

# GEORGIA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES, INC.

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 2014

*A Life Lived...  
A Lasting Legacy*



*Honoring Karen Mariea Norris Sibley (1922 - 2014)  
Founding Board Chair and Co-Founder of Georgia CASA*



Dear Supporters,

Thank you so much for your dedication to the CASA organization in Georgia! We could not do the work we do without your backing – whether you are a donor, CASA volunteer, board member, staff, collaborative partner, stakeholder or have another role in child welfare. As you know, when we all work together to improve the well-being of Georgia’s abused and neglected children, we can accomplish much more than working individually, helping them to experience a brighter future.

The 2013 – 2014 Georgia CASA annual report is dedicated to the memory of Karen N. Sibley, our founding board chair. She was a remarkable individual who encouraged countless men and women to get involved in the work of CASA in Georgia. She was instrumental in bringing the CASA program to our state, and her unwavering support throughout our 26-year history has left a lasting legacy.

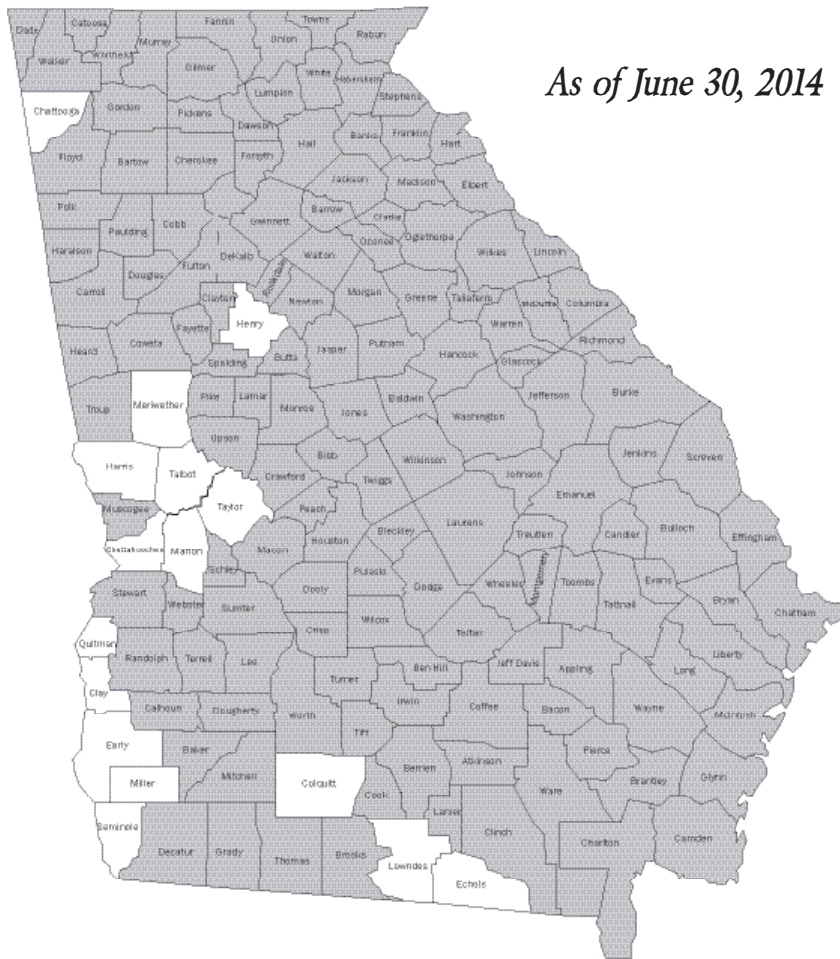
During the past fiscal year, over 2,200 CASA volunteers served over 9,000 children in the state. We hope you will peruse the annual report for highlights of our year, including the development of a new affiliate CASA program to serve the Towaliga Judicial Circuit and enhanced comprehensive support services for all of our affiliate CASA programs. We are pleased to report that our audit indicated that 92 percent of Georgia CASA’s expenses were for services to our affiliate programs.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,

