

# Impact Report

**Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.**



**Fiscal Year 2021**



Dear Supporters,

We are pleased to present our Impact Report covering the work of Georgia CASA between July 2020 and June 2021.

During this past fiscal year, nearly 3,000 advocates continued to faithfully provide best-interest advocacy to nearly 10,000 children in foster care in the state. Georgia CASA strengthens and supports local CASA affiliates and ensures strong connections across the CASA network are maintained to empower CASA volunteers in their advocacy work.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and the children and youth with a CASA volunteer, thank you for your support of Georgia CASA. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you!

*Mandira Mehra*

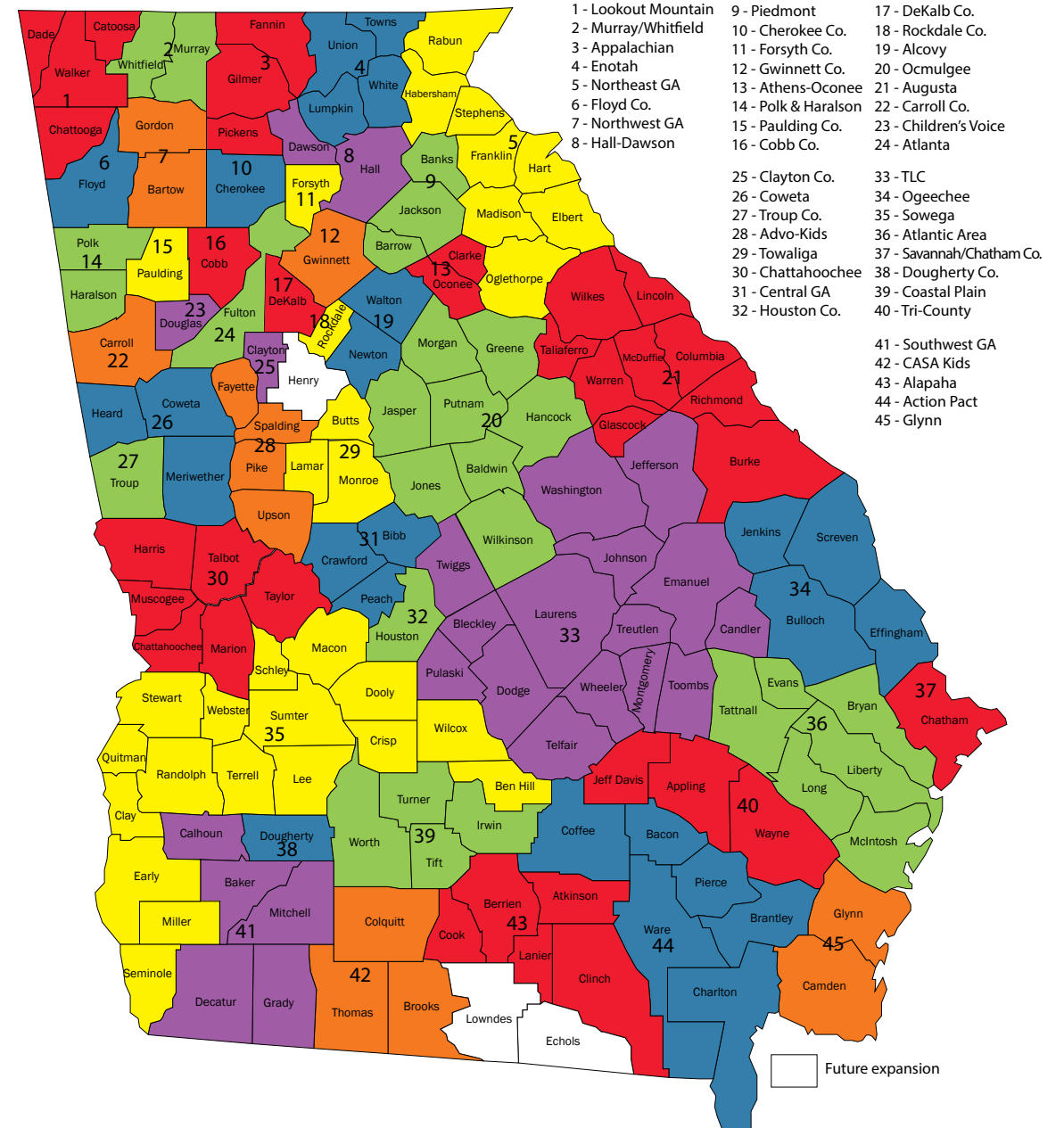
Mandira Mehra  
Board Chair

*Jen King*

Jen King  
Executive Director

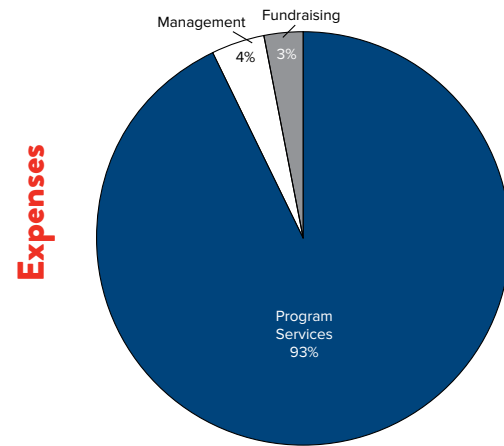
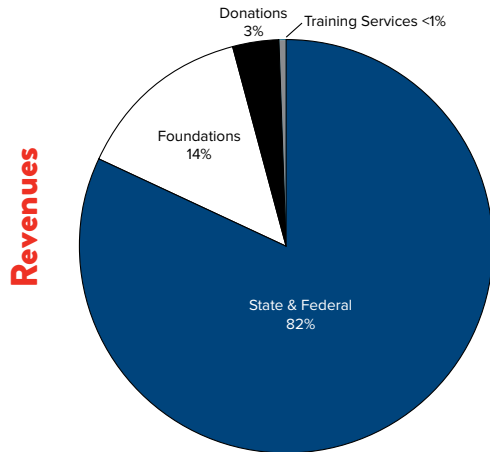


## CASA Service Area by Affiliate



## Financials

for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021



