



You've Got a Friend

Do you remember Alyssa and her children, Link, Tillie, and Vanellope, from pages 2-3 of the 2022 CHOICES Baby Calendar? We spoke more in-depth with Alyssa recently to help share the progression of her life from 2015 to 2022 with CHOICES as one of her support systems.

On June 16, 2015, Alyssa, a pregnant, 24-year-old young woman, arrived in Colorado from Georgia to begin a new life with her boyfriend. She had no friends or family in Cripple Creek. Thankfully, she was directed to CHOICES and there began a 7-year relationship. It would be some time before she had any family in the area, and I think it is safe to say, CHOICES mentors became her family.

With her first baby, Link, Alyssa joined CHOICES' *Earn While You Learn* Parenting Program (weekly meetings with a parent mentor) and was able to earn baby bucks along the way to help supply her with everything needed for her baby. She was excited and committed to the program and made great strides. Link was featured in the 2017 CHOICES Baby Calendar as Mr. April! Alyssa did everything she could to get to classes – she was determined to learn and become the mom she desired to be.

In September 2016, along came Matilda Lee Clementine (Tilly). Since Alyssa was already in the EWYL Parenting Program with Link, she and her mentor were able to go back to refresher lessons on pregnancy and labor and delivery, in conjunction with the early childhood development classes to help her parent Link. Alyssa understood the power of connection with her mentor and the benefit of the program to help supply her with the items she needed for her kids. She was grateful for help in navigating the ups and downs of adding a second child to the family, locating resources she needed, and for fresh emotional support as she navigated the end of the relationship with the father of these two children.

In 2021, when Alyssa discovered she was pregnant with baby number three, she immediately came to CHOICES because, she said, "They know what to do and how to help me." She and her new fiancé have consistently attended classes and are learning and growing as a couple and a family. Sweet Vanellope was born April 19, 2021, and is featured in the 2022 CHOICES Baby Calendar on the cover and as Miss July!

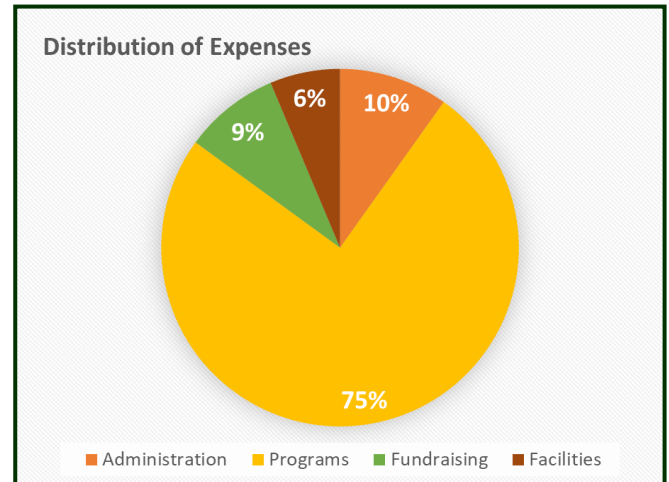
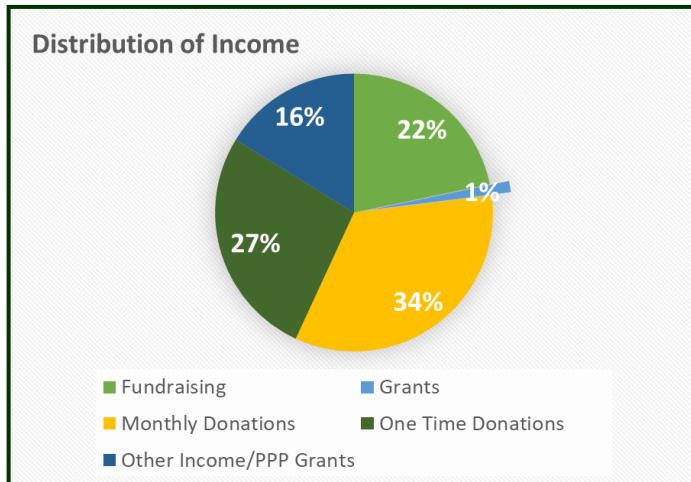
Pat Martin, Alyssa's current mentor, says that working with Alyssa has been a joy. They have walked through some tough times together. Pat has witnessed the transformation of Alyssa into a great mom. Alyssa has learned to evaluate and make better decisions; she has grown in self-confidence, and she has found her voice. Pat states that it is a privilege to walk this journey with her, and they have built a relationship based on trust and acceptance.

Alyssa says she never felt any judgment from anyone at CHOICES in any respect. She finds this very refreshing. She encourages other young moms to come to CHOICES, where they can get help finding the support they need.

