

LIFTING THE CHILD'S VOICE



CASA LAKE COUNTY 2021 IMPACT REPORT

“

"[Our CASA was] our beacon of light, guiding us through interactions with DCFS and helping us to navigate the court process, which sometimes seemed very complex, stressful and overwhelming. [Our CASA's] continual support, visits, and resources were vital."

”

-Former foster guardian

Dear CASA Lake County Friends and Supporters,

When CASA's Board was planning for our long-term program needs in 2017, we focused on stability and service quality rather than growth. The number of children referred to our program had been relatively stable for more than half a decade. We served about 450 children each year, and the 120 new children each year were balanced by 120 with cases closing.

There were few indications of the dramatic change that the next five years would bring. Since that time, the rate of children entering Lake County foster care has nearly doubled.

Once the need became clear, our Board encouraged our staff to do whatever was necessary to meet the needs of a waitlist that had grown to include more than 120 Lake County children.

So, we got to work, and hired four new Advocate Managers. We expanded training classes by 50%. We shifted existing staff from part-time to full-time. Now, we routinely serve 50% more children than just a few years ago, and our waitlist is frequently fewer than 30 children.

We couldn't have done that without our incredible CASA community. Our growth showed us just how dedicated our CASA program and supporters can be. Staff and volunteers took on more cases, and you, our community, provided the means to be able to do so.

Thank you for caring so deeply about the children in Lake County who have faced abuse and neglect. You are a powerful source of support.



Terri Zenner Greenberg
Executive Director

MISSION

CASA Lake County exists to promote and protect the best interests of children who have been abused or neglected, by training volunteers to advocate for them in courts, in schools, and in our community to help them find safe, permanent, and loving homes where they can thrive.



VISION

A community where all children who have experienced abuse or neglect are given the opportunity to reach their full potential in safe and loving homes.

