

ABILITY TO
SAY

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

BUILDING STRONGER CONNECTIONS.
—



TABLE OF CONTENTS



PAGE NUMBERS

01 INTRODUCTION

03 WHO WE ARE

04 WHAT WE DO

05 OUR DIFFERENCES

06 HOW WE ARE DOING THIS

07 WHAT WE USE



08 YOUR IMPACT AND SUPPORT

09 DONOR INFORMATION

11 FAQ



INTRODUCTION

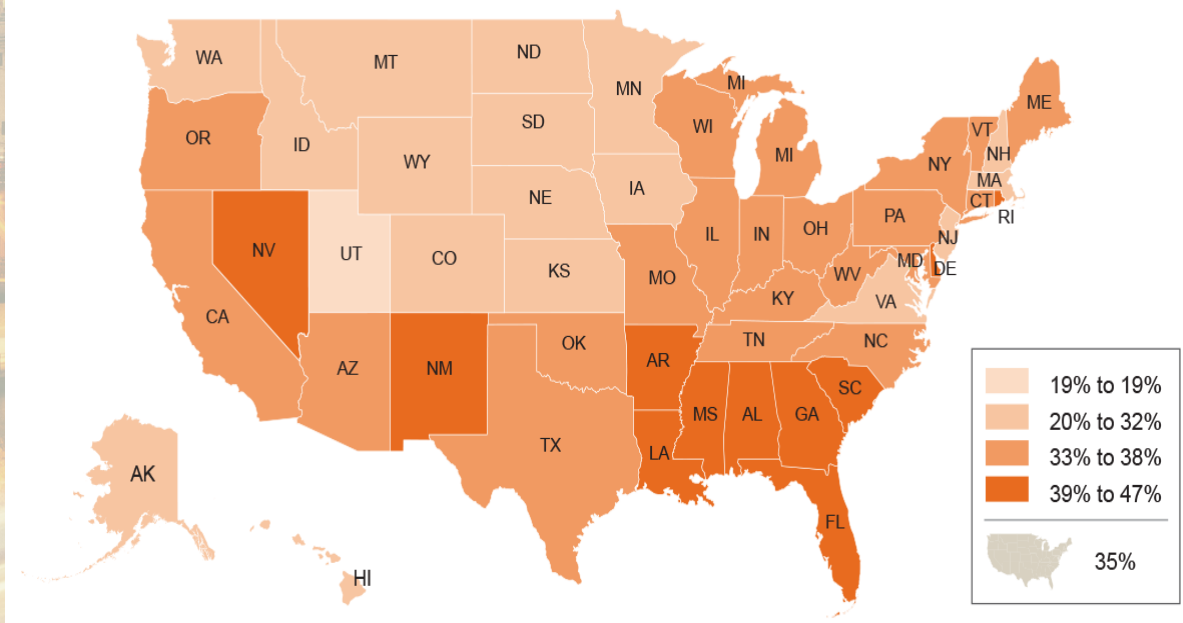


Ability to Say is a non-profit art organization that seeks to showcase single-parent household dynamics through art to connect their identity with those who are not in single-parent households.

We are dedicated to giving opportunities for families to story tell to gather understanding and further research to better their well-being. With traveling exhibits and educational events in our organization we take time to understand our single-parent households through interpersonal communication.

It matters that families continue to be researched and understood because this is how doctors can be more educated on symptoms, the government makes new policies for improving livelihood, and so that we create a safe space for people to show their identities fully. In order for our organization to be successful we need community support and kind donations so that we can use proper resources to publicize the knowledge and art we gather to exhibit for single parent households. Donors and supporters, you impact us greatly by considering reaching out and donating. Without your support we would not be able to create these spaces and progress forward positively for these affected families.

A State-Level Look: Kids Growing Up in Single-Parent Families



SOURCED BY: ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

“EXISTING INTERCONNECTIVITY WHILE BEING OPPOSITES”

WHO WE ARE

At Ability to Say we seek to showcase single-parent household dynamics through art to connect their identity with those who are not in single-parent households. Our forever goal is to live world in which single-parents families have equal opportunity through sharing their experiences and perspectives. In turn resulting in healthy families. We value empathy, compassion, inclusion, equitable opportunity, and community.

Ability to Say’s main location is in Chicago Illinois, the heart of culture in the windy city where art prospers. Although are main location in is Chicago we pride ourselves on a wide network over the country, and even connections globally. We have over 60 employees in our organization. Most work remote from different locations to continue to garner connections in communities.