Georgia CASA's comprehensive core services support and develop local CASA affiliates through trainings, technical assistance, volunteer recruitment and screening, networking, communications, legislative advocacy, and outcomes measurement.

In a given year, an average of 1,000 contacts with affiliates are made by the Georgia CASA team, including regular calls, emails, visits, and statewide events.

Email [info@gacasa.org](mailto:info@gacasa.org) for a copy of the full financial statements.

Map current as of June 30, 2021

Visit <http://bit.ly/DirectorySearch> for contact information for all affiliate CASA programs in Georgia.

## CASA Advocacy Across the State



**45**  
**Affiliates**

**156**  
**Counties**

During the fiscal year, Gordon County CASA began operating under CASA of Northwest Georgia.

**in Fiscal Year 2021...**



**9,762**  
**Children Served**



**2,730**  
**CASA Volunteers**



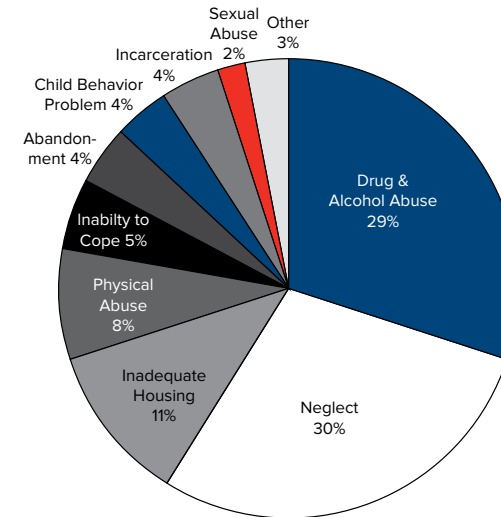
**2,627**  
**Children Appointed a CASA Volunteer**



