

LIFTED VOICES BRIGHTER FUTURES



CASA LAKE COUNTY
IMPACT
REPORT
2022



“

"I'm so glad we had Laura (CASA) through this adventure...She would put herself in my shoes, and encouraged me when things were difficult. I knew I could count on her to fill me in about the court proceedings if I ever had to miss a court visit...She was there and she will always be...we consider her like part of our family...I would trust Laura with (all) of my children if I ever had to leave."

-Tara, Adoptive Mother

”

Dear CASA Lake County Friends and Supporters,

The after-effects of the past few years have led to many changes in the way the world operates. Over the past year, CASA Lake County has worked hard to navigate changes for a new normal in carrying out the agency's mission.

From adapting to the changing landscape of court proceedings, steering dramatic shifts in fundraising, and dedicating a budget that accommodates our growing program, we've grown despite the many challenges. And none of it could have happened without you -- our dedicated community of supporters.

The pandemic changed juvenile court proceedings for abuse and neglect cases in Lake County. The court decided that hearings would be held virtually, instead of in-person, to give parents and families a safer and flexible opportunity for participation. This meant that our staff and CASA volunteers would also have to attend remotely. This year we were able to improve the virtual court experience at our office by installing television monitors with video conferencing cameras and speakers.

Additionally, while individual and corporate fundraising has always been a cornerstone of CASA Lake County's sustainability, this year we were grateful for the opportunity to receive new sources of funding and support from government entities. While the increase in funding provided the means for our CASA program to expand its reach and amplify its positive influence, it also required completing lengthy applications and submitting detailed reports.

As Lake County continued to see an increase in the number of children entering care, we worked to add more staff and volunteers to ensure we could serve as many of the children as possible. Accommodating the needs of those children required careful planning, strategic allocation of resources, and a reevaluation of our budget.

Thank you once again for your dedication to support our mission of ensuring that every child's voice is heard and that they receive the support they deserve. Your support truly makes a difference.

With heartfelt appreciation and best wishes,
Terri



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

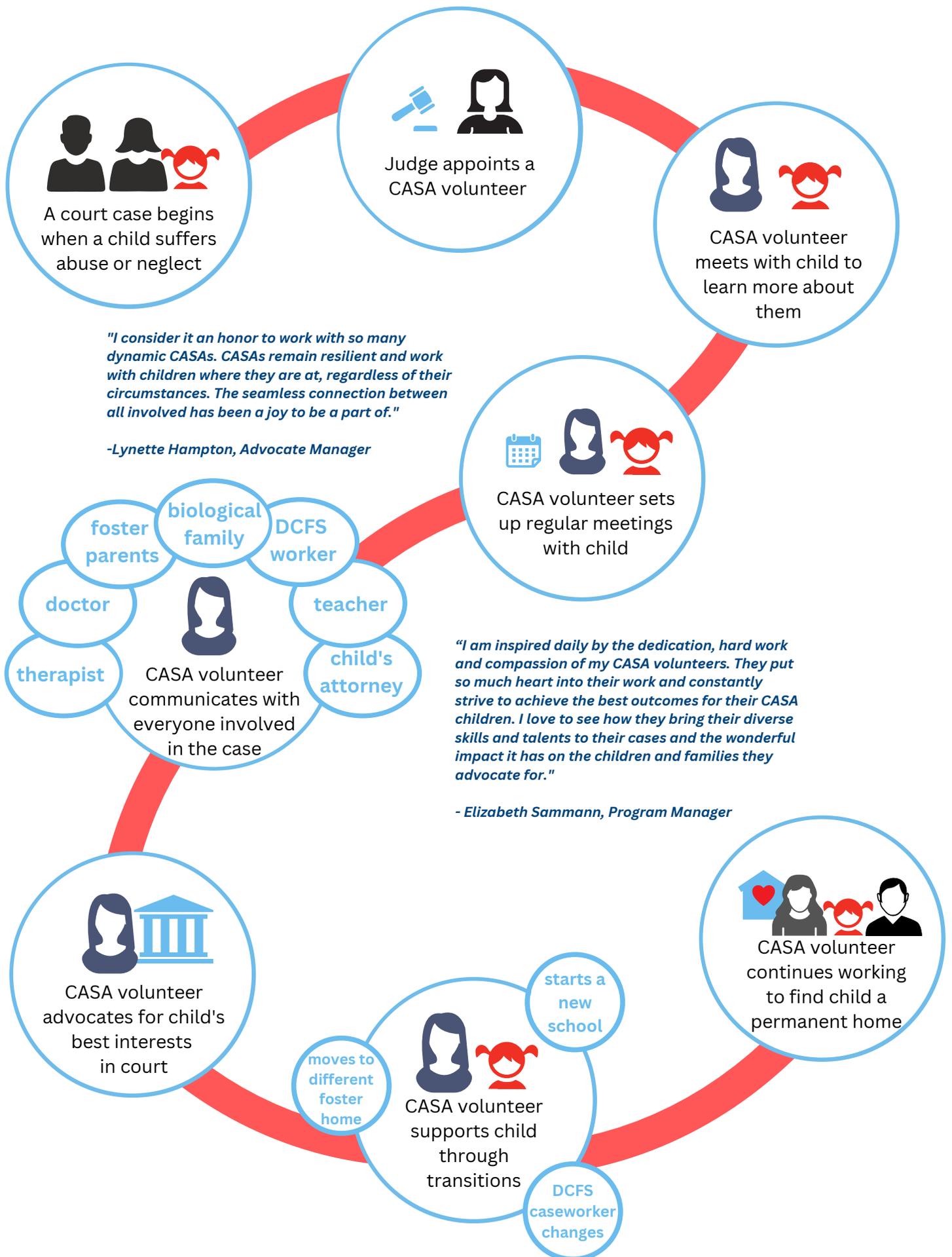
A community where all children who have experienced abuse or neglect are given the opportunity to reach their full potential in safe and loving homes.