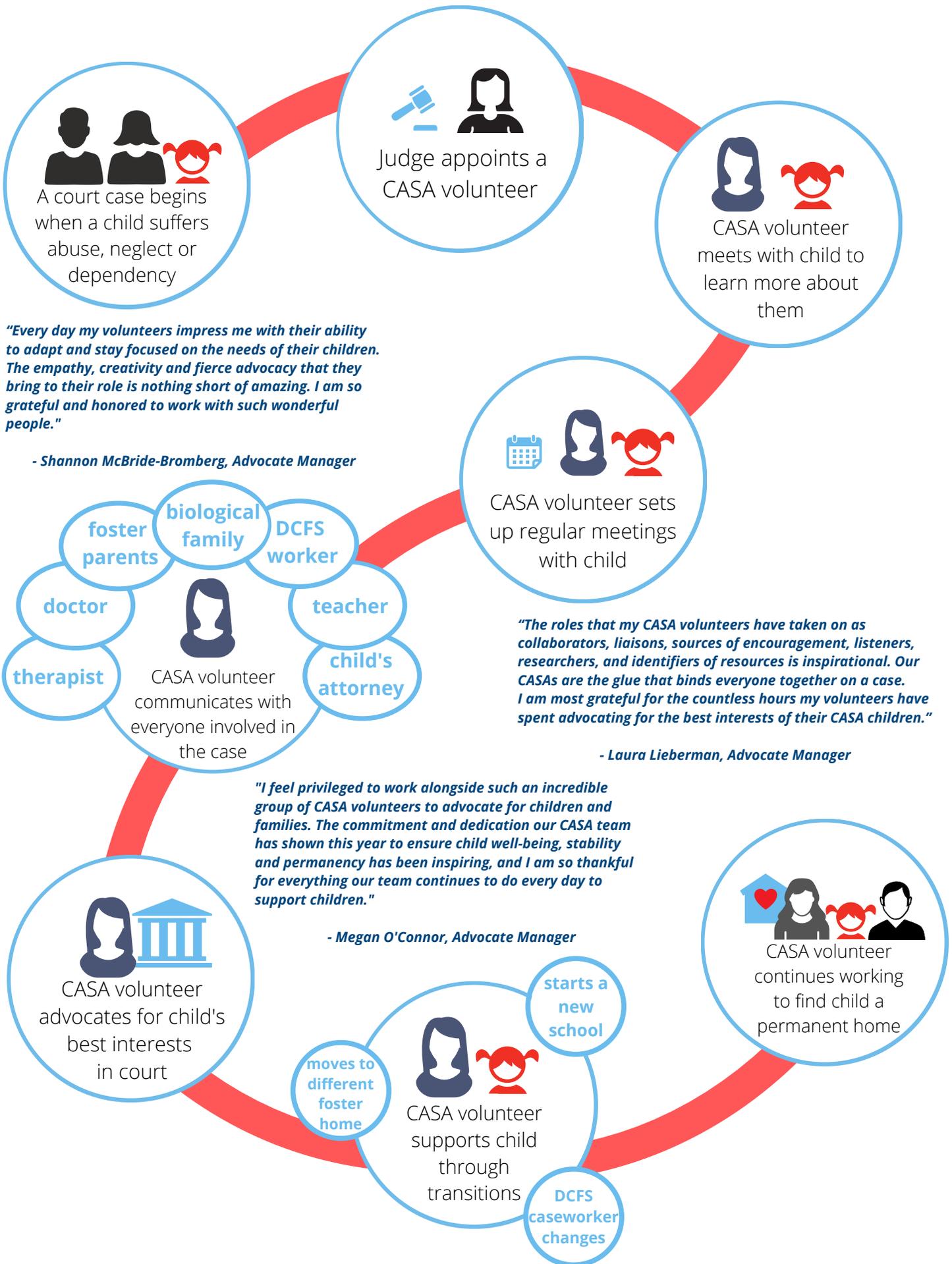


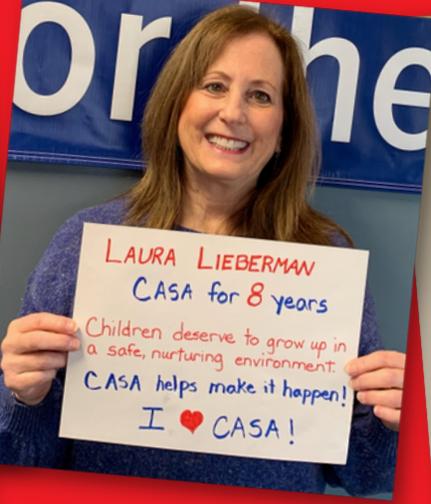
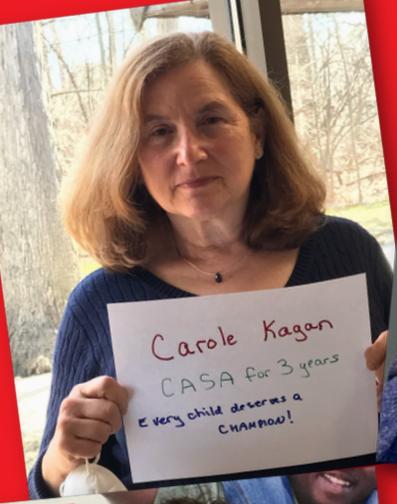
ETHICS

It is CASA Lake County's duty to promote the safety and well-being of the children we serve. We shall protect children from abuse and from practices that are emotionally and physically damaging, disrespectful, degrading, dangerous, exploitative, or intimidating.



What Does a CASA Do?





