

CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

LAKE COUNTY



2017 IMPACT REPORT

Dear Friends:

As CASA Lake County concludes its 23rd year of advocating on behalf of children caught in the maze of foster care, we have much to be proud of. CASA gives a face to each child in court, and simultaneously humanizes the system for those struggling within it. Our diverse team of caring volunteers ensures that children who have been removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect receive the critical services they need, and do not languish for years in care, bouncing from home to home. Last year alone, these civic minded, compassionate individuals served over 500 children and gave over 32,000 hours of service. Our volunteers truly are the heart of CASA. Thank you. We would also like to extend our sincerest thanks to our amazing group of donors. Your generous support of CASA's work each year allows us to continue serving our county's most vulnerable children, without compromising their voices or CASA's quality of service. We are grateful to all of you – our volunteers and our supporters – who give so much each year to move CASA's work forward while remaining true to our mission. Without your dedication to this effort, none of it would be possible.

Sincerely,



Brent Arnold
President



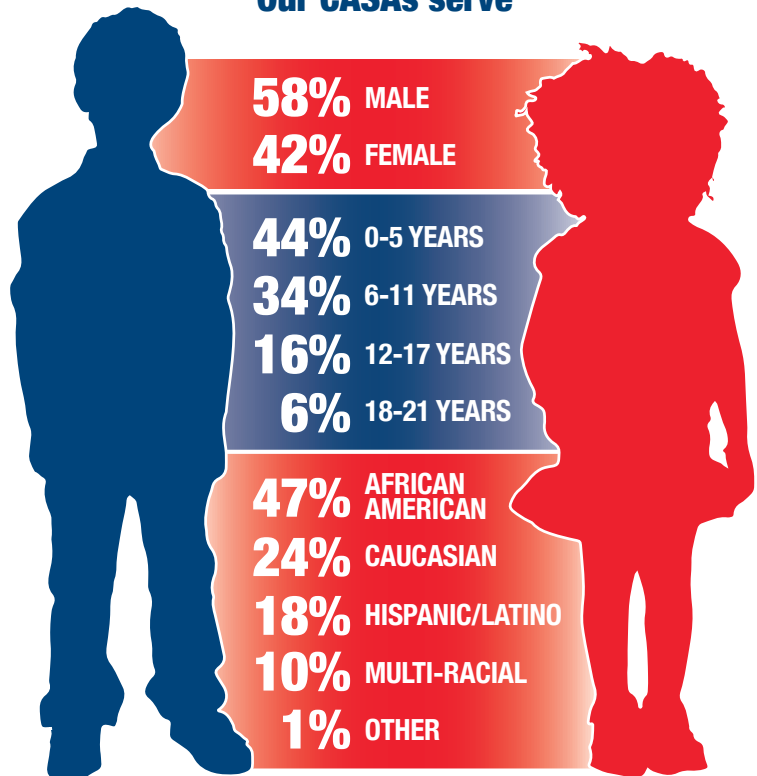
Terri Zinner Greenburg
Executive Director



How CASA Works

The CASA program is unique in that it offers a citizen-volunteer solution to the plight of abused and neglected children in Lake County foster care. No other organization performs exactly the same service in the same way. We provide individualized attention to each child and are involved in every aspect of Juvenile Court proceedings with children in foster care. CASA's team of program staff who are educators, social workers, and attorneys train and supervise volunteer advocates to build bridges between children and the services and support they require. Our dedicated advocates take the time to assess a child's needs and work with the courts, agencies, and caregivers to meet them. Each year in Lake County, the juvenile protection system becomes more strained, as social services are slashed and DCFS staff eliminated, leaving more than 500 children with less and less personalized advocacy. CASA involvement offsets this problem by providing critical pieces of information during time-sensitive hearings that chart the course of a child's path toward a permanent home. CASA volunteers provides one-on-one attention for foster children and youth in care, protecting them from further abuse and neglect, and striving for their timely discharge into safe, permanent homes where they can thrive.

About the Children Our CASAs serve



Program Highlights

County-wide Collaboration

CASA Lake County took a leadership role in an initiative launched by Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS). The Lake County Immersion Site is intended to break down barriers and implement changes to the child welfare system with the goal of increasing cooperation among local agencies and improving efficiency and effectiveness in responding to the needs of children.

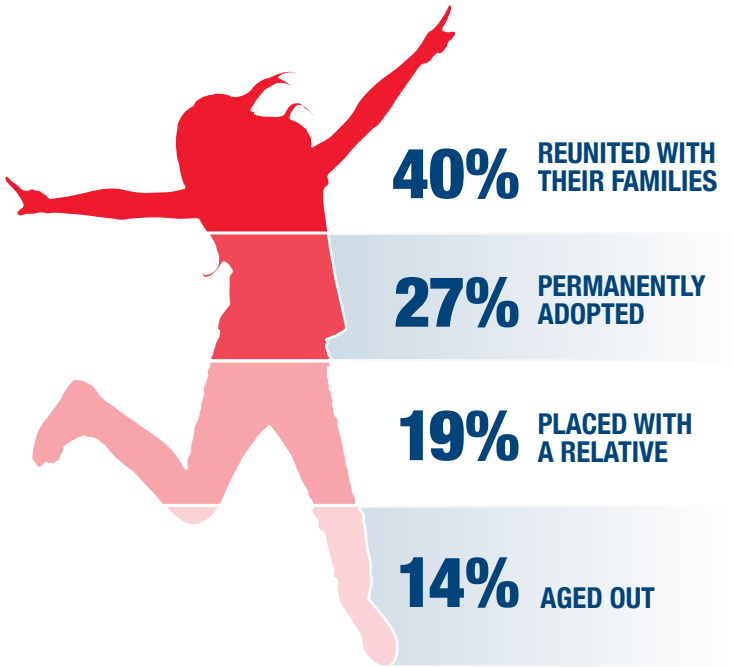
A New, Logical Approach

CASA Lake County, with the guidance of an outside consultant, developed a logic model plan that will serve to improve the effectiveness of the program and enhance data collection. Thinking about child outcomes first, the organization's operations will be shaped to better tackle the challenges faced in the child welfare system of Lake County.

Fostering a Brighter Future

Older youth-in-care rarely have opportunities for reunification, adoption, or other permanent placement and frequently face young adulthood alone. It is incredibly challenging for anyone 18-21 to live independently, let alone an at-risk youth with no family support. Spearheaded by an Advocate Manager passionate about helping teenagers, the Fostering Futures program was developed to equip CASAs to help tackle these challenges. This teen-focused program is designed to help our volunteers understand the very specific needs faced during the transition into adulthood.

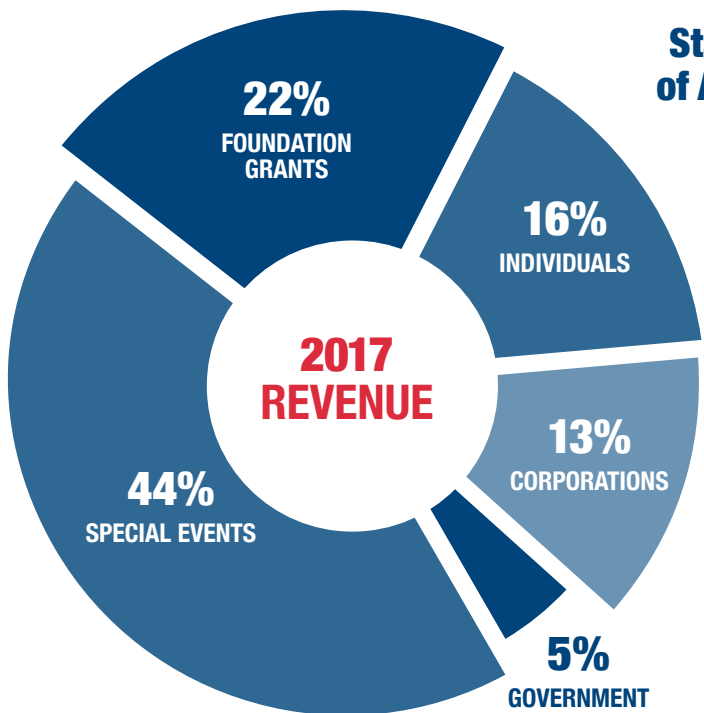
Outcomes in the past year



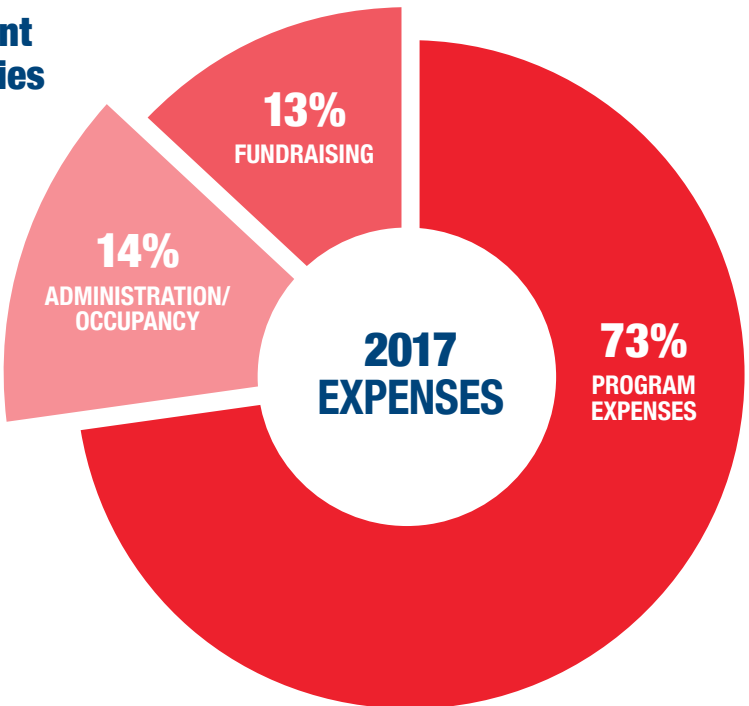
Volunteer Training

CASA Lake County provided all new volunteers with 40 hours of pre-service training, as well as 19 continuing education workshops to equip them with cutting-edge information and skills in a broad range of topics that they may need when serving our CASA children:

- Educational Advocacy / School Stability
- Medical Advocacy
- Navigating the Special Education Programs
- Secondary Trauma for Volunteers
- Transition Planning: Helping Youth in Care
- Strengths Based Advocacy CASA



Statement of Activities



CASA Makes A Difference

Stories of Our Children



When no one else was there, a CASA was. From the time that she was removed from her mother's care, Danielle has always had a CASA advocate by her side. This CASA has been a consistent presence in her life when she felt abandoned by everyone else she has known. Danielle's CASA has worked at schools with teachers to monitor progress and behavior concerns. She has been present for each time Danielle was moved to a new foster home. The CASA has attended doctor appointments. When Danielle was psychiatrically hospitalized for six weeks, her CASA visited her every day. Danielle said her CASA was the only person who ever visited her in the hospital, even including her caseworker and her foster family. When she had trouble opening up in therapy at the hospital, she asked her CASA to join her for therapy sessions. With her CASA present, she was able to feel safe enough to move forward with her treatment.

CASA Helps the Entire Family. A case opened involving four children, all under the age of 10, who came into the system after their father was found dead in their apartment from a drug overdose. The living conditions the children were found in were not sanitary, and the apartment did not have working heat; the oven was being used as the primary heat source. At the time, the natural mother was also using cocaine, heroin, and methadone regularly. One CASA was assigned to this case. Once on the case, the CASA immediately got to know all four children. At times, she visited them weekly. She read to them, provided help with homework, and advocated for homework help/tutoring when the home was too hectic for the children to do schoolwork. She visited school and talked with all of the teachers and the social worker, and even attended parent teacher conferences. She also advocated for an IEP for one of the children and met regularly with his IEP team. Aside from everything she did for the children, she was also a huge source of support for the children's mother.



2017 CASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brent Arnold
President

Bob Silverstein
President Emeritus

Noga Villalon
Vice-President

Joanna Lynn
Secretary and Treasurer

<i>Gary Bennett</i>	<i>Jacopo Leonardi</i>
<i>Daniel Brennan</i>	<i>Deanne McLean</i>
<i>Tim Dembinski</i>	<i>Douglas Meyer</i>
<i>Dana Dodzik</i>	<i>Brent Moody</i>
<i>Milan Dotlich</i>	<i>Vicki Peloquin</i>
<i>Judi Duchossois</i>	<i>Cindy Robinson</i>
<i>Donna Greenberg</i>	<i>Tim Rudolphi</i>
<i>Valarie Hays</i>	<i>Anise Wiley-Little</i>
<i>Paul Jenista</i>	<i>DeRonda Williams</i>
<i>Anastasia Lazarou</i>	<i>Eric Zion</i>

STAFF

Terri Zenner Greenberg
Executive Director

Claudia Lovelette
**Director of Operations
and Program Counsel**

Advocate Managers

Brenda Buranosky
Dick Hulseman
Hope May
Debby Parry
Elizabeth Sammann
Margaret Vergamini

Karen Hoelscher
Accountant

Linda Piepenbrink
Database Site Administrator

Sheri Robin
Courthouse Office Manager

Heidi Schrage
Development Associate

Brendan Siegfried
**Development and Special
Events Manager**

Managers of Advocate Education
Suzanne Cash
Debra Lerner-Schmidt

2017 CASA Contributors

\$50,000-\$99,999

North Shore Exchange
Marcus Lemonis

\$25,000-\$49,999

AbbVie
Anonymous
Aon
Baxter International Inc.
Camping World
Community Foundation for the Fox Valley
Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park
Jacopo and Leslie Leonardi
Trustmark Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous (2)
100 Women Who Care
Brent and Kathy Arnold
Brian and Cindy Benner
Michael and Alice Berger
Grace A. Bersted Foundation
CDW
Richard and Judi Duchossois
Edward and Wanda Jordan
Family Foundation
First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
Gorter Family Foundation
Jack and Donna Greenberg
Michael Heimert
The John R. Houlsby Foundation
Illinois Tool Works Inc.
Lundbeck Inc.
Colonel Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
Brent and Kim Moody
Tracy O'Flaherty
Erika Palmer
Giovanni Senafe
Morris Silverman and Lori Komisar
Noga and Antonio Villalon
Sherri and Eric Zion

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous (2)
Arrow
Matt Baden
Caring Women's Connection
Michael and Meredith Carter
Emily and John Chen
City of Waukegan
Bill Dietz
First Bank of Highland Park
Janice and Andy Greenawalt
Karen and Paul Hoelscher
Illinois Attorney General
Kellogg School of Management
Suzanne Kenney
Kimberly Jo Keywell
Vicki and Kerry Martin
Fortune Massuda and Charles Hannon
Deanne and John McLean
Medline Industries, Inc.
Kristen Menard
Stacey and Doug Meyer
Micron
Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg, LLP
Robert L. Parkinson
Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila
Cindy Robinson
Tim and Sue Rudolphi
Bob and Debbie Silverstein

Jeanne Simons
Saint Joseph's Church
Susan and Abraham Stern
Jay and Susie Trees
Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
Randi Valerious
Vernon Township
Village of Vernon Hills

\$2,000-\$4,999

Susan Ardell
Jeff Brandt
Joanne Celba
City of North Chicago
CME Group
Cycling for Kids
DLA Piper
Lindsay DeReadt
Discover Financial Services
Janis and Ron Douglas
Doug Eckrote
First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield
Bobby Gerber
Grotefeld Hoffmann, LLC
Marion Guyton
Idealease
Jacquelyn and David Kopp
Thomas and Amy Kuhns
Lake County Bar Foundation
Brian Leden
Libertyville Township
Jim Lillis
Joanna Lynn
Kristina Lynn
Hugh and Anna Mazza
Brandon and Kim Monk
Craig Nielsen
Nutanix
Thomas and Harriet Onan
Doug Patejuntas
Denise Peterson
Dani Petrie
Tom and Elaine Powers
Brett Schmidt
Steve and Jodi Simon
Sophos
Susan and Abraham Stern
Hank Struik
The Private Bank
Promark
W.W. Grainger, Inc.
Peter Watts
Anise Wiley-Little
Winnetka Congregational Church
Winston and Strawn LLP

\$1,000-\$1,999

Mary Barber
Karin Bell
Gary Bennett
Rick Biagi
Debra and Larry Brenman
Liz Bronneberg
Nick and Mary Lou Brown
Kathy and Rob Carlson
Jennifer Carr-Smith
Mari Christopherson and Mike Kaskie
Timothy Dembinski
Dana and Peter Dodzik
Ela Township
Naseem El-Barbarawi

Sharon and Victor Elias
Mary Fenchel
Robert and Jennifer Frentzel
Lynn Froy
Margaret and Dennis Goldman
Carolyn Guyton-Ringbloom
Charles and Sarah Hetzel
Mike Imm
Paul Jenista
Pran Jha
Julie Junkin
Jodi Kahn
Ern and David Kerpel
Steve and Josette Klopfer
Elizabeth Lock
Ellen and Steve Lubelfeld
Meg Manda
Paul Martin
Kevin McDevitt
Ellen McIntosh
Michelle and Adam Miller
Mark and Maureen Miller
Mobile TV Group, LP
Irvin Norfleet
Mandy and Brian Onstad
Christine Parro
Chistopher and Ellen Paton
Rick and Vicki Peloquin
Rosemary Reed
Robert and Jeri Reff
Adam Robbins
Kyle Sauers
Rex Sessions
Joan Shannahan
Susan Sherman
John Smith
Ann and Jeffrey Walters
Kelly and Andy Warner
Kenneth and Suzanne Wexler

\$500-\$999

Charlie Alutto
Jane Arnold
Fred AuWerter
Allison Bianchini
Breakfast Exchange Club of Gurnee
Carole Cahill
Suzanne Cash
Debra and Michael Chorpash
Linda Coberly
Helen Coleman
Community Health Charities of Illinois
Jeffery Corey
Daniel and Marni Ginnetti Family
Charlene and Pierre Eilian
Debbie Elias
Kim and Alan Frankel
Mable Franzoni
Karen and Curtis Frost
Eric Goebeler
Mark and Susan Goodman
Viren and Rani Grover
Valarie Hays
Mark Ingwer
Marc Jaffe
Scott Kranzberg
Lake Forest Bank and Trust
Julie Langley
Lori and Ross Laser
Beth Laufenberg
Wood and Lainey Lay

Matthew Mays
Terri McDonnell
Jason and Kelly Michalak
Neal and McDevitt, LLC
Elaine Oh
Tami Pilot-Matias
Prudence R. Beidler Fund
Gino Ricchio
Donald Roulo
Michael Schneider
Sumit Sengupta and Cassie Brooks
Marcello Spiesz
Laura Topel
Ryan Vann
Dan Vecchio
Donald and L. Christine Wertman
Steven and Susan Wright
Sheldon Zenner and Ellen Morgan

\$250-\$499

Zrinka Allen
Anonymous
Rachel Ardell
Thalia Banon
Suzanne Batridge
Shane Blackstone
BMO Harris Bank
Michael and Susan Boyd
Gail and Andrew Brown
Michael Brown
Jill Burman
Karen Beth Clarke
Julie Corey
Dipak and Ginni Doshi
Larry Eclov
Carol and Andrew Elsbree
Jamie Evans
Martin Feig
Steve Flores
Matt and Katie Frekko
Cary Gerlinger
Richard and Liz Gordon
Corey Greenawalt
Tim Johnson
Allan and Loretta Kaplan
Stephanie Kearney
Samuel Kessler
Linda and Howard Kirschbaum
Jeff Kost
Anastasia Lazarou
Kristin Leonard
Judith Lewis
Eli Litoff
Brooke Long
Debbie and Dave Lorig
Claudia Lovelette
Carrie Oswald
Hyde Perce
Sara Pfaff
Marcy and Phillip Rasky
Harold and Kristina Rice-Erso
Jeff Ringbloom
Barbra Roberson
Grace Roh
Greg Harbaugh and Carol Saunders
Patricia Siegfried
Nina Sorensen
Arvind Sreedharan
Leanna and Richard Walther

