

CASA...Changing Children's Lives

**Annual Report
2003-2004**

Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.



Georgia CASA's **vision** is to have a Court Appointed Special Advocate available for every child involved in deprivation proceedings in Georgia by June 30, 2005.

Georgia CASA's **mission** is to develop and support court-sanctioned, community-based programs that provide trained and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court deprivation proceedings.

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CASA in Georgia celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2003. With a rich history of over 3,700 CASA volunteers who have served over 16,000 abused and neglected children during the past 15 years, ***CASA in Georgia continues to change children's lives.***

CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates - is a nationwide organization that began in 1977 in Seattle, Washington, by a judge who observed a recurring problem of not enough information in the courtroom upon which to base a decision about an abused or neglected child's future. Community volunteers were recruited and trained to obtain information and speak on behalf of the children in court. The CASA program began in Georgia in 1988.

CASA volunteers, appointed by juvenile court judges, gather information about a child's case, attend all court proceedings and ***give an independent recommendation to the judge in the best interest of the child.*** The judge can then make a more informed decision about the child's future.

CASA volunteers help to ensure every child has a ***safe, permanent home as quickly as possible,*** helping to end the cycle of abuse or neglect and also breaking the cycle of violence and abuse that would otherwise continue throughout the child's life.

CASA volunteers...ordinary people who share a concern and compassion for children

Values of Georgia CASA

- Every child should have a **safe, nurturing, permanent home.**
- **Volunteers are the foundation** of the Court Appointed Special Advocates Program.
- **Communities offer a solid foundation** to advocate for abused and neglected children.
- Advocacy should be based on the **culture and language that is familiar** to each child.
- Assuring **quality** is paramount in advocating effectively for the best interests of children.
- Being **focused, accountable and providing measurable results** promotes the integrity of CASA.
- **Prudent resource management** is essential.
- All relationships should be dealt with in a **caring, open and trustworthy manner.**

Strategic Directions of Georgia CASA

Increase Volunteer Capacity

Support CASA Programs

Promote the Integrity of CASA

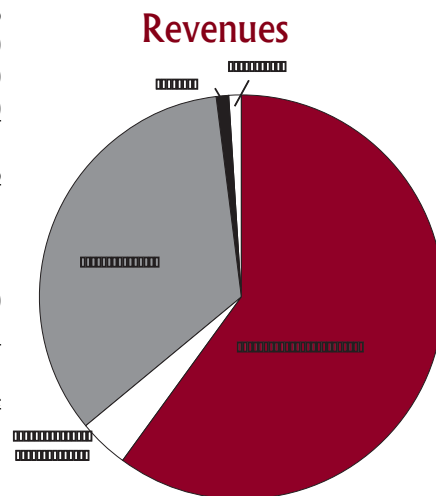
Financial Highlights

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2004 and 2003

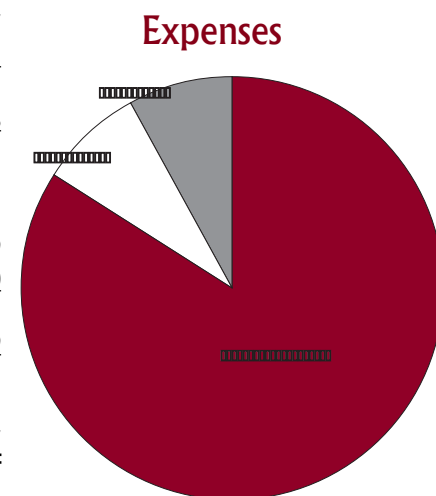
ASSETS

	2004	2003
Current assets		
Cash	\$1,314,984	\$1,342,346
Grants receivable	98,750	50,000
Receivables from government agencies	282,395	273,750
Unconditional promises to give	<u>209,590</u>	<u>517,010</u>
Total current assets	<u>1,905,719</u>	<u>2,183,106</u>
Furniture and equipment		
Office equipment	67,916	63,060
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(56,216)</u>	<u>(49,886)</u>
Net furniture and equipment	<u>11,700</u>	<u>13,174</u>
Other assets		
Long-term unconditional promises to give	-----	245,000
Deposit	<u>1,717</u>	<u>1,717</u>
Total other assets	<u>1,717</u>	<u>246,717</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$1,919,136</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,442,997</u></u>



LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$17,915	\$13,797
Accrued expenses	<u>18,165</u>	<u>16,401</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>36,080</u>	<u>30,198</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted	1,574,716	1,595,789
Temporarily restricted	<u>308,340</u>	<u>817,010</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,883,056</u>	<u>2,412,799</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u><u>\$1,919,136</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,442,997</u></u>



State of CASA Address

Dear Supporters,

Thank you for your commitment to the CASA organization in Georgia. Without you, Georgia CASA, which began over 15 years ago, could not be where it is today. Along with the CASA volunteers in Georgia – the foundation of the CASA program – we can help to change the lives of the abused and neglected children in our state, making a life-long difference for each child.

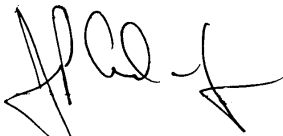
During the past year, affiliate CASA programs in Georgia served over 7,400 children, an increase of over 400 children from fiscal year 2003. The number of CASA volunteers in the state has grown to over 1,550 volunteers. In addition, CASA has continued its expansion to 10 counties which were previously not served and CASA now operates in 39 of the 49 judicial circuits in Georgia.

As Georgia CASA continues its mission to develop and support CASA programs, we have begun the development of a revised long-range strategic plan for years 2005 through 2010. The plan will include results, indicators and measures, as well as detailed action steps for implementation. We anticipate sharing components of the long-range strategic plan with you in the coming year.

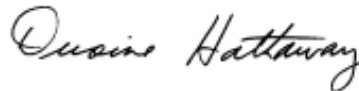
CASA in Georgia has an important history of advocating for the best interests of abused and neglected children, helping to ensure each child is placed in a safe, permanent home where he or she can thrive. People who are associated with CASA, whether they are CASA volunteers, donors, board members, supporters or staff members, are always inspired by the positive influence the CASA organization has on children. Georgia CASA looks forward to the future as we work to provide a CASA volunteer for every child who needs one.

Thank you again for your support. Together, we can help change a child's life today for a brighter tomorrow, and in turn, we may often find that our own lives have been changed.

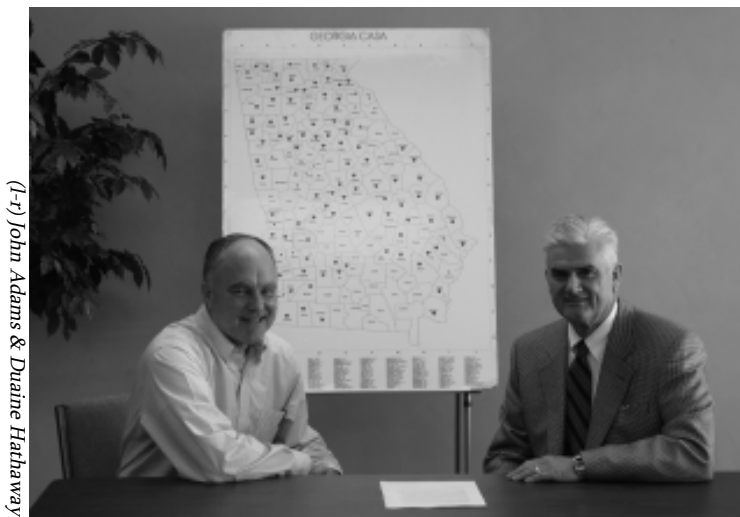
Sincerely,



John P. Adams, Jr.
Chair, Board of Directors



Duaine Hathaway
Executive Director



(l-r) John Adams & Duaine Hathaway

Before...

For 3 days I lived in a car with my mom and my dog. I did not eat any hot food. I did not get to take any baths. My mom could not take care of me. She went to the hospital to get better. I went to a foster home.



Amy
age 7

After...

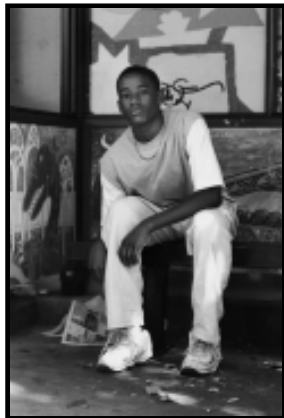
My CASA helped find my dad. She found out what was best for me. My CASA told the judge I would be in a good home with my dad.

Today, Amy lives with her dad and is a happy, healthy child.

A CASA Volunteer Can Change A Child's Life

Before...

My parents had problems with drug abuse and domestic violence. They were not around very often to take care of me and did not show any interest in getting better. My dad even stayed in jail sometimes. I went to live in a foster home.



DJ
age 12

After...

My CASA learned all about my situation. He found out that my parents were still not making any improvements. My CASA recommended to the judge that I would have the best life by being adopted by a loving family I knew.

Today, DJ lives with his adoptive parents and is thriving.

I found out that the problem of child abuse and neglect really exists. Many times, the voice of the child is not strong enough to be heard in today's world, but the voice of an adult advocate can often be heard. A child I help, even in the smallest way, will grow up one day and may be the scientist who discovers a cure for cancer or a President of the United States. Imagine what a saved life might become!

Adapted from Joseph Ferguson, CASA Volunteer



I have learned that children simply need someone to rely on; someone who cares about them. At times, being a CASA volunteer is difficult, but the rewards are great. You see children in the worst shape and when they are finally in a safe, permanent home and you see them later and they are happy and normal children, you know you've done good.

Adapted from John Lynott, CASA Volunteer

An Adult's Life Can Change As A CASA Volunteer



Help to change a child's life, and your life as well.
Support CASA. Become a CASA volunteer.
Encourage others to become involved.

CASA... Changing Children's Lives

The Year in Review

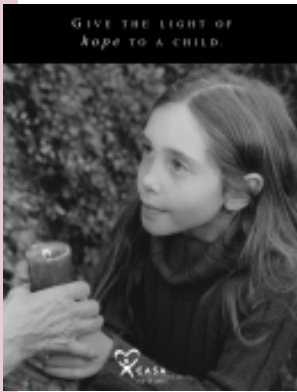
- Georgia CASA announced the launch of its **statewide marketing campaign** in February 2004 at “CASA at the Capitol Day.” During this year’s campaign, major initiatives included billboards in larger cities across the state, radio public service announcements (PSAs) and newspaper ads.

Pictured at right: billboard in downtown Atlanta



- **7,483 abused and neglected children in Georgia were served by 1,551 CASA volunteers.** CASA programs were present in **39 of 49 judicial circuits** and **96 of Georgia's 159 counties.**

Increase Volunteer Capacity



- The CASA network in Georgia celebrated **April 2004 as National Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month.** Governor Sonny Perdue issued a Governor’s Proclamation for April 1st as “**CASA Day in Georgia.**” Many affiliate CASA programs, some in collaboration with other child welfare organizations, held events to inform the public about the problem of child abuse and neglect and CASA’s role in the child’s life. In addition, representatives from CASA appeared on community affairs shows for two Atlanta TV stations.

- During April 2004, members of the Georgia CASA Board of Directors hosted nine “**CASA house parties**” for their friends. Parties included a BBQ, picnic, bridge party, wine and cheese tasting, and a party at an art gallery. Over 200 guests learned about CASA as a result of the parties.

- The **Mountain Circuit CASA** program began, which serves Habersham, Rabun and Stephens counties in Northeast Georgia. Seven new counties in Georgia were added to the counties CASA serves:

Oconee County (Athens-Oconee CASA Program, Inc.)

Baker, Calhoun, Grady and Mitchell counties (CASA of Southwest Georgia, Inc.)

Heard County (CASA of Troup County, Inc.)

Jasper County (Ocmulgee CASA, Inc.)

- A **redesigned Georgia CASA web site (www.gacasa.org)** was launched on August 15, 2003. New features to the site included a calendar of state and local training events, a listing of Georgia CASA Board and staff, CASA in Georgia success stories and a donation form. An Intranet section was added for affiliate CASA programs to download forms, materials and other important information for day-to-day operations of a CASA program.

- Georgia CASA provided various **trainings for affiliate CASA programs** throughout the year. Trainings included the following:
CASA Orientation, held in December 2003 for new program directors and board chairs
COMET training (CASA Outcomes, Management & Evaluation Tool), held in November 2003 and June 2004 for new CASA staff
Council of Programs meetings, held in October 2003 and May 2004 for program directors
Training of the Facilitator, held in August 2003 and January 2004 for new CASA staff

Pictured at right: participants in Training of the Facilitator, January 2004



Pictured above: Duaine Hathaway, Georgia CASA Executive Director, John Lynott, John Adams, Georgia CASA Board Chair & Jerry Gitchel

- The **Tenth Georgia CASA Conference**, “Celebrating 15 Years of Advocacy,” was held on April 17, 2004, in Atlanta. Over 300 CASA volunteers, staff and board members were in attendance, with every CASA affiliate program in the state represented. Workshops were offered on a variety of child welfare subjects. The keynote speaker at the luncheon was former foster child Jerry Gitchel, a businessman and professional speaker in Jacksonville, Florida.

- **John Lynott was chosen as the 2003 CASA Volunteer of the Year.** John became a CASA volunteer in 1997 with CASA Glynn, Inc., in Brunswick. Since then, he has advocated for 46 abused and neglected children. John received his award at the Georgia CASA Conference in April.

- Georgia CASA began development of a **revised long-range strategic plan** for 2005-2010.

- The **major advocacy efforts** Georgia CASA supported included the following :
 Senate Bill 467 - Child Endangerment
 House Bill 229 - Probate Code Revision
 House Bill 1093 - First Offender Status
 House Bill 1347 - Child Welfare Agencies, Employment Applicants, Criminal Records Check
 House Bill 1632 - TPR in Cases Involving Murder of Other Parent
 House Bill 1580 - Foster Parent’s Bill of Rights

- On November 4, 2003, Georgia CASA hosted an **appreciation reception** in Atlanta for its donors and Karen N. Sibley, founding chairman of Georgia CASA, in conjunction with its 15-year anniversary.



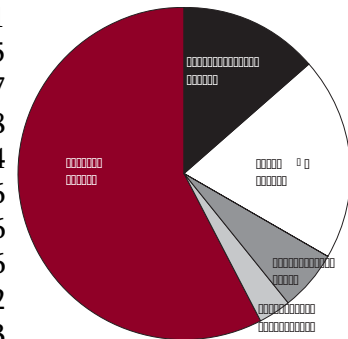
- **“CASA at the Capitol Day”** was held on February 4, 2004. Mrs. Mary Perdue, First Lady of Georgia, was the keynote speaker. CASA volunteers, board members, staff members and foster youth met with their legislators to discuss issues related to child welfare.

Pictured at left: Mrs. Mary Perdue

Report of Children Served by CASA

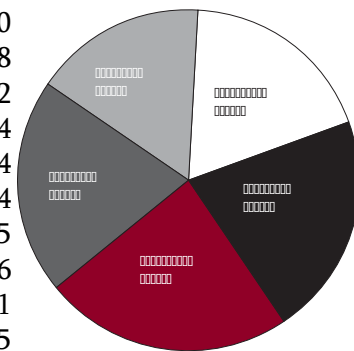
CASA Program	Children Served	New Children	Closed Children	Active Children	CASAs
Alcovy	78	28	10	68	12
Appalachian	242	145	92	150	40
Athens-Oconee	190	90	50	119	38
Atlantic	182	114	93	91	21
Augusta	378	185	196	204	45
Bartow	126	75	33	95	27
Camden	60	25	31	33	18
Carroll	94	44	28	66	24
CASA for Children	372	154	115	257	106
Central Georgia	209	82	70	139	56
Chattahoochee	210	78	85	122	16
Children's Voice ²	88	22	12	71	52
Clayton	256	147	81	177	73
Coastal Plain ²	213	112	36	177	31
Cobb	265	98	81	184	91
DeKalb	231	103	91	126	89
Dougherty	85	57	20	29	8
Enotah	312	110	125	162	40
Floyd	61	15	46	15	8
Four Points	145	71	41	86	5
Fulton	240	135	116	152	65
Glynn	217	98	91	129	43
Gordon	37	25	14	21	7
Gwinnett	101	42	23	77	21
Hall-Dawson	500	217	142	328	130
Houston	94	36	41	67	18
Laurens	239	129	96	144	22
Middle	23	8	20	17	4
Mountain ³	45	45	5	40	14
Murray/Whitfield	72	29	33	31	24
Ocmulgee	228	101	96	136	45
Ogeechee	72	62	9	71	26
Piedmont	52	28	28	25	11
Rockdale	233	81	59	174	65
Savannah/Chatham	602	201	323	288	86
Sowega	57	43	17	46	10
Southwest Georgia	87	25	19	64	15
Tallapoosa	439	159	98	301	80
Thomas	126	51	28	98	18
Tri-County	43	43	4	39	8
Troup	179	57	18	161	39
Totals	7,483	3,370	2,616	4,780	1,551

Types of Deprivation

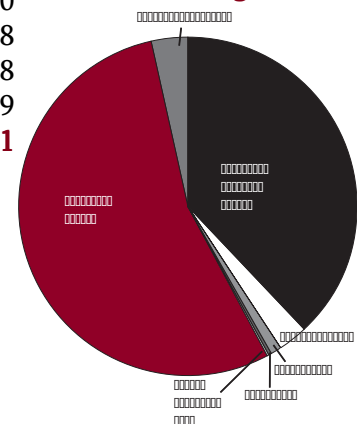


¹ "Other" includes the following types of deprivation: medical neglect, substance abuse of parents, mental/physical impairment of parents and domestic violence. Future reports will include individual breakdowns of each type of deprivation.

Ages



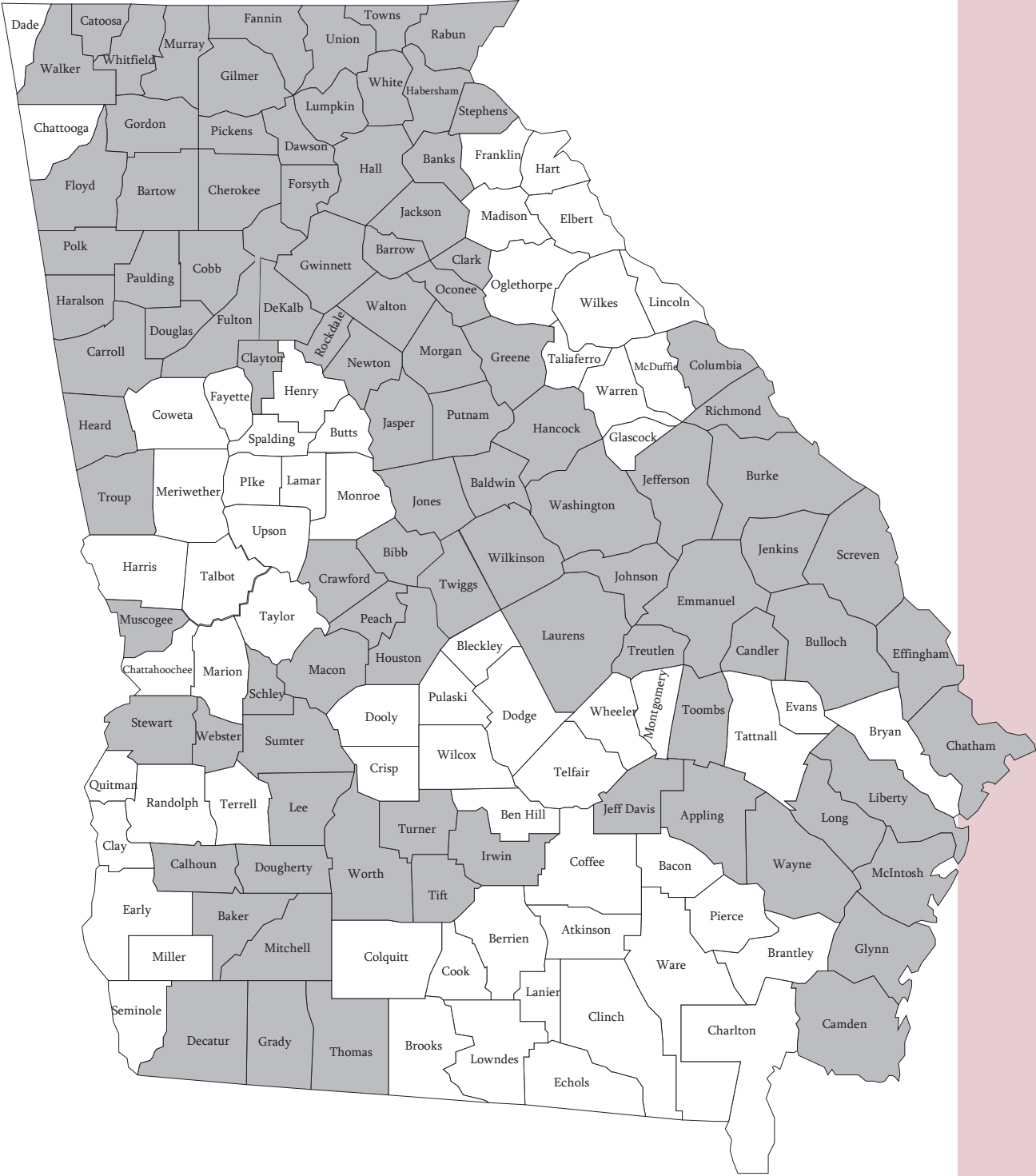
Ethnic Background



² Statistics as of last report submitted

³ Program only operational for a partial year

Georgia Map of Affiliate Programs



Shaded counties served by CASA as of June 30, 2004

Georgia CASA Donors

*Georgia CASA gratefully acknowledges those who have made contributions.
Thank you for helping to change the lives of abused and neglected children.*

Corporations and Foundations

Asset Preservation Advisors
An Anonymous Foundation
Camp-Younts Foundation
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National CASA Association
Optimist International
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Silvestar Associates, Inc.
SunTrust Directed Fund: Thomas Guy Woolford Charitable Trust
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Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation

In-Kind

(Statewide Marketing Campaign)

Catspaw Productions
Fairway Outdoor Advertising
Hothouse, Inc.
Houston Home Journal
Jackson Spalding
Lamar Outdoor Advertising of Savannah
U1 Design



Georgia CASA Donors

Individuals

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In honor of Mr. Robert H. Gunn, Jr.

By Mrs. Marcy McTier

In honor of Mrs. Solveig Harden

By Ms. Heather Fenton,

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Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ridley,

Mrs. Lucy Carpenter Vance,

Mrs. Susan W. Wieland

In honor of Mrs. Larry Spillman

By Mrs. Dinah McClymonds

In honor of the Tolbert-Yimaz School of Dance

By Mrs. Anne L. Rehfuss

Memorials

In memory of Miss Katharine Evans

By Mrs. Catherine T. Porter

In memory of Mr. Barry Jones

By Mrs. Karen N. Sibley

In memory of Mr. Richard Makepeace

Mrs. Marcy McTier

In memory of Ms. Dorothy Mendel Posner

By The Honorable and Mrs. Elliott H. Levitas

Affiliate Programs

Alcovy CASA Program, 770.385.7450

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

Athens-Oconee CASA Program, 706.613.1922

Serving Clarke & Oconee Counties
Sandy Berry, Executive Director

Atlantic Area CASA, Inc., 912.876.3816

Serving Liberty, Long & McIntosh Counties
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
Marty Klumpp, Program Director

Carroll County CASA, Inc., 770.838.1964

Serving Carroll County
Amanda Camp, Program Coordinator

CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit, 706.276.2272

Appalachian Juvenile Court
Serving Fannin, Gilmer & Pickens Counties
Dianne Scoggins, Director

CASA of the Augusta Judicial Circuit, 706.737.4631

Child Enrichment, Inc.
Serving Burke, Columbia & Richmond Counties
Monique Brabham, Program Director

CASA for Children, Inc., 770.345.3274

Serving Cherokee & Forsyth Counties
Deidre Hollands, Executive Director

CASA Glynn, Inc., 912.264.4448

Serving Glynn County
Lara Martin, Executive Director

CASA of Houston County, Inc., 478.396.2185

Serving Houston County
Terry DiDiego, Director

CASA of the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit, Inc., 912.764.4849

Serving Bulloch, Effingham, Jenkins & Screven Counties
Amelia Hipps, Executive Director

CASA of Southwest Georgia, Inc., 229.248.1040

Serving Baker, Decatur, Grady & Mitchell Counties
Dan Provence, Executive Director

CASA of Troup County, Inc., 706.845.8243

Serving Heard & Troup Counties
Tracy Jones, Executive Director

Central Georgia CASA, Inc., 478.464.3017

Serving Bibb, Crawford & Peach Counties
Stephanie Owens-George, Executive Director

Chattahoochee CASA, 706.323.3687

Urban League of Greater Columbus, Inc.
Serving Muscogee County
Mattie Hall, Program Director

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

Serving Douglas County

Clayton County CASA, 770.477.3268

Clayton County Juvenile Court
Serving Clayton County
Gerald Bostock, Program Coordinator

Coastal Plain CASA, Inc., 229.386.9765

Serving Irwin, Tift, Turner & Worth Counties
Cindy Evers, Interim Executive Director

DeKalb County CASA Program, 404.378.0038

DeKalb Juvenile Foundation, Inc.
Serving DeKalb County
Ann Eagerton, Executive Director

Dougherty County CASA Program, 229.431.1121

Open Arms, Inc.
Serving Dougherty County
Rita Ellis, Program Coordinator



Affiliate Programs

Enotah CASA, Inc., 706.219.1585

Serving Lumpkin, Towns, Union & White Counties

Stacy Millican, Executive Director

Floyd County CASA Program, 706.235.2272

Northwest Georgia Child Advocacy Center, Inc. Serving Floyd County

Lynn Bradley, Program Coordinator

Four Points CASA Program, 706.638.1555

Four Points, Inc. Serving Catoosa & Walker Counties

Tracey Wimberly, Program Director

Fulton County CASA, Inc., 404.224.4720

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

Serving Dawson & Hall Counties

Connie Stephens, Executive Director

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

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**He needs
more than a
teddy bear to
trust.**

He needs a CASA volunteer.

Abused and neglected children who enter the court system may see several different judges, attorneys and case managers who are all working hard to consider their best interests. However, there may not be any **one person** who will be the **same person** at **every** court hearing to speak for the child...**unless that person is a CASA volunteer.**

“In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us.”

Flora Edwards



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Georgia CASA develops and supports court-sanctioned, community-based programs that provide trained and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court deprivation proceedings.