Annual Report
2015-2016

“To give a child a CASA volunteer
is to give them a voice.
To give them a voice is to give them hope,
and to give them hope is to give them the world.”

-Pamela, a former foster child

Georgia Court Appointed
Special Advocates, Inc.
Dear Supporters,

Thank you for your support of Georgia CASA as we all work together to improve the well-being of Georgia’s abused and neglected children through the work of CASA volunteers in the state! We truly appreciate each and every one of you in the various roles in which you serve. You help us to provide a high level of comprehensive support services to our 47 affiliate programs, and they are then able to provide the highest quality of advocacy to the dependent children they serve.

We hope you enjoy viewing and reading highlights from our 2015 – 2016 fiscal year as you peruse the annual report.

In fiscal year 2016, for the first time in our 28 year history, we served over 10,000 children in Georgia! Over 2,300 CASA volunteers served these children in our state. We are excited to see this growth as part of our three-year statewide growth plan that launched in the fall of 2015. The plan’s goal is for 13,000 of Georgia’s foster children to be served at the end of three years. In the financial area, we are pleased to report that our audit indicated that 92% of Georgia CASA’s expenses supported services to our affiliate programs.

We hope to continue to partner with you during the upcoming year as we all work together for Georgia’s dependent children. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,

Freda Hammonds    Duaine Hathaway
Board Chair     Executive Director

Counties served by a CASA program as of June 30, 2016
“Being in foster care is living in a constant state of flux. Homes, schools, families...everything is always changing, often suddenly and without warning. The only constant was my CASA volunteer. Without her I would have been lost in the system.”

-Melissa, a former foster youth
ASSETS

Current assets
Cash & cash equivalents $ 817,081 $ 691,292
Receivables from grants & contracts 548,480 523,010
Promises to give 25,000 25,000
Prepays 13,000 16,325
Total current assets 1,403,561 1,255,627

Promises to give --- 25,000

Furniture & equipment, less accumulated depreciation of $104,606 and $99,787 respectively 18,893 23,712

Security deposit 3,655 3,655

Total assets $ 1,426,109 $ 1,307,994

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities
Accounts payable $ 540,974 $ 460,242
Accrued expenses 21,393 32,572
Deferred revenue 3,618 ---
Deferred rent, current 2,884 ---
Total current liabilities 568,869 492,814

Long-term deferred rent 13,334 3,387
Total liabilities 582,203 496,201

Net assets
Unrestricted 775,414 610,314
Temporarily restricted 68,492 201,479
Total net assets 843,906 811,793

Total liabilities and net assets $ 1,426,109 $ 1,307,994
Report on Affiliate Programs

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*9,385 children were served who were in the legal custody of the state; pie charts include statistics for active children in DFCS custody only
**Not a cumulative total; reflects highest number of CASA volunteers assigned for a quarter

Types of Dependency

- Abandonment: 1%
- Relinquishment: 1%
- Incarcerated: 5%
- Drug & Alcohol Abuse: 30%
- Neglect: 41%
- Inability to Cope: 4%
- Physical: 4%
- Sexual: 4%
- Medical: 3%

Ethnic Background

- Caucasian: 54%
- African American: 30%
- Hispanic: 6%
- Multi-Ethnic: 6%

Ages

- 0-5 Years: 46%
- 5-11 Years: 31%
- 12-17 Years: 22%
- 18+ Years: 1%

Comparison of FY16 to FY15

From last fiscal year, an increase of over 5% in both children served and in CASA volunteers

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

Through *individualized attention*, CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of Georgia’s abused and neglected children. *Bringing urgency to a child’s needs*, both in and out of the courtroom, CASA volunteers promote *safety, permanency and well-being* through *independent recommendations*.

As *community partners in the child welfare system*, CASA volunteers increase abused and neglected children’s *access to services (including educational and health needs), 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.

**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.

**2015 CASA Volunteers of the Year**

Seth and Cathy Vining have been chosen for the 2015 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia Award. The Vining have been CASA volunteers with Hall-Dawson CASA in Gainesville for the past 10 years. They have had dozens of cases and served at least 30 children during their tenure. The Vining are models of kindness and always display even tempers and professional demeanors. Their reports to the juvenile court judges are very thorough, and judges frequently request them for difficult cases. As a CASA volunteer team, the Vining have complementary strengths. Both children and adults are drawn to them, and professionals in the child welfare system respect them immensely.

