



GEORGIA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

*"We worry about what
a child will become
tomorrow, yet we forget
that he is someone today."
- Stacia Tauscher*

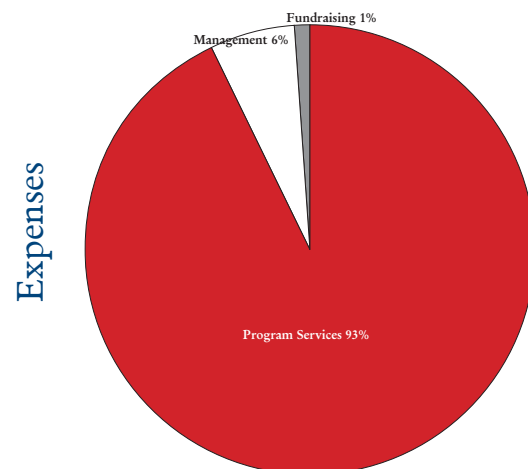
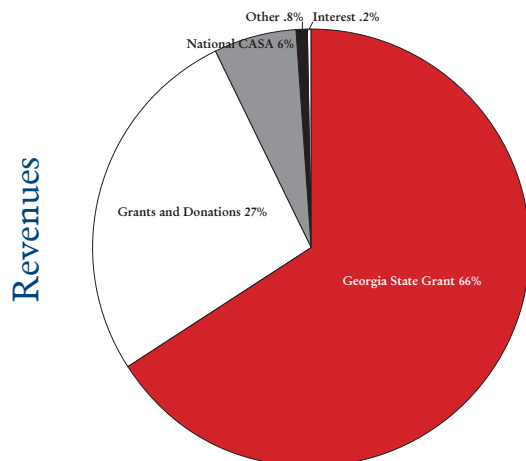




FINANCIAL INFORMATION

June 30, 2010 and 2009

ASSETS	2010	2009
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,222,928	\$ 1,240,344
Receivables from grants and contracts	548,853	487,214
Promises to give	12,446	482,402
<i>Total current assets</i>	1,784,227	2,209,960
 Long-term promises to give	4,687	7,500
 Cash restricted for long-term purposes	---	20,000
 Furniture and equipment	99,476	79,415
Less: accumulated depreciation	(77,061)	(75,653)
Net equipment	22,415	3,762
 <i>Total assets</i>	\$ 1,811,329	\$ 2,241,222
 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Accounts payable	\$ 413,461	\$ 358,024
Accrued expenses	11,731	13,982
Deferred rent, current	1,400	---
<i>Total current liabilities</i>	426,592	372,006
Long-term deferred rent	21,427	---
<i>Total liabilities</i>	448,019	372,006
 <i>Net assets</i>		
Unrestricted	1,213,982	1,248,740
Temporarily restricted	149,328	620,476
<i>Total net assets</i>	1,363,310	1,869,216
 <i>Total liabilities and net assets</i>	\$ 1,811,329	\$ 2,241,222





GEORGIA CASA

As community partners in the child welfare system, CASA volunteers increase abused, neglected and abandoned children's access to services, promote safety, and advocate for timeliness and permanency for children involved in juvenile court proceedings. CASA volunteers are independent advocates and provide individualized attention for children in a massive state system. They truly can make a difference between children being well-developed and in a safe, permanent home or being without a permanent home and family.

Our Vision

Each abused or neglected child involved in juvenile court proceedings shall have a safe and permanent home.

Our Mission

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

Our Purpose

Georgia CASA is committed to maintaining a network of well-administered, affiliate programs that operate independently with mutual accountability, resulting in the highest level of advocacy for all of Georgia's deprived children.

2009 CASA Volunteer of the Year

Susan Gant, the 2009 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia, has been a dedicated CASA volunteer with CASA of Forsyth County since 2001 and has advocated for over 20 children. Being fluent in Spanish and having lived in many places throughout the world, she has demonstrated cultural expertise in her role as a CASA volunteer and provided empathetic support to numerous families of the children she has served. She also gives valuable insight to the court in an effort to bridge cultural gaps.

In addition to serving as a CASA volunteer, Susan also mentors and trains new CASA volunteers with the CASA program. She is a tireless CASA volunteer and a remarkable advocate for the CASA organization in Georgia.

Congratulations, Susan!



*Susan Gant with Duaine Hathaway,
Georgia CASA Executive Director*



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Every day in our state, over 2,100 CASA volunteers are making a difference in the lives of abused, neglected and abandoned children, helping them to find safe, permanent homes where they can thrive. Last year, 8,749 children were served by CASA volunteers in Georgia.

As stated by Neil Postman, “Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.” Today, we can all make a difference in the lives of children to make our communities a better place for tomorrow.

