Many children suffer from the complications of being poor, knowing want and hunger, chronic disease, terror and destitution, violence, and despair. Often they are newcomers to our shores, struggling alone in fear and isolation.

*Each night, over 22,000 New York City children have no home at all, no place to lay their heads.*

Since 1986, the Association to Benefit Children (ABC) has responded to each such assault on childhood by tirelessly working to combat and alleviate poverty’s corrosive effects on children and their families. ABC creates nationally replicable, cost-effective, comprehensive, humane program models that meet the complex needs of each family member while fighting to ensure all children a loving family, safe housing, high-quality education, adequate health care, nutritious food, and the promise of a bright future.
ABC speaks out on behalf of vulnerable children amplifying each small voice into a resounding chorus calling for change.

INCLUSIONARY EDUCATION FOR PRESCHOOLERS WITH DISABILITIES

ABC’s educational advocacy began with Merricat’s Castle School — the national model for preschool education — which established the right to inclusionary preschool education for young children with disabilities. All of ABC’s preschools proudly champion this model.

ANTI-HUNGER

During the prosperous ‘80s, when large numbers of hungry children began appearing in the shadows, searching for leftovers in dumpsters outside supermarkets, ABC publicly exposed the growing hunger crisis while simultaneously developing a model, cost-effective, emergency food program. Tapping into existing resources, ABC established the Yorkville Soup Kitchen in a city public school. Utilizing the school’s facilities and personnel, it made possible to replicate the kitchen across the city. Tens of thousands of nutritious meals were prepared for hungry children and families daily in the same kitchens that were already providing meals for school children.

FAMILY RIGHTS and MODEL HOUSING

Advocacy on behalf of families began with a campaign for services for the most vulnerable, those battling to stay afloat and intact, with a class action suit filed in 1985, which sought to compel the state to provide preventive services such as housing and day care without opening child-protective cases. Continuing this critical work, ABC’s Preventive Services program, All Children’s House, brings these essential services to desperate and seriously at-risk families.

In the mid-1980’s, as neighborhoods “gentrified” and vacancies in low-income housing all but disappeared, ABC exposed the deplorable conditions homeless families faced living in abandoned buildings, squalid, dangerous, and expensive “welfare hotels” and barracks-style shelters. ABC set the standard for decent transitional housing by using that same funding the government had squandered to transform a dilapidated building in East Harlem into Rosie and Harry’s Place. This cost-effective, temporary housing program became the replicable model throughout the state and the country. And, as the first to secure government funding that had not been used before to build permanent supportive housing, ABC broke new ground in creating a housing model for homeless families living with HIV/AIDS.

Since 1987, ABC has fought alongside the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty through a national class action lawsuit brought to ensure the enactment of the McKinney Vento Act. In recent years, ABC has renewed its efforts to preserve the integrity of McKinney Vento, which remains the only major federal legislation designed to prevent and end homelessness in the United States.

AN END TO “BOARDING” BABIES IN HOSPITALS

By the late ‘80s, cheap street cocaine and AIDS were sweeping through urban neighborhoods, leaving the poor especially hard-hit. Women were routinely arrested, incarcerated, and had their parental rights terminated. Unprecedented numbers of their infants were warehoused in hospital wards, left there to languish for months on end, often tethered to their cribs to “keep them safe.” To end this cruel and expensive practice, ABC brought two class-action lawsuits in 1987 and 1991 against the city and state. This landmark litigation, coupled with ABC’s efforts to educate the public, helped rescue boarder babies across the nation. ABC created Variety Cody Gifford House as a replicable model program, which demonstrated that medically-fragile infants, entitled to and in great need of stable loving families, could live safely and happily at home.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

In the mid-1990’s, when crucial progress had been made in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, ABC focused its efforts on the critical need for early identification, counseling, and treatment. ABC’s two 1995 class action lawsuits secured counseling, testing, and treatment — first for children in foster care and then for all children — resulting in a substantial reduction in the number of infants born with HIV infection as well as rescuing the lives of children with HIV/AIDS and maintaining their well-being into adulthood.

ABC has long fought for improved children’s health and mental health care, winning an important victory in federal court in 2002 for all homeless children who suffer from asthma who are now guaranteed outreach, early and free periodic screening, a primary care provider, diagnosis and corrective treatment, and educational counseling — eliminating needless suffering and making certain that a potentially debilitating condition is diagnosed before it becomes medically more complex, costlier to treat, and permanently disabling. ABC launched Fast Break in 1996 as New York City’s first mobile mental health crisis and disaster team specifically designed to provide children living in poverty access to treatment.
ASSOCIATION TO BENEFIT CHILDREN

EDUCATION PROGRAMS  YOUTH PROGRAMS  FAMILY PROGRAMS  PREVENTIVE & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
At Merricat’s Castle School, typically-developing children and children with special needs, children of privilege and children who live in poverty, all grow and learn together in three warm, nurturing preschool classrooms and outside in the beautiful garden playground. The process of early learning is an adventure in social, cognitive, emotional, creative, and physical development, each of which is explored through an inventive curriculum full of adventure and discovery.

