



celebrating

20 YEARS



BetterWorld

2022 IMPACT REPORT



*"COVID has crushed this community in so many ways. Our youth are battling psychological and emotional damage. **A Better World is a form of healing and paves the way to work through emotional trauma.** We are beyond blessed to be open and serving our youth mentally, physically, and spiritually through God's love. We stand to make a difference in this community, and we could not do it without our amazing group of donors. Your ongoing support and kindness overflows into this program."* — PASTOR KENNETH GILLIARD, FOUNDER

building

A BETTER WORLD STARTS IN OUR CITY

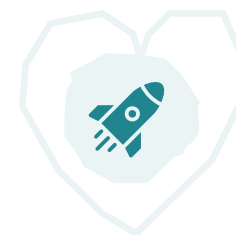
Our world begins on Freedom Drive. And we hope its name rings true one day for the children growing up in one of the most poverty-stricken areas in Charlotte (The Opportunity Task Force). The families calling this neighborhood home have the odds stacked against them with only a 5% chance of upward mobility. Broken families, lack of strong role models, and generational poverty are some of the barriers to success. And that's why we're making our home on Freedom Drive, because that's what we want for the youth of our city.

In 2001, hope for better began. With a wraparound support system, **we can equip the next generation of West Charlotte to build a better world beyond the one they've grown up in.** Faith in the transformative power of Jesus Christ and a warm meal after school supplemented by our extensive programming fuels the ability for students in the eight Title 1 schools in West Charlotte to break barriers. And eventually build a better world within their neighborhood and beyond.



Our mission.

The mission of A Better World is to transform the community and its families through the next generation. We provide holistic support for children so they can achieve their potential and become productive citizens who give back to their community using their skills and talents.



Our belief in action.

We believe in serving through Christ and His Love. So our goal is to uplift underserved youth in West Charlotte from lives of despair by enriching their physical, mental, and spiritual development. Because we value our community and want to address their needs. We aim to unite Charlotte behind the common goal of improving kids' futures. A Better World starts with a city where everyone who asks receives and who seeks finds. So when our door is knocked upon, it will be opened. Every day, year round.

PROGRAMS FOR purpose

The purpose of A Better World is to provide disadvantaged youth with homework assistance, tutoring, mentoring, mental health therapy, and hot meals five days a week. Children and their families also have access to counseling, toiletries, and household products. **And we're striving to be the safest place for kids to be at any time and a hub for the West Charlotte community to access resources for their youth.**

We know the kids we serve need consistency and safety. So our doors are open year-round to students and their families with targeted programming to meet their needs day in and day out.

*"All of my children have been going to **A Better World** for years now. I don't know what I would do as a single parent without this program. I feel safe sending my kids to them knowing they will love on them in every way."* — ANONYMOUS PARENT

6 KEY PROGRAMS



MENTAL
HEALTH
THERAPY



HOMEWORK
ASSISTANCE



READING



DAILY HOT
MEALS



PRAYER



FREE
RESOURCES

WE'RE NOURISHING...

The Mind.

A Better World provides a no-cost annual **Summer Enrichment Program** to prevent summer reading loss in our youth. Nothing serves as better motivation than our **Summer Celebration Trip** to the happiest place on earth. And during the school year, we utilize **i-Ready** to provide 300+ students with personalized, interactive lessons to improve their reading skills through NC DPI. i-Ready allows us to track their progress and ensure our youth are reading at grade level. Our **Free Afterschool Program** provides students with homework assistance with certified instructors and rides to and from our facility.

The Body.

Every day when our students walk through the doors of our facility, they receive a nutritious snack, and before they leave for the evening, a hot meal prepared in our kitchen at the **Kid's Cafe**. Thanks to Jubilee Farms and other organizations who believe in our mission, we're able to care for students and their families when they leave A Better World to go home with food through our **Backpack + Food Truck Fridays** programs. So everyone has a backpack full of healthy food over the weekend and full, hearty holiday meals during Thanksgiving and Christmas time. Additionally, our families are able to shop at our **GoodSenseStore** for basic necessities at little to no cost for household items. Our **Families First** initiative was a response to COVID-19 and helped pay rent and deliver food at the front door of households who were quarantined.

The Spirit.

There has always been a need for preventative therapy in West Charlotte since the risk of substance abuse is much greater in low-income communities. At A Better World, we are equipping students with the tools to combat toxic stress and risk factors with free, confidential, and preventative counseling through **Be Well Therapy** that can be accessed anywhere. And we utilize **Daily Devotionals** and our **Prayer Program** to raise up the next generation becoming men and women dependent on God and expectant of His deliverance.



MISSION

possible

MATTHEW 19:26

A Better World’s mission is to uplift underserved youth in West Charlotte from a life of adversity by enriching their physical, mental, and spiritual development. We equip them with the skills and confidence to be responsible adults by nurturing their physical, academic and spiritual development. The kids who stick with our program are guaranteed a positive, life-changing experience. Benefits from the results are profound:

Academic

- ⬆ Enhanced concentration and focus
- ⬆ Improved classroom behavior
- ⬆ Boosted overall academic performance through increasing grades and attendance

Behavioral

- ⬆ Focused and actively engaged in class
- ⬆ Decrease in suspension
- ⬆ Decrease in verbal and physical aggression

Mental & Emotional

- ⬆ Increased ability to self-sooth and regulate emotions
- ⬆ Less likely to engage in risky behaviors or self-defeating behaviors
- ⬆ Demonstrate increased confidence and resilience through adversity

Making a positive difference.