We asked our CASA volunteers what motivates them the most and below is a sampling of their responses...

“I have been a CASA for a year and two months now. What motivates me most is knowing that I am ‘being a difference between abuse and hope.’ That motto keeps me going and turns so many frowns into smiles.”

~ Erica Brown, Chattahoochee CASA, Columbus, GA

“I have been a CASA for 5 1/2 years and to be a CASA is a love/hate relationship. I love to be able to help children and hate that it is necessary that we have to be one. All children should have their food, shelter, education and medical needs taken care of. All children do NOT have these, and hopefully I have helped all of my children get theirs. I could go on forever, but being a CASA is a great honor.”

~ Ruth Bullard, CASA of Forsyth County, Cumming, GA

“I have been a CASA 5 months now and I absolutely love it. Sometimes I get down because it seems like I have tried everything I can and still there are more obstacles, but I think about the children I work for and how much they rely on me and it helps me through! Some cases are easier than others, but they are all still very important. My supervisor and peers are very helpful and provide me with a great base to pull from.”

~ Kalia Ladanyi, Hall-Dawson CASA, Gainesville, GA

“I have been a Fulton County CASA since November 1998. I love the children. I want them to know that someone is in their corner. I want them to see that their present situation does not have to define their future.”

~ Marilyn Howard, Fulton County CASA

We can all contribute to stopping the cycle of abuse and neglect, help our communities to be better places to live and invest in the lives of our children - and truly make a difference. Thank you for helping to make a difference!



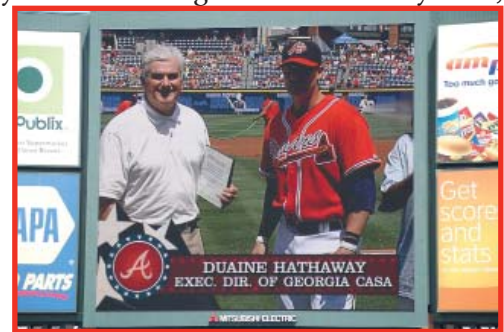
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Communications, General Awareness and Volunteer Recruitment

- ~ The creation of a fan page on Facebook, with over 750 fans to date
- ~ A completely redesigned web site (www.gacasa.org), including a new interactive program directory, Facebook news feed and event calendar
- ~ A fourth highly successful volunteer recruitment and training campaign in the fall of 2009 by the Metro Atlanta CASA Collaborative
- ~ A partnership with the Georgia Department of Human Resources and Casey Family Services, along with about ten other nonprofits, on the *Raise Me Up* multimedia campaign in the fall of 2009, designed to raise awareness and inspire citizens to take action on behalf of children and youth in Georgia's foster care system, with Georgia CASA receiving about 100 inquiries as a direct result

~ **CASA Day at the Atlanta Braves game** on September 6, 2009, included 600 tickets purchased by CASA volunteers, staff and board members, with an on-field presentation to CASA by Braves player Greg Norton, a CASA exhibit booth and a 50/50 raffle (with part of the proceeds to Georgia CASA)

~ **Tim Hudson, starting pitcher with the Atlanta Braves, filmed a TV public service announcement (PSA) for CASA in Georgia**, in conjunction with WSB-TV (Atlanta) in April 2010, which aired on WSB-TV in the spring and summer of 2010, with plans to also air it at the second CASA Day at the Atlanta Braves game, scheduled for August 2010



~ In April 2010, the National CASA Association's annual conference was held in Atlanta with Georgia CASA partnering with National CASA on a **Forgotten Children display** with 500 life-size cutouts of foster children placed in Woodruff Park (representing the average number of children who entered foster care in Georgia each month in 2009)



Tim Hudson prepares to tape a PSA for CASA in Georgia with WSB-TV



Affiliate Program Development

- ~ **CASA of the Toombs Judicial Circuit** began, serving Glascock, Lincoln, McDuffie, Taliaferro, Warren and Wilkes counties
- ~ **Atlantic Area CASA, Inc.** expanded to **Evans and Tattnall counties** and **Sowega CASA, Inc.** expanded to **Randolph and Terrell counties**
- ~ **CASA of the Northern Judicial Circuit** moved under **Mountain Circuit CASA, Inc.**, which became **Northeast Georgia CASA, Inc.**

48 affiliate programs present in 47 judicial circuits, serving 135 counties in the state



Affiliate Program Operations and Training

~ **Trainings** offered throughout the year to enhance staff skills and knowledge in managing a CASA program and in training and supervising volunteers:

- Council of Programs (director meetings) in October 2009 and March 2010
- Trainings of the Facilitator in August 2009 and January 2010
- Volunteer Supervisor Trainings in December 2009 and June 2010
- Webinars on various topics
- Courtroom Advocacy training series

~ **Site visits** to an average of 12 affiliate programs to help ensure high quality advocacy for children

~ **Technical assistance** on all aspects of affiliate program management and operations

~ Three programs were given **Awards of Excellence**:

CASA of the Alapaha Judicial Circuit - Emerging Program Award of Excellence

Located in South Georgia, the program began in November 2008 and has trained and retained 22 CASA volunteers who have served 36 children (as of the nomination date). The program serves the state's two counties - Berrien and Lanier - that have the highest percentage rates for child abuse and neglect. The program has established great working relationships with both the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and the courts.

CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit - Established Program Award of Excellence

The program began in 1993 and has been under the Appalachian Juvenile Court since 1997, the same year Dianne Scoggins began as director. The program has a strong presence in the three counties in North Georgia it serves (Gilmer, Fannin and Pickens), has been instrumental in developing child welfare protocols for the Circuit and has outstanding relationships with stakeholders in the court system. The program serves as a model program for others.

Cobb County CASA - Innovative Program Award of Excellence

The program began in 1991 and has been innovative in securing funding to help guarantee its financial stability, allowing for additional staff to recruit, train and supervise more CASA volunteers to serve more children. The program also has a new executive committee to spearhead fundraising and awareness events for the future. The program is very involved with other child welfare organizations in Cobb County and has great relationships with various court stakeholders.

Events and Fundraising

~ In June 2010, CASA volunteers, board members and staff were treated to a fun-filled day of shopping with door prizes, food, coupons and sales at the **North Georgia Premium Outlets** in Dawsonville

~ In March 2010, the annual **Georgia CASA Luncheon & Fashion Show**, along with the **Preview Party** to the event, took place with over 250 people attending the Luncheon & Fashion Show; Rebecca Gupta, a Georgia CASA Board member, and her husband Dr. Sanjay Gupta were the honorees and the event raised \$24,000

Judge Craig Schwall (speaker), the Guptas (honorees), Pat King (event chair), Duaine Hathaway (executive director) and Ted Hall (emcee)



Legislative

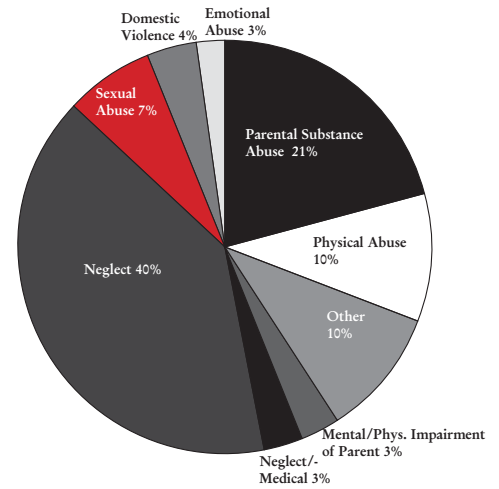
~ **Just Georgia/CASA Day at the Capitol** held on February 23, 2010, with CASA staff, board members and volunteers joining with Just Georgia for a legislative briefing and then meeting with state legislators about CASA and support for several bills, including the juvenile code rewrite



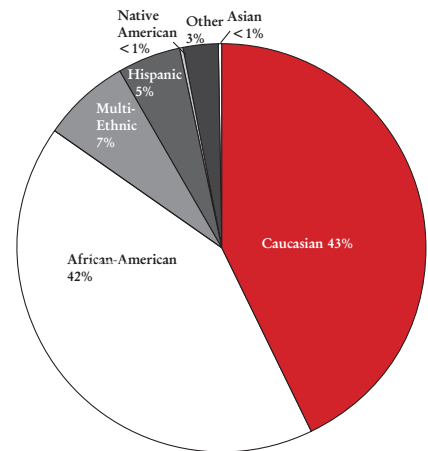
REPORT ON AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