They are not alone.



Financial Update



CHOICES was blessed to receive two rounds of PPP funding. In 2020 we received the first round and the second round in 2021. In 2021 the funds became grants which increased our income. Additionally, many folks gave above and beyond and CHOICES was able to pay off the mortgage on our Cripple Creek property in the amount of \$62,374.64! Wow! What a blessing.

CHOICES carefully weighs how we spend your donations to best benefit our programs and clients. Administration Expenses increased because we are now paying for our telephone and internet service in Woodland Park and Cripple Creek. Previously, these services had been donated by a local company, a great blessing for many years.

THANKS for Local Business Support

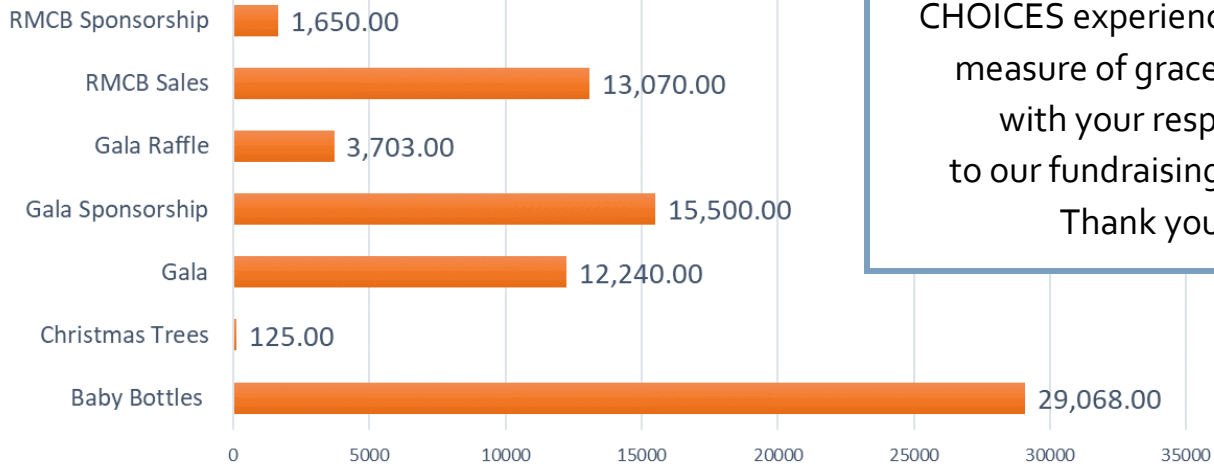
Alaska Sweet Dreams	Highmark, LLC	Powell Homes
Andrew Wommack Ministries	IREA	Reliant Financial Services, LLC
Ascent Commercial Group, LLC	Keener Team Realty	Roshek Group, Inc.
Aware Investing	Klocke Photography	Sister Friends
Black Mountain Pump Services, Inc.	M & S Snowplowing	S.O.A.R.
Casey's Lumber, Inc.	MBI Contractors, Inc.	Steadfast Wealth Co.
Charis Bible College	Mallett Excavating, Inc.	Teller County Waste
Creative Providers Foundation	My Free Water Store	Tregos Xtra Storage
Credit Service Company, Inc.	M.O.P.S.	True Life Medicine
Dave Brown Team	Nein & Bowen, CPA	The Barn at Casey's, LLC
Don Bush Enterprises	Newmont Legacy Fund	The Sims Home Team
Hardcastle Heating & Air	Park State Bank & Trust	William & Betty Osborne Trust Fund
Hdaero Engineering, LLC	Pikes Peak Community Foundation	

SAVE the DATE!