We had six former participants graduate from college this semester with many more star students well on their way to achieving incredible success since we began hosting programs in-person again. **Because we’re sharing gospel hope with them. And they’re getting to live full, abundant lives.** Over the past two years, our stellar students have already began to overcome barriers:

80%

of kids served in 2022 showed growth in their reading level

100+

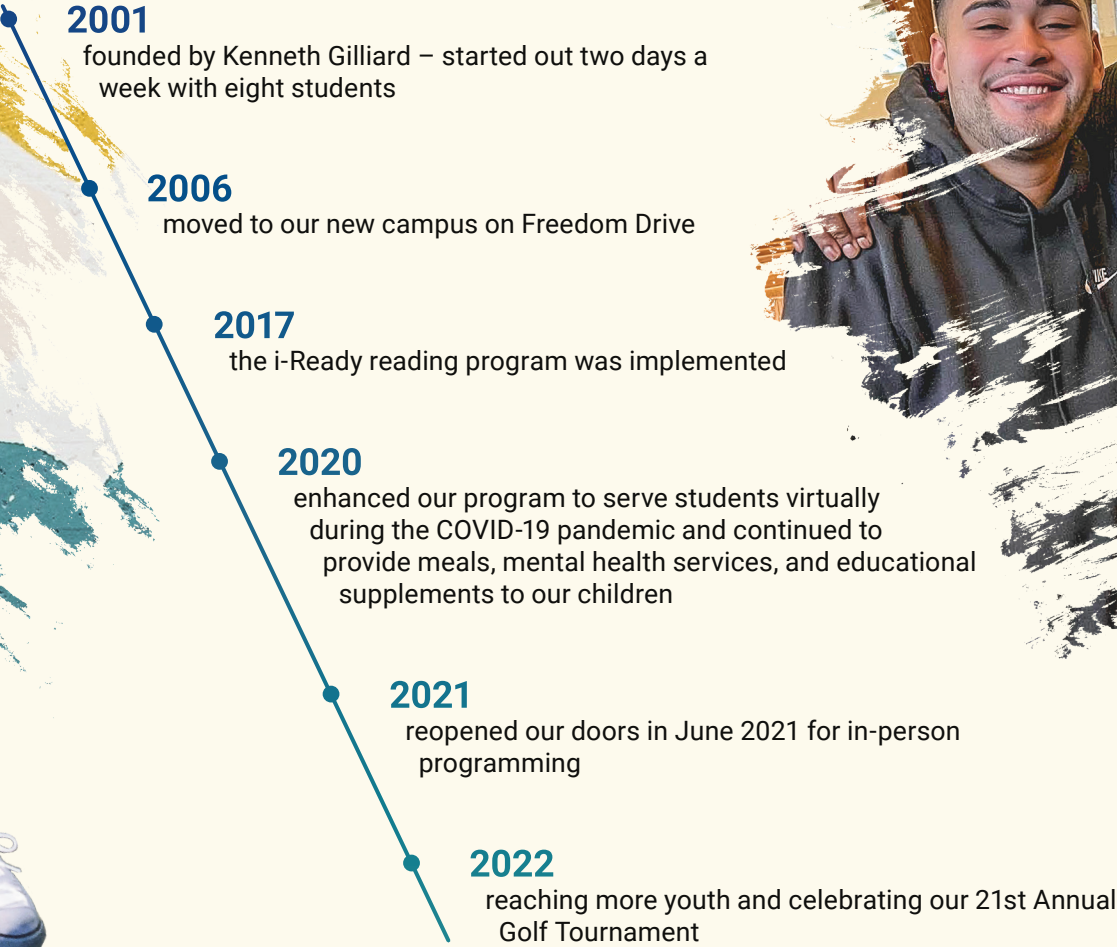
kids served during the holiday season

100%

of our youth passed their End of Grade testing

“Knowing my child is fed and their homework is done when I pick them up at the end of the day helps me out so much.” — ANONYMOUS PARENT

Celebrating 20 years of growth.



A Better World has made a huge impact since our humble beginnings in 2001!

100%

high school graduation success rate with students that stuck with our program through eighth grade

65%

of our students have pursued associate and bachelor degrees and now give back to their community

150+

families are served annually

The future is bright.

We’ve served 60+ students in 2022. COVID-19 posed many challenges to at-risk families, but new partnerships with the community and the Church at large have allowed us to reach more youth, increase our impact, and now focus on their post-pandemic wellbeing.

As we work towards A Better World in our city, we’re dreaming about the impact we can have for students specifically in high school.

Build A Better World with us in our city.



GIVE

Invest in our programs that are changing the lives of underserved youth.



SERVE

Spend your time with us on Freedom Drive to shape the souls of our city's next generation.



SHARE

Spread the word! We are open and serving your neighbors!

And become a part of our Prayer Program to pray specifically for our youth and their requests.



A BetterWorld

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aBetterWorldCharlotte.org