Ability to Say is a non-profit organization that works with other organizations and cities to create inclusivity for single-parent families.

Mission: *We seek to showcase single-parent household dynamics through art to connect their identity with those who are not in single-parent households.*

Vision: *Our forever goal is to live world in which single-parents families have equal opportunity through sharing their experiences and perspectives.*

Values: *We value empathy, compassion, inclusion, equitable opportunity, and community.*



FOUNDER OF ABILITY TO SAY,
MADISON RUSCHMAN WITH HER FAMILY AS A CHILD.

“PROGRAMS AT ABILITY TO SAY”

WHAT WE DO

Educational Events and Traveling Art Exhibits is the two programs we complete in our fiscal year.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS:

EDUCREATE: EDUCREATE is our education creative events that range from re-tell storytelling, knitting exercises, wine and paint, puzzle making, and seminars! These are hosted at both our main location and at the locations we travel to throughout the year for the single-parent exhibits.

ON-TOP: ON-TOP is our virtual seminars and zooms meetings where single-parents can communicate, professional counsellors provide aid for challenging situations living in single-parent households. Hosted monthly.

DISCUSSION BOARDS: 24/7 discussion boards for everyone to interact! Variety of topical boards as well as general ones. Monitored by staff to ensure safety and kindness.

TRAVELING ART EXHIBITS:

With our traveling exhibits they exist to go nationally in helping create connections for single-parent households.

Programming includes...

- 3-5 traveling exhibits in a fiscal year.
- Find families through research, applications through our page, recommendations from organizations we work with, and meeting through events that are hosted first.
- Time for families to create are to showcase at the exhibit.
- Donations made/art bought at the event will be given to the families that participate.



OUR WHY

Spoken from our founder, Madison Ruschman. “I noticed from a young age that my family structure was different than most of my peers. That I was closer and shared everything to my mother unlike my friends. That I did not have a father to bring to father-daughter dances. That my family was woman dominated which fostered a strong opinions from a young age. With all these differences I did not feel left out or less valued in comparison to children who had dual parent households. But as I got older I realized the world did not have equal opportunity. As I entered college I gained this passion to create equal opportunity and at least places for single parent families to get their voices heard. I believe getting voices heard is the best way to push change.”

“Single mothers are much more likely to be poor than married couples. The official poverty rate for single-mother families in 2021 was 31.3%, nearly five times more than the rate (5.4%) for married-couple families.”

Sourced By: NWLC

CREATING COMMUNITY

CONNECTIONS



OUR DIFFERENCES

What Makes Us Different from other non-profits...

ART AS A CATALYST: Ability to Say distinguishes itself by using art as a powerful tool for expression and connection. Our organization aims to showcase the diversity of experiences through collaborative artworks by both parents and children and education experiences.

COMMUNITY-CENTRIC APPROACH: Unlike traditional organizations, we prioritize community-building. By focusing on the creation and exhibition of art, we foster a sense of belonging, allowing single-parent families to connect, share, and support one another in a unique and transformative way.

TACKLING SOCIOECONOMIC DISPARITIES: Our organization delves into the heart of the civic issue faced by single-parent households—the socioeconomic challenges. By acknowledging and addressing these disparities, we aim to contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty and discrimination. As well as promote their voices to expand research and knowledge about the differences single-parent households face.

NATIONAL IMPACT: While we are established in Chicago, we also expand nationally. By partnering with established institutions we aim to bring this transformative experience to single-parent families across the country.

DIVERSE REPRESENTATION: Ability to Say is committed to inclusivity. We understand that the experiences of single-parent families are diverse, and our organization ensures that the exhibits and events reflect this diversity, fostering understanding and empathy.



**THROUGH
STORY TELLING**

“BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BONDS: SINGLE PARENTS UNITE”

HOW WE ARE DOING THIS



INCLUSIVE EXHIBITIONS:

Our organization hosts regular traveling art exhibits, strategically bringing the narratives of single-parent households to diverse communities.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY:

Ability To Say actively engages with the Chicago community, recognizing the city’s rich artistic landscape. Through partnerships with local organizations, galleries, and artists, we create a collaborative environment that amplifies our impact.

EMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING:

Our commitment to showcasing single-parent household dynamics is rooted in a desire to foster empathy and understanding. By sharing these authentic narratives, we aim to break down stereotypes and create a more compassionate society.

DIGITAL OUTREACH AND VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES:

Recognizing the importance of technology, we leverage online platforms to expand our reach. Virtual exhibitions, interactive experiences, and digital storytelling allow us to connect with a national/global audience, ensuring that the stories of single-parent households resonate far beyond the physical boundaries of our exhibits.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES:

Our commitment goes beyond showcasing art. Ability To Say actively supports single-parent families by organizing fundraising events and creating merchandising opportunities. Profits from art sales and merchandise contribute to financial assistance for participating families, creating a sustainable and supportive ecosystem.

ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION:

By actively participating in Chicago’s political and educational landscape, we advocate for the recognition of single-parent families. We collaborate with schools, community centers, and policymakers to create awareness and understanding. Additionally, educational events and workshops help dispel myths surrounding single-parent households.

MEASURING IMPACT:

Our success is measured not only by the attendance at exhibits and community engagement but also by the positive changes in perception and understanding. Regular assessments and feedback loops ensure that we are continually adapting and refining our approach to achieve our mission more effectively.

“SOLO, STRONG, UNITED: ELEVATING SINGLE PARENT NARRATIVES TOGETHER.”

WHAT WE USE

Programs:

Art Supplies for Exhibits:

Estimated Range: \$1,000 - \$5,000 per exhibit (3-4 families).

Educational Events:

Storytelling, Crafts, Art Supplies.

Estimated Range: Varies, with storytelling being low-cost.

Virtual Exhibitions:

Technological tools, online platforms.

Estimated Range: Varies based on platform and tools.

Staffing:

Salaries:

Average Nonprofit Salary: \$65,000 per year.

Building Maintenance:

Gallery Expenses:

Estimated Range: \$400 - \$1,000 per hour.

Utilities:

Average Range: \$150 - \$250 per month.

Background Checks:

\$20 per person.

Car Transportation:

Gas and Vehicle Costs:

Varied based on location and frequency of travel.

Online and In-Person Advertising:

Online Advertising:

Estimated Range: \$50 - \$200 per advertisement.

In-Person Advertising:

Around \$5 per 100 flyers.

Fundraising Events:

Event Expenses:

Varies based on the scale of the event.

Merchandising Opportunities:

T-shirts, prints, promotional materials.

Estimated Range: Varies, depending on the type and quantity.

Miscellaneous:

Legal Support:

For compliance, gift regulations.

Costs may vary based on legal services.

It's important to note that these estimates are rough averages and the actual costs may vary based on specific circumstances, partnerships, and the organization's growth over time. Regular financial assessments and adjustments will be crucial for maintaining the financial health and sustainability of Ability To Say. More in-depth financial assessments can be viewed on our website.

“AS WE NAVIGATE THE GALLERY OF LIFE, LET US BE THE BRUSH THAT PAINTS CONNECTIONS, BREAKS DOWN STEREOTYPES, AND CREATES A MASTER-PIECE OF INCLUSIVITY.”

YOUR IMPACT AND SUPPORT

Members, donors, and viewers, you all play a pivotal role to the success of Ability to Say. Without all of you we would not be able to advance in our mission to reach our vision. Thank you for your patronage. -

Madison Ruschman

Financial Support:

Members and donors provide the financial foundation necessary for the organization's programs, exhibits, and events.

Sustainability and Growth:

Regular support from members and donors contributes to the long-term sustainability of Ability To Say.

Community Engagement:

Members and donors are active participants in the community engagement efforts of the organization. Their involvement not only helps raise awareness about single-parent family dynamics but also fosters a sense of shared responsibility and community ownership in achieving the organization's goals.

Advocacy and Amplification:

Members and donors become ambassadors for the cause, advocating for the importance of showcasing single-parent households through art. Artistic expressions that challenge stereotypes, build empathy, and connect individuals across diverse backgrounds.

Impactful Programs and Exhibits:

With the support of members and donors, Ability To Say can curate impactful programs and exhibits that resonate with the community.

Empowering Single-Parent Families:

Members and donors are vital in empowering single-parent families by contributing to fundraising events and merchandise opportunities. This financial support directly benefits the families participating in the organization's initiatives, providing them a platform to share their stories authentically.

Creating a Collective Legacy:

Through their ongoing commitment, members and donors contribute to the creation of a collective legacy.





DONOR INFORMATION

In-Kind Gifts (Art Supplies, Exhibit Spaces):

Recognition: Donors providing in-kind gifts, such as art supplies or exhibit spaces, can be recognized through specific acknowledgment during exhibits, inclusion in promotional materials, and personalized thank-you notes. Naming opportunities for donated items, like art supplies or gallery spaces, could also be considered.

Financial Contributions (Supporting Programs and Exhibits):

Recognition: Donors making financial contributions to support programs and exhibits by Ability To Say can be recognized through acknowledgment on the organization's website, inclusion in event programs, and invitations to exclusive events. Recognition levels may be tied to the amount of the contribution.

Cash Donations (Immediate Monetary Support):

Recognition: Cash donors can receive immediate acknowledgment through personalized thank-you letters, certificates of appreciation, and public acknowledgment at events or within exhibit spaces. Different giving levels may be established for varying contribution amounts.

Traditional IRA (Charitable Contributions):

Recognition: Individuals making charitable contributions from their Traditional IRA may be recognized similarly to other financial contributors. Special acknowledgment could be given for this unique giving method, perhaps with a focus on the long-term impact of their support.

Dividends (Reinvesting in Art Initiatives):

Recognition: Donors contributing dividends from investments can be recognized for their commitment to reinvesting in the organization's art initiatives. Acknowledgment may include special mentions in newsletters, donor reports, and invitations to exclusive events.

Legacy Gifts (Planned or Bequest Gifts):

Recognition: Legacy donors, contributing through their will or estate plan, can be honored through a dedicated legacy society. Recognition may involve naming opportunities, perpetual acknowledgment in exhibits, and inclusion in a special section of donor materials to highlight the lasting impact of their generosity.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. What is Ability to Say, and what is its mission?

Ability to Say is dedicated to providing a supportive community and platform for single-parent families to connect, grow, and share their experiences. Our mission: At *Ability to Say* we seek to showcase single-parent household dynamics through art to connect their identity with those who are not in single-parent households.

2. How can I get involved with Ability to Say?

You can get involved by participating in our community/education events, volunteering your time, or making a donation. Visit our website for more information on how you can contribute to creating a supportive environment for single-parent families.

3. What types of programs and services does Ability to Say offer for single-parent families?

Ability to Say offers traveling exhibits that selected families will participate in and community/education events to help single-parent families build connections, gain valuable skills, and navigate the challenges they may face.

4. How can single parents benefit from participating in Ability to Say's programs?

By participating in our programs, single parents can connect with others who share similar experiences, access valuable resources, and gain support in various aspects of their lives. Our goal is to create a nurturing community that fosters personal growth and empowerment.

5. Is Ability to Say only for single parents, or can other individuals support the cause?

While our primary focus is on supporting single-parent families, anyone who shares our mission and values is welcome to get involved. Whether you're a single parent, a family member in a single-parent family, a supporter, or a volunteer, we believe in the strength of community and collaboration. We'd love to see you!

6. How can I share my story with Ability to Say?

We welcome and encourage any member of single-parent families to share their stories! You can reach out to us through our website's email or discussion board or attend our storytelling events. Your experiences can inspire and resonate with others, contributing to the collective voice of our community.

7. Can I donate to Ability to Say, and how will my donation be used?

Yes, you can make a donation through our website or in person if you'd prefer. Your contribution will be used to fund programs, events, and resources that directly benefit single-parent families. We are committed to transparency, and financial information is available for review on our website. We are greatly thankful for any in-kind gifts or donations- thank you!

8. How can I stay updated on Ability to Say's activities and events?

Stay connected by subscribing to our newsletter, following us on social media, and checking our website regularly. We provide updates on upcoming events, recaps of previous events, our monitored discussion boards for families to communicate about different topics (general board as well), and ways to get involved within the *Ability to Say* community.

9. Does Ability to Say collaborate with other organizations or businesses?

Yes, we actively seek partnerships with organizations and businesses that align with our mission. Collaborations help us expand our reach and provide more resources and opportunities for single-parent families. Our most common collaborations are with city governors and other museums/galleries/art centers to have spaces for traveling events and EDUCREATE events.

10. How can I contact Ability to Say for more information?

You can contact us by email atsgeneral@ats.com or through our phone number (555)555-5555. We also have an automatic contact form on our website under the CONTACT section.



CONTACT US.

- ☎ +555-555-5555
- ✉ astgeneral@ast.com
- 🌐 www.abilitytosay.com

236 Bungalow Ave
Chicago Illinois