ETHICS

It is CASA Lake County's duty to promote the safety and well-being of the children it serves. 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"



Choosing to volunteer is a personal decision that is often influenced by one's life experiences. When asked what has motivated her to support CASA as long as she has, CASA advocate Susan's answer was remarkable.

"Nothing tugs at my heart more than an innocent child who has become a victim of adults who have lost their way in life." Susan said.

"My parents were both orphaned in the Holocaust; my mom and her four young siblings were saved from their final destination, Auschwitz, by their aunt and uncle in the United States. In essence, they sponsored and became foster parents to my mom and her siblings. In the face of tragedy, my mother flourished in their loving, safe home. Looking back, this is probably what led me to CASA's door. CASA saves children and gives them a fighting chance. CASA supports the family unit when possible. I feel the tug of my heart every day that I am a CASA volunteer."

We are deeply grateful for the longtime commitment and support of our CASA volunteer, Susan Stern. In addition to giving so selflessly of her time by advocating for children as a CASA volunteer since 2009, Susan and her husband Abraham have also supported CASA Lake County's mission as donors for over 13 years. Thank you to Susan and Abraham for your continued dedication to the children in Lake County who have endured abuse and/or neglect.

What other CASA Advocates are saying...

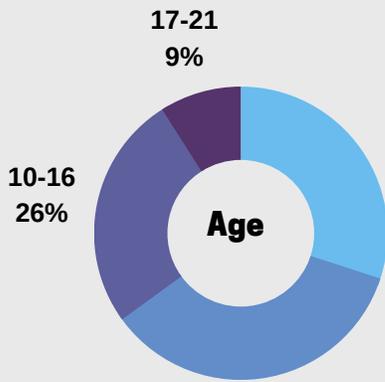
While I enjoy my retiree life, I need to be engaged in important work, work that feeds my soul. I think being a CASA will fulfill my need to contribute to the betterment of the human condition, right in my own backyard.

-Emma Visee, CASA Advocate

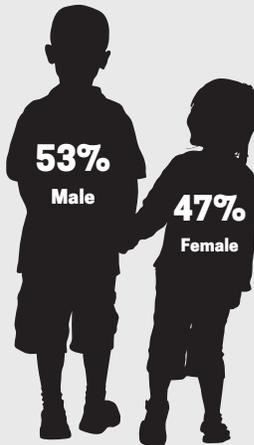
CASA appealed to me because there are so many children who need a voice to support and defend them. I want my volunteer work with CASA to help ensure that these children won't suffer anymore.

-Michael Mendoza, CASA Advocate

WHO IS A CASA CHILD?