At Cassidy’s Place, preschoolers who live in poverty and have serious developmental and medical disabilities and those who are homeless, in foster care, and have suffered abuse, violence, and neglect are able to play, learn, and thrive in nine dynamic classrooms. Blending Head Start, Preschool Special Education, and Universal Pre-Kindergarten, Cassidy’s Place offers a full day of education, joy, and safety that is further augmented with comprehensive wrap-around support services for each child and every family member.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The centerpiece of ABC’s “whole family” approach is early childhood education, which lays the groundwork for future success and imparts school-readiness tools along with life-skills such as patience, tenderness, civility, and fortitude. While each of ABC’s schools has a special focus, all treasure every single child’s individuality and infinite potential, encourage optimum development, celebrate diversity in all its forms, honor children’s shared humanity, and recognize parents as central to their children’s well-being and success.
Adorned with Keith Haring’s colorful and joyous silhouettes, the Keith Haring School focuses on very young children who have or are in families with HIV/AIDS, including infants and toddlers who live at ABC’s Permanent Supportive Housing as well as babies from the community. Children receive special therapies in a safe and nurturing setting and play in child-directed activity centers that promote social, emotional, physical, and cognitive learning. Parents, who are key to children’s optimum development, are engaged in educational and support programs on-site and through the home-based Keith Haring School.

Cody Gifford House offers early intervention services to disadvantaged infants and toddlers who struggle with severe developmental disabilities and delays and serious medical conditions. Children, birth to age three, receive their many therapies as they play and learn with one another and with nurturing and attentive teachers. Home-based early intervention services further expand the reach of this vital program by bringing these therapies and the lessons of the classroom right into the homes of many more children. Services are also offered to parents to support them in their roles as the primary educators during these early years.
The Graham School at Echo Park has ten early childhood education classrooms offering a full day of high-quality Child Care, Preschool Special Education, Early Head Start, and Head Start. Programs benefit infants, toddlers, and preschoolers from the East Harlem community, with priority given to children who are in the greatest need and are the most seriously at-risk. The complex needs of each child and each family are met through easy access to the comprehensive services available on-site at Echo Park, ABC’s one-stop multi-service family center.

Programming at The Graham School also benefits from its proximity to the Baked in the ‘Hood kitchen where many thousands of nutritious meals and snacks are prepared for children every year. Echo Park also houses an inviting young children’s library, a technology center, as well as Milt’s Soccer*, Harry Roepers’ Gym, Chantelle’s Rec Room, and Bunny’s Playground* – a large, safe, rooftop playspace that is now graced by a whimsical mural of a New York City reimagined with Echo Park at its vibrant center created by artist, Patrick Hruby.
ABC’s year-round youth programs rescue seriously at-risk children and adolescents who are homeless, have severe disabilities, are medically fragile, and have experienced emotional distress, abuse, neglect, and violence. Elementary through high school age children who might otherwise be imperiled by the lure of the streets and the pressures of their peers, are free to play, learn, and develop positive self-esteem out of harm’s way in a nurturing environment. During the summer months, Rosie and Harry’s Camp ensures some of the city’s most vulnerable children the safe, enjoyable activities that every boy and girl needs and deserves. The Youth Alliance Program offers high-risk youth ages 10 to 21 recreational programming plus comprehensive year-round academic support, enrichment activities, vocational and college preparatory workshops, therapeutic groups, and mentoring support, including coordination with parents and schools.

Throughout the year, an accredited internship program prepares vocationally-bound, severely disabled high school students for the working world by offering supervised, hands-on experience in infant care, early childhood education, library arts, building repair and maintenance, clerical skills, and culinary arts training.
Thanks to ABC’s devoted volunteers, Echo Park opens its doors to the community on Saturdays during the school year and fills its classrooms with an array of enriching activities for children and their parents; many of whom have no connection to any network of services. Under the supervision of ABC’s skilled, multi-lingual professionals and staffed by dedicated volunteers, children play, enjoy drama, music, soccer, arts and crafts, cooking, dance, and yoga while their parents receive high quality care for their infants and children. The families enjoy English as a Second Language instruction, literacy classes, preparation for the high school equivalency exam, computer classes, parent support groups, financial planning advice, immigration consultation, coordination of translation services in 180 languages, housing assistance, legal advocacy, assistance accessing benefits, connections to health care, counseling and support, educational evaluations, and help navigating the school system. Everyone who comes through this Open Door enjoys a warm, hearty, delicious, and nutritious meal, has a place at the table and a slice of the American Dream.

ABC’s family resource center, The Open Door, keeps Echo Park’s door open during the week to overwhelmed, isolated, destitute families connecting them to the resources they so desperately need and to one another. In addition to adult education, they are provided medical screenings and treatment for chronic illnesses like diabetes and asthma, guidance in applying for citizenship, and assistance in obtaining entitlements such as housing subsidies and food stamps.

