# GEORGIA CASA IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023



Highlighting the impact of the mission work of Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. - July 2022 through June 2023 -





### FROM THE LEADERSHIP

### CASA SERVICE AREA BY AFFILIATE

Dear Supporters,

We are excited to share our latest Impact Report with features of Georgia CASA's mission work during our most recent past fiscal year 2023.

In conjunction with our 35th anniversary, CASA services are now in all 159 counties of the state with the opening of CASA of Henry County in Spring 2023. Our vision for all children who experience abuse or neglect to have the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential with the support of permanent connections to family is now within closer reach due to full statewide coverage. This past fiscal year, over 8,600 children experiencing foster care in Georgia were served by over 2,500 CASA advocates and we look forward to growing our number of CASA advocates by 1,000 over the next three years as part of our statewide growth plan for 2023 - 2026.

Thank you for your support of Georgia CASA and the work of our CASA affiliates all across Georgia. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you!

Lauren Hyatt Board Chair

REVENUES

Jen King Executive Director

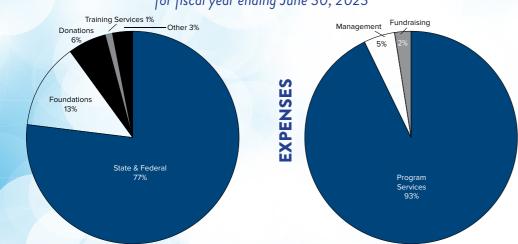




Jen King

## FINANCIALS

for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023



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

In a given year, an average of over 1,000 contacts and service deliveries with affiliates are made by the Georgia CASA team via phone calls, emails, visits, trainings, and statewide events.

For a copy of the full financial statements, email info@gacasa.org.



Lauren Hyatt





1 - Lookout Mountain

2 - Murray/Whitfield

3 - Appalachian

4 - Enotah 5 - Northeast GA

6 - Floyd Co.

7 - Northwest GA

8 - Hall-Dawson

10 - Cherokee Co.

11 - Forsyth Co. 12 - Gwinnett Co.

13 - Athens-Oconee

14 - Polk & Haralson

15 - Paulding Co. 16 - Cobb Co.

17 - DeKalb Co.

20 - Ocmulgee

18 - Rockdale Co. 19 - Alcovy

21 - Augusta

22 - Carroll Co

24 - Atlanta

23 - Children's Voice

25 - Clayton Co.

26 - Henry Co. 27 - Coweta

28 - Troup Co. 29 - Advo-Kids

30 - Towaliga 31 - Chattahoochee 32 - Central GA

33 - Houston Co. 34 - TLC

35 - Ogeechee

36 - Sowega

37 - Atlantic Area

40 - Coastal Plair

39 - Dougherty Co.

44 - Alapaha 45 - Action Pact

38 - Savannah/Chatham Co. 46 - Lowndes/Echols

Map current as of June 30, 2023



43 - CASA Kids



Kids of Georgia Need Volunteers, Inc. (KGNV) forms to establish Guardian ad Litem program in Georgia, 1988



First State Conference and Council of Programs meeting are held, 1993



Metro Atlanta CASA Collaborative forms between Georgia CASA and five affiliate CASA programs, 2004



Forgotten Children Campaign (with Judge Hatchett) in Woodruff Park, 2010



Georgia CASA team celebrates 30th anniversary, 2018





Mrs. Marie Barnes, Georgia's First Lady, becomes Honorary Chairperson of Georgia CASA, 1999



First CASA on the Catwalk, 2005



CASA Meets Congress, 2016





first programs transition to independence, 1992





First class of volunteers sworn in, 1989



First CASA Day at the Capitol and codification of Court Appointed Special Advocates, 1998





Inaugural year of Awards of Excellence for affiliate CASA programs, 2007

2009



Speaker Ralston recognizes Georgia CASA's 25 years of advocacy, 2013



2018



The CASA network at 35 years, 2023



Georgia CASA receives Big Voice Award, 2012

Everyday Heroes Campaign launches in Georgia as part of the first growth plan, 2016



Longest serving Executive Director, Duaine Hathaway, retires after 18 years with transition to Jen King, 2018



46 Affiliates 159

Counties

During the fiscal year, CASA services expanded to the entire state and all 50 judicial circuits with the start-up of CASA of Lowndes and Echols Counties and CASA of Henry County

in Fiscal Year 2023...

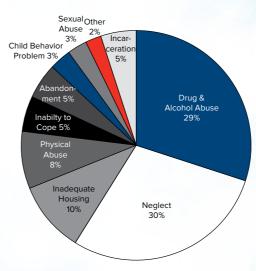




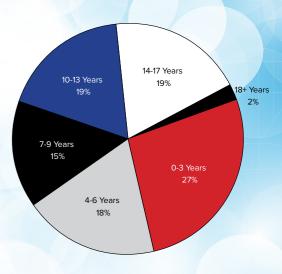




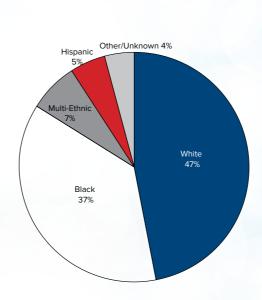
## Reasons for Dependency



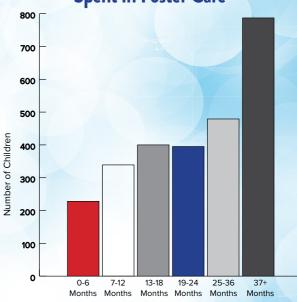
# Ages of Children with CASA Volunteers



Race & Ethnicity of Children



## Length of Time Chidren Spent in Foster Care



Visit <a href="https://bit.ly/FY23Statistics">https://bit.ly/FY23Statistics</a> to view individual statistical information for each affiliate CASA program in Georgia.