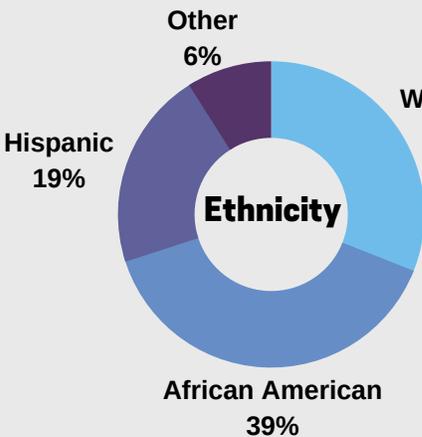
3 & Under
30%



Trauma experienced by CASA kids

- 72% Neglect
- 57% Substance Misuse
- 35% Incarcerated Parent
- 27% Domestic Violence
- 21% Physical Abuse
- 2% Sexual Abuse

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



White 36%

African American
39%

Among the children we served in 2022...

25% had cognitive disabilities or delays, physical disabilities, or clinically diagnosed behavioral or mental health needs

16% had depression, PTSD, anxiety, bipolar disorder, or a similar mental health diagnosis

36% had ADHD, developmental delays, speech impairment or learning disabilities

13% had medical challenges such as heart conditions, neurological disorders, respiratory problems, or physical disabilities including vision or hearing impairment

10% had prenatal drug exposure, fetal alcohol syndrome or shaken baby syndrome

Placement Type While in Care

- 63% Family or Relatives
- 30% Traditional Foster Homes
- 6% Residential Institutions
- 1% Other Placements

Duration of Case

- 22% Under 1 year
- 51% 1-3 years
- 17% 3-5 years
- 10% Over 5 years

Case Closure Circumstance

- 76% Reunification with parent(s)
- 17% Adoption
- 5% Guardianship
- 2% Independence

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.

728 children served
303 active CASA volunteers
214 child case closures

214 total children with a CASA had cases close in 2022, a 30% increase from 2021!

WHO IS A CASA VOLUNTEER?

Employment Status

- 37% Employed full-time
- 16% Employed part-time
- 16% Retired, not currently employed, or other employment status

Age

- 5% 20-29
- 11% 30-39
- 13% 40-49
- 30% 50-59
- 41% 60 and over

Why did you join CASA?

"Children who are impacted by family turmoil and end up in a foster home need an advocate...They deserve someone who is devoted to looking out for their best interests while they are in this system."

- Martin Szostak, CASA Volunteer

Years of Service as a CASA

- 15% Under 2 years
- 54% 2-5 years
- 19% 6-9 years
- 11% 10 years or more



2022 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!

Help Us Celebrate Some
Special Milestones!

2 years

5 years

10 years

15 years

Tawana Alexander
Pat Allen
Kendra Appling-Rounsaville
Alifiya Arastu
Christine Arreola
Vanessa Baie
Jill Barber
Allison Batcho
Rachel Belk
Christine Berek
Michael Berger
Morag Bishop
Lora Blackowicz
Siovhlan Blau
Beth Boehrer
Christina Bohn
Frederick Branding
Carolyn Brooks
Carolyn Buchholz
Jennifer Bunge
Lori Burns
Katie Bushala
Marni Byrnes
Handy Cabrera
Colleen Campbell
Amy Carletti
Laura Casey
Christopher Causey
Mary Causey
Marcia Cebula
Donna Chen
Jennie Christenson
Robin Cleek
Hannah Clyde
Kathleen Cole
Janet Conlon
Barbara Connet
Julie Corey
Kathy Cotter
Brian Coughlin
Elizabeth Coughlin
Diane Covert
Marsha Cowles
Jessica Cox
Lauren Crane
Lisa Crenshaw
Julie Dahlberg
Rita Dainko
Maddie Davis
Rebecca Deering
Susan DePree
Lindsay DeReadt
Carl Derenfeld
Cindy Dobbins
Mary Dominiak
Erin Donaldson
Jill Doppelt
Ginni Doshi
Jennifer Drumm
Beth Edwards
Sophy Elliott
Catherine Embree
Jamie Epstein