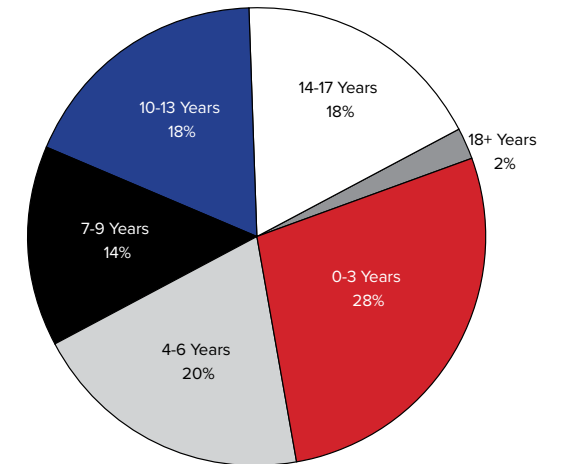
**2,961**  
**Children Reached Permanency**

## CASA Advocacy Across the State

### Types of Abuse or Neglect

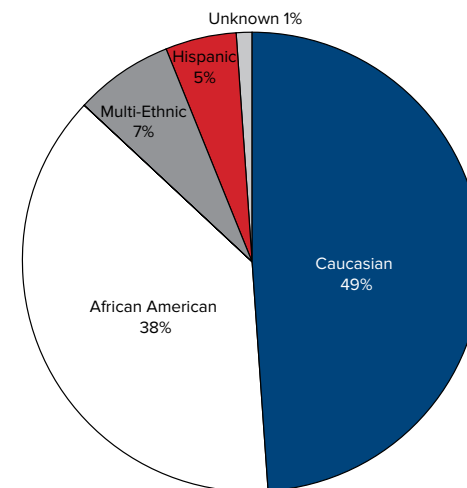


### Ages of Children

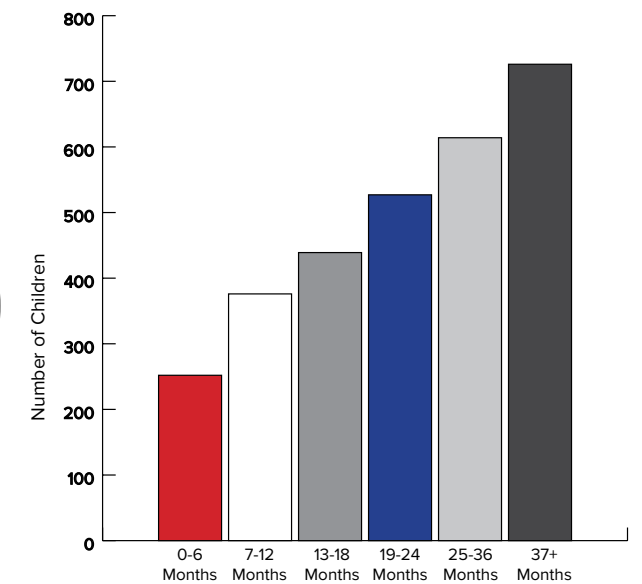


Visit <https://bit.ly/FY21Statistics> to view individual statistical information for each affiliate CASA program in Georgia.

### Race & Ethnicity of Children



### Length of Time Spent in Foster Care



## Key Impact Areas

### Quality Advocacy

- > Supported **exceptional volunteer advocacy** statewide through on-site court visits, newly developed advocacy reviews, and consultations on child welfare law, policy, and practice
- > Offered trainings, tools, and resources to **over 3,000 statewide advocates promoting strengthened CASA volunteer and staff advocacy skills and effectiveness both within and beyond courtroom**