	Children Served	New Children	Closed Children	Active Children	CASAs
Advo-Kids	110	54	40	58	30
Alapaha	49	49	20	62	20
Alcovy	277	221	124	153	44
Appalachian	323	186	134	151	53
Athens-Oconee	161	70	81	80	45
Atlantic	87	12	34	53	31
Augusta	291	107	149	141	44
Bartow	323	129	118	201	70
Camden	82	46	34	53	33
Carroll	171	70	72	99	52
CASA for Children	244	119	85	159	84
Central Georgia	316	107	167	326	71
Chattahoochee	101	97	22	79	36
Children's Voice	141	48	57	84	43
Clayton	476	180	203	173	93
Coastal Plain	188	81	83	103	29
Cobb	345	204	170	175	57
Coweta	122	40	53	66	38
DeKalb	151	53	64	90	72
Dougherty	41	28	32	4	7
Enotah	185	78	113	72	44
Floyd	67	24	29	42	15
Forsyth	174	86	73	96	59
Fulton	543	234	239	298	162
Glynn	246	101	98	116	50
Gordon	43	24	33	8	6
Gwinnett	90	28	52	38	22
Hall-Dawson	364	133	120	245	166
Houston	110	44	37	53	36
Lookout Mountain	83	23	29	54	14
Murray/Whitfield	107	59	60	47	27
Northeast Georgia	204	101	96	108	58
Ocmulgee	182	57	71	111	53
Ogeechee	14	11	5	7	7
Paulding	239	77	74	139	50
Piedmont	154	61	68	85	62
Polk & Haralson	97	58	50	47	22
Rockdale	216	82	107	112	53
S.A.F.E.	26	4	---	23	3
Savannah/Chatham	590	245	188	323	96
South Central*	115	53	34	64	---
Sowega	187	90	69	122	53
Southwest Georgia	62	45	17	41	9
TLC	269	151	110	159	34
Thomas	81	42	35	47	15
Toombs	4	4	---	4	1
Tri-County	160	63	67	81	22
Troup & Heard	138	40	80	58	23
	8,749**	3,919	3,696	4,910	2,114

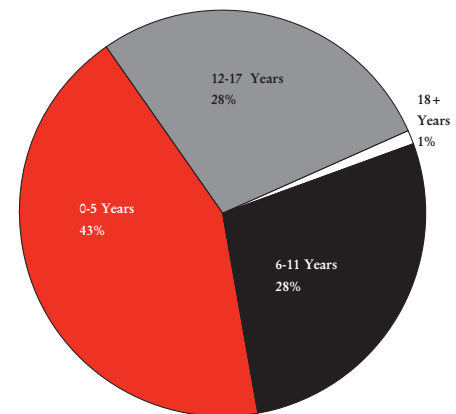
Types of Deprivation



Ethnic Background



Ages



*CASAs number blank since program to merge with Sowega CASA next fiscal year

**7,352 children were served who were in the legal custody of the state; pie charts include statistics for children in DFCS custody only



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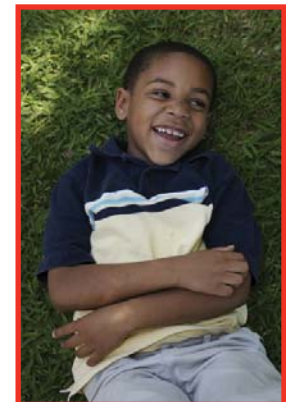
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AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

For complete contact information for each program, visit www.gacasa.org.

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Houston County

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CASA of the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit, Inc.

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Dawn Loeschter, Executive Director

CASA of Paulding County, Inc.

Paulding County

Jana Stegall, Executive Director

CASA of Polk & Haralson Counties, Inc.

Polk & Haralson Counties

Andrell Turner, Administrative Director

CASA of Southwest Georgia, Inc.

Baker, Calhoun, Decatur, Grady & Mitchell Counties

Nan McIntosh, Executive Director

CASA of the Toombs Judicial Circuit

Program of the Juvenile Court of the Toombs Judicial Circuit

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CASA of Troup and Heard Counties, Inc.

Heard & Troup Counties

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Central Georgia CASA, Inc.

Bibb, Crawford & Peach Counties

Sherrie Bridges-Sinclair, Executive Director

Chattahoochee CASA

Program of Twin Cedars Youth Services, Inc.

Muscogee County

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Children's Voice CASA, Inc.

Douglas County

Dawn West, Executive Director

Clayton County CASA

Program of Clayton County Juvenile Court

Clayton County

Gerald Bostock, Program Coordinator

Coastal Plain CASA, Inc.

Irwin, Tift, Turner & Worth Counties

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Coweta CASA, Inc.

Coweta County

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For complete contact information for each program, visit www.gacasa.org.

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Dougherty CASA

Program of The Lily Pad SANE Center, Inc.
Dougherty County
Evelyn Cookley, Director

Enotah CASA, Inc.

Lumpkin, Towns, Union & White Counties
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Floyd County CASA Program

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Fulton County CASA, Inc.

Fulton County
Iris Thomas Ross, Executive Director

Gordon County CASA Program

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

Gwinnett County CASA

Program of Juvenile Court of Gwinnett County
Gwinnett County
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Hall-Dawson CASA Program, Inc.

Dawson & Hall Counties
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Lookout Mountain CASA

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Program of Family Support Council, Inc.
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Rockdale CASA, Inc.

Rockdale County
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Brooks & Thomas Counties
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Tri-County CASA, Inc.

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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

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