*Bernadette W. Hartfield*  
Bernadette W. Hartfield  
Board Chair

*Duaine Hathaway*  
Duaine Hathaway  
Executive Director



*As of June 30, 2014*

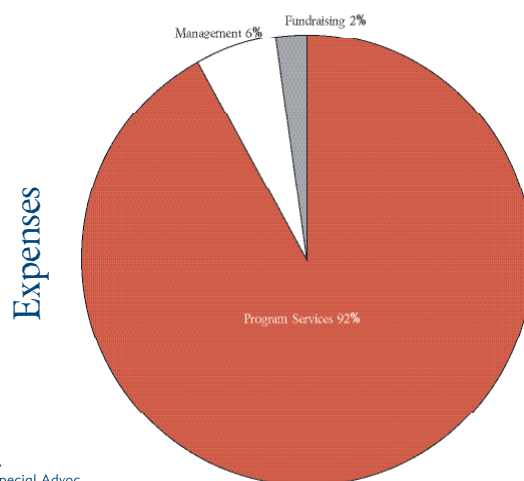
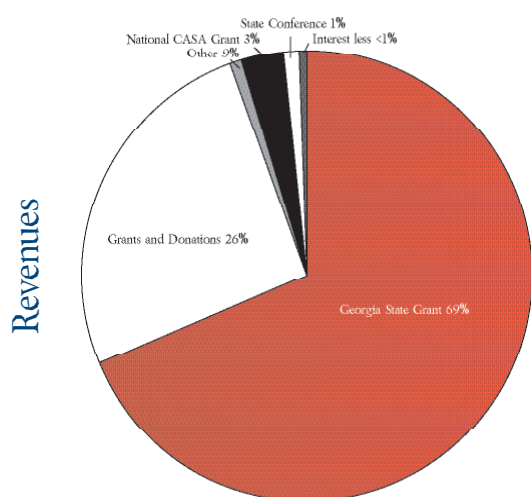
# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

June 30, 2014 and 2013

ASSETS	2014	2013
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 770,466	\$ 731,362
Receivables from grants and contracts	443,137	443,638
Promises to give	<u>---</u>	<u>15,000</u>
<i>Total current assets</i>	1,203,603	1,190,000
Cash restricted for long term purposes	---	11,157
Furniture and equipment, less accumulated depreciation of \$99,464 and \$96,447 respectively	<u>4,099</u>	<u>5,055</u>
<i>Total assets</i>	<u>\$ 1,207,702</u>	<u>\$ 1,206,212</u>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Accounts payable	\$ 349,087	\$ 357,818
Accrued expenses	27,587	25,702
Deferred rent, current	<u>7,003</u>	<u>6,556</u>
<i>Total current liabilities</i>	383,677	390,076
Long-term deferred rent	<u>---</u>	<u>7,003</u>
<i>Total liabilities</i>	383,677	397,079
<i>Net assets</i>		
Unrestricted	706,048	766,381
Temporarily restricted	<u>117,977</u>	<u>42,752</u>
<i>Total net assets</i>	824,025	809,133
<i>Total liabilities and net assets</i>	<u>\$ 1,207,702</u>	<u>\$ 1,206,212</u>



## A TRIBUTE TO KAREN MARIEA NORRIS SIBLEY FOUNDING BOARD CHAIR AND CO-FOUNDER OF GEORGIA CASA



Karen Sibley during the beginning years of Georgia CASA



Karen Sibley at the 2008 Georgia CASA Luncheon & Fashion Show

On behalf of Georgia CASA and the entire statewide CASA network, we honor the memory of Mrs. Karen Mariea Norris Sibley of Atlanta, who passed away on August 3, 2014, at the age of 92. A great advocate for children, Mrs. Sibley was a founder of Georgia CASA and served as the first board chair. She was instrumental in bringing the CASA program to Georgia in 1988 and served on the board for many years. She most recently served as a Life Member on the Georgia CASA board. Much of Georgia CASA's success over the past 26 years would not have been achieved without her leadership and influence. By encouraging others to get involved, Mrs. Sibley ensured the success of CASA in Georgia.

