



Annual Report 2016 - 2017

Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.

Dear Supporters,

Thank you so much for your support of the mission work of Georgia CASA! We are in this work together as we improve the well-being of children currently in foster care in Georgia through the advocacy of CASA volunteers all across the state. Your support is critical in helping us to provide high-quality, comprehensive support services to our affiliates. In turn, our affiliates are able to recruit, screen, train and supervise CASA volunteers who provide the highest quality of advocacy to the dependent children they serve.

Please take a moment to peruse our 2016 – 2017 annual report, which includes highlights from the fiscal year.

We are pleased to report that in fiscal year 2017, more children in Georgia had a CASA volunteer than ever before – 11,243! Nearly 2,500 CASA volunteers provided advocacy focused on the well-being of these children. As we began to wrap up year two of our three-year statewide growth plan, we saw an increase in the number of CASA volunteers, enabling us to provide additional CASA volunteers for children in foster care in the state. We look forward to reporting the final results of the growth plan when it concludes at the end of 2018, with the goal of 13,000 children being served with 2,800 CASA volunteers. In the financial area, we are pleased to report that 93% of Georgia CASA's expenses went towards providing comprehensive support services to our affiliates.

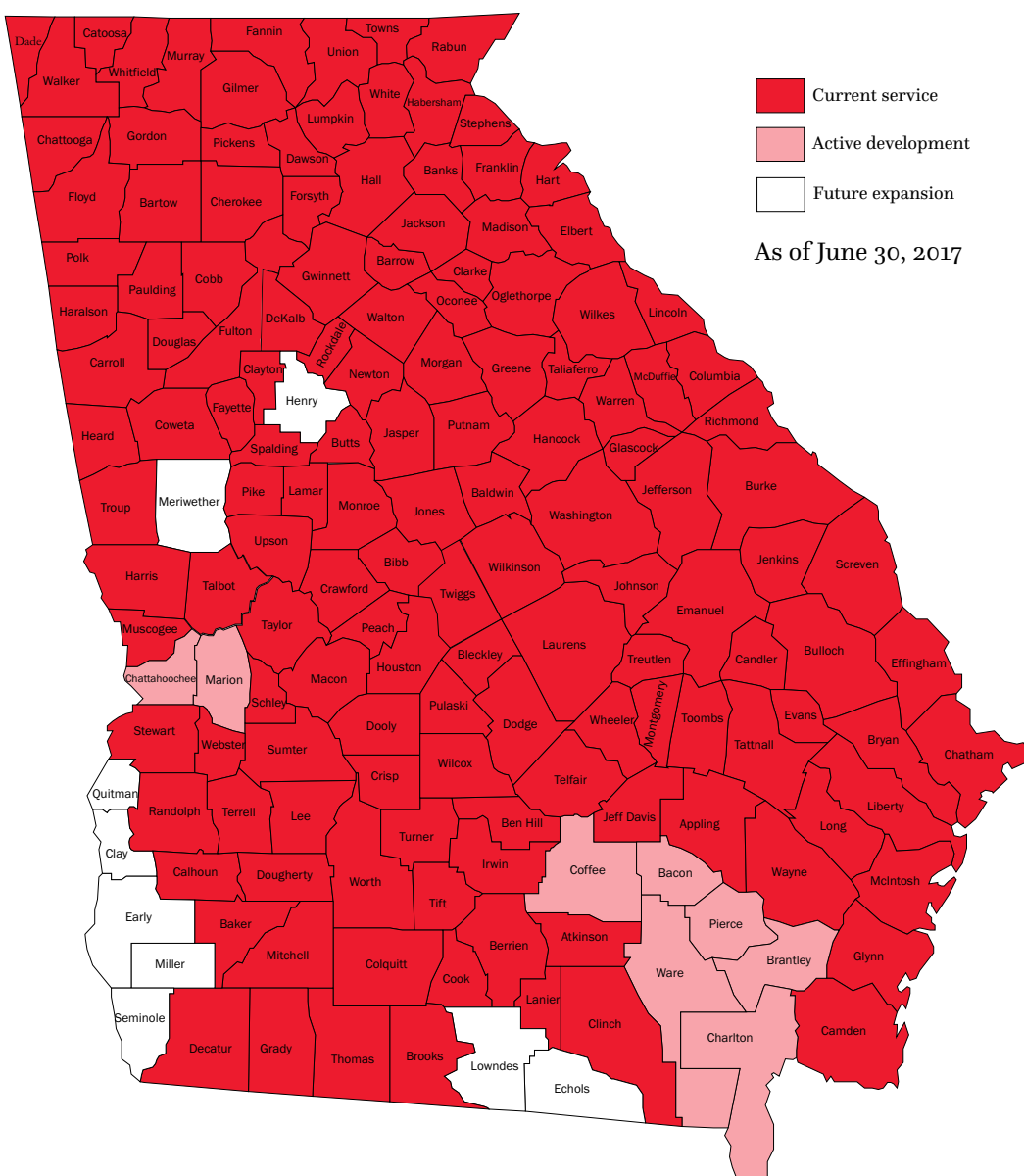
Thank you again for your support of Georgia CASA and Georgia's dependent children! We look forward to continuing our partnership with you!



