising expenses.
In honor of the legacy of Grand Midwife Claudia Booker, in 2020 we awarded our First Annual Black Student Midwife Scholarship. With the support of our community, we gifted two $850 scholarships to two amazing Black Student Midwives to cover the cost of submitting their paperwork under the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM).

Thank you to all our applicants for taking the time to translate your passion into words. Your dedication to serving Black mothers, Black families, and the Black community does not go unnoticed. Abide is always rooting for you!

Congratulations to our winners: Kinara Dawson (Crowley, Texas) and Andrea Reed (Mesquite, Texas)

Support the next cycle of our scholarship program in 2021.

When you purchase one of our special-order shirts, you’re directly supporting the education and life-saving work of aspiring Black midwives.

Visit abidewomen.org/abide-t-shirts
We couldn't do this work without each and every one of you!

Abigail Bechard
Allison Pearce
Alyson Cox
Amy Rodgers
Amy Zimmerman
Andrea Bright
Anna Morgan
Anne Seiwerath
Ariel B Munchrath
Ashlie Alaman
B3 Group Inc
Brad Nitschke
Buddy Apple
Caily Wolma
Cheryl Read
Christina Sullivan
Claire Hugi
Courtney Chapman
David Daleiden
Deborah Pulis
Don Dinnerville
Ebonie Cooper
Elizabeth Dishman
Elizabeth Satterfield
Emily Crutchfield
Emma Nitschke
Erica Hudlow
Gwendolyn McGinn
Hannah Riddle
James Wallace
Janay McDonald
Jeanne Hare
Jennifer Mayes
Judy Dominick
Karen Rose
Kathryn Marsh
Kathryn Smith
Kelsey Hazzard
Kevin and Cassie Braun
Kimberly Robinson
Kjersti Jensen
Kurt Lofton
Lana Constante
Laura Openshaw
Laura Phillips
Louanne & Mike Mason
Luisa Moeller
Lydia Essex White
Makenzie Marsh
Martha Hoey
Mary Olson
Matthew Parker
Michele Clark
My Sister's Keeper Birth
and Midwifery
Natalie Calis
Phil & Kathy Jackson
Poppy Daniels
Rachael Koskowich
Ronald Hach
Samantha Spangler
Sharifa Stevens
Shaun Roney
Shelley Park
Stephanie Tomba
Ted Howard
Teree Fruga
The Happy NPO
The Starlet Parlour
Thomas C Whitford
Tina Huett
Uprise Chiropractic
Vonni Gant
Wesley Tish

And many more....
Why our donors support our work?

"Love a mission that cares about mothers and babies AND changing the system!"

"Because you’re doing important work for a community that needs and deserves it."

"To improve Black maternal outcomes."

"There are so few whole-life organizations and Abide is the best of the best."

"Because I believe Black women deserve to receive safe, high quality healthcare."

"The work is noble and important."

"Because Abide says, "yes, you are worthy of good care, being heard, and feeling safe."

"Because Black Maternal health is important".

"Because Abide doesn’t just wish to see change, Abide says, "this isn’t good, let’s change it."

"Maternal-fetal health is important."

"Because I know you’re making tangible spaces of change, health and education"

"Love a mission that cares about mothers and babies AND changing the system!"

"Model of care, improved outcomes, fewer pre-term/sick babies"
Our volunteers have provided an unbelievable amount of support, from providing deliveries to our families and our clinic’s renovations to donor development and marketing. Volunteering at Abide means that you are actively participating in resisting the narrative that one must sacrifice one’s health for the whole. Our volunteers and Abide Ambassadors are helping this groundbreaking organization thrive. If you’d like to join us in changing narratives around Black maternal health and collective care, please fill out our volunteer application located on our website. We can’t wait to meet you!

abidewomen.org/get-involved

“The opportunity to serve with Abide is one I cherish, especially during COVID. Abide has given such deep and thoughtful consideration to all the needs of our community. While some organizations cut off assistance, Abide made great efforts to adapt and reach as many people as possible. I’ve had so many fun opportunities to get involved, in person and virtually. As someone who lives hours away from Dallas, it means a lot to stay involved from afar. Abide keeps volunteers educated, engaged, motivated, and truly part of the community. The Abide Team is devoted to their mission, and are honest and transparent about everything they do. I know that they are doing amazing things and changing lives, and it is an honor to be a part of anything they do.”

– Luisa Moeller DNP, RN
Thank you to our volunteers who supported our work in 2020 and stepped up for our families in the middle of the current COVID-19 crisis.
Our 2021 goals

2021 is the year we see the vision come to life with a dynamic community impact, sharpened policies, and the expansion of accessible, life-giving resources. Our main goals are:

1. Double the number of families served and the number of community partnerships.

2. Complete the process of becoming a JJ Way® Accredited Easy Access Clinic (A Commonsense Childbirth Initiative).

3. Acquire property for our Birth Center and expand our services.
Abide Birth & Collective Care Center

In 2021, Abide has embarked on a bold capital campaign to raise $1,000,000 to purchase and operate a birthing center led by Black, Indigenous and People of Color for Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

Our long-term goals are:

- To improve birth outcomes for Black mothers and Black babies living in South Dallas and surrounding areas.
- To provide equitable opportunities for Black student midwives and other birth workers of color.
- To interrupt the destructive narrative surrounding Black mothers, Black babies, and the birthing process.
- To offer the Abide Birth & Collective Care Center as teaching/training grounds for doulas and midwives of color in South Dallas and beyond.

Our Mission

Abide Birth & Collective Care Center’s Mission is to provide a place of rest and resistance, that gives birth to restoration for Black, Indigenous and People of Color by offering childbirth services, education, training, and student housing in a communal environment for individuals and families seeking collective care.

There are many ways you can support this project:

- Financial donations
- Become a Corporate Sponsor
- Host a Fundraiser
- Donate material goods (furniture, art, birth supplies)
- Volunteer your specialized service (contracting, design, landscaping)

Donate Here: www.abidewomen.org/donate
Thank you to everyone who makes our work possible.

Follow our journey and help us spread the word about our work.

@Abide_women  
/abidewomenshealth  
@Abide_women

You can support the ongoing needs of Abide through a one-time or monthly financial contribution. $125 a month or $1500 provides complete prenatal care for one mother including lab work an ultrasound, and related medical supplies.

Donate Here: abidewomen.org/donate

When you purchase one of our special-order shirts through our website, you’re directly supporting the education and life-saving work of aspiring Black midwives. All proceeds of this shirt series support Black student midwives.

Purchase here: abidewomen.org/abide-t-shirts

Have your business, organization or community group, school or program host an event to benefit Abide.

www.abidewomen.org/contact
A special thank you to our supporters and community partners!

Become a Corporate Sponsor or Community Partner.

Join us in our mission to improve birth outcomes in communities with the lowest quality of care. If you represent a company, organization, or community partner, contact us to provide resources and support for mothers and families in our community. When you partner with us, you improve the quality of life for thousands of families in Dallas, Texas by allowing us to offer healthcare and complimentary services that are easily accessible, holistic, evidence based and free from judgment.

Email us at info@abidewomen.org for more information.