Throughout her life, she was involved in child-serving organizations both state and nationwide. She was a member of the National Commission for Foster Care in the United States and a board member of the Child Welfare Society of America. She was also involved with Families First and the A.G. Rhodes Home in Atlanta.

Not only was Mrs. Sibley a champion for children and the elderly, she also used her passion to encourage others to serve in their communities. According to her granddaughter Karen Brown, "Granny believed and taught me, and she showed us, that for the world and for Atlanta to be successful it really takes everybody. It takes a village. It's not I or me, it's us. She had a great life full of family and love and support. She wanted to share that in hopes that everybody could have that feeling."

While Mrs. Sibley was very engaged with her community, she was devoted first to her husband, five children, nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

We are so grateful for Mrs. Sibley's vision, passion and dedication to the safety, permanency and well-being of children, not only in Atlanta, but in Georgia and nationwide. She has left a lasting legacy for the CASA organization in Georgia that will never be forgotten.

Sources: Karen Sibley Obituary, [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com) and "Karen Sibley, 92 had a heart and voice for children", *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

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We also pay tribute to *Marcia Hammons* and *Quintus Sibley*, Georgia CASA board members who passed away during late 2014.

Marcia Hammons made many contributions to Georgia CASA as a board member. She served on the board in the 1990s, including as board chair, then served again for the past two years after she moved back to Atlanta. She was a true champion for children.

The youngest son of Karen Sibley, Quintus Sibley was in his ninth year of service on the board. He previously served as board chair. He also previously served on the Ocmulgee CASA (Milledgeville, GA) board. We are very thankful for the service he gave to Georgia CASA.

# GEORGIA CASA

The CASA organization is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by making sure a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving family. CASA volunteers are deeply committed, specially trained to advocate for each child's best interest and how to get those interests met by the system; they fight against all odds, power and bureaucracy; fight until each child can understand and advocate for his unalienable rights; and fight so children can live a life of destiny, rather than fate.

## 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 dependency 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 dependent children.

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## 2013 CASA Volunteer of the Year

Angela Langstrom, the 2013 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia, has been a dedicated CASA volunteer with Children's Voice: CASA, Inc., in Douglas County, for three years. She has advocated for 11 children in five families during her tenure. Her organizational skills, gift of engagement and even-tempered approach are strong assets in her role as a CASA volunteer.

Juvenile Court Judge Peggy Walker states that "Angela Langstrom is a powerful voice for children. . .She makes certain she knows everything about her case and the child for whom she speaks. She does not hesitate to advocate and make clear what the needs of the child are. She is compassionate and devoted to this work. It is a privilege and honor to work with someone who exhibits this degree of passion for children and families as well as professionalism in working to collaboratively achieve permanency."

Angela also fields questions from potential CASA volunteers during pre-service trainings and mentors new CASA volunteers. She is also willing to promote CASA in her community, having appeared on a local television station as a panelist and being featured in a promotional video to raise awareness of CASA volunteerism in the community.



Angela Langstrom (holding plaque) with her family, representatives from Children's Voice: CASA and Judge Peggy Walker

Angela's commitment to children goes beyond her role as a CASA volunteer. She and her husband are the adoptive parents of three children and she is the author of a children's book entitled *And God Said... See, I Told You So! A True Story of Faith and Adoption.*



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

## COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL AWARENESS, AND VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT



Georgia CASA's *Facebook* page has over 1,900 'likes' to date.



Georgia CASA's *Twitter* page has 1,140 followers to date.



Georgia CASA started a *YouTube* channel.

The *Metro Atlanta CASA Collaborative* continued its work, training about 130 new CASA volunteers to serve children in the metro Atlanta area.

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## LEGISLATIVE



*CASA Day at the Capitol* was held on February 4, 2014. CASA staff, board members and volunteers met with state legislators to thank them for their support of the CASA organization in Georgia and to ask for their continued support for CASA and child welfare issues.

The event concluded with a thank you luncheon for legislators.