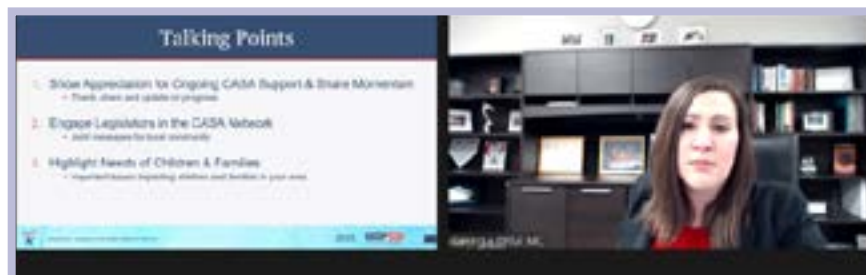


*Featured Resource:  
Best interests advocacy guide created & released to inform, influence & improve quality of best interest advocacy in juvenile court dependency proceedings; joint project between Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children (Georgia's Court Improvement Program) & Georgia CASA for judicial, legal & lay GAL professionals*



### Legislative & Policy

- > Tracked and supported **key legislative issues** impacting children and families involved in child welfare
- > Coordinated **legislative activities and outreach**, including virtual edition of **CASA Day at the Capitol** in February 2021
- > Administered State of Georgia's investment of **\$3.62 million** for CASA advocacy statewide



*CASA Day at the Capitol  
February 11, 2021*

*"What a way to re-energize and see and hear about so many of the incredible ways that the CASA network is making a difference and impacting Georgia's children."*

*Michelle Meek  
Advocacy Director, CASA Cherokee  
in reference to CASA Day at the Capitol*

## Key Impact Areas

### Affiliate Operations

- > Wide array of **trainings and resources** to support affiliates, including **pioneering strategies** for supports in midst of pandemic
- > Core Team engaged to assess needs around **racial diversity, equity, and inclusion (REDI)**, resulting in creation of additional learning modules and groups and ongoing REDI taskforce
- > Facilitation of **50+ trainings and small group discussions** in addition to **8 larger core trainings, State Conference, and routine calls and meet-ups**



*Radical Optimist Collective & Georgia CASA  
at Volunteer Supervisor Meeting  
June 2021*

*"CASA is a wonderful family dedicated to changing the lives of children. What could be better?"*

*Vickie Duggan  
CASA Volunteer, Murray/Whitfield CASA*

### Recruitment, Awareness & Donor Appreciation



*Evening of Appreciation Special Guests  
May 18, 2021*

- > Created and disseminated variety of **materials and tools** to affiliates for **volunteer recruitment, awareness, and fundraising**
- > **Communications tools** included website, social media channels, e-newsletters, and donor update
- > Held celebratory virtual **Evening of Appreciation event** in May 2021 for donors and supporters

Watch the Evening of Appreciation event at <https://bit.ly/GaCASADonorAppreciationEvent>.

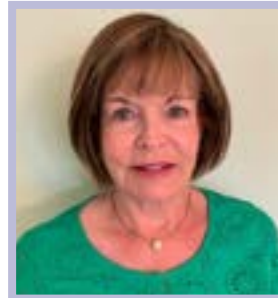
## Key Impact Areas

### Impact

> Celebrated and recognized **service and investment of people** as well as **affiliate recognition** for accomplishments and overall effectiveness, all while further promoting CASA mission

> CASA organization in Georgia had powerful impact on **nearly 10,000 children** experiencing foster care

> Hosted **virtual conference** in August 2020 with 3 days of workshops, special messages, and spotlights on CASA advocacy with live chats to build a connected community



Elizabeth 'Liz' Ruf,  
2020 CASA  
Board Member  
Leadership Award  
Winner from Enotah  
CASA



Vicki Hellums, 2020 CASA  
Volunteer of the Year  
from Piedmont CASA



Affiliate Awards Virtual Ceremony for Murray/Whitfield CASA (Innovative)  
& Northeast Georgia CASA (Established)  
August 28, 2020

## Long Range Plan 2021-2023

> Board and staff, along with key stakeholders, joined together to chart **course of Georgia CASA for next three years**

> **Mission and vision updated** to better reflect advocacy, purpose and values

*"I am so very thankful for the work of Georgia CASA."*

Hon. Nichole Carswell  
Mountain Judicial Circuit

**Georgia CASA | Long Range Plan 2021-2023**

**MISSION:** Georgia CASA strengthens and supports cost-effective, affiliate CASA programs that empower community volunteers who advocate for abused or neglected children and contribute 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.

