



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



A NOTE TO OUR FRIENDS

Dear friends, partners, and generous supporters of The Banquet Network,

When I was told on December 28th 2012 that I would never graduate from college, have a job, or drive a car, I was shocked. Nothing could have prepared me for the reality of losing my eyesight. Nothing could have been further from my own visions of my future.

But if on December 28th, 2012, instead of being told that I was permanently blind, I had been told that I would get the joy of co-founding an organization that inspires and equips, help lead an amazing team of people that God hand-picked, and have a front row seat to seeing God answer prayer after prayer-for funding, people, and opportunity-I would have been even more shocked. The past four years of planting and leading this organization have been unbelievable, and I will always count this season as one of the greatest blessings of my life.

This year has been full of uncertainty, full of changed plans, full of hopes deferred. But it's also been full of opportunities to be attentive to where God is leading, full of reminders that God cares about the "One" and not just the many, and full of chances to be creative and daring. This year, we didn't get to see our hopes of serving dozens of churches and expanding our reach explosively as churches were locked down and derailed from even their own desires to be more inclusive of people with disabilities. But we still got to see God work as we collaborated with friends and partners to develop trainings on disability and missions, had one-on-one conversations encouraging churches to creatively support those families with disabilities in their communities who are even more impacted by lockdowns than the general population, and saw God bring our new Executive Director, Tom Stolle, whom He has prepared so well to take The Banquet Network to the next level of professionalism.

Thank you for hoping for a grander vision for the church and disability. Thank you for believing that we can make a difference as we obey God's calling, Thank you for generously giving of yourself. Thank you for helping so many churches, families, and individuals to know that we are never alone. Thank you for building an organization that has exceeded my wildest dreams (and my doctors' foreboding diagnoses) for what a blind girl could be a part of.

I've learned a few things since my first shock eight years ago - and top among that list of lessons learned is not to be surprised when God exceeds everything we can ask or imagine. And so I look forward and up, eager to support and cheer on The Banquet Network as God takes it to new places that none of us could have imagined.

AMBERLE BROWN
FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2020 HIGHLIGHTS