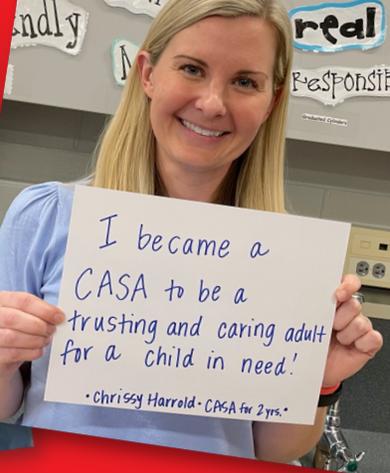
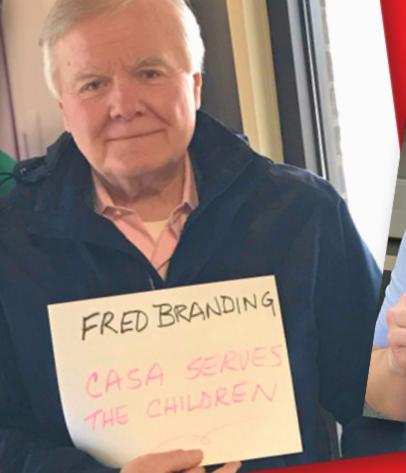
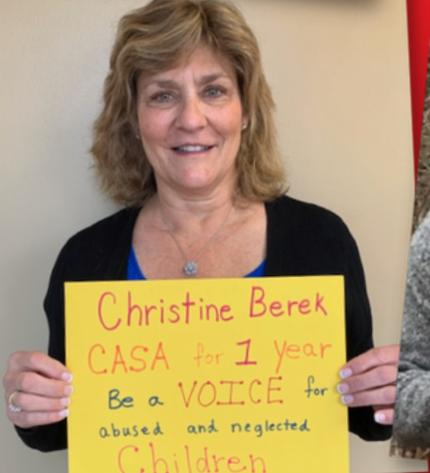
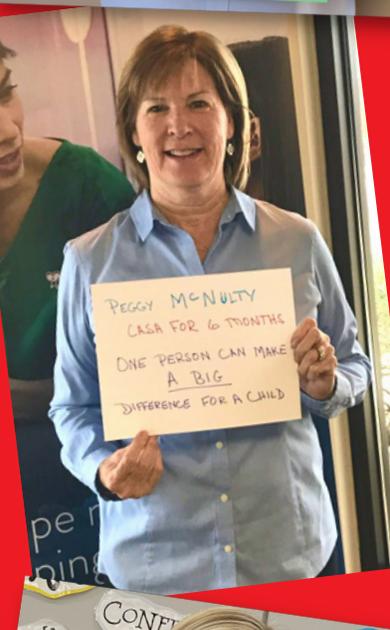
"Why I volunteer with CASA"

Time is the most valuable resource anyone can give because it can't be made back.

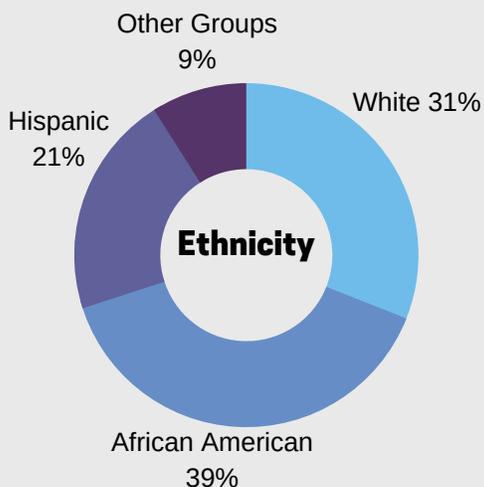
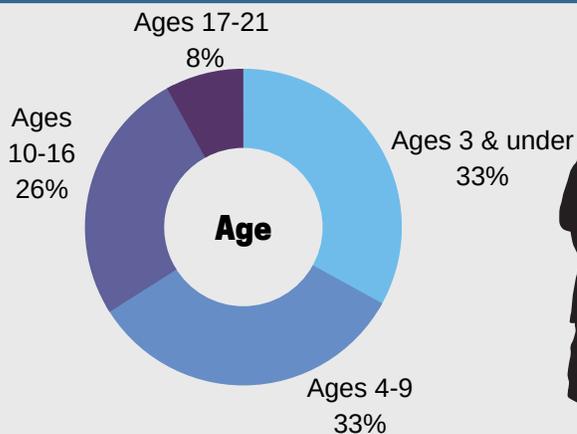
Our volunteers are the heart of our organization. They so selflessly give of their time to support Lake County foster children in need.

Without them, we wouldn't be able to do the work that we do, so we are infinitely grateful to them for all they do.

We asked our CASA volunteers what inspires them to share their time with us. **Read their notes to see what they had to say!**



WHO IS A CASA CHILD?



Trauma experienced by CASA kids

- 72% Neglect
- 52% Substance Misuse
- 19% Domestic Violence
- 18% Physical Abuse
- 3% Sexual Abuse

*Children can experience multiple issues that cause their entry into care

Among the children we served in 2021...

43% had cognitive disabilities or delays, physical disabilities, or clinically diagnosed behavioral or mental health needs

22% had depression, PTSD, anxiety, bipolar disorder, or a similar mental health diagnosis

22% had ADHD, developmental delays, speech impairment or learning disabilities

12% had medical challenges such as heart conditions, neurological disorders, respiratory problems, or physical disabilities including vision or hearing impairment

9% had prenatal drug exposure, fetal alcohol syndrome or shaken baby syndrome

Placement Type While in Care

- 64% Family or relatives
- 29% Traditional foster homes
- 6% Residential institutions
- 1% Other Placements

Case Closure Circumstance

- 69% Reunification with parent(s)
- 17% Adoption
- 7% Guardianship
- 7% Independence

Duration of Case

- 26% Under 1 year
- 50% 1-3 years
- 14% 3-5 years
- 10% Over 5 years

Just Imagine...