Rod Walker
Board Chair



Duaine Hathaway
Executive Director





**“Being an advocate for children in foster care
can really make a difference.
CASA volunteers change children’s lives.
Is there a better job than that?”**

*Olga Phillips, CASA Volunteer
CASA Cherokee, Canton, GA*

Financial Information

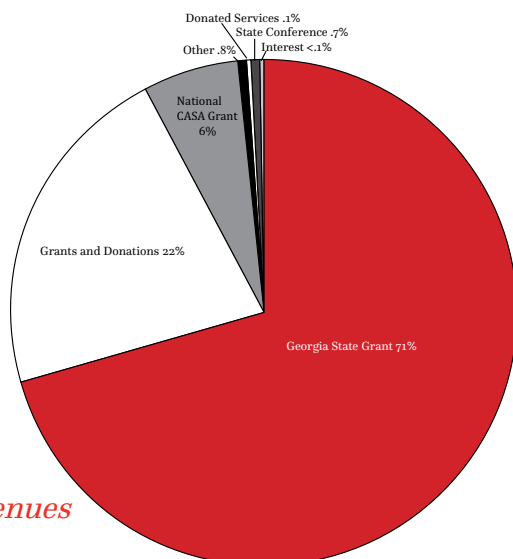
June 30, 2017 and 2016

ASSETS

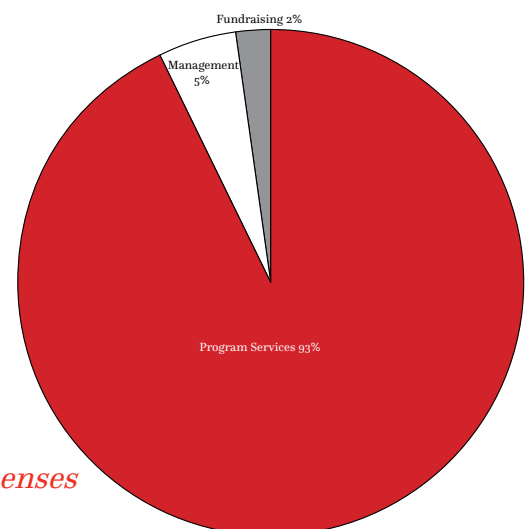
	2017	2016
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 935,364	\$ 817,081
Receivables from grants & contracts	776,411	523,480
Promises to give	---	50,000
Prepays	<u>---</u>	<u>13,000</u>
<i>Total current assets</i>	1,711,775	1,403,561
Furniture & equipment, less accumulated depreciation of \$9,101 and \$104,606 respectively	39,565	18,893
Security deposit	<u>4,938</u>	<u>3,655</u>
<i>Total assets</i>	<u>\$ 1,756,278</u>	<u>\$ 1,426,109</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Accounts payable	\$ 702,433	\$ 540,974
Accrued expenses	23,543	21,393
Deferred revenue	---	3,618
Deferred rent, current	<u>---</u>	<u>2,884</u>
<i>Total current liabilities</i>	<u>725,976</u>	<u>568,869</u>
Long-term deferred rent	<u>13,347</u>	<u>13,334</u>
<i>Total liabilities</i>	<u>739,323</u>	<u>582,203</u>
<i>Net assets</i>		
Unrestricted	868,255	775,414
Temporarily restricted	<u>148,700</u>	<u>68,492</u>
<i>Total net assets</i>	<u>1,016,955</u>	<u>843,906</u>
<i>Total liabilities and net assets</i>	<u>\$ 1,756,278</u>	<u>\$ 1,426,109</u>



