

2021

DONOR UPDATE

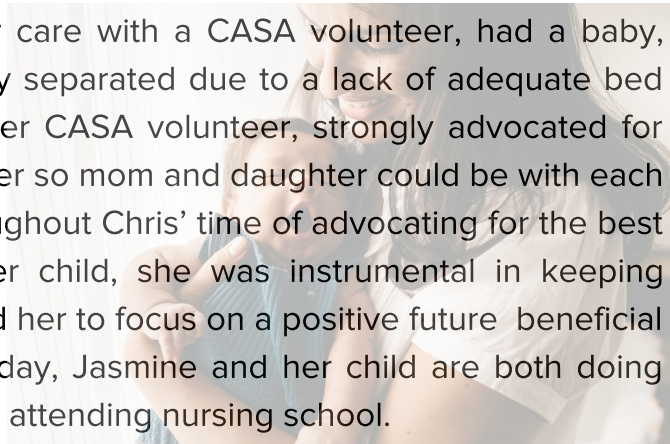
In a year like no other, we are so appreciative of your support for Georgia CASA and CASA volunteers who provide best interest advocacy to children in foster care who have been abused or neglected. CASA advocacy has not wavered during the pandemic because of a dedicated network of advocates. Your investment continues to change the lives of children in Georgia. We are pleased to share with you the accomplishments over the last six to nine months.

JEN KING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A CASA Success Story



When “Jasmine,” a youth in foster care with a CASA volunteer, had a baby, Jasmine and her baby were initially separated due to a lack of adequate bed space in the foster home. Chris, her CASA volunteer, strongly advocated for Jasmine and her baby to be together so mom and daughter could be with each other for their first Christmas. Throughout Chris’ time of advocating for the best interests of both Jasmine and her child, she was instrumental in keeping Jasmine motivated and encouraged her to focus on a positive future beneficial to both Jasmine and her child. Today, Jasmine and her child are both doing well, living together, and Jasmine is attending nursing school.



CASA's COVID-19 Response

“Georgia CASA has been available every step of the way to support continued CASA volunteer advocacy at the local and state levels.”

Charlene Maldonado,
Dougherty CASA



<http://bit.ly/AdvocacyDuringPandemicVideo>

- CASA volunteers remained **connected and accessible** to children, caregivers, parents, case managers and the courts.
- Georgia CASA **harnessed resources** to support our statewide CASA network of affiliates and continue our role as an influential leader in the child welfare system.
- CASA volunteers continue to **bring immediate attention to the needs** of children and their caregivers.

Georgia CASA's New Long Range Plan 2021 - 2023

Mission:

Georgia CASA **strengthens and supports** court-sanctioned, affiliate CASA programs that **empower community volunteers** who advocate for abused or neglected children and **contributes to advancements** within the child welfare system.

Vision:

All children who experience abuse or neglect have the **opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential** with the support of **permanent connections to family**.

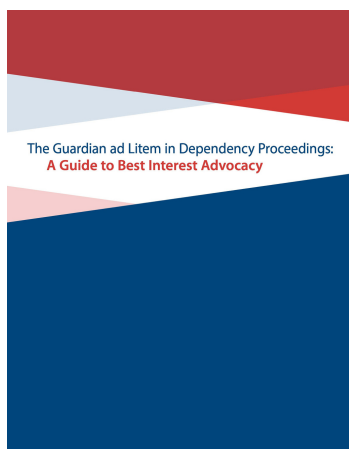
Values:

- Collaboration**
- Compassion**
- Accountability**

Strategic Priority 1
Strengthen Local CASA Affiliates

Strategic Priority 2
Increase Awareness of CASA

Strategic Priority 3
Advance Child Welfare System Improvements



Judicial & Legal Guide to Best Interest Advocacy

Commissioned by Georgia CASA and authored by Jerry Bruce, Georgia Court Improvement Project Director at Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children, and Angela Tyner, Advocacy Director at Georgia CASA, the recently published [The Guardian ad Litem in Dependency Proceedings: A Guide to Best Interest Advocacy](#) will help **inform, influence, and improve the quality of best interest advocacy for abused or neglected children** involved in juvenile court proceedings in Georgia.

Statewide Virtual Events

Georgia CASA State Conference - August 11 - 13, 2020

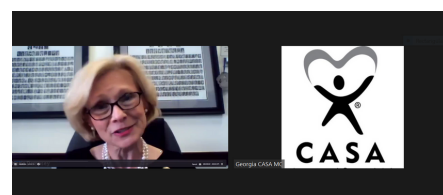
- 1,000+ attendees and 21 recorded workshops
- 35+ presenters and special guests
- Awards: CASA Volunteer of the Year, Board Member Leadership Award, Established Program, and Innovative Program

CASA Day at the Capitol - February 11, 2021

- 400+ attendees
- Special guests: Rep. Katie Dempsey, Rep. Shelly Hutchinson, and Gabrielle Willis (Georgia Peers Advocating for Change); also Governor's Proclamation for CASA Day in Georgia



Wordcloud created from CASA volunteer crowdsourcing during conference



Chairwoman Katie Dempsey, Georgia House

Comprehensive Network Support Services

- **Virtual Trainings**, including:
 - Best Interest Advocacy
 - Council of Programs (CASA Directors Meeting)
 - New Volunteer Supervisor
 - Training of the Facilitator
- **Affinity Groups**, including education, fundraising, human resources, recruitment, and race equity
- **Monthly COVID Calls and Updates** with CASA leadership
- **Specialized Trainings**, by request, including Access to Information, Bias Awareness, Barriers to Permanency, and Engaging Parents



Quality Assurance



- **Virtual site visits and court observations** between Georgia CASA and 10+ affiliates
- **Technical assistance and consultation** via on-site support, calls, and emails provided on all aspects of affiliate program management, operations, and courtroom advocacy
- **Ongoing involvement and engagement** with juvenile court judges, DFCS attorneys, and other community partners
- **Peer engagement learning and exchange**
- **Clearinghouse of information**

Financial Impact

Thank you to our donors! Because of your generosity during this fiscal year...

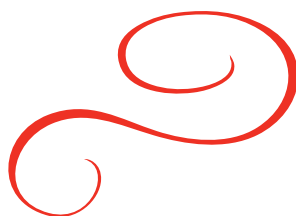
- Individual giving has remained steady
- Foundation giving has responded to immediate and emergency needs
- State grants and other reductions have been offset by donations and reduced expenses
- Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness is pending

Over 90% of Georgia CASA's expenses directly support affiliate services. **You are making a direct impact on the lives of children served by CASA volunteers!**



53%
of Children
in Foster Care
Served

Mid-Fiscal Year 2021



2,600
CASA Volunteers
in
Georgia

Mid-Fiscal Year 2021