6

churches

EQUIPPED

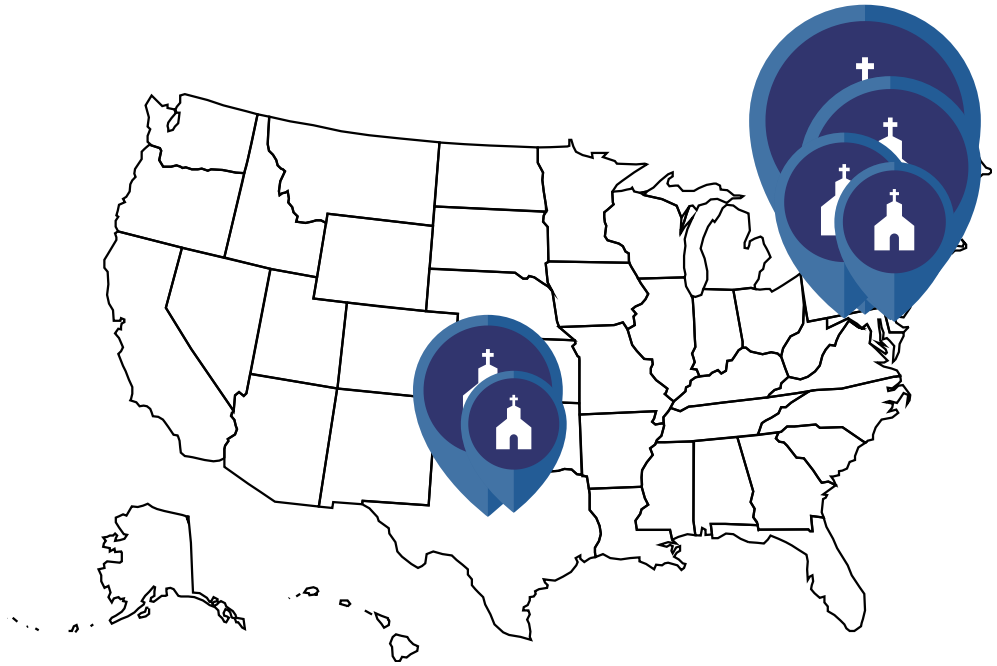
through one-on-one coaching

427

people

INSPIRED

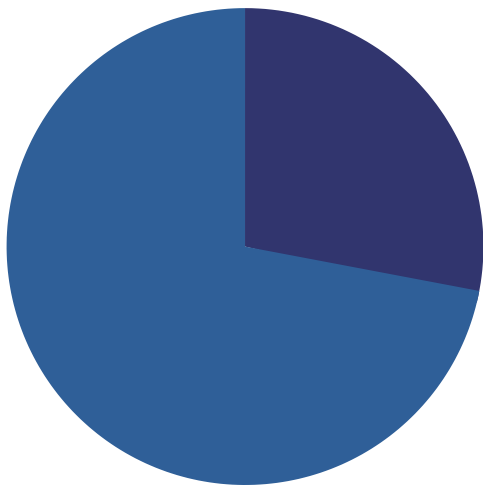
by messages of hope from The Banquet Network



Two churches are located in Houston, TX, three in Baltimore, MD, and another in Severn Run, MD. Our pace was slower, as churches honed their focus on serving their congregations and communities during the pandemic, but we are still continuing to work with these churches, and others who had to put their efforts on hold during the pandemic, as we move into 2021.



2020 INCOME SOURCES



■ Individual Donors

■ Corporate Grants

2020 EXPENSES
\$40,082.76

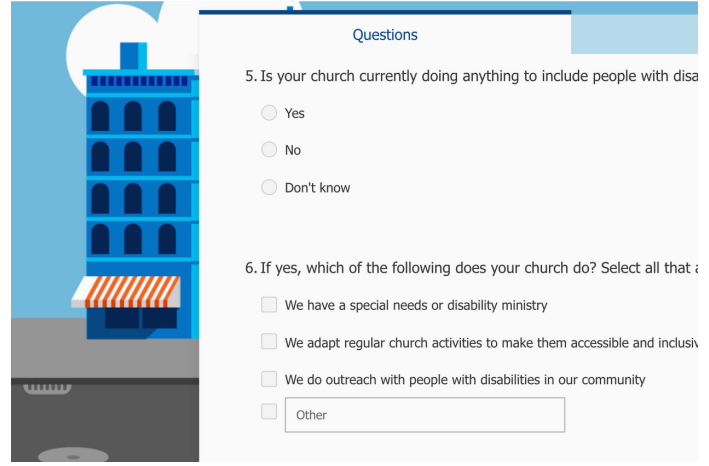
Thanks to your extreme generosity and our instrumental partnership with the BCMD, we received donations of \$51,480.34 this year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to invest our donations into as many churches as we had hoped. Instead, we focused a majority of our attention on the development of new projects while continuing to maintain our mission to "inspire, equip, and resource churches to reach, serve, and include people affected by disability."



SPECIAL PROJECTS



→ TBN filmed and developed an International Disability Training video. We are still working to finalize the video in 2021.



→ We began gathering information about disability inclusion from churches through a regional survey to help inform our efforts and identify the needs of churches in this area. Stay tuned for a report in 2021!

Ministry Program

Individualized Ministry Program

Future goals for our church's disability ministry:

Goal 1:
Assessing the needs of the church in terms of disabilities

What are the steps we need to take to reach this goal?

