

VOICES FOR CHILDREN 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Change A Child's Story

MISSION

To improve the lives of children in foster care through powerful volunteer advocacy until each child is placed in a safe and permanent home.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

2021 was another challenging year for everyone. For the children and families served by Voices for Children, CASA, the uncertainties of continued COVID-19 concerns were amplified. In response, our CASAs advocated for creative solutions to address the ever-changing landscape. From arranging outdoor visits to facilitating online story time, our CASAs continued to press-on to ensure the children we serve were not overlooked during the pandemic. Our CASA Volunteers provide a consistent presence and promote nurturing relationships for the child, while helping to find, engage, and strengthen the support network for the child and their family.

Last year, CASA celebrated 225 children's case closure - children who were reunified with their family, adopted, or permanently placed within a loving family. Thanks to the overwhelming support of our community, 597 children from the seven counties we serve had a CASA Volunteer to ensure their best interests were heard in 2021.

Dedicated staff and supporters continued to participate in planning and attending our fundraising events, special projects, and awareness campaigns. After sprinting through the Superhero Fun Run, Voices for Children hit a hole in one with our annual Golf Tournament. Our Holiday Drive supplied children and families with needed essentials, while our Shop for CASA annual school clothing drive ensured the children we serve started the school year in style.

I could not be prouder of our advocates, staff, and supporters. Through countless hurdles and by carving out new paths, our organization was able to thrive and continue to be a strong and steady presence for the children in our care. To our staff, thank you for your dedication to this organization. To our supporters, thank you for believing in our mission. Lastly, to our CASA Volunteers, thank you for persevering through it all to provide children with the best possible advocacy.

With appreciation,

Amy L. Faulkner

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WHY CASA? ADVOCATE STORIES



"I freely admit that I made hundreds of excuses why I couldn't be a CASA volunteer for many years. Then something stirred within me saying, "It's time." Now I share the highs and lows of helping a child, who has been thrust into the "system" through no fault of his/her own, with the wonderful members of the members of the *Voices for Children* CASA staff, CPS caseworkers, foster and kinship families, judges, attorneys, doctors, and teachers who impact the life of that child. Together, as a team, we focus on helping that child imagine and secure a bright and successful future. And now I wonder why it took me so long to say "yes" to volunteering as a CASA."

- CASA Volunteer, Linda Timmerman



WHY CASA? ADVOCATE STORIES

"So many people around us are suffering, some from problems of their own making, and others from problems out of their control. Regardless of where the blame lies, the suffering is most devastating to those who are least able to protect themselves. Beneath all of the statistics about poverty, drug addiction, mental illness, and other societal ills are children for whom the ills are not statistical, but personal and scary. I became a CASA to help these children negotiate the scary, dangerous world that they did not create.

Every child placed in a safe home is a victory in a war with no end in sight."

- CASA Volunteer, Mark Troy



WHY CASA? DONOR STORIES

"After serving as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for 6 years with Voices for Children, I know how essential their role is for giving help to abused and neglected children. The work of the volunteers gives a voice to children who cannot speak for themselves. Voices for Children provides support for the children, and works with the families, foster families, Child Protective Services, and the court to make decisions that are in the best interest of the child . The goal is to help provide a safe and permanent home for the children. Voices for Children achieves this goal with great care, concern, and respect for everyone." - **CASA Supporter, Mary Napper**

"We believe a Society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable. Ernie previously served on the Board of Voices for Children for 8 years. Marilyn served as a CASA for 10 years. We know, first hand, that Voices for Children has and continues to make a difference in the lives of the foster children they serve. We feel strongly that any contributions to Voices for Children can change a life for a child in the foster care system." -**CASA Supporters, Marilyn Maynard and Ernie Wright**



2020 - 2021 CORPORATE PARTNERS



Thank you to our Corporate Partners!

Corporate Partners commit to supporting advocacy efforts at the \$10,000+ level. Their partnership supported advocacy for 