Try to remember how long two and half years is for a child. It's an impossible amount of time at that age. Still, half of our children have cases that last longer than that.

667 children served
303 active CASA volunteers
165 child case closures

165 total children served with a volunteer had cases close in 2021, a **11%** increase from 2020.

WHO IS A CASA VOLUNTEER?

Employment Status

- 52% Employed full-time
- 24% Employed part-time
- 24% Retired, not currently employed, or other employment status

Age

- 4% 21-29
- 9% 30-39
- 14% 40-49
- 32% 50-59
- 39% 60 and over

Why did you join CASA?

"I became a CASA because foster children deserve people on their side - to advocate, help, guide, and speak up!"

- Jodi Kahn, CASA Volunteer

Years of Service as a CASA

- 35% Under 3 years
- 34% 3-5 years
- 31% 6 years or more



2021 CASA VOLUNTEERS

We are so grateful for the hundreds of volunteers who shared their time, energy, and support with their CASA children and families. Thank you!

Tawana Alexander	Mary Dominiak	Nicole Hinckley	David MacPhail	Frank Pavelske	Ellen Skolar
Patricia Allen	Erin Donaldson	Ann Hofmeier	Sharon Madaus	Megan Pavelske	Mara Smith
Kendra Appling-Rounsaville	Jill Doppelt	Amy Holtsford	Frances Magriz	Paul Perri	Renee Smith
Alifiya Arastu	Ginni Doshi	Terri Hooker	Pamela Maloney	Charles Persico	Todd Smith
Christine Arreola	Monica Doxie	Melanie Horowitz	Meg Manda	Lynn Persico	Emily Soltwisch
Vanessa Baie	Beth Edwards	Shannon Hubert	Catherine Marazan	Lori Petersen	Kelli Stanley
Kimberly Baker	Candy Eichman	Thomas Hynes	Christine Markantonis	Ken Peterson	William Steele
Jill Barber	Marcia Elkin	Stephanie Isaacson	Anna Maroney	Jennifer Pfeifer	Linda Steen
Allison Batcho	Sophy Elliott	Susan Isenberg	Shar'mane Martin-Wilson	Julie Phipps	Marla Stein
Chris Berek	Jamie Epstein	Lisa Jacob	Lauren Marwil	Valerie Pientka	Rachel Stein
Michael Berger	Patty Felker	Lauren Jacobson	Sophie Marwil	Kathy Powell	Susan Stern
Claudia Berman	Mary Fenchel	Maria Jimenez	Anne McArtney	Katie Quade	Joan Stevens
Morag Bishop	Lindsay Finlay	Hera Johal	Shannon McBride-Bromberg	Linda Racki	Kim Struik
Siovhlan Blau	Amy Fischer	Rita Johnson	Elizabeth McClurg	Charlie Ramsey	Marty Szostak
Juliann Boardman	Mary Ann Forness	Jodie Johnson	Amelia McDonough	Deborah Rashman	Candace Tallisman
Beth Boehrer	Susan Fowler	Laura Jones	Joe McGann	Layal Rassas	Carola Tanna
Zoe Borys	Jenny Frentzel	Deborah Jurs	Kerri Melzl	Edna Raz	Julie Tanneberger
Kathleen Brosmith	Lynn Froy	Carole Kagan	Michael Mendoza	Kathleen Redding	Katharine Thompson
Sarah Brown	Monica Gajdel	Jodi Kahn	Christine Merrild	Rosemary Reed	Nickie Tonioni-Greskovich
Carolyn Buchholz	Lee Galarce	Karen Kaiz	Lisa Meyer	Terrie Reinhard	Laura Topel
Katherine Buller	Christine Galliani	Ashley Kaltinger	Venetia Miles	Sandra R Emmert	Krystal Topps
Katie Bushala	Judi Gettleman	Missy Kanter	Barbara Miller	Natalie Rempala	Emily Turner
Marni Byrnes	Amy Gibes	Dana Karlov	Cecilia Milotti	Ingrid Richards	Laura Ulrich
Colleen Campbell	Jill Giovannetti	Jan Katz	Kara Mishler	Debbie Richwine	Lisa VanErden
Connie Capone	Monique Goens	Gina Keefe	Mimi Mitchell	Stephen Robertson	Emma Visee
Amy Carletti	Amy Goggin	Rosemary Kehr	Nadine Montcalm	Lauren Roche	Amy Voss
Peg Carlson	Heather Goldhaber	Karen Kelley	Jim Morettini	Anna Roeser	Beth Vrioni
