

2004 Educational Foundation Recognition Award

Rev. John Carter – Abundant Life Christian Center



Abundant Life Christian Center, located on ninety-two acres just off interstate 481 in East Syracuse, NY is comprised of people from all walks of life and diverse cultural backgrounds. Abundant Life is a non-denominational Christian church that holds a charismatic theology. Since its inception in 1990, Abundant Life has been dedicated to helping people discover their highest potential by experiencing God's promise of abundant life through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Over the past 17 years, Abundant Life's passion has

been to take this life changing message to multitudes of people locally, nationally and internationally by making the Word of God available to them through various outlets; local church services, adult bible classes, radio and web broadcasts, and various other local and world outreaches. We believe that by developing the character of Christ in each member, they will in turn bring Christ's influence into the worlds of men. In February of 2006, Abundant Life opened its new facility—the Discipleship Training Center. This facility supports the effort of equipping believers to become passionate disciples of Jesus Christ for the work of the ministry. This equipping of the believers has given life to a number of outreach programs. Since its inception, Abundant Life members have collected and distributed more than 20,000 bags of groceries to nearly over 10,000 families. Almost 1,500 of the recipients were lead to receive Christ through this outreach alone. Another outreach developed by Abundant Life is Mercy Works, Inc. It is designed to help identify and meet the various social needs of those in the local community. In February of 2002, through Mercy Works, Inc., Abundant Life partnered with several other organizations to re-build the Blodgett Library. It was completed on behalf of the Syracuse School District where it continues to change the lives of thousands of students and their families. This project had financial contributions, and in kind gifts, totaling over \$650,000. In May of 2006 Mercy Works, Inc., opened the Vision Center in downtown Syracuse; a technology based learning center for at-risk youth struggling to succeed in the urban environment. Future programs will help these youth to develop in technology skills and life enhancement skills by helping to provide a God-inspired vision for their lives. Abundant Life has developed youth and children's ministries that equip the younger generations for the challenges of tomorrow. Focusing on the same principles, but with a different application, children and teens are also equipped to achieve their highest potential by experiencing God's promise of abundant life through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Abundant Life Academy, Abundant Life's Christian Elementary School, was established in the early 1990's to provide an affordable Christian education, and it continues to set standards of excellence today for Christian education in the Syracuse area. All along Abundant Life has been growing, from eleven people in their first service in 1990 to now over 2600 members who call Abundant Life their church home! There are members coming from as far away as Watertown, Binghamton, and Rochester, and Clinton, NY. Currently, only 39% of the church membership is from Syracuse. Sunday services are translated into Russian and Spanish for their non-English speaking members and friends. Abundant Life is a church where people of all ages, race, ethnicity and social standing come together to share a love for the infallible Word of God, His Presence and each other. A place where prayer and God's Word are the foundation—making disciples, reaching their world and developing churches and ministers is their quest—and revealing God's character and love wherever they go is their heart.