Revenues

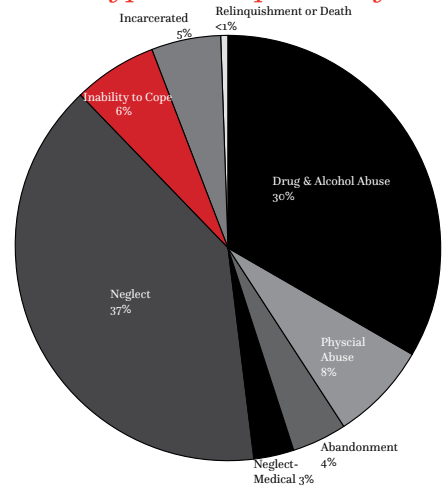


Expenses

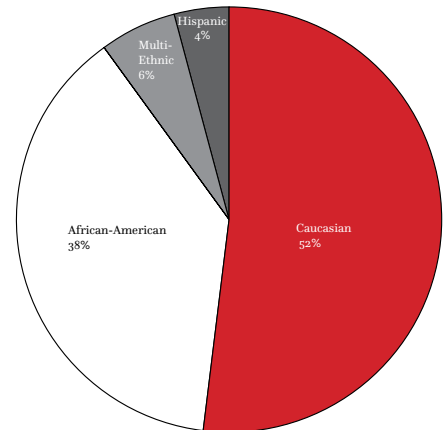
Report on Affiliates

	Children Served	New Children	Closed Children	Active Children	CASAs
Advo-Kids	108	40	40	66	37
Alapaha	73	29	38	35	28
Alcovy	299	48	112	168	32
Appalachian	380	118	185	195	76
Athens-Oconee	198	64	61	124	60
Atlantic	155	48	14	139	34
Augusta	471	222	201	223	64
Bartow	290	84	120	170	89
Carroll	276	109	122	123	69
Cherokee	263	111	61	202	111
CASA Kids	195	89	45	143	36
Central Georgia	88	25	31	57	26
Chattahoochee	282	118	99	181	75
Children's Voice	150	37	33	100	38
Clayton	547	156	111	154	93
Coastal Plain	77	27	11	66	26
Cobb	301	134	86	160	60
Coweta	168	42	60	107	64
DeKalb	372	162	71	301	129
Dougherty	189	72	15	174	46
Enotah	293	88	48	129	64
Floyd	134	29	32	98	33
Forsyth	285	92	65	153	93
Fulton	391	124	126	265	162
Glynn	370	109	100	217	88
Gordon	36	7	6	19	10
Gwinnett	93	14	28	65	32
Hall-Dawson	642	146	97	264	100
Houston	90	31	33	56	25
Lookout Mountain	104	66	27	65	18
Murray/Whitfield	173	62	61	111	29
Northeast Georgia	293	137	101	191	72
Ocmulgee	233	89	68	165	56
Ogeechee	115	53	23	95	42
Paulding	211	53	69	136	62
Piedmont	170	73	45	125	57
Polk & Haralson	274	80	121	153	24
Rockdale	248	88	76	163	65
Savannah/Chatham	236	47	92	144	59
SOWEGA	621	181	55	385	69
Southwest Georgia	182	68	42	140	16
TLC	667	250	258	295	43
Toombs	56	19	32	24	7
Towaliga	82	27	26	54	20
Tri-County	168	52	32	134	21
Troup & Heard	194	81	43	150	26
	11,243*	3,801	3,222	6,684	2,486**

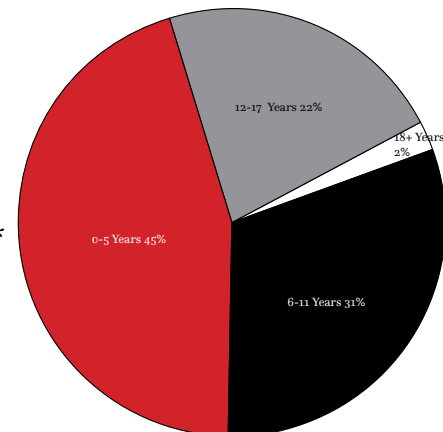
Types of Dependency



Ethnic Background



Ages



Comparison of FY17 to FY16

From last fiscal year, an increase of 10% in children served and over 7% in CASA volunteers

*10,218 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

Georgia CASA

Through *individualized attention*, CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect in Georgia. *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.