Susan Erickson
Mary Beth Fahrney
Andrea Farrell
Patty Felker
Mary Fenchel
Lindsay Finlay
Amy Fischer
Kathleen Flaherty
Susan Fowler
Jennifer Frentzel
Stacy Friedland
David Frisch
Lynn Froy
Monica Gajdel
Lee Galarce
Laura Galfano
Christine Galliani
Judi Gettleman
Amy Gibes
Jillian Giovannetti
Christina Gluch
Amy Goggin
Lori Golata
Heather Goldhaber
Renee Goldstein
Sheldon Goldstein
Linda Goone
Manoj Gopi
Guadalupe Granados Medina
Janice Greenawalt
Charles Greskovich
David Griffin
Tina Grubestic-Ibrisevic
Cheryl Gudella
Leslie Guglielmi
Jody Gullifor
Inez Hanan
Tressa Harris
Christina Harrold
Andrea Heim
Denise Heimlich
Rosita Hernandez
Sandra Hernandez
Nicole Hinckley
Amy Holtsford
Terri Hooker
Melanie Horowitz
Denise Houchins
Karen Hughes
Thomas Hynes
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Susan Isenberg
Lisa Jacob
Lauren Jacobson
Jodie Johnson
Rita Johnson
Laura Jones
Deborah Jurs
Carole Kagan
Jodi Kahn
Joyce Kahoun
Karen Kaiz
Dana Karlov

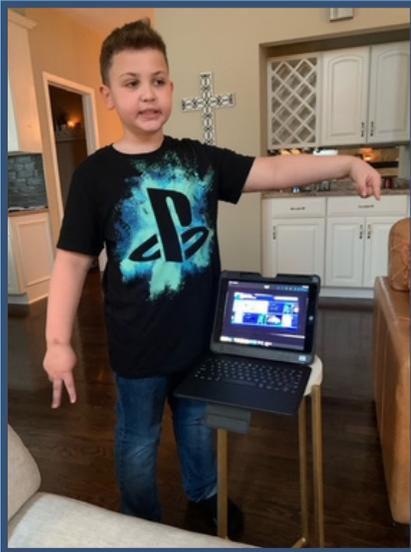
Jan Katz
Gina Keefe
Karen Kelley
Virginia Kelley
Erin Kerpel
Michael Knight
Nancy Knight
Barbara Korobkin
Cheryl Koronkowski
Karen Kos
Jeffrey Kost
Noreen Kreda
Isabel Krupica
Joanna Lackaye
Martha Lahti
Ryan LaLonde
Jennifer Lang
Barbara Laskowski
Suzanne Lavin
Kathleen Lawler
Diane Lefebvre
Kristin Leonard
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Debra Lerner-Schmidt
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Mindy Levinson
Marie Libbey
Nancy Liberman
Laura Lieberman
Lauren Locke
Megan Lombardo
Deborah Lorsch
Jeanne Loshbough
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Laura Luce
David MacPhail
Mackenzie Magnus
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Meg Manda
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Christine Markantonis
Anna Maroney
Lauren Marwil
Sophie Marwil
Anne McArtney
Shannon McBride-Bromberg
Alice McCaslin
Elizabeth McClurg
Amelia McDonough
Joe McGann
Anna McMahan
Peggy McNulty
Kerri Melzl
Michael Mendoza
Christine Merrill
Barbara Miller
Cecilia Milotti
Mimi Mitchell
Kelly Monahan
Nadine Montcalm
Jim Morettini
Renee Morris
Carol Mullarkey

Carol Mysza
Mark Nachbar
Michele Nachbar
Christy Neal
Lisa Nesbitt
Diane Neuroth
Sandra Nimz
Claudia Ochoa
Meg O'Keefe
Lauri Olson
Sylvia Oriatti
Cathy O'Shaughnessy
Karen Ottenheimer
Ourlee Ourun
Odie Pahl
Mary Ellen Palubicki
Iryna Pantelyuk
Haydon Paquin
Jin Park
Debby Parry
Ellen Paton
Frank Pavelske
Megan Pavelske
Edy Perisan
Paul Perri
Charles Persico
Lynn Persico
Ken Peterson
Valerie Pientka
Antoinette Powell
Kathy Powell
Marisa Privatsky
Linda Racki
Charlie Ramsey
Deborah Rashman
Loyal Rassas
Kathleen Redding
Rosemary Reed
Kelley Reinfelds
Terrie Reinhard
Natalie Rempala
Jayrin Eve Reyes
Linda Rich
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Debbie Richwine
Stephen Robertson
Anna Roeser
Diane Roman
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Lynne Rosenbaum
Kathleen Rosenberg
Sue Rote-Kay
Amy Russo
Robin Salk
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Patty Schaefer
Cary Schawel
Rebecca Scheuneman
Gretchen Schiltz
Tiffany Schneider
Linda Schnuer
Richard Schulman
Gerald Schulz

Lauren Schwartz
Emily Selbe
Sondra Serrao
Julie Sexton
Katie Shorr
Michelle Shumate
Priscilla Sienko
Deborah Silverstein
Patricia Sima
Debbie Simon
Jeanne Simons
Tanya Singh
Shweta Singh
Sai Sivakumar
Ellen Skolar
Mara Smith
Renee Smith
Todd Smith
Kate T Solis
Michelle Soriano
Amy Stanczyk
Kelli Stanley
Bill Steele
Rachel Stein
Susan Stern
Joan Stevens
Kim Struik
Kashif Syed
Martin Szostak
Candace Tallisman
Carola Tanna
Julia Tanneberger
Julie Teitelbaum
Katharine Thompson
Randy Thompson
Sharon Thompson
Donna Tickman
Barbara Tolbert
Nickie Tonioni
Krystal Topps
Linda Troester
Laura Ulrich
Mary Van Trieste
Emma Visee
Emily Vizcarra
Amy Voss
Beth Vroni
Catherine Wagner
Martha Wallace
Debra Ward
Andrea Weingart
Susan Wenzel
Jane Williams
JoAnne Williams
Janice Wilson
Lynnae Wolin
Robyn Woods
Tracey Wooten
Lauren Wu

Volunteers listed were active between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. 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 CARL JOINS "TEAM KURT"



A photo of Kurt taken by Carl during one of his visits

Kurt was only six years old when he was removed from his parents' care because of their ongoing struggles with substance abuse. He had missed about 50 days of school and had fallen one full grade behind. It was clear to family that Kurt was frequently unclean, sleepy, and showed many of the classic signs of developmental delay and neglect. He hadn't been seen for regular medical care and had never received dental or vision care. Kurt suffered five different fractured bones in his arms and wrist over the course of just a few years. He was often withdrawn, sullen, spoke in monotone, and responded to most questions with one-word answers. Due to the trauma he had experienced, Kurt was prone to frustration. When overwhelmed, he might stand up, scream, and even hit others.

As determined by the court, Kurt's grandparents, Will and Heidi, became his foster parents, and CASA volunteer Carl was appointed by the judge to Kurt's case. When Carl first met Kurt, Kurt was mostly mistrustful and closed off. Because of Carl's consistent advocacy, over time he began to earn Kurt's trust. Once this process took hold, Carl was able to build a strong, enduring relationship with Kurt.



Heidi, Will, Kurt, and Sevván

Along with Will and Heidi and core members of "Team Kurt," Carl was a consistent and reliable influence in Kurt's life. Carl was able to advocate for Kurt and for the family in multiple ways. He joined Will and Heidi and attended Kurt's open school meetings, special education and educational plan meetings to help advocate for needed services, such as personal and family counseling. In three years, Kurt had multiple caseworkers. Carl maintained contact with the changing parties in Kurt's case – such as his DCFS caseworker and court personnel. Through all the fluid events in Kurt's life, Carl was there, to help provide a strong foundation and a constant presence.

Carl also supported Kurt by developing a supportive partnership with his caregivers, Kurt's grandparents. Carl aided Will and Heidi to better understand and navigate the nuances of the child welfare system. He helped them navigate and understand the—frequently overwhelming—administrative requirements and processes. Most importantly, he acted as their cheerleader – encouraging them when they encountered challenges or frustrations while on the journey.

With the support of Heidi, Will, and Carl, today Kurt is more social, engaged in multiple sports and activities, and in some of his classes is academically about one year ahead of expectations! Kurt has become a well-rounded pre-teen, participating in choir, athletics, attending church, and has a zest for life. He has truly blossomed into the child that we all knew Kurt could be. With steady support from "Team Kurt," his future is bright.

Will and Heidi describe Carl as kind, professional, reliable, and trustworthy. **"Without Carl, our experience navigating the child welfare system would have been much more difficult," said Heidi.**



CASA Carl

Our First In-Person Gala After 3 Years

In 2022, CASA was thrilled to welcome back attendees to its first in-person gala since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

There is something incredibly special about connecting with our community and supporters in person. The energy of the night was uplifting, encouraging, and invigorating.

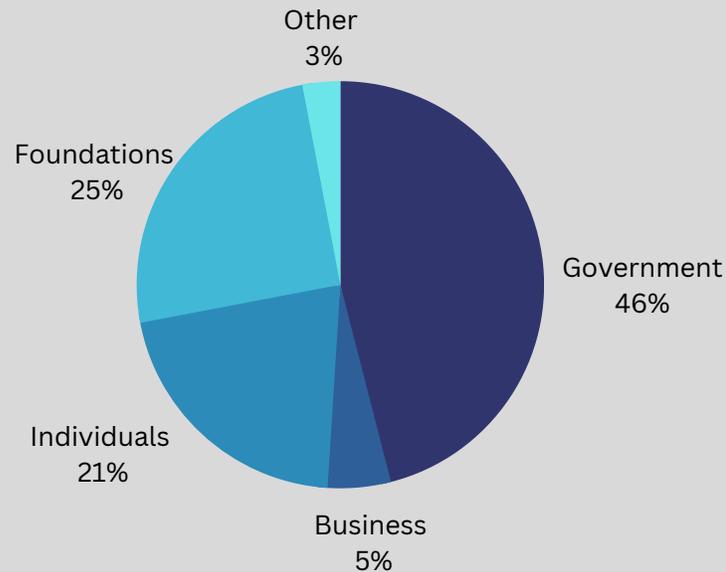
241 guests enjoyed an inspiring program, dinner, a silent auction, live auction, and dancing to live music from Suite Mollie.

Senator Dan McConchie was recognized as CASA Lake County's Terri Zenner Award Honoree. Senator McConchie played an integral role in helping CASA purchase the office building - giving our CASA program a forever home.

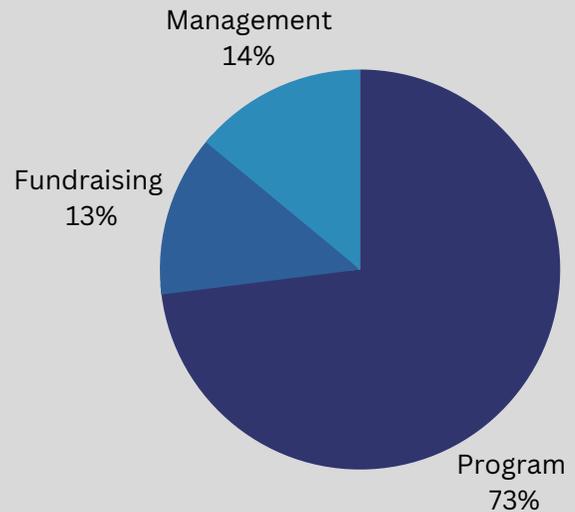
A former CASA family shared their story of incredible resilience and thanked CASA volunteer Amy Goggin who had a profound impact in supporting the family on their path to reunification.

The gala raised \$395,900. We are deeply grateful for the support of our community and we excitedly look forward to next year's event!

Revenue: \$2,346,903



Expenses: \$1,629,226



Net Assets: \$3,532,117

"Carl (CASA advocate) was so kind and very consistent, so Kurt (former CASA child) always knew what to expect and was able to open up and trust him....we trusted that Carl was along for the journey...he helped streamline the whole process, provided a sound understanding of the parties involved, and always helped answer any questions we had. Without Carl, our experience navigating the child welfare system would have been much more difficult."

-Heidi Williams, guardian of former CASA child

Emotions ran strong as we heard from grandmother Carol, thanking CASA volunteer Amy for supporting her granddaughters Lexi and Skylar.

Golf for a Child Invitational

On June 20, 2022, we were thrilled to host our annual golf outing. It was a great opportunity to come together and have fun while supporting children from Lake County who have experienced abuse and neglect.

The 2022 golf outing was sponsored by The Cooper Meyer Group of Wells Fargo Advisors. With support from our golfers, the event raised over \$70,000 to support our CASA kids!



Longest Putt: Bob Hajek
Longest Drive, Men: Vipul Patel
Longest Drive, Women: Jane Lambesis
Closest to Pin, Men: Ron Lambert
Closest to Pin, Women: Jane Lambesis

Tournament Winners:
 Nicholas Jackson
 Vipul Patel
 Rick Kostuchowski
 Pat Roemer

2022 FISCAL YEAR SUPPORTERS

\$50,000+

ILL Criminal Justice Info Authority - VOCA
John and Kathleen Schreiber Foundation
Elizabeth & Derek Sammann
Peggy & Steve Fossett Foundation
State of Illinois-DCEO
The Lake County Community Foundation

\$25,000 to \$49,999

AbbVie Foundation
Baxter International Inc.
Camping World
Food Depository Fund - Community Fndn. for the Fox Valley
Gorter Family Foundation
Jack & Donna Greenberg
Lake County Video Gaming Revenue
Doug & Stacey Meyer
North Shore Exchange
The Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park
The Medline Foundation
Trustmark Foundation

\$10,000 to \$24,999

John & Emily Chen
Chicago Bears Football Club Inc
City of Waukegan - CDBG
CME Group
Cooper Meyer Group of Wells Fargo Advisors
First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield
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Heartland Children's Foundation
Illinois Office of Attorney General - VCVA
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Noga & Antonio Villalon

\$5,000 to 9,999

Abbie Employee Engagement Fund
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W. W. Grainger, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Walter W Winkel III
Winnetka Congregational Church

\$2,000 to 4,999

Susan & Miff Ardell
Gary & Ruby Bennett
Gail & Andrew W. Feiger Brown
Bill & Cindee Dietz Jr.
Chris Heier & Jacqueline Dioguardi
Federated Hermes
Jason Gandy
Nicholas Geaslin
George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities
Richard & Julie Gordon
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Sarah Lessman
James Lillis
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Adam Robbins & Kristina Lynn
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Peter & Tracy Manhard
Chuck Hannon & Fortunee Massuda
Hugh & Ann Mazza
Joseph & Kristina McGann
Morris Weiser Family Foundation
James Moyna
Danny Mrozek
Denise Peterson
Randy & Tobey Sheridan
Marc & Karen Sperber
Starbucks Foundation
Ellen J. May & Charles T. Mayjt Ten Wros
TIAA
Jay & Susie Trees
William J. Gasser Family Foundation

\$1,000 to 1,999

Rick & Sue Biagi
Chuck & Beth Boehrer
Laura Casey
Casey Family Programs
Drew Ceckowski
Judge Valerie & Doug Ceckowski
Donna Chen
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Chung
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Mary Beth & Brian Fahrney
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Sue Myers
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Edy Perisan
Kathleen Redding
Michael Sobel
Krista & Mike Sorensen

\$1,000 to 1,999 cont.

Stand Strong Coalition
Diane Citrin & Kevin Thatcher
The Robert H. & Terri L. Cohn Family Fndn
Barbara Tolbert
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Thomas J Wedell
David & Sandra Whitmore
Zurich Foundation

\$500 to 999

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Lauren Schick
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Wayne Sheridan
Bob & Debbie Silverstein
Hank & Kim Struik
Justin Stump
The Executives Guild Ltd.
Tina & Tom Tromiczak
United Methodist Church of Libertyville
Emily Vizcarra
Edward S. & Dia S. Weil
Barbara A. Weiner
Wildwood Presbyterian Church
Zachary Zilbershatz

Thank you!

Gifts listed were received between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 and do not include donors who chose to support us anonymously. We do our best to reflect gifts accurately and apologize for any errors or those we may have omitted. If you would like to request a change to your donor information, please contact Nicoleta Girloanta, Communications and Development Manager, at ngirloanta@casalakecounty.com.

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Doug Meyer
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Noga Villalon
Vice President

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Ryan Clark Jaccqeline Dioguardi Norma Hurtado Matt Mays Cindy Taylor Robinson
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Advocate Mgr.

Nicoleta Girloanta
Office Administrator

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Advocate Mgr.

Elizabeth Sammann
Program Mgr. & Counsel

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Advocate Mgr.

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Database Mgr.

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Advocate Mgr.

Laura Lieberman
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Lori Petersen
Mgr. of Adv. Engmt. & Edu.

Laura Figueroa
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Claudia Lovelette
Program Advisor

Sheri Robin
Intake Mgr.

Thank You to Our 2022 Mission Partners

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Foundation



Trustmark
benefits beyond benefits



THE LAKE COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
PROUD GRANT RECIPIENT

CAMPING
WORLD

North
Shore
Exchange

Baxter

Gorter Family
Foundation

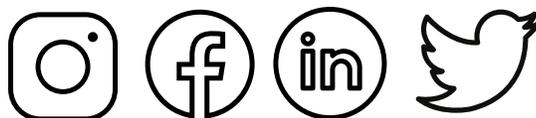
Peggy & Steve
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Richard L. Duchossois
Memorial Foundation

Food Depository Fund within
the Community Foundation
for the Fox Valley



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