**2023 CHALLENGE GOAL:** Serve 75% of children in foster care

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

- STRENGTHEN LOCAL CASA AFFILIATES**
  - **Strengthen** effective affiliate leadership
  - **Enhance** affiliate investment in consistent and informed volunteer advocacy
  - **Maximize** needed resources to ensure quality volunteer advocacy for all children
- INCREASE AWARENESS OF CASA**
  - **Evaluate** and simplify CASA messaging
  - **Engage** and expand audiences to broaden reach of Georgia CASA messages
  - **Diversify** and grow donor and volunteer base
- ADVANCE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**
  - **Inform** network, partners, legislators, general public
  - **Cultivate** relationships with network, partners, legislators, general public
  - **Promote** sound policy and financial investments in the child welfare system
  - **Embrace** role as thought leader in the child welfare system

**OUR VALUES:** COLLABORATION, COMMISSION, ACCOUNTABILITY

### Beacon of Light (\$10,000+)

Anonymous (2)  
Bobbie Bailey Foundation  
Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation  
Chick-fil-A Inc.  
Ida Alice Ryan Charitable Trust  
Mrs. Roya Irvani  
Sartain Lanier Family Foundation  
Martha and Wilton Looney Foundation  
Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation

### Guardian (\$5,000 - \$7,499)

Anonymous (2)  
Combined Federal Campaign  
Facebook Fundraisers  
Mr. John Gilberto  
Mr. and Mrs. Duaine Hathaway  
The Ma-Ran Foundation  
Ms. Louise Moore  
Ms. Audrey Morgan  
Mr. Rod Walker

### Advocate (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Aprio Foundation  
Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Friends For Life Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hannon  
Dr. Kip Lynch  
Mrs. Marcy McTier  
Ms. Mandira Mehra



## Donors

### Patron (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Mrs. Susan Abramson  
Amerigroup  
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Scott and Sheryl Bomar  
Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Bready  
Mrs. Deborah Caras  
Catholic Foundation of North Georgia  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Day  
EMSA Fund, Inc.  
Georgia Power  
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The Junior League of Atlanta  
Kendra Scott LLC  
Anne and Clint Kibler Foundation  
Ms. Jennifer King  
Mary Ryan and Henry G. Kuhrt Foundation  
Mr. Jack O. McMillan Jr.  
The Medlin-Hale Foundation  
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Ms. Jennifer Muserallo  
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Barbara and Ron Reid  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Rotroff  
Ms. Teresa Shera  
Ms. Angela Tyner  
Mr. Marvin Vaughn  
Mr. and Mrs. David Wallis  
Hon. John Worcester

Visit <https://bit.ly/FY21GCASADonors> to view the complete donor listing.

## Honoraries & Memorials

### Honoraries

*In honor of Mrs. Susan Abramson*  
By Ms. Donna Bradley  
Mr. and Mrs. Bo Bradshaw  
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Klemperer

*In honor of Ms. Elizabeth Allen*  
By Ms. Judy Zaban Miller

*In honor of Mrs. Michelle Barclay*  
By Mrs. Susan Abramson

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

*In honor of CASA volunteers*  
By Anonymous  
Dr. Lucy Davidson

*In honor of Mrs. Ethel Ware Carter*  
By Mr. Shepard B. Ansley  
Ms. June E. Derrick

*In honor of Mrs. Bernadette Hartfield*  
By Mrs. Robyn Sims

*In honor of The Hedgemon Family*  
By Mr. Jeffery Sladkus

*In honor of Mrs. Roya Irvani*  
By John and Laura Hardman  
Hon. Beverly B. Martin  
Mr. and Mrs. Ned Montag  
Mr. and Mrs. Andy Prozes  
Mr. and Mrs. James Sewell