The CASA network in Georgia received a \$300,000 *increase in the state allocation!*

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## AFFILIATE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

A *new affiliate CASA program* started to serve the Towaliga Judicial Circuit (Butts, Lamar and Monroe counties).

*47 affiliate programs present in 47 judicial circuits, serving 143 counties in the state*

## AFFILIATE PROGRAM OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

A variety of trainings, both in-person and online, were offered throughout the year to enhance staff skills and knowledge in managing a CASA program; in training and supervising volunteers; in helping foster youth more successfully transition to adulthood; in managing program statistical reports; and to strengthen courtroom advocacy, including implementing changes due to the new juvenile code in Georgia.

Volunteer Supervisor Training, June 2014



*Site visits* were made to 12 affiliate programs to help ensure high quality advocacy for children.

*Technical assistance* was given on all aspects of affiliate program management and operations.

### *CASA of Polk & Haralson Counties, Inc. Established Program Award of Excellence*

Originally part of a neighboring CASA program since 1995, in 2006 it became a stand-alone CASA program. The CASA program has had a large impact on the counties it serves and has brought much awareness about the CASA mission to the communities. CASA of Polk & Haralson served a record breaking 241 children in 2013, including 105 new children. CASA of Polk & Haralson has a stable funding base, including committed local donors, and continues to focus on increasing its revenue sources. The CASA program also has obtained great respect within the courtroom and with the local county Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) staff.



### *Northeast Georgia CASA, Inc. Established Program Award of Excellence*

Established 10 years ago in 2004, the CASA program has demonstrated strong leadership qualities, particularly in the areas of fundraising, board leadership and service expansion. Just during its first full year of operations, Northeast Georgia CASA served nearly 100 children with about 40 trained CASA volunteers and quickly established a good funding foundation. In 2009, Northeast Georgia CASA expanded from its original three counties of service to a total of eight counties, and currently serves about 90 percent of the children in foster care in its entire service area while retaining 75 to 80 percent of its CASA volunteers each year.

## EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

*Georgia CASA State Conference - March 15, 2014*



Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Victoria Rowell, Keynote Speaker, with Duaine Hathaway, Georgia CASA Executive Director



*Preview Party and Luncheon & Fashion Show - March 4 and 26, 2014*  
 The 10th annual Luncheon & Fashion Show fundraiser raised \$28,000!  
 Prior to the event was the Preview Party, hosted by the Gentlemen's Committee.



Gentlemen's Committee

Judge Glenda Hatchett, Honoree and Keynote Speaker



Models on the runway

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Millie Bush from CASA for Children in Canton, GA, won the 2014 National CASA Volunteer of the Year Award in June 2014 (pictured with Duaine Hathaway, Georgia CASA Executive Director)

Notes for following page:

\*Not a cumulative total; reflects highest number of CASA volunteers assigned for a quarter

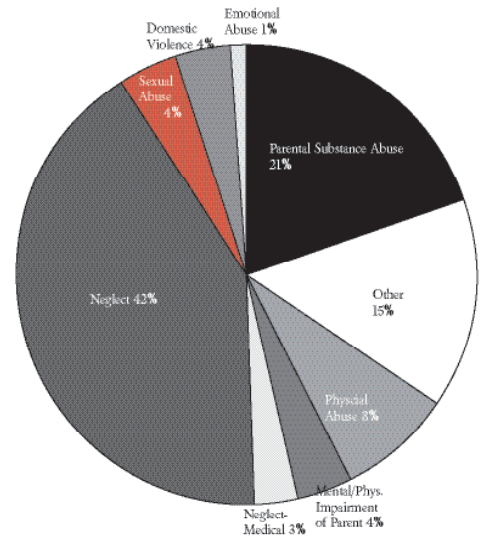
\*\*7,782 children were served who were in the legal custody of the state; pie charts include statistics for children in DFCS custody only