**CHOICES Discovery Dinner is on May 21st, 2022
at the Double Tree Hotel in Colorado Springs**

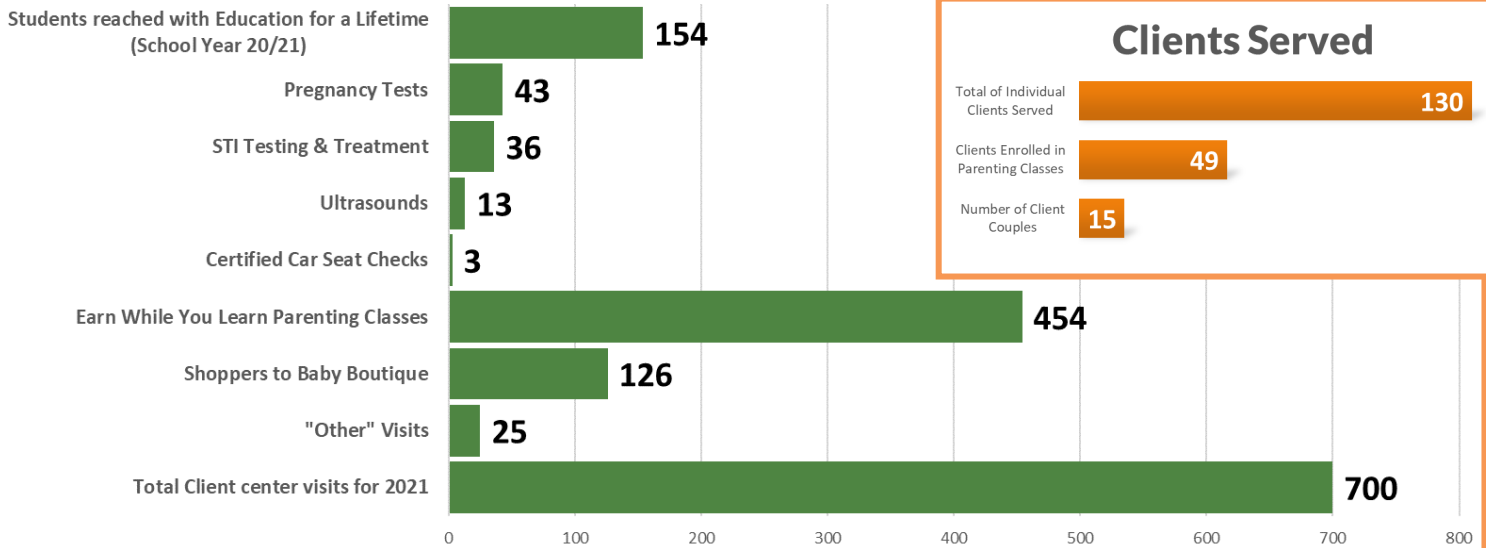
Financial Update

Fundraising Totals



CHOICES experienced a huge measure of grace in 2021 with your response to our fundraising efforts! Thank you!

Center Statistics

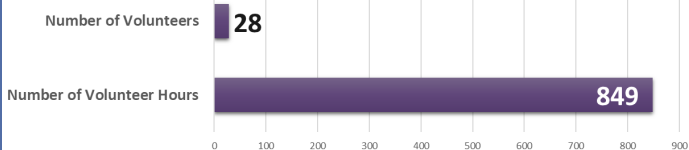


Clients Served



The mission of CHOICES is carried out with the help of many people. We are grateful for every volunteer; for their time and talent they give to CHOICES to help make the organization run smoothly.

Volunteer Statistics



We are blessed by artisans who create all year long to make beautiful one of a kind items that they donate for the Rocky Mountain Christmas Boutique. Thank you!

We are grateful for a Board of Directors who serve faithfully and give wise leadership.

A Note from CHOICES Executive Director...

Welcome to a new year and a fresh look for CHOICES in 2022. I hope you have grown familiar with our new logo/brand. We worked with Mr. Green Marketing and some high school teen focus groups to make the final decision of the lighthouse. Even though we live in the mountains, collectively we chose the lighthouse because it stands tall as a beacon of hope, providing direction to those who are seeking truth for an unplanned pregnancy and healthy relationships.



Alyssa's story of her connection with CHOICES spans seven years and three children. Those years brought many stories and learning experiences that CHOICES is blessed to be a part of. Allyssa found what she needed for her baby and more when she connected to our staff in Cripple Creek.

Pregnancy Centers exist for those in need of support and education. It's a place where people can receive free services, resources and connection. When you visit a pregnancy center you will find people who are compassionate, non-judgmental and want to walk out this part of the journey with you. Pregnancy centers are an integral part of every community; empowering women and men to take courage and recognize their strength to make healthier choices.

CHOICES has an amazing staff of women who have been called to their positions. They are truly gifted and know how to love others well. Dr. Scott Russell is our medical director and we are so thankful for his heart to serve with us and for his wisdom and guidance. I am grateful to be a part of this life saving ministry!

It is with gratitude and courage that we move into 2022.

For life,

Teresa

The CHOICES Team



Jean Peck
Cripple Creek
Director

Pat Martin
Assistant
Cripple Creek
Director

Marcie James,
RN
Medical Testing
Director

Jeni Smoot
Lead Client
Advocate (WP)

Lissa Wellborn
Program
Administrator

Rebecca Fuqua
Program
Coordinator

**Mackenzie
Leach**
EFL Presenter



Dr. Scott Russell, MD
Medical Director of CHOICES.
Dr. Russell specializes in Obstetrics and
Gynecology at UC Health Front Range OB/GYN.
Dr. Russell generously donates his time
and expertise to support CHOICES.

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