Step	Timeline	Cost	Person(s)
1. Informal email sent to Pastor JB and the session letting them know that the survey is being sent out.	1/29/2021		Courtney & Jim
2. Developing survey of the left needs of the church members with disabilities	2/8/2021		Tiana & Allie
3. Refine survey and get approval to send it out.	2/15/2021		Tiana, Jim, Courtney, Wendy, Allie
4. Send survey out to congregation	2/28/2021		Jim

→ Many of our meetings and trainings with churches have been over Zoom this year. Pictured, is Allie working on the IMP with Faith Christian Fellowship over Zoom.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic acknowledged in March of 2020, there was less of an opportunity to share our mission with churches. Although our meetings and trainings looked a bit different, we are thankful for the opportunity technology gave us to continue to connect with individuals and churches.



→ This was our first year participating in the Together Conference in Atlanta, GA.

At the Together Conference, 120 people registered for breakout sessions held by TBN. We shared material on [The Pools of Bethesda](#), [Learning Inclusion from the Early Church](#), and Developing a Kids Special Needs Ministry in the Church. You can listen in on these sessions on our Banquet Network podcasts!



LOOKING AHEAD

The year of 2020 brought many challenges and adversities to our world. We began considering new approaches while also maintaining our mission statement: "to inspire, equip, and resource churches to reach, serve, and include people affected by disabilities." As we move into 2021, The Banquet Network hopes to continue inspiring churches by building a distinctive reputation, equipping churches through coaching and training, and resourcing churches through the provision of financial and physical support to areas of need.

Motivated by Luke 14:13, The Banquet Network is working to develop new methods to inspire churches to become more disability inclusive. We want to be known as "the organization that offers one-on-one coaching on disability inclusion to churches across the U.S." In 2021, we will continue to grow. We hope to present our organization to a total of 3 national conferences this year to grow awareness of who we are and what we do nationally. Recognizing that large, in-person gatherings may continue to be prohibited for much of this year, we are also developing other ways to share more about our network, such as expanding our online presence by advancing the use of our blog and forming a small writer's group who will compose monthly articles that reach more churches with inspiration and equipping messages.

We will continue to equip churches through trainings, workshops, and one-on-one coaching. Our one-on-one coaching is a unique feature of our ministry, giving us the essential opportunity to develop close connections with the churches we serve. This year, we hope to coach at least ten churches. This commitment to coaching will eventually evolve into a new need in The Banquet Network's – more coaches! We continue to develop our Volunteer Coaching Program, hoping to execute this model in 2021 by training at least one volunteer coach to further our coaching model.

The Banquet Network is planning to resource churches in 2021 by presenting more opportunities to offer grants and human interactions. The effects of the pandemic are exhausting the benevolence of many churches; continuing





LOOKING AHEAD

uncertainty and depletion of resources pose additional barriers to the initiation of new ministries, such as disability ministry. However, these challenges have not caught our God by surprise, and He has not forgotten the enduring needs of people affected by disabilities in our congregations and communities. Verses such as Ps. 82:3, Matt. 5:1-4, and Luke 14:13 emphasize God's concern for people "in the margins." The isolation experienced by many people with disabilities has only been emphasized by the pandemic, and reaching these precious individuals is now more important than ever. Our coaching on disability inclusion allows us to assess and meet the needs of the church AND people affected by disabilities. We are planning to generously resource churches as they welcome individuals and families affected by disability (2 Cor. 9:7). Lastly, we will continue to offer free coaching to all churches we encounter to make our services accessible and attainable.



In the year of 2020, many individuals, families, and organizations faced discomfort and misery. There is hope that the trajectory of hardships will look different in 2021, and we pray that God would bring health and healing to our world. Our God has overcome the world (John 16:33). He is the God of hope! We pray that God will use The Banquet Network in this season (Heb. 13:8, 2 Tim. 1:7). We plan and pray knowing that God is in charge (Phil. 4:6-7, Ps. 46:10). We ask the Lord to prepare and challenge our hearts to "rejoice always, pray without ceasing, [and] give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thes. 5:16-18). Despite the challenges ahead, The Banquet Network's mission to inspire, equip, and resource churches to reach, serve, and include people with disabilities moves forward!

TOM STOLLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR