

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Cook County is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children in foster care throughout Cook County. By advocating for children who have experienced abuse or neglect, our volunteers give them a voice and a chance for a better life.





WE NEED YOU TO PARTNER WITH CASA OF COOK COUNTY

Dear Friends:

This past year has been like no other. The Covid-19 pandemic to date has killed over a half-million Americans. The pandemic drastically altered lives. Many of us lost loved ones. Others lost jobs. Feeding our families became a struggle for many. We are unsure when a new normal will emerge.

When the stay-at-home orders began in March, the needs of children whom we serve did not pause. Children in foster care and foster care parents did not go into hibernation because of a pandemic. Community families in crisis do not stabilize because of a deadly disease. This has forced us to take a perspective look at this long term. This is not a quick fix. We needed to continue to support and serve-pandemic or no pandemic. Our good work is done with our front-line CASA volunteers. We needed to recruit and train more volunteers in our community. Therefore, we went to a virtual training format. Last year we trained 118 new volunteers to ensure that our children are not left behind. Our volunteers continued to visit children virtually and submit court training reports. Juvenile Court Judges remarked that CASA of Cook County was the only entity they could depend on to gather relevant information about the children.

Foster children and the courts were depending on CASA to continue to be the “eyes and ears of the court” for the best interest of the child. We continued to advocate for children however, we had the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) federal funds eliminated and Illinois CASA network funds slashed from our budget. Negative adjustments to our budget could not have come during a worse time. Most of our traditional fundraising mechanisms such as the Bank of America Chicago Marathon and other in-person events, ceased due to the pandemic. This year we are in desperate need of a half- million dollars to continue to serve current CASA children, recruit and train new volunteers and meet the increased demands for our services.

As the Black Lives Matter movement sounded the call for social justice, many of our staff and volunteers marched for a world where no one needs to fear the police or other societal institutions. As an organization, we strive to look at our systems and unconscious bias. We recognize the roots of social inequities run deep into the child welfare and juvenile justice systems which serve a disproportionate number of black and brown children in care. We are committed to work against any disparities and continue to foster opportunities that benefit our clients.

This Annual Report is a celebration of our volunteers, staff and board who continued CASA child advocacy throughout the pandemic because foster children lives matter. We stand in awe and are humbled by our remarkable volunteers, staff, and donors for what they have done. They stepped up when others stepped back. This Annual Report recognizes these incredibly selfless individuals. There are many great reasons to continue to support our organization, and hopefully a few of the examples and resources I list below will entice you to help us continue this mission of serving CASA children in a major way. Commit today to do more, give more time, and donate more to a child victim of abuse and neglect. Again, WE need YOU to partner with us to do this impactful work.

Let's TRANSFORM lives today!

Let's Sustain our Mission!

Let's Advocate for more children!

Let's Show our support by contributing \$100 or more!



Lana Vukovljak

Lana Vukovljak
Board President



Bonita Carr

Bonita Carr, Ed.D.
Executive Director

CASA of Cook County Data



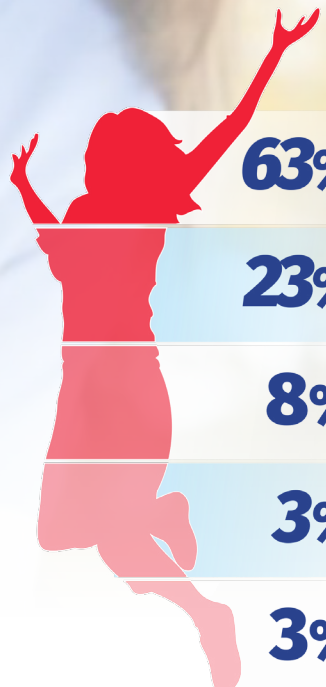
51% MALE
49% FEMALE

217 0-5 YEARS
202 6-11 YEARS
181 12-15 YEARS
37 18-21 YEARS
3 NOT ENTERED

394 AFRICAN-AMERICAN
89 LATINX
76 CAUCASIAN
50 MULTI-RACIAL
2 ASIAN
1 NATIVE AMERICAN
28 UNKNOWN



Outcomes from 2020



63% REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES

23% ADOPTED

8% GUARDIANSHIP

3% CASE DISCHARGE

3% INDEPENDENT LIVING

61 CHILDREN CASES **CLOSED** IN 2020.

640
 CHILDREN HAD THE BENEFIT OF...

275
 CARING VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES

WHO GAVE OVER
30,398
 HOURS OF THEIR TIME

SAVING THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM
\$699,607
 (\$23/HR)



Abused Children Can't Wait

In 2020, Our CASA volunteers gave **30,398 hours** of their time to the children they served and to our organization. CASA of Cook County celebrates all CASA volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to advocating for abused and neglected children in the community.

CELEBRATING OUR CASA VOLUNTEERS

We recognize all of our dedicated and passionate volunteers.

20+ YEARS
Rose Cicero
Marian Houston

11-15 YEARS

- Clark, Jim
- Patejunas, Doug
- Soule, Eric

6-10 YEARS

- Andresen, Teresa
- Burns Jacob, Suzanne
- Kiefer, Susan
- Manley, Mary Ann
- Ochs, Maria
- Provencher, Debbie
- Schiffman, Janet
- Warner, Margaret

5 YEARS

- Karony, Amy
- Reilly, David
- Rubovits, Sandy

4 YEARS

- Barai, Binita
- Coleman, Rachel
- Copenhaver, Michael
- Crasko, Avis
- Curry, Melissa
- Hartung, Danielle
- Keer, Jacqueline
- Morgan, Brian
- Rabe, Denise
- Ramon, Joanne
- Robinson, Brian
- Santos, Jeremias
- Shin, Christina
- St Clair, Catherine
- Steinberg, Leah
- Tollefson, Joseph
- Toupin, Elizabeth
- Tso, Fee

3 YEARS

- Adler, Abigail
- Beaudoin, Renaud
- Belt, Carlee
- Bernard, April

- Bosnjak, Aleksandra
- Brinkman, Jacqueline
- Crowley-Koch, Ron
- Darmofal, Annie
- Dato, Mark
- Demke, Brigitte
- Doyle, Taylor
- Evans, Grace
- Flynn, Brigid
- Holtzman, James
- Javellana, Rachel
- Khan, Afia
- Krueger, Amy
- Largin, Victoria
- Lopez, Korynna
- Mandarino, Louisa
- Mapes, Melanie
- McCarthy, Martin
- Mills, Ruth
- Moore, Dana
- Palmersheim, Robyn
- Pascal, Diane
- Pena, Jill
- Pittman, Mary
- Solipuram, Swetha
- Solitro, Cyndi
- Sommer, Brittany
- Walther, Sara
- Ward, Theresa
- Williams, Feyisara
- Williams, Mobolaji

2 YEARS

- Abbott, Christina
- Badillo, Claudia
- Bliss, Hannah
- Bosaw, Sara
- Britton, Pamela
- Bryant, Keresten
- Bunnell, Victoria
- Cafi, Suzana
- Callaghan, Kaley
- Cox, Leslie
- De la Rosa, Jessica
- Dunn, Natasha
- Everett, Krystle
- Ferguson, Amy

- Freeck, Morgan
- Gerbie, Danielle
- Gillan, Sue
- Graham, Heidi
- Grimsted, Catherine
- Haning, Laura
- Hooten, Janet
- Hummel, Amber
- Johnson, Diane
- Key, Amanda
- Kindorf, Andrea
- Klein, Abbie
- Kramer, Linnea
- Lecesne, Daphne
- Lehmkuhl, Karen
- Lewensky, Victoria
- Lieberman, Kimberly
- Lucas, Emily
- Mahr, Heather
- Mann, Jaclyn
- McCann, Patricia
- Murphy, Tanya
- Oken, Stuart
- Orloff, Jeffrey
- Parker, Alicia
- Parker, Claire
- Patel, Kinnari
- Pinkney, Beverly
- Repetny, Jon
- Rice, Thea
- Rotatori, Dorothy
- Sailer, Marlisa
- Scott, Holly
- Shelton, Ashton
- Siems, Christina
- Smith, Lillian
- Spells, Loyce
- Sussman, Jean
- Taylor, Pauline
- Tescari, Luciana
- Turner, Brianne
- Tzur, Ivy
- Weber, Kirby
- Wernick, Julie
- Williams, Brad
- Yarborough, Bianca
- Young, Patricia

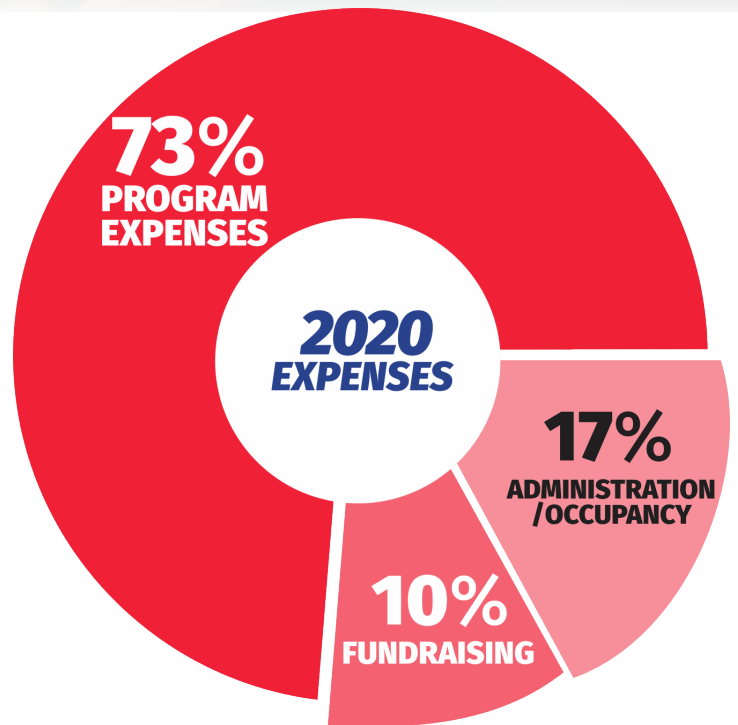
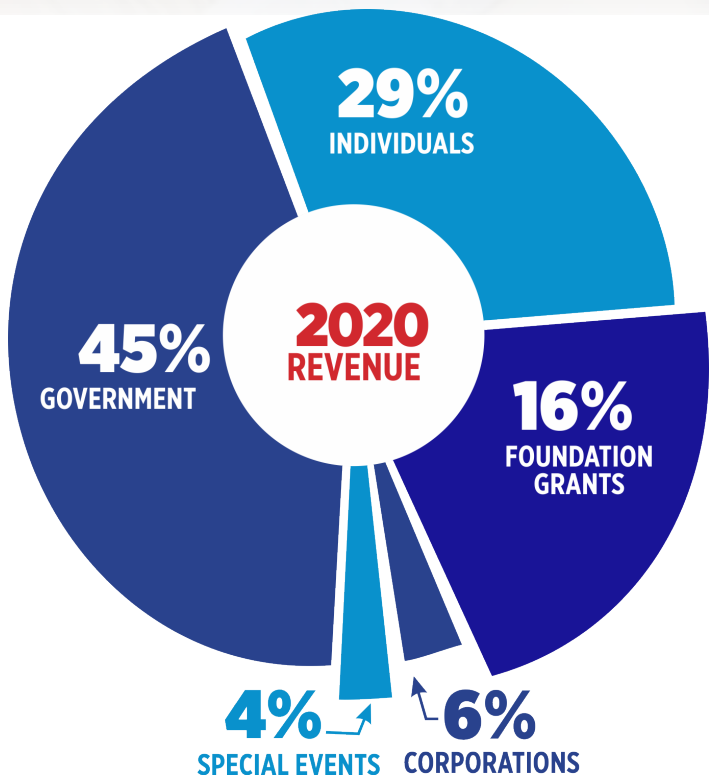
1 YEAR

- Abbott, Sarah
- Agyei, Francis
- Alarcon, Hannah
- Anderson, Kayley
- Anleu, Wendy
- Bajaj, Sonia
- Bennett, Andrew
- Berryman, Kelsey
- Birks, Phyllis
- Black, Samantha
- Blackburn, Camilla
- Boley, Cecily
- Bonevelle, Andrea
- Boyle, Kevin
- Bridges, Jasmine
- Calloway, Karen
- Cardozo, Michelle
- Carranza, Flora
- Cassano, Gia
- Castillo, Bianca
- Castle, Cody
- Cabrero, Ivette
- Chaney, Kathy
- Chicoine, Kelly
- Clark, Kristin
- Collins, Lindsay
- Compton, Lara
- Cook, Kathleen
- Coulis, Andrea
- Coyle, Molly
- Craig, Connor
- Cruz, Lisette
- Cummings, Mary
- Del Real, Ivana
- Deunamuno, Catherina
- Devorkin, Melissa
- Dole, Kate
- Douglass, Clara
- George, Summer
- Gettings, Colleen
- Gevry, Lindsey
- Gies, Linda
- Gobenciong, Selina Dawn
- Gomez, Justin
- Gonçalves, Janina
- Goyak, Abigail

- Green, Eva
- Harris, Jarrie
- Helm, Beverly
- Hilbert, Tracy
- Hodina, Phoebe
- Hurley, Ashley
- Hyde, Andi
- Jacobs, Allyson
- Johnston, Michaela
- Kavain, Ashley
- Kelly, Crystle
- Kubik, Nicole
- Kulak, Lindsey
- LaBounty, Emma
- Lambert, Haydn
- LaPorte, Sara
- Laramée, Eliza
- Laws, Alexandria
- Leach, Brianne
- Lent, Samantha
- Lieberman, Erin
- Madden, Maria
- Manley, Kristin
- Maranto, Kathleen
- Mataya, Nadja Marie
- Mather, Angeline
- McCann, Jillian
- McDermott, Lauren
- McGovern, Moira
- Medina, Cynthia
- Micklus, Kelley
- Mihalek, Jennifer
- Moore, Julia
- Moran-Broderick Nancy
- Morton, Ben
- Muhammad, Maryam
- Murray, Alistair
- Nobbe, Katie
- O'Neill, Michael
- Ocampo, Zuleima
- Ortega, Stephanie
- Ortiz, Denise
- Pappas, Sheila
- Patel, Rahul
- Pearson, Paul
- Pergande, Elizabeth
- Perry-Farr, Amahlia

- Portillo, Laura
- Pratt, Patricia
- Puhr, Bruce
- Pymm, Rozie
- Radke, Dorothy
- Reddekopp, Matthew
- Redzovic, Ilhana
- Reed, Ashley
- Reel, Christopher
- Regalado, Robert
- Reilly, Kathryn
- Reimers, Laura
- Reinwald, Lisa
- Rivkin, Charlene
- Robinson, Samira
- Ryan, Colwell
- Sabourin, Jennifer
- Schultz, Rachel
- Scott, Darren
- Scott, Olivia
- Shaw, Ethan
- Sheena, Michelle
- Silguero, Serena
- Sissoko, Mariam
- Smith, Allie
- Steeley, Audrey
- Stone, Nicole
- Strzelecki, Nicole
- Suding, Marie
- Swise, Cora
- Thomas, Melanie
- Turner, Mackenzie
- Van Winkle, Debra
- Vassileff, Sarah
- Wang, Sonia
- Warner, Beth
- Wedren, Debbie
- Weinstock, Grace
- White, Carole
- White, Linden
- Wilbourn, Brandon
- Wu, Jennifer
- Zavala, Jaqueline
- Zeiser, Kaely
- Zeitlin, Ashley
- Zimmerman, Bridget

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES



Corporate Contributions
\$55,150

Foundations
\$150,509

Special Events
\$38,198

Government Grants
\$419,752

Individual Contributions
\$271,473

THANK YOU 2020 MISSION PARTNERS

CASA of Cook County gratefully acknowledges our mission partners who have stepped up for children in this challenging year. Your support has ensured that more than 600 children in Cook County foster care received vital, evidence-based advocacy from a dedicated CASA volunteer. Together, we are changing the story for vulnerable children who have experienced abuse and/or neglect.



\$50,000-\$99,999

Teri & Matt Andresen
Kappa Alpha Theta -
University of Chicago
Chapter

\$25,000-\$49,999

CTC Trading Group, LLC
The Fletcher Family
Foundation
W.P. & H.B. White
Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Allstate
Andrew and Alice Fischer
Charitable Trust
Chicago White Sox
Charities
Col. Stanley R. McNeil
Foundation
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Illinois Attorney General
John R. Houlsby
Foundation
Christina Ochs
Smokeball
The Barker Welfare
Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Mary Katherine Clark
Karen Fitzner
Don Gimbel
Merrill Lynch
National CASA Network
Maria & Michael Ochs
Lana Vukovljak

\$2,000-\$4,999

ABC7 WLS Chicago
Anonymous
Michael Capuzzi
DLA Piper US LLP
Jonathan McCumber
Frank & Beckie Meyer
Emily Moreno
Northern Steel
Sara's Strays Foundation
The Breen Family
Foundation
Unison Home
Margaret Warner

\$1,000-\$1,999

The Breen Family
Foundation
Ann Marie Brink
Jim & Linda Clark
The Patricia O. Cox Family
Fund of The Chicago
Community Trust
Gepperth's Market
Brooke Hartley
James Hartley
Mary Ann McLaughlin
Pat Moran
Cara Nossaman
Rita Padhi
Sandy Phelps
Praxis Consulting
Catherine Reiter
Jonathan C. Wertz
Richard Wilson
Barbara Wood

\$500-\$999

Christina Abbott
Jolene Boris
Edward & Emily Bothfeld
Susan Cobb
Janet Cowel
Eliza & David
Cumberland
Lisa Stegink &
Michael Erickson
David Glawe
Kristie Gobeli
Howard Family Charitable
Foundation of the
St. Louis Community
Foundation
The Hon. John Huff
James M. & Louise C.
Roche Foundation
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Karen Malkin
Melissa & William
McClayton
Debbie Provencher
Chris Romans
Wells Ryan
Rahul & Shobha Shah
Cathy Weirick
David Wetlesen

\$250-\$499

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Baird Foundation, Inc.
James Biery
Cheryl Bendtsen
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Eric Brandt
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Jay Deratony
Paul DeSousa
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Cristina Hazday
Robert Hebert
Phyllis Katz
Julie Kimmel
Jason LaCroix
Jennifer Maloney
Moira McGovern
Alexandra McTague
Michael Michelotti
Cindy Lusignan &
Nancy Miller
Kimberly & Tim Miller
Regina Myerson
Terri Nierengarten
Courtney Owens
Jill Pena
Chris Schnitzer
Glenn Shapiro
Linda Struck-Bruce
Fred & Marilyn Walz
Brent Williams

\$100-\$249

Mary Beth & Stanley
Adelman
Bobbie Babbitt
Floyd Babbitt
The Hon. Robert Balanoff
Jason Bennett
David Blackburn
Paula Blackburn
Heidi Bloom
Andrea Boneville
Amanda Buchholz
Andrea Bueschel
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Leif and Tracy Cannell
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Jennifer Clendenny

Susan Cobb
Kelly Cohen
Ellen Connor
John Crowley
Denise Dell Isola
Renwick DeVille
Craig Edmonds
Hugh Edwards
Diana Eichenberger
Lisa Elkins
Roberta Ellerman
Jo Falk
Peter Favreau
Maureen Ferrara
Eileen Fourroux
David Frisch
Lisa Gard
Philip Gardner
Pattie & Melvin Gerbie
Phyllis Glink
Charles Golbert
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Kappa Alpha Theta
Alumnae
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Dylan Hackler
Evan Harmon
Yolanda Harvey
Bonita Harvey-Carr
Holly Hernandez
Pat Higuchi
Julie Hirsch Waxman
Mark Hoffman
David Jagneaux
Jeanne Johnston
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Michelle Miller
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Tammy Nobbe
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Rita Vlahos
Litesa Wallace
Shannon Ward
Gia Wendt
Jeff Weston
Douglas Whitney
Neil Woodbury
Mary Kay Wysham
XMS Capital Partners
Cathryn Yuille
Nicolas Zimmermann
Sally Zumer

2020 Board of Directors

The members of the Board of Directors, as of December 31, 2020, are:

Lana Vukovljak
Board President

Susan Bryant
Mike Capuzzi
Karen Fitzner
Katherine Fletcher Morgan
Christina Ochs
Andrew Weil

CASA STAFF

Staff Members as of December 31, 2020 are:

Bonita Carr, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Amber Kirk
Senior Director of Operations and Programs

Dr. Richard Blackmon
Senior Director of Legal Case Management Accountability

James McIntyre
Director of Community Outreach and Engagement

Abby Vlahos
Director of Development

Darryl Calhoun
Advocate Supervisor

Eva Gallegos
Advocate Supervisor

Lena Lazar
Advocate Supervisor

Fauzia Mohammad
Advocate Supervisor

Claudette Reed
Advocate Supervisor

Pamela Seaton
Intake Data Manager Specialist

Candice Brown
Office Administrator



casacookcounty.org

CASA of Cook County would like to thank our 2020 Corporate and Government Funders