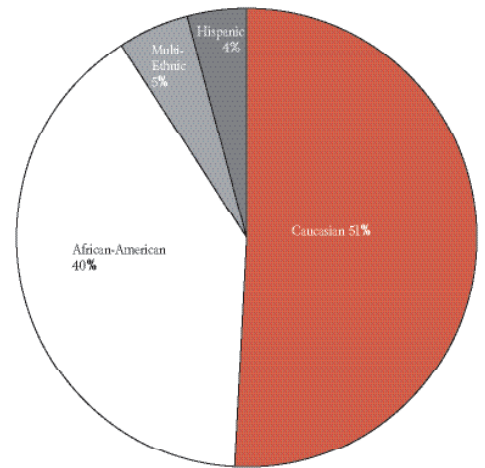
# REPORT ON AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

	Children Served	New Children	Closed Children	Active Children	CASAs*
Advo-Kids	121	42	23	83	32
Alapaha	85	46	15	70	35
Alcovy	322	116	90	193	30
Appalachian	258	95	82	148	66
Athens-Oconee	166	77	47	117	55
Atlantic	178	61	36	129	32
Augusta	318	167	122	178	46
Bartow	314	133	115	195	80
Camden	90	30	30	57	37
Carroll	162	42	47	106	50
CASA for Children	254	110	78	176	74
CASA Kids	97	24	44	53	8
Central Georgia	96	59	30	60	23
Chattahoochee	214	97	50	164	73
Children's Voice	164	48	52	92	56
Clayton	294	63	52	112	79
Coastal Plain	105	48	59	46	22
Cobb	285	96	96	97	54
Coweta	116	51	49	67	48
DeKalb	340	115	107	233	115
Dougherty	146	33	30	87	27
Enotah	210	79	79	131	43
Floyd	96	32	14	82	34
Forsyth	213	38	57	69	70
Fulton	501	182	202	223	123
Glynn	307	58	39	220	74
Gordon	41	8	9	19	10
Gwinnett	106	26	31	75	30
Hall-Dawson	489	149	87	241	166
Houston	97	48	19	71	28
Lookout Mountain	58	---	26	32	12
Murray/Whitfield	152	62	58	94	30
Northeast Georgia	239	104	96	142	67
Ocmulgee	208	63	35	145	45
Ogeechee	103	34	21	75	31
Paulding	179	62	33	144	35
Piedmont	141	47	64	73	42
Polk & Haralson	258	147	88	162	45
Rockdale	217	70	66	75	54
Savannah/Chatham	373	83	92	165	52
SOWEGA	264	78	48	158	98
Southwest Georgia	86	41	34	48	12
TLC	273	85	70	118	33
Toombs	43	27	12	31	4
Towaliga	14	13	---	13	4
Tri-County	119	45	14	96	19
Troup & Heard	116	45	37	70	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,028**</b>	<b>3,179</b>	<b>2,585</b>	<b>5,235</b>	<b>2,224*</b>

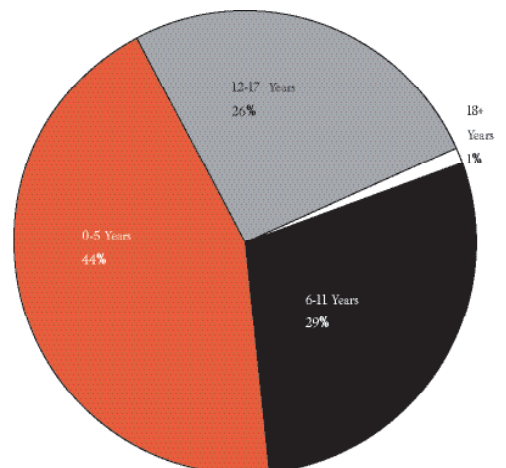
Types of Deprivation



Ethnic Background



Ages



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Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Justice for Children

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#### *In honor of Ms. Jennifer King*

By Ms. Sarah Fonder-Kristy

#### *In honor of Ms. Eleanor Malone and Mrs. Marcy McTier*

By Ms. Cecile M. Jones

#### *In honor of Mrs. Marcy McTier*

By Bob and Dee Milledge  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Starr