Laura Casey	Holly Goldsmith	Erin Kerpel	Renee Morris	Diane Roman	Dia Weil
Christopher Causey	Renee Goldstein	Michael Knight	Carol Mullarkey	Lynne Rosenbaum	Andrea Weingart
Mary Causey	Sheldon Goldstein	Nancy Knight	Mark Nachbar	Susan Rote-Kay	Jeanette White
Marcia Cebula	Patty Gonzales Vandergrift	Barbara Korobkin	Michele Nachbar	Amy Russo	Roxanne Wichlin
Donna Chen	Coleen Goodson	Cheryl Koronowski	Joanne Nagel	Robin Salk	Jane Williams
Megan Chin	Linda Goone	Karen Kos	Jeffrey Nagel	Hilary Saurer	JoAnne Williams
Danielle Cizowski	Manoj Gopi	Jeffrey Kost	Christy Neal-Garcia	Jamie Schaefer	Yolanda Wisnionski
Robin Cleek	Guadalupe Granados Medina	Noreen Kreda	Elaine Nekarda	Patricia Schaefer	Lynnae Wolin
Kathleen Cole	Janice Greenawalt	Inga Krueger	Lisa Nesbitt	Margaret Schaefer	Robyn Woods
Janet Conlon	Dawn Greenberg	Isabel Krupica	Diane Neuroth	Cary Schawel	Tracey Wooten
Barbara Connet	Charles Greskovich	Martha Lahti	Sandra Nimz	Sheila Scheer	Lauren Wu
Julie Corey	David Griffin	Ryan LaLonde	Wendy Noonan	Rebecca Scheuneman	
Kathy Cotter	Tina Grubestic-Ibrisevic	Jennifer Lang	Claudia Ochoa	Tiffany Schneider	
Brian Coughlin	Cheryl Gudella	Barbara Laskowski	Meg O'Keefe	Richard Schulman	
Elizabeth Coughlin	Jody Gullifor	Suzanne Lavin	Lauri Olson	Gerald Schulz	
Marsha Cowles	Marissa Haas	Kathleen Lawler	Sylvia Oriatti	Laura Schwartz	
Jessica Cox	Melissa Hall	Kristin Leonard	Louis Orlando	Lauren Schwartz	
Lauren Crane	Inez Hanan	Debra Lerner-Schmidt	Cathy O'Shaughnessy	Emily Selbe	
Susan Creager	Christina Harrold	Mindy Levinson	Karen Ottenheimer	Katie Shorr	
Gayle Curran	Jane Haynes	Nancy Liberman	Odie Pahl	Michelle Shumate	
Maddie Davis	Andrea Heim	Laura Lieberman	Mary Ellen Palubicki	Priscilla Sienko	
Rebecca Deering	Denise Heimlich	Lisa Lissner	Haydon Paquin	Deborah Silverstein	
Susan DePree	Rosita Hernandez	Deborah Lorsch	Jin Park	Patricia Sima	
Lindsay DeReadt	Sandra Hernandez-Aguirre	Ellen Lubelfeld	Debby Parry	Debbie Simon	
Carl Derenfeld	Lisa Herrin	Laura Luce	Ellen Paton	Jeanne Simons	

Volunteers listed were active between July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. We do our best to reflect volunteers accurately and apologize for any errors or those we may have omitted.

If you would like to request a change to your volunteer information, please contact Nicoleta Girloanta, Communications and Development Manager, at ngirloanta@casalakecounty.com.



CASA AMY SUPPORTS LEXI AND SKYLAR

When Lexi (8) and Skylar (7) were removed from their home due to neglect in 2018, the situation looked bleak. Their mother, Chrissy, was struggling with alcohol dependency, and their father was unable to care for the girls.

The girls were placed in foster care with their grandmother, Carol, who works full time and is also primary guardian for another grandchild.



That is when CASA Amy entered the picture. Amy quickly developed a strong, comfortable relationship with Lexi, Skylar, and Carol. **She helped the family navigate the challenging child welfare system, connecting Carol with support systems and resources for the girls.**

Once it became clear to Amy that Chrissy was determined to reunite her family, **Amy worked to support her.** Chrissy completed addiction treatment and all other court-mandated requirements.