*In honor of Ms. Janice Latoza*  
By Ms. Wendy Jacobson

*In honor of Tracy Mages*  
By Ms. Emily Shane

*In honor of Ms. Jean Mason*  
By Anonymous

*In honor of Mrs. Marcy McTier*  
By Mr. David S. Dimling  
Mr. and Mrs. M. Douglas Ivester  
Mrs. Michael Starr

*In honor of Ms. Mandira Mehra*  
By Ms. Holly Covett

*In honor of Mr. Wyatt Myers*  
By Ken and Michelle Owens

*In honor of Ms. Wendy Polson*  
By Mr. and Mrs. David Polson

*In honor of Mrs. Lori Pupp*  
By Ms. Erin Carper  
Ms. Jennifer Elwood

Ms. Danielle Evans  
Flack Mangum Inc.  
Ms. Linda Hardie  
Ms. Beth Haynes  
Ms. Lynn Jackson  
Mr. Andrew Jenkins  
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Ms. Rachel Marshall  
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Mr. Taylor Rice  
Ms. Whitney Rodes  
Mr. T.J. Smith  
Ms. Barbara Vella  
Ms. Pauline Wade  
Ms. Sharon Walker

*In honor of Ms. Mary S.*  
By Ms. Kelly Sklare

*In honor of Mr. Jim Sibley*  
By Mr. Leslie G. Callahan III

*In honor of Ms. Shelley Smart*  
By Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Shields Jr.

*In honor of Ms. Kara Toland*  
By Ms. Jennifer Gilbert  
Ms. Cassidy Gilbert

*In honor of Mr. Brian Washburn*  
By Mr. Timothy Waxenfelter

### Memorials

*In memory of Ms. Gwen Cross*  
By Dr. and Mrs. G. Lee Cross III

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

*In memory of Ms. Marcia Hammons*  
By Mr. and Mrs. Gene McClure

*In memory of Mr. William 'Bill' McKinley*  
By Jannar Davis

*In memory of Ms. Latawtay Peacock and Mr. Thomas Wright Jr.*  
By Mr. and Mrs. Jack Day

*In memory of Mrs. Karen Sibley*  
By Mrs. Kathie Gannon  
Mr. James M. Sibley Jr.

*In memory of Mrs. Karen Sibley and Mr. Quintus Sibley*  
By Ms. Catherine R. Moirai

*In memory of Ms. Jo Ann Stanton*  
By Mr. Hugh Ingram

*In memory of Mr. Thomas Wright Jr.*  
By Mrs. Shontel Wright

## Board of Directors & Team

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Lauren Hyatt, *Vice Chair*  
Dianne Scoggins, *Secretary*  
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Becky Wallis  
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Ethel Ware Carter  
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Solveig Harden  
Roya Irvani  
Kellyn O. McGee  
Marcy McTier  
Donna Shapiro  
Nicki N. Vaughan, *Co-Founder*  
Nancy Wood

### Team Members

Jennifer King  
*Executive Director*  
  
Deidre Hollands  
*Program Operations Director*  
  
Ewansiha Simmons  
*Finance & Administration Director*  
  
Angela Tyner  
*Advocacy Director*  
  
Shontel Wright  
*Impact Director*  
  
Alicia Darden  
*Training & Data Manager*  
  
Lori Derhammer  
*Communications & Donor Relations Manager*  
  
Lori Pupp  
*Senior Advocacy Manager*  
  
LaFayette Young  
*Training & Inclusion Specialist*  
  
Ayaan Forstall  
*Program Services Coordinator*  
  
Regina Roberts  
*Special Projects Coordinator*  
  
Joyce Jones  
*Staff Associate*



Georgia CASA Team  
(not pictured: Lori Derhammer & Angela Tyner)



Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.  
75 Marietta St. NW  
Suite 404  
Atlanta, GA 30303

404.874.2888 | 800.251.4012

[info@gacasa.org](mailto:info@gacasa.org)  
[gacasa.org](http://gacasa.org)

*Member of The National CASA/GAL Association for Children*

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