## **KEY IMPACT AREAS**

## **Quality Volunteer Advocacy**

Provided statewide trainings, on-site court visits, affiliate-focused advocacy reviews, and individualized case consultations in the areas of child welfare law, policy, and practice

Delivered these supports and resources statewide to more than 3,000 staff and advocates, designed to promote strengthened CASA volunteer and staff advocacy skills and effectiveness both within and beyond courtroom

#### **HIGHLIGHT: Regional Practice Scan and Share Convenings**

- Connected affiliate staff in six neighboring regions through deep-dive practice, data exploration, and interactive dialogue centered on specific outcomes for children and families
- Resulted in solution-focused advocacy and practice improvements to provide consistent high-quality best interest advocacy and help to continuously advance child welfare system improvements



Scan and Share for Northwest Region

"The scan and share convenings have identified key ways in which CASA volunteers can elevate their case advocacy in practical and measurable ways. The convenings are also a reminder to us all that opportunities and strategies are available, amid a changing landscape, to support lasting change and

Jen King, Executive Director, Georgia CASA

## Legislative & Policy Advocacy

Tracked and supported key legislative issues impacting children and families involved in child welfare and coordinated legislative activities and outreach

HIGHLIGHT: CASA Day at the Capitol - February 2023

#### Day included:

- Legislative briefing
- Group photo with Governor Kemp
- Drop-in luncheon for legislators, partners, and quests

At close of legislative session, General Assembly increased the State of Georgia's investment by \$750,000 for total of \$4.635 million for CASA advocacy statewide



Capitol Day Event with Governor's Proclamation

## **Affiliate Operations**

Comprehensive support and services provided to improve quality advocacy and effectiveness, including visits, trainings, networking opportunities, and consultation in a variety of operational areas

Guided steering committees in development of two new affiliates

Facilitated core trainings, including State Conference, specialized trainings, information sharing through affinity groups, routine calls, and meet-ups

Led continued Race Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Task Force and trainings, to include launch of Cultural Competency and Cultural Humility facilitators manual

#### **HIGHLIGHT: Directors' Training Series**

Online training series for affiliate directors included topics such as:

- Fundraising in lean times
- Setting goals for success
- Donor databases
- Board culture
- Diversification of funding

"Georgia CASA empowers all affiliates in the network. From staff and volunteer education to strong support of courtroom advocacy to offering grant support, Georgia CASA supports the needs of each affiliate to strive for the goal of 100% volunteer advocacy within our state."

Lindsay Dycus, Executive Director, Alcovy CASA

## Recruitment & Awareness

Created and disseminated variety of volunteer recruitment and awareness materials and tools to affliates, as well as offered consultation and technical assistance on recruitment including new social media bootcamps

Further promoted CASA mission via various communications tools

#### **HIGHLIGHT: Young Professionals Network**

GEORGIA CASA YOUNG **PROFESSIONALS** NETWORK



- Board members led creation of new Young Professionals Network (YPN)
- Designed specifically for individuals aged 21-40 to engage, empower, and cultivate community of passionate young supporters who will champion the CASA mission for decades to come
  - Many supporters already garnered for September 2023 launch



Left: Supporters of the Young Professionals

**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 to impact over 8,600 children experiencing foster care

#### **HIGHLIGHT: Award Winners**



Chris Hollifield, 2023 CASA Board Member Leadership Award winner from Hall-Dawson CASA



Kimberly Force, 2023 CASA Volunteer of the Year from Gwinnett County CASA



Christine "Chris" Arians, 2023 CASA Champion Award winner from Ocmulgee CASA



Left: CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit, Established Program Award of Excellence

Right: Alcovy CASA. Innovative Program Award of Excellence



## Signature Fundraiser

#### HIGHLIGHT: Luncheon & Fashion Show - April 2023

- Honored Bernadette Hartfield, Georgia CASA life board member and Associate Professor of Law Emerita – Georgia State University College of Law
- **Fashions by Tootsies**
- Raised \$97,000



Models and Friends of Georgia CASA

Jen King & Bernadette Hartfield

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

Bobbie Bailey Foundation, Inc. Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation

Chick-fil-A, Inc.

Children's Justice Act

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council John & Mary Franklin Foundation, Inc.

Georgia Department of Human Services

Mr. Daniel Hathaway

Mrs. Roya Irvani

J.C. Kennedy Foundation

The LuluMa Foundation

The Ma-Ran Foundation

National CASA/GAL Association for Children Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation

#### Champion (\$7,500 - \$9,999)

**Anonymous** 

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

Dell Technologies – matching gift

Mr. John Gilberto

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

ADP – matching gift

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Combined Federal Campaign

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Facebook Fundraisers

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Anonymous (2)

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Pictures from 159 Counties Celebration in May 2023

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