With CASA Amy's support, Chrissy was finally reunited with her daughters in 2021. Amy maintains a close relationship with the whole family, and she **plans to continue to support Lexi and Skylar as a family friend.** We're so proud of Chrissy, Lexi, and Skylar, and we're grateful that Amy stood beside them through every challenge that the family overcame.

A "Virtually" Perfect Celebration

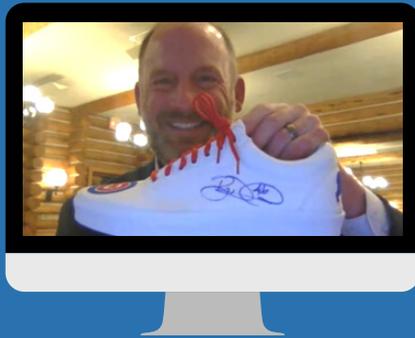
CASA's Annual Gala has traditionally been its largest fundraising event each year. In 2020, for the first time in over 15 years, CASA was unable to host the this event due to COVID-19 precautions.

In 2021, we embraced the challenge of shifting the entire event online. While we missed connecting with our community in-person, the virtual gala allowed our supporters to celebrate together safely. Nearly 200 participants tuned in from their mobile devices, laptops, and computers to experience an incredible evening of hope, inspiration, gratitude, and laughs.

Our Terri Zenner award honoree, Chicago Cubs icon, sports entertainment personality, and philanthropist Ryan Dempster, hosted a great game of CASA trivia. CASA staff shared their experience adjusting to the difficulties the pandemic placed on their work. And CASA youth Kaydra Sutherland and Jacob Kofi warmed our hearts with their **incredible stories of resilience.**

"I don't think I would have found my forever home if it weren't for my CASA, Lynnae." -Kaydra Sutherland

Former CASA youth, Kaydra Sutherland shared her incredible story of determination. Having never attended school before entering foster care at age 15, Kaydra taught herself to read with help from her local library. She graduated high school and completed her nursing degree just seven years after her first day of formal education. She gave credit to her teachers, adoptive parents, and CASA Lynnae for supporting her through it all.



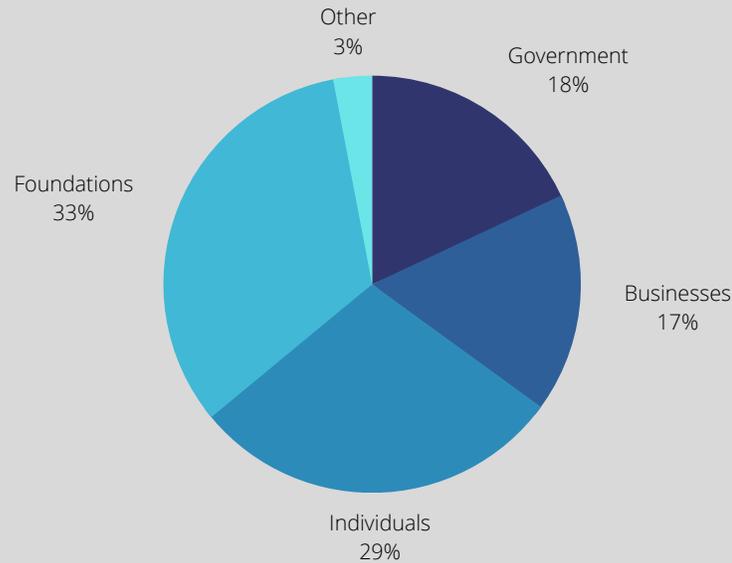
Ryan Dempster holding up a pair of Jacob's custom-painted sneakers which he autographed for a lucky CASA auction winner!