2016 CASA Volunteer of the Year

Diana Smith of Enotah CASA Selected as State and National Volunteer of the Year



Diana Smith commended by Gov. Nathan Deal for her CASA volunteer awards; also pictured (l-r): Angela Tyner (Georgia CASA), Linda D'Angelo (Enotah CASA), Duaine Hathaway (Georgia CASA) and Jennifer King (Georgia CASA)

Diana Smith has been chosen for the 2016 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia Award as well as the G.F. Bettineski Child Advocate of the Year Award from National CASA.

Diana, a resident of Blairsville, has been a CASA volunteer with Enotah CASA since 1999. She has helped over 47 children find permanent, stable homes during her tenure. Diana often takes the most challenging and devastating cases, and she does it with determination and compassion. A former special education teacher, she previously volunteered as a GAL (Guardian ad Litem) when she lived in Florida.

Diana goes above and beyond what is expected as a CASA volunteer, attending all court dates, medical appointments, visitations, family treatment courts, school events and other out of court activities for the children she serves. Her past education experience and tenure as a CASA volunteer have given her the ability to connect with and comfort anyone. The children she serves know they can trust her to advocate for them, both in the community and in court. She is the stable presence in their lives.

In addition to serving as a CASA volunteer, Diana helps to recruit and motivate her fellow CASA volunteers with Enotah CASA. Diana truly has one of the biggest hearts for children that can be found in a CASA volunteer. As she has said, "If you don't stand up for a child, you don't stand up for much."

Highlights From the Year

Legislative



CASA Day at the Capitol was held on February 7, 2017. Nearly 300 CASA staff, board members and volunteers met with state legislators to thank them for their support of the CASA network in Georgia and to ask for their continued support for CASA and child welfare issues. The event concluded with an appreciation luncheon for legislators.

The CASA network in Georgia received a \$500,000 increase in the state allocation.

Communications, General Awareness & Volunteer Recruitment

Year two of our three-year statewide growth plan included volunteer recruitment campaigns in four new regions of the state - Coastal, East, Greater Atlanta and West - and continued in three regions (from year one) - Northwest, Central and South Central.


Additional staff positions were added at six affiliates, helping to increase their capacity to recruit, screen, train and supervise additional CASA volunteers.

Recruitment tools and trainings, including a new Everyday Heroes campaign and speakers' trainings, were provided to all affiliates.

The growth plan aims to serve 13,000 dependent children in the state with 2,800 CASA volunteers at the end of 2018.



Billboard in Northwest Georgia

 Georgia CASA's Facebook page has over 3,700 'likes' to date.

 Georgia CASA's Twitter page (@GeorgiaCASA) has over 1,900 followers to date.

 Georgia CASA has a YouTube channel.

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

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

Affiliates

46 affiliates were present in 48 judicial circuits, serving 144 counties in the state.

CASA Kids expanded to serve Colquitt County.
Lookout Mountain CASA expanded to serve Chattooga County.
Camden County moved under CASA Glynn.

Highlights From the Year

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 conducted with affiliates to help ensure high quality advocacy for children.

Technical assistance was given on all aspects of affiliate program management, including advocacy assistance on various child welfare topics, via phone consultation and in-person trainings, as requested.



Training of the Facilitator, August 2016



Training of the Facilitator, November 2016



Training of the Facilitator, May 2017



Volunteer Supervisor Training, June 2017

Highlights From the Year

Events and Fundraising



Carnival for CASA

February 25, 2017

The Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia's annual signature fundraiser benefitted Georgia CASA, raising nearly \$30,000! The evening event featured a carnival theme with games, food and an auction.

Preview Party and Luncheon & Fashion Show

March 14 and 22, 2017

The 13th annual Luncheon & Fashion Show fundraiser raised nearly \$70,000! The event, held at a private club in Buckhead, honored Marie Hannon. Keynote speaker was The Honorable Cliff Joliff (retired). Prior to the event, a Preview Party was held, hosted by the Preview Committee.



Female Models at Event

Honoree Marie Hannon (center), with Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director, and Bernadette Hartfield, Board Member

Georgia CASA State Conference

April 22, 2017

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.



Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman, Keynote Speaker, with Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director



Stacy Garmon of Children's Voice: CASA (Douglas County) receives the Board Leadership Award from Charmagne Helton, Georgia CASA Board Member



Awards of Excellence Winners: (top) CASA Glynn for Established Affiliate and (bottom) CASA of Paulding County for Established Affiliate

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