Yet they spent long hours searching for her all over Hall County. When she was found, they advocated for her best interests and loved her just as if nothing had ever happened.

On another case, the Vining were instrumental in helping the parents of a CASA child’s half siblings adopt him. They were cited by the judge for their work on this case that involved unique circumstances, clearly demonstrating the value of CASA volunteers on child welfare cases.

The Vining are invaluable role models for new CASA volunteers at Hall-Dawson CASA and have also taught the Hall-Dawson CASA staff helpful tips and methods to obtain successful outcomes as advocates.
Highlights From the Year

Legislative

**CASA Day at the Capitol** was held on February 9, 2016. Nearly 300 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 **$750,000 increase in the state allocation.**

Communications, General Awareness & Volunteer Recruitment

As part of our three-year statewide growth plan, **volunteer recruitment campaigns** took place in three regions of the state - Northwest, Central and South Central.

**Additional staff positions** were added at six affiliate programs, helping to increase the capacity of these programs to recruit, train and supervise more CASA volunteers.

The growth plan aims to serve 13,000 dependent children in the state at the end of three years.

Georgia CASA's **Facebook** page has over 3,100 ‘likes’ to date. Georgia CASA's **Twitter** page (@GeorgiaCASA) has over 1,700 followers to date.

Georgia CASA has a **YouTube** channel.

**Quarterly e-newsletters** and **e-news tidbits** were sent to all our supporters.

Targeted e-newsletters were sent to our affiliate programs, including the **CASA network e-newsletter** and **e-news recruitment tips**, which provided recruitment tips and tools to all.

Affiliate Programs

**47 affiliate CASA programs** were present in **48 judicial circuits**, serving **146 counties** in the state.

Chattahoochee CASA expanded to serve **Harris, Talbot and Taylor counties.**
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 the following areas:

- Managing a CASA program
- Training and supervising volunteers
- Managing program statistical reports
- Strengthening courtroom advocacy
- Enhancing the educational advocacy provided to children served by CASA volunteers

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, including educational advocacy assistance.

Highlights From the Year

Council of Programs, May 2016 (hosted by CASA of Forsyth County Board of Directors)

Volunteer Supervisor Training, June 2016

Panel Members at Volunteer Supervisor Meeting, January 2016

Training of the Facilitator, November 2015

Educational Advocacy Primer, Cartersville, July 2015
Events and Fundraising

Georgia CASA State Conference
March 5, 2016
The state conference, held in Stone Mountain, had over 450 attendees. CASA volunteers, staff, board members and others in child welfare across the state networked, enjoyed the Opening Session and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, and chose from over 25 available workshops to increase their knowledge and skills in child advocacy.

Highlights From the Year

Preview Party and Luncheon & Fashion Show
March 15 and 30, 2016
The 12th annual Luncheon & Fashion Show fundraiser raised over $43,000! The event, held at Mason Fine Art in Atlanta, honored Stephanie Blank. Prior to the event, a Preview Party was held, hosted by a Gentlemen’s Committee.

Awards of Excellence Winners: (top) Athens-Oconee CASA for Innovative Program and (bottom) Hall-Dawson CASA for Established Program

Ashley Rhodes-Courter, Keynote Speaker (center), with Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director and Freda Hammonds, Board Chair

Inaugural Board Member Leadership Award: Paula Gault, CASA of Forsyth County (with Rod Walker, Georgia CASA Board Vice Chair)

(top) Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director, with Keynote Speaker and Honoree Stephanie Blank

(right) Lisa Herman and Candace Smith, Event Co-Chairs, with Duaine Hathaway
Donors

**Beacon of Light ($10,000 and above)**

Anonymous
Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation
Chick-fil-A Inc.
Mr. Nicholas E. Downey
John and Mary Franklin Foundation
Georgia Department of Human Services
The Luther and Susie Harrison Foundation Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Duaine Hathaway
The Scott HUDGENS Family Foundation
Sartain Lanier Family Foundation Inc.
National CASA Association
Emily Winship Scott Foundation
United Parcel Service
Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation

**Champion ($7,500 - $9,999)**

Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Justice for Children

**Guardian ($5,000 - $7,499)**

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Arby’s Foundation Inc.
Dan and Merrie Boone Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. David Clark
Cox Enterprises Inc.
Georgia Power
The MA-RAN Foundation
Pipes Family Charitable Giving Fund

**Advocate ($2,500 - $4,999)**

Ms. Carolyn Dobbins
Mr. John Gilberto
Ms. Roya Irvani
Ms. Sarah Kenan Kennedy
Mary Ryan and Henry G. KUHRT Foundation
Dr. and Mrs. Kip Lynch
Ms. Audrey Morgan
Richard Munroe Foundation
Mr. Rod Walker

**Patron ($1,000 - $2,499)**

Susan and Douglas Abramson
Anonymous
The Mr. and Mrs. James H. Blanchard Fund, Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley
Catholic Foundation of North Georgia Inc.
Combined Federal Campaign
Ms. Baerbel Freudenthaler and Mr. Dietmar Hofmarcher
Friends for Life Foundation Inc.
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Mr. Brad Ray
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Mr. and Mrs. David Wallis
Ms. Mary Anne Walsh and Mr. Jimmy Smith

**Friend of Children ($999 and below)**

3dASAP
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Dolan and Pamela Garr
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Ms. Marty Gillin
Ms. Riedy Gimpelson
Girl Scouts Troop 29305
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Andres Gonzalez
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Mr. Marc Villanueva
Ms. Nancy Wood
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Ms. Judy Clements
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Klemperer

*In honor of Mrs. Michelle Barclay*
By Ms. Jane Martin

*In honor of Mrs. Ann Barrett*
By Mr. and Mrs. William W. Espy

*In honor of Mrs. Ethel Ware Carter*
By Mr. and Mrs. Shepard B. Ansley
Mr. and Mrs. Larry C. Williams

*In honor of Mrs. Solveig Harden*
By Jim and Janet Cumming

*In honor of Mrs. Bernadette Hartfield*
By Mrs. Gloria Lee

*In honor of Ms. Michelle Humphrey*
By Ms. Nichole Goergen

*In honor of Mrs. Roya Irvani*
By Mr. and Mrs. William H. Verner

*In honor of Kappa Alpha Theta*
By Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hannon

*In honor of Ms. Jennifer King*
By Ms. Sarah Fonder-Kristy

*In honor of Mrs. Katina Lett*
By Ms. Gloria Brooks

*In honor of Dr. Kip Lynch*
By Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Mefford

*In honor of The Magruders*
By Ms. Gail Boyd

*In honor of Mrs. Marcy McTier*
By Mr. and Mrs. John Dalbey
Mr. and Mrs. Russell R, French
Mrs. Deanna S. Milledge

*In honor of Mrs. Ann Rotroff*
By Dr. and Mrs. G. Lee Cross III
Ms. Peggy Elder

*In honor of The Sale Lab Members*
By Dr. Winfield Sale

*In honor of Ms. Marcia Schwarz*
By Frank Family Foundation

*In honor of Mrs. Charlotte Ros Terrell*
By Ms. Nancy D. Almquist
Ms. Patsy Dickerson
Ms. Jennifer P. Rose

*In honor of Ms. Lechelle Thomas*
By Mr. and Mrs. John Beane

**Memorials**

*In memory of Mr. Scott Edwards*
By Beverly and Smokey Edwards

*In memory of Ms. Marcia Hammons*
By Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Morgan
Ms. Nicki N. Vaughan

*In memory of Willie O’Neal*
By Dr. James P. O’Neal

*In memory of Mr. Clay Parramore*
By Ms. Dora Parramore

*In memory of Mr. James M. Sibley Sr.*
By Ms. Carolyn Sue Christman
Early Learning Property Management Inc.
Ms. Mary Katherine Hodgson
Ms. Catherine R. Moirai
Mr. R. Randall Rollins

*In memory of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Sibley Sr.*
By Mrs. Joseph B. Hutchison
Mrs. Sarah Kenan Kennedy

*In memory of Mr. James M. Sibley Sr. and Mr. Quintus Sibley*
By Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Bickerstaff
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For complete contact information for each program, visit gacasa.org.

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Affiliate Programs

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

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