Jacob's story: a bright future and a lot of SOLE

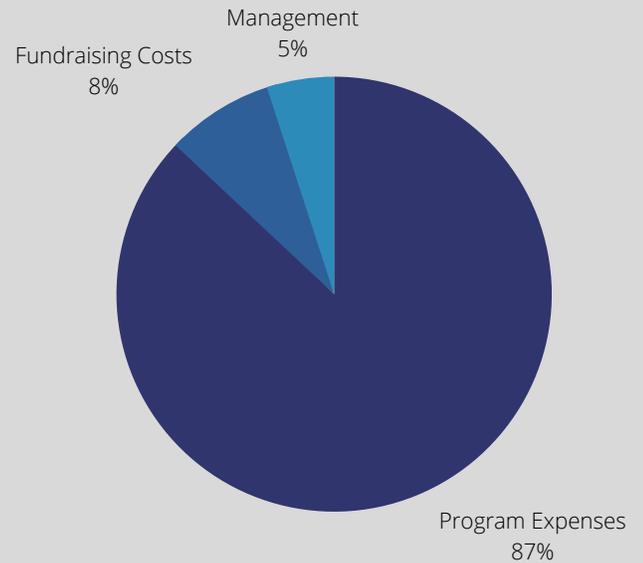
Jacob is a former CASA youth who doesn't let his past hold him back. He is a not only a talented artist who beautifully designs and paints custom sneakers and clothing, but he's also a college student working toward his future. Jacob and his adoptive mom Cindy, shared their positive experience with Jacob's CASA, Morag.



Revenue: \$2,510,143



Expenses: \$1,179,725



Net Assets: \$2,814,440

"Without CASA, and without [our CASA volunteer] being the voice my girls needed, my story might not have had a happy ending.

CASA Lake County and the people I have met through there will always have a special place in my heart. CASA helped bring my family back together, and in a way, helped put me back together. You'll always have a fan in me. I am in awe of all the wonderful work you do."

-Biological mother reunified with children

2021 FISCAL YEAR SUPPORTERS

\$50,000+

IL Criminal Justice Info Authority - VOCA
Illinois CASA Association
John and Kathleen Schreiber Foundation
State of Illinois DCEO

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Gorter Family Foundation
Peggy & Steve Fossett Foundation
The Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park
The Medline Foundation
Trustmark Foundation
Anon. - Community Foundation for the Fox Valley
Brent & Kim Moody

\$10,000 to \$24,999

City of Waukegan
First Presbyterian Church - Lake Forest
Grace A. Bersted Foundation
Office Of Illinois Attorney General
ITW
Jackson National Life Insurance Co.
National CASA Association
St. Joseph Catholic Church
The Lake County Community Fndn.
Village of Vernon Hills
W. W. Grainger, Inc.
Brent & Kathy Arnold
Doug & Stacey Meyer
Elizabeth & Derek Sammann
Emily & John Chen
Jack & Donna Greenberg
Joanna & Bill Lynn
Lori Komisar & Morrie Silverman
Noga & Antonio Villalon
Susan & Abraham J. Stern
The Edward & Wanda Jordan Fndn.
The John R. Houlsby Foundation

\$5,000 to 9,999

Caring Women's Connection
Conagra Brands
Cooper Meyer Wealth Management
First Bank Of Highland Park
First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield
Fortinet
Grotefeld Hoffmann, LLC
Jack & Jill North Shore Chapter
Junior League - Evanston/North Shore
Rush Street Interactive
Vernon Township
Christopher Moody & Ryan Lalonde
Cindy & James Robinson
Debra Ludolph
Ingram Micro NSP
Janice & Andy Greenawalt
Jim & Suzanne Kenney
Joanne Celba
Joseph & Kristina McGann
Judi Duchossois
Mr. & Mrs. Walter W. Winkler
Randy & Tobey Sheridan
Ryan & Cassie Clark

\$2,000 to 4,999

George M. Eisenberg Foundation
JMM CPA
Roundtable Healthcare Executives
SC Johnson
Winnetka Congregational Church
Amy Holtsford
Bill & Cindee Dietz
Brian & Cindy Benner
Brian Little & Anise Wiley-Little
Chuck Hannon & Fortunee Massuda
Claudia Lovelette
Danielle Pascucci
Denise Peterson
Gary & Ruby Bennett
Gil Lowe
Grant & Laurie Bagan
Hank & Kim Struik
Hugh & Ann Mazza
Jacquelyn Kopp
Jenny Krieger
Karen & Paul Hoelscher
Kevin & Jennifer McDevitt
Kyle & Joan Sauers
Marjorie Dorr
Matthew Baden & Teresa Dobson
Mike Brickhouse
Morgan Azim
Nick Geaslin
Peter Watts
Raymond & Diane Roman
Rick & Sue Biagi
Rick & Vicki Peloquin
Sarah Lessman
Susan & Miff Ardell
Jeff & Jamie Kost
Thomas & Harriet Onan
Todd & Beverly Smith
Whole Foods Market