FAMILY SUPPORT

PREVENTIVE & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

FAMILY PRESERVATION

Child safety and family preservation are at the heart of All Children’s House, which provides families at risk of losing children to foster care with the tools needed to break cycles of abuse and neglect while promoting long-term stability. Its innovative child abuse prevention program is being pioneered in an urban setting and will be a blueprint for child welfare programs across the country. All Children’s House families are among the city’s most vulnerable who face overwhelming challenges: a multi-generational history of destitution, domestic violence, substance abuse, sexual abuse, trauma and torture, lack of adequate health care, and mental and medical illness. Clinically trained social workers provide intensive home-based therapies to parents of very young children to repair the damage caused by horrific traumatic experiences, helping the parents erect for their children the protective shield that they themselves lacked. Putting its faith once again in the potential power of parental devotion, the All Children’s House team seeks to rebuild the strong bonds of attachment between parents and children in the hope that these children will journey toward a more stable, healthy, safe, and nurturing life path.

MOBILE MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC

ABC’s Fast Break — New York City’s first mobile mental health crisis and disaster clinic for children — is specifically designed to extend mental health services to children who are destitute, living in poverty, in shelters, and on the street. Based at Echo Park, but nimble enough to go anywhere, Fast Break strives to keep children out of emergency rooms and costly and restrictive institutions. Skilled therapists, led by a child psychiatrist, stabilize crises and go on to engage in short- or longer-term therapy where needed. The Fast Break Team is also called on to provide mental health interventions, assessments, counseling and therapeutic childcare. ABC’s Early Recognition and Screening Initiative (Swooosh), brings vital screening, and psycho-education for parents and teachers, and related mental health services to children through partnerships with child care centers, schools, after school programs, summer camps, neonatal and pediatric clinics, primary care physicians and health fairs. By incorporating mental health awareness into routine health checkups, and thereby removing the stigma of mental health care, Fast Break is able to intervene before emotional and behavioral vulnerabilities become problems. Families Lead Our Way (FLOW) supports parents of children with special challenges, including autism.
ABC's Supportive Housing Program sustains and strengthens families weakened by chronic illness and crushing poverty by offering them bright and spacious permanent apartments, along with on-site day care, case management, and psychiatric, educational, and recreational services. This residential oasis serves as a replicable model for permanent, supportive housing for homeless families living with HIV infection and AIDS. Inside these walls, families, who were homeless and otherwise might be living in squalor, are rebuilding their lives with dignity, appropriate medical care, and a hopeful future.
**VOLUNTEERS**

At ABC, volunteers are our treasured partners. Over 1,600 volunteers — including students, homemakers, bankers, lawyers, poets, musicians, doctors, artists, chefs, teachers, retirees, and many more from all walks of life — share their time, talents, interests, and skills to help make a critical difference in the lives of ABC’s children and families.

**EVALUATION**

ABC’s ongoing evaluation processes are tailored to the specific services, goals, and outcomes of each of its programs. ABC gathers qualitative and quantitative data using various evaluation instruments including standardized assessment tools and custom-designed surveys through which the progress of each child and each family is measured. ABC also collaborates with independent evaluators such as Philliber Research Associates, underwritten by the Robin Hood Foundation, to issue evaluation reports to disseminate our results.
**Indirect Expenses include ABC's administrative overhead costs allocated to programs by ratio-value method. ABC’s administrative overhead is 11% of total budgeted expenses.**

### Early Childhood Programs

#### EXTERNAL INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Source</th>
<th>Early Childhood Programs</th>
<th>Wrap-Around Service Programs</th>
<th>Program Development</th>
<th>Management &amp; General</th>
<th>TOTAL FY 2014 Annual Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Income</td>
<td>$7,979,229</td>
<td>$1,562,559</td>
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<td>Private Tuition*</td>
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**Total Budgeted Income**

$9,059,229


### Total Functional Expenses

**Employee Salaries**

$4,740,039

**Employee Benefits and Taxes**

1,401,256

**Direct Program Expenses**

582,130

**Professional Fees**

1,069,000

**Supporting Program Expenses**

239,779

**Indirect Program Expenses**

2,529,655

**Depreciation and Amortization**

554,036

**Total Budgeted Expenses**

$11,996,915

**Employee Salaries and Benefits**

$4,740,039

**Direct Program Expenses**

1,401,256

**Professional Fees**

1,069,000

**Supporting Program Expenses**

239,779

**Total Budgeted Expenses**

$11,996,915

**Total Functional Expenses**

$3,684,461

### STATEMENT OF PROGRAM EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2013

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<th>Expense Category</th>
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<td>Government Income</td>
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<td>Merricat's Private Tuition*</td>
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<td>Grand Total</td>
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**Total Fund Balances**

$77,108,180

Charity Navigator has awarded ABC four out of a possible four stars. In earning a four-star rating for the fifth consecutive time, ABC has demonstrated exceptional financial health, governance and other best practices. Only four percent of the charities rated have achieved five consecutive four-star ratings, which indicates that ABC outperforms most other charities in America.