#### *In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Steven J. Morris*

By Ms. Nancy Wood

#### *In honor of Ocmulgee CASA Inc.*

By Ms. Hoggane Harrison-Walton

#### *In honor of Mrs. Ann Rotroff*

By Ms. Peggy Elder  
Ms. Susan E. Hunt

#### *In honor of Mrs. Karen N. Sibley\**

By Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Howard  
Mrs. Joseph B. Hutchison  
Mrs. Catherine T. Porter  
Eleanor and Clarence Ridley  
Mrs. Lucy Carpenter Vance

#### *In honor of Yahnne Tyson*

By Ms. Susan N. Winner

#### *In honor of Ms. Nicki Vaughan*

By Ms. Jewel W. Norman

#### *In honor of Ms. Nancy Wood*

By Ms. Leslie Fight

### *Memorials*

#### *In memory of Mr. Scott Edwards*

By Mr. and Mrs. James G. Edwards II

#### *In memory of Ms. Marge Fowler*

By Ms. Carolyn Fowler

#### *In memory of Mr. Abe Freeman*

By Ms. Alysa Freeman

#### *In memory of Ms. Johnnie Mae (Gail) Fuller-Knox*

By Mr. and Mrs. Earl Burpo

#### *In memory of Ms. Mattie Annette Hall*

By Ms. Sandra Hall Cummings

#### *In memory of Mr. Clay Parramore*

By Ms. Dora Parramore

#### *In memory of Judge Elliot Shoenthal*

By Jeryl Rosh

*\*Now deceased; memorial donations for Karen Sibley will be listed in 2014 - 2015 annual report*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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Georgia CASA Staff at Georgia CASA Conference, March 2014

## AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

*For complete contact information for each program, visit [www.gacasa.org](http://www.gacasa.org).*

### Advo-Kids CASA, Inc.

*Fayette, Pike, Spalding & Upson Counties*

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*Camden County*

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Program of the Juvenile Court of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit

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*Glynn County*

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*Houston County*

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Program of Family Enrichment Group, Inc.

*Brooks & Thomas Counties*

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*Paulding County*

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*Polk & Haralson Counties*

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Program of the Juvenile Court of the Toombs Judicial Circuit

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Program of Twin Cedars Youth Services, Inc.

*Muscogee County*

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*Douglas County*

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Program of Clayton County Juvenile Court

*Clayton County*

Carol Gossett, Child Welfare Services Coordinator

## AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

*For complete contact information for each program, visit [www.gacasa.org](http://www.gacasa.org).*

### Coastal Plain CASA, Inc.

*Irwin, Tift, Turner & Worth Counties*

Dee Patterson, Executive Director

### Coweta CASA, Inc.

*Coweta County*

Traci Corne, Executive Director

### DeKalb County CASA Program

Program of Child Advocate Network, Inc.

*DeKalb County*

Linda Banks, Executive Director

### Dougherty CASA

Program of The Lily Pad SANE Center, Inc.

*Dougherty County*

Holli Reksten, Program Director

### Enotah CASA, Inc.

*Lumpkin, Towns, Union & White Counties*

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Program of Northwest GA Child Advocacy Center, Inc.

*Floyd County*

Sue Lagermann, Program Coordinator

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*Fulton County*

Robbyn Ingram, 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*

Steve Gill, Program Coordinator

### Hall-Dawson CASA Program, Inc.

*Dawson & Hall Counties*

Connie Stephens, Executive Director

### Juvenile Court of Cobb County/CASA

*Cobb County*

Carlene Redmond, Program Coordinator

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Kristie Taylor, Director

### Murray/Whitfield CASA Program

Program of Family Support Council, Inc.

*Murray & Whitfield Counties*

Bruce Kenemer, Program Manager

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*Rockdale County*

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*Chatham County*

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Brad Ray, Executive Director

### TLC CASA Program, Inc.

*Bleckley, Candler, Dodge, Emanuel, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Twiggs, Washington & Wheeler Counties*

Sherri Howard, Executive Director

### Towaliga CASA

*Butts, Lamar & Monroe Counties*

Larry Waller, Program Director

### Tri-County CASA, Inc.

*Appling, Jeff Davis & Wayne Counties*

Denise Graham, Executive Director





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