\$1,000 to 1,999

Rick & Sue Biagi
Casey Family Programs
Susan DePree
Janis & Ron Douglas
Donna & Dennis Drescher
Ela Township
Patty Felker
Mable Franzoni
Lynn & Michael Froy
Josette Goldberg Klopfer
Frances & David Griffin
Grotefeld Hoffmann, LLC
Amanda Gunn
Michael Hubbard
Susan & Tom Hynes
Genevieve and Steve Jepson
Jodi & David Kahn
Allan & Loretta Kaplan
Michael & Nancy Knight
Lori & Ross Kintzle Laser
Brian Leden
Haven Leeming
Libertyville Township
Peter Manhard

\$1,000 to 1,999 cont.

Joseph & Kristina McGann
Ira & Ellen Mirochnick
Morris Weiser Family Foundation
Craig Nielsen
Northern Illinois Offshore Club
Rick & Vicki Peloquin
Mark & Caryn Putterman
ServiceNow
Amy Stanczyk
Laura Z. & Kurt W. Topel
Jay & Susie Trees
Thomas Wedell

\$500 to 999

Jane D Arnold
Sanjeev Arora
Steven Bonnes
Exchange Club of Gurnee
Sandra & Richard A Bronstein
Sumit Sengupta & Cassie Brooks
Gail & Andrew W. Feiger Brown
Thomas Brown
Connie Capone
Suzanne & Robert Cash
Helen S. Coleman
Tim & Elizabeth Dembinski
Theresa & Patrick Donoghue
Milan & Natalie Dotlich
Alexis Frantz
Joel & Stacy Friedland
Donna Gallegos
Michael Glickman
Amy Goggin
Margaret & Dennis M. Goldman
Ken & Jennifer Goodsmith
Corey Greenawalt
Audrey Grunst
Karen & Paul Hoelscher
Kenneth & Melissa Joy Hoffman
Steve & Meghan Hoxmeier
Ben Hutchen
Ellen & Steve Lubelfeld
June & Michael Melber
Thomas F. & Susan P. Moran
Margaret & Kevin O'Keefe
Christopher & Ellen Paton
Bob & Dani Petrie
Donald Roulo
Richard Schulman
Patricia & William Smarto
Brent & Mara Smith
Katharine Thompson
United Methodist Church
Edward S. & Dia S. Weil
Kenneth & Suzanne Wexler

"Being a CASA volunteer made me aware of people's personal struggles and circumstances and how vital CASA is - often a CASA volunteer can be there when the others can't. CASA is another set of eyes for the children - our most vulnerable population. How could I not [donate]? Especially after [seeing] what these children go through?"

-Barbara Roberson, donor for 22 years

Thank you!

2021 Board of Directors

Brent Arnold
President

Joanna Lynn
Secretary

Terri Z. Greenberg
Ex-Officio

Doug Meyer
Vice President

Brent Moody
Vice President

Noga Villalon
Vice President

Eric Zion
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Ryan Clark Judi Duchossis Sarah Lessman Chris Moody Tobey Sheridan Anise Wiley-Little
Tim Dembinski Donna Greenberg Matt Mays Hope Mueller Kashiana Singh DeRonda Williams

2021 Staff

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Executive Director

Brenda Buranosky
Advocate Mgr.

Nicoleta Girloanta
Office Administrator

Shannon McBride-Bromberg
Advocate Mgr.

Elizabeth Sammann
Program Mgr. & Counsel

Elizabeth Bush
Advocate Mgr.

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Emily Selbe
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Laura Lieberman
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Linda Piepenbrink
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Margaret Vergamini
Program Mgr.

Liz Fales
Prgm. Devt. Mgr.

Claudia Lovelette
Program Advisor

Sheri Robin
Intake Mgr.

Thank You to Our 2021 Mission Partners



THE LAKE COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
PROUD GRANT RECIPIENT



Peggy & Steve
Fossett Foundation

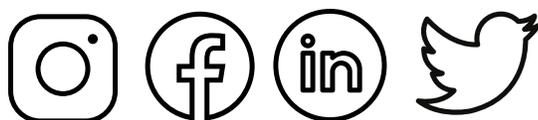


Gorter Family
Foundation





CASA Lake County
700 Forest Edge Drive
Vernon Hills IL, 60061
www.casalakecounty.com
(847)-383-6260



@casalakecounty