

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD

2001-2002 Annual Report



A POWERFUL VOICE IN A CHILD'S LIFE.™

Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.

OUR MISSION

To develop and support court-sanctioned, community-based programs which provide trained and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court deprivation proceedings.

ADVOCATE FOR THE
BEST INTERESTS

OUR VISION

To have a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) available for every child involved in deprivation proceedings in Georgia by June 30, 2005.

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD

A **CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocate** - is an ordinary person who simply cares for children and wants to make a difference in a child's life. A CASA volunteer is screened, trained and supervised by CASA staff.

As a volunteer, this person is assigned by a juvenile court judge to an abused or neglected child. A CASA volunteer gathers information about the child's situation by conducting interviews, reviewing case files and attending court proceedings. The CASA volunteer recommends to the judge what he or she believes is in **the best interests of the child**. The recommendation helps the judge make a more informed decision about the **child's future**.

For many children, a CASA volunteer may be the only **constant in the child's life** as he or she moves through the maze of the child welfare system.

The ultimate purpose of a CASA volunteer is to help ensure every child has a **safe, permanent home as quickly as possible**.



A 5-year old medically neglected child in North Georgia knows how a CASA volunteer made a difference in her life. Her CASA was instrumental in helping to ensure medical services were provided. A doctor waived the fees for her to attend a ventilator camp in Pennsylvania. Her CASA led the charge in finding companies to donate items to cover the expenses of the trip from Georgia to Pennsylvania and back.



A CASA volunteer's research on a case outside the courtroom can have a big impact on a child's life. The mother of the deprived children was unable to communicate with her assigned interpreter. A CASA who spoke her own dialect was appointed and learned that the mother was very dependent on her brother. Communication was facilitated by the brother between the CASA and the mother. Plans were made with DFCS to have the children returned home to their mother, under counseling and supervision. It is unlikely that the dialect issue would have been recognized if a CASA had not been assigned.

TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Dear Supporters,

Making a difference in the life of a child... this is what CASA is all about. Every day, CASA volunteers across Georgia make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children who are involved in juvenile court deprivation proceedings. When a CASA volunteer advocates for what is in a child's best interest, the CASA volunteer is helping to bring the child one step closer to a bright future – a future that includes a safe, permanent home.

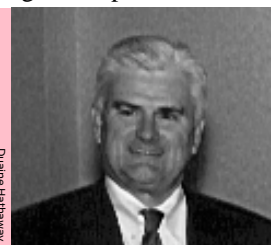
At Georgia CASA, it is our vision to have a CASA volunteer available for every child in Georgia who needs one. As you will see in this annual report, we are continuing on our journey toward this vision. We are proud to announce there are now 39 CASA programs serving 77 counties in Georgia. During the past fiscal year, 1,328 CASA volunteers served over 6,300 children.

While we are excited about the growth of CASA in Georgia, the need is still great. Did you know that every 15 minutes a child is the victim of confirmed abuse or neglect in Georgia? There are about 14,000 children in the legal custody of the state because of abuse and neglect. This means continued growth in the number of CASA volunteers is needed in order to reach our vision.

Georgia CASA recently completed a performance improvement study conducted by Applied Research Services, Inc. of Atlanta. About 750 surveys were mailed to CASA Board Chairs, Umbrella/Court Program Supervisors,



Richard Childers



Duaine Hathaway

Program Directors, CASA volunteers and stakeholders. A multitude of data was collected highlighting CASA's strengths and areas for improvement. The study results included key findings and a series of recommendations. The study helped to indicate the direction Georgia CASA should take for the future. Based on the findings of the study, Georgia CASA has developed a work plan that includes objectives to accomplish in order to maximize our potential for success:

1. Improve training to meet the needs of CASA volunteers, staff and boards.
2. Create standardized data collection and a database for outcome evaluation.
3. Improve professional relationships with DFCS and other community agencies.
4. Identify ways to assist local programs/boards with fundraising.
5. Increase statewide public awareness/public relations.

In collaboration with the local CASA programs, strategies are being developed to accomplish the above objectives. In the future, we plan to share with you about our progress.

We thank all of you who are making a difference in the life of a child. Whether it is through your service as a CASA volunteer, your charitable donation, serving on a CASA board, as a member of the CASA staff, a judge who appoints CASA volunteers or in a variety of other capacities, you are helping to improve the lives of Georgia's abused and neglected children. We hope to continue working with you on this journey. Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Childers".

Richard Childers
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duaine Hathaway".

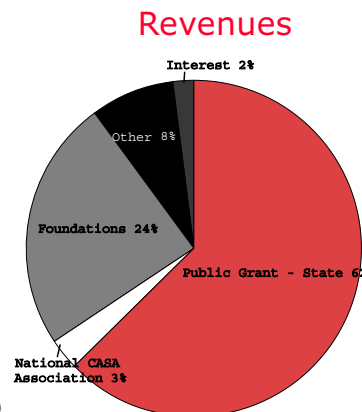
Duaine Hathaway
Executive Director

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION June 30, 2002 and 2001

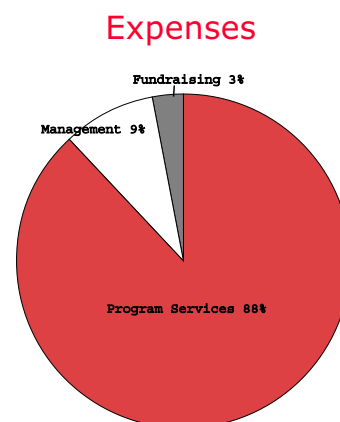
ASSETS

	2002	2001
Current Assets		
Cash	\$1,651,673	\$1,972,188
Grants receivable	50,000	—
Receivables from government agencies	271,750	—
Unconditional promises to give	<u>112,920</u>	<u>365,042</u>
Total current assets	<u>2,086,343</u>	<u>2,337,230</u>
Furniture and equipment		
Office equipment	70,489	70,489
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(49,621)</u>	<u>(39,551)</u>
Net furniture and equipment	<u>20,868</u>	<u>30,938</u>
Other Assets		
Long-term unconditional promises to give	1,500	129,611
Deposit	<u>1,717</u>	<u>1,717</u>
Total other assets	<u>3,217</u>	<u>131,328</u>
Total assets	<u>\$2,110,428</u>	<u>\$2,499,496</u>



LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$294,214	\$294,060
Accrued expenses	17,062	11,784
Deferred revenue	<u>45,000</u>	<u>—</u>
Total liabilities	<u>356,276</u>	<u>305,844</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted	1,621,417	1,675,811
Temporarily restricted	<u>132,735</u>	<u>517,841</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,754,152</u>	<u>2,193,652</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$2,110,428</u>	<u>\$2,499,496</u>



YEAR IN REVIEW

NEW PROGRAMS AND EXPANSIONS

- **Four new CASA programs began in Georgia**

Middle Judicial Circuit CASA, *servicing Candler, Emmanuel, Jefferson, Toombs & Washington counties*
Gwinnett County CASA, *servicing Gwinnett County*
Dougherty County CASA Program, *servicing Dougherty County*
Sowega CASA, Inc., *servicing Macon, Schley, Stewart & Sumter counties*

- **Two CASA programs expanded**

The Laurens County CASA, Inc. *expanded to Johnson, Treutlen & Twiggs counties*
Ocmulgee CASA, Inc. *expanded to Hancock & Putnam counties*

- **1,328 CASA volunteers served 6,382 children in Georgia**

- **39 CASA programs served 77 counties in Georgia**

- **CASA programs in 36 judicial circuits**



SPECIAL EVENTS

- **2001 Georgia CASA Conference**

“Champions for Children...Strengthening the Circle of Hope”

Held in November in Atlanta, the conference was attended by over 300 child advocates. Keynote speakers were Ashley Rhodes-Courter, a former foster child, and Naomi Haines Griffith, a national speaker and consultant on child welfare. A recognition banquet was also held. *Banquet award winners pictured above (l-r) are Joseph Ferguson, CASA Volunteer of the Year, Enotah CASA; Pam Williams, DFCS Case Manager of the Year, Carroll Co.; Patricia Fontaine Angeli, Child Advocate Attorney of the Year, Clayton Co.; Sandra Miller, SAAG of the Year, Paulding Co.; and Jim Martin, Public Servant of the Year, Commissioner - GA Dept. of Human Resources.*

- **CASA Day in Georgia**

“Give the Light of Hope to a Child”

CASA Day in Georgia was held in April as part of National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month. Governor Roy Barnes issued a Proclamation for the day recognizing CASA programs, their staff and volunteers for the countless contributions made for Georgia’s children. Many CASA programs in Georgia participated by holding various activities and events in their local communities, including candlelight ceremonies and the issuance of proclamations from local officials. The day provided the occasion for CASA programs to increase the public’s awareness of CASA and its mission. It was also a time to thank CASA volunteers for their dedication and a great opportunity to recruit new CASA volunteers. *Pictured on opposite page is a CASA ad from the April issue of Atlanta Magazine.*

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **“CASA at the Capitol Day” on February 7th**

This event was attended by CASA volunteers, Board members and staff from across the state. They were joined by nearly 50 youth from the Youth Leadership Council (YLC), Independent Living Coordinators, and other Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) staff. (The YLC includes current and former foster youth, ages 15-22 who have organized themselves to be a voice for Georgia’s foster children.) Jim Martin, Commissioner of Georgia’s Department of Human Resources (DHR), Coryn Murphy and Steven Spivey of the YLC, and Mrs. Marie Barnes, First Lady of Georgia and Georgia CASA Honorary Chairperson, spoke at the informational briefing. Participants met with their legislators to talk about CASA and the foster child education grant, a proposal to pay for foster youth over age 21 to complete their college education. *Pictured below (l-r) are Rep. Ron Dodson (Clayton Co.) with several foster youth and Commissioner Jim Martin & Mrs. Marie Barnes.*

TRAININGS

- **Managing Training**, held three times for new CASA staff
- **COMET (CASA Outcomes, Management & Evaluation Tool) Training**, held twice for CASA staff
- **Council of Programs**, held once for all CASA program staff
- **Diversity Workshops**, held in four locations across the state for CASA staff, Board & volunteers
- **Regional Program Director Meetings**, held in six regions across the state for CASA program directors



PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT STUDY

- **Georgia CASA Performance Improvement Study**

The first independent statewide survey of CASA programs and key stakeholders was conducted by Applied Research Services (ARS), Inc. of Atlanta in Fall 2001, with the final report issued on April 1, 2002. The study included key findings and a series of recommendations for the following areas: CASA volunteers, CASA administration, CASA stakeholders and the role of Georgia CASA. The study results will be used to strengthen CASA programs and better serve children, prepare for program expansion, and collect necessary data to document the success of CASA in Georgia.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS SUPPORTED

- **Foster Child Education Grant**
Proposal to pay for foster youth over age 21 to complete their college education
- **Child Endangerment Bill**
Proposal to close a gap in Georgia’s criminal law to allow for prosecution of willful, wanton or reckless disregard for the safety of a child
- **Expansion of the Office of the Child Advocate**
- **Reduction of caseloads for DFCS case managers**
- **Enhancement of mental health services for children in foster care**
- **Increase in the number of appropriate placements for children in foster care**

DONORS

Georgia CASA gratefully acknowledges those who have made contributions.
Thank you for making a difference!

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Federated Department Stores Foundation, Inc./
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All Saints' Episcopal Church
Atlanta Alumnae Kappa Alpha Theta Chapter
Georgia Department of Human Resources
National CASA Association
Square Hat Supper and Social Club
The Henry Luce Foundation, Inc. - *matching gift*

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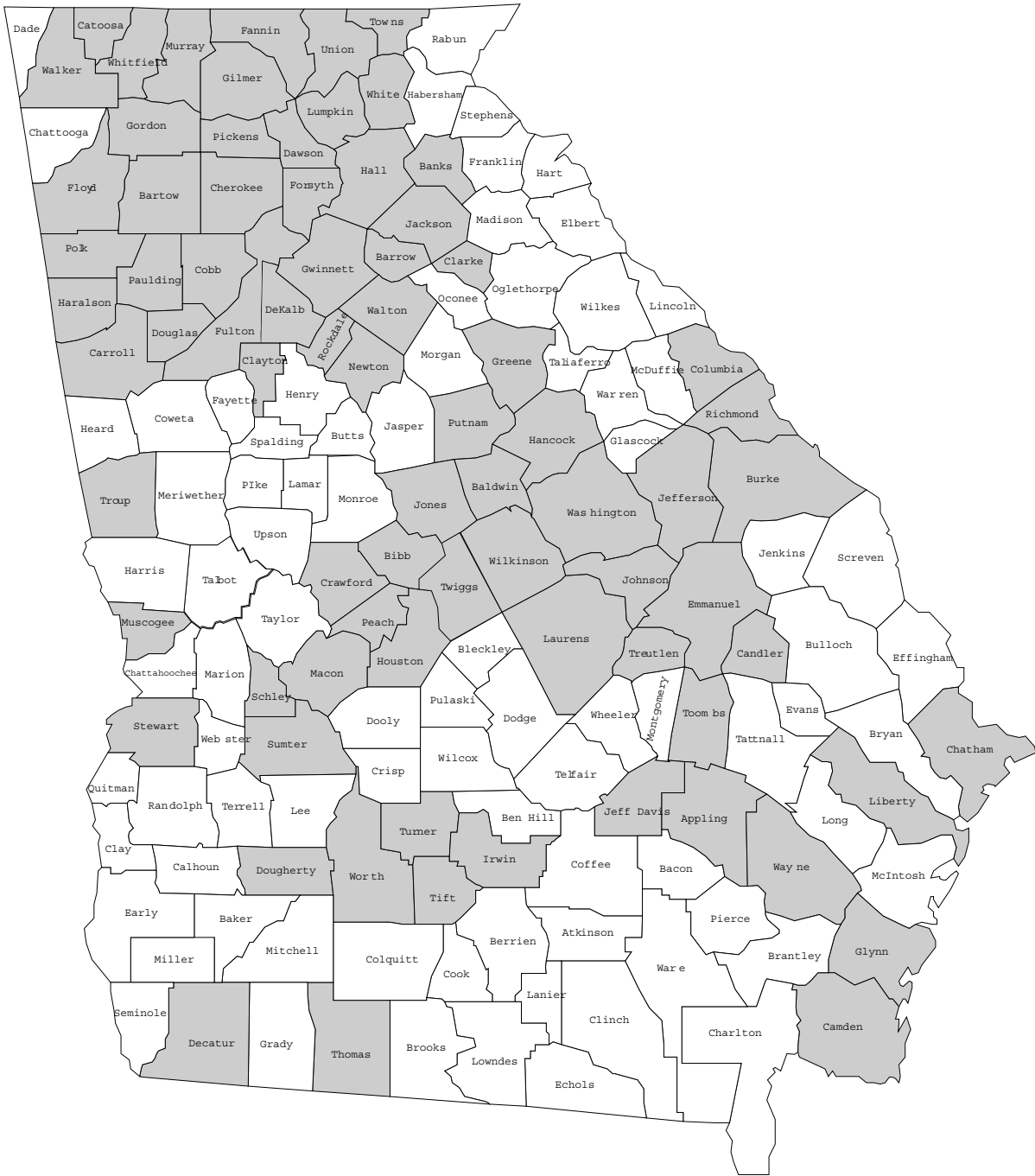
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MAP OF AFFILIATE PROGRAMS



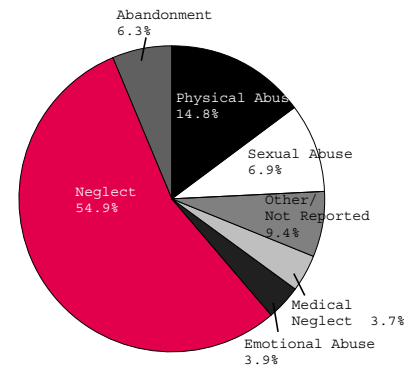
Shaded counties are served by a CASA program

June 30, 2002

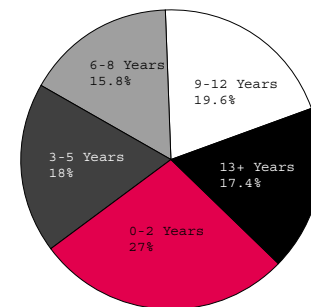
REPORT ON CHILDREN SERVED

CASA Program	Cases	Children	Volunteer Miles	Volunteer Hours	CASAs
Alcovy	80	146	3,173	979	22
Appalachian	98	127	4,847	1,709	17
Athens-Clarke	67	115	954	1,801	25
Atlantic	39	67	6,312	2,553	8
Augusta	156	287	6,432	1,347	34
Bartow	33	66	5,934	1,207	17
Camden	29	59	17,876	2,446	33
Carroll	40	69	8,309	3,197	23
CASA for Children	174	295	30,595	7,848	98
Central	52	109	5,910	1,431	40
Chattahoochee	165	230	10,700	5,160	41
Children's Voice	48	66	3,852	912	21
Clayton	97	218	7,374	1,879	60
Coastal Plain	58	109	3,945	284	19
Cobb	161	270	15,826	3,756	54
DeKalb	136	220	29,882	9,299	93
Dougherty*	-	-	-	-	-
Enotah	154	273	34,972	5,727	34
Floyd	46	70	2,666	724	12
Four Points	70	120	9,617	1,379	8
Fulton	266	508	9,275	11,580	81
Glynn	107	191	19,690	2,193	46
Gordon	12	16	588	171	5
Gwinnett*	4	7	-	-	17
Hall-Dawson	305	464	41,460	7,424	85
Laurens	103	207	14,524	1,772	28
Middle	31	31	5,460	557	10
Murray/Whitfield	120	120	1,641	955	25
Ocmulgee	95	165	4,610	940	25
Piedmont	24	44	6,119	1,312	15
Rainbow	77	142	10,296	1,719	23
Rockdale	152	265	7,016	1,800	50
Savannah/Chatham	325	604	51,007	22,011	101
Sowega*	1	3	40	62	1
SW Georgia	50	101	10,706	1,190	17
Tallapoosa	183	329	14,415	4,234	80
Thomas	48	101	4,405	636	19
Tri-County	37	79	4,338	240	14
Troup	52	89	6,066	1,840	27
Totals	3,695	6,382	420,832	114,274	1,328

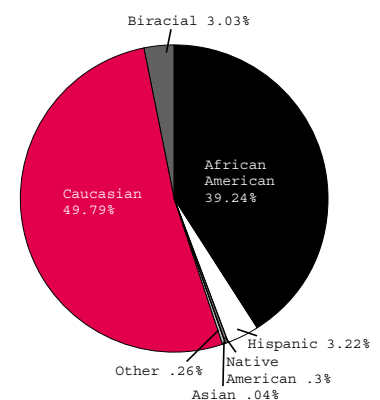
Type of Deprivation of Children



Ages of Children



Ethnic Background of Children



* Program only operational for a partial year

DIRECTORY OF AFFILIATES

Alcovy CASA Program • 770.385.7450

Choices for Children, Inc.
Serving Newton & Walton Counties
Elizabeth McClure, Executive Director

Athens-Clarke CASA Program, Inc. • 706.613.1922

Serving Clarke County
Adria Wilson, Executive Director

Atlantic Area CASA, Inc. • 912.876.3816

Serving Liberty County
Irene McCall, Executive Director

Bartow County CASA • 770.386.1060

Advocates for Bartow's Children, Inc.
Serving Bartow County
Ava Lipscomb, Program Director

Camden County CASA Program, Inc. • 912.882.3119

Serving Camden County
Vicki Hawkesworth, Director

CASA of Southwest Georgia, Inc. • 229.248.1040

Serving Decatur County
Joe Cook, Executive Director

Central Georgia CASA, Inc. • 478.464.3017

Serving Bibb, Crawford & Peach Counties
Beth Dessem, Executive Director

Chattahoochee CASA • 706.323.3687

Urban League of Greater Columbus, Inc.
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Ken Washington, Program Director

Children's Voice: Douglas County CASA, Inc. • 770.577.7228

Serving Douglas County
Renee Arocho, Program Director

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Clayton County Juvenile Court
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TRAIN

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Amanda Camp, Program Coordinator

CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit • 706.276.2272

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Dianne Scoggins, Director

CASA of the Augusta Judicial Circuit • 706.737.4631

The Shelter & Advocacy Center for Abused Children
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Kenya Beard, Program Director

CASA for Children, Inc. • 770.345.3274

Serving Cherokee & Forsyth Counties
Pam Collins, Executive Director

CASA Glynn, Inc. • 912.264.4448

Serving Glynn County
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Coastal Plain CASA, Inc. • 229.386.9765

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DeKalb County CASA Program • 404.292.5800

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Ann Eagerton, Executive Director

Dougherty County CASA Program • 229.431.1121

Open Arms, Inc.
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Rita Ellis, Program Coordinator

Enotah CASA, Inc. • 706.219.1585

Serving Lumpkin, Towns, Union & White Counties
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NW Georgia Child Advocacy Center, Inc.
Serving Floyd County
Brooke Hold, Program Coordinator

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Four Points CASA Program • 706.638.1555

Four Points, Inc.
Serving Catoosa & Walker Counties
Tracy Wimberley, Program Director

Fulton Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. • 404.730.8389

Serving Fulton County
Julia Neighbors, Executive Director

Gordon County CASA Program • 706.629.4561

Gordon County Juvenile Court
Serving Gordon County
Anne Pitts, Program Coordinator

Gwinnett County CASA • 770.822.8254

Juvenile Court of Gwinnett County
Serving Gwinnett County
Steve Gill, Program Coordinator

Hall-Dawson CASA Program, Inc. • 770.531.1964

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Serving Rockdale County
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Serving Chatham County
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Sowega CASA, Inc. • 229.928.4571

Serving Macon, Schley, Stewart & Sumter Counties
Patricia Brunson, Program Director

MANAGE

GUIDE

Juvenile Court of Cobb County/CASA • 770.528.2285

Serving Cobb County
Eddie Slay, Judicial Program Coordinator

The Laurens County CASA, Inc. • 478.275.8100

Serving Johnson, Laurens, Truetlen & Twiggs Counties
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Middle Judicial Circuit CASA • 912.685.4260

The Sunshine House
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Murray/Whitfield CASA Program • 706.278.6558

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Ocmulgee CASA, Inc. • 478.452.9170

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Tallapoosa CASA, Inc. • 770.505.0065

Serving Haralson, Paulding & Polk Counties
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Tri-County CASA, Inc. • 912.367.0064

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*Director, Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic, Emory University
School of Law*

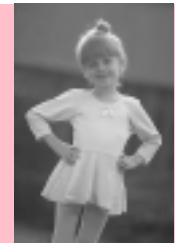
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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD



A 14-year old had been abused. Her self-esteem was so low she could hardly look anyone in the eye. Her CASA volunteer repeatedly told her that someone was and would remain on her side to make sure her best interests were being represented to the court. Her CASA explained that everyone, including her DFCS case manager, was working together to give her a better life. Her CASA recommended placement in a permanent home with a family who gave her the love and support she needed. Five years later, she was a confident and self-assured young lady who graduated from high school and technical school.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE...THE STARFISH STORY

As dawn broke over the beach,
the old man asked the youth why he was
flinging starfish into the sea.
The answer was they'd die if left in the sun.
"But the beach goes for miles and there are
millions of them," he muttered.
"What difference is it going to make?"
The young man looked at the starfish and said,
as he threw it to safety, "It makes a difference to this one."



Adapted from *The Star Thrower*, by Loren C. Eiseley

**Thanks to all the CASA volunteers in Georgia who are
making a difference...one child at a time!**



Are you helping to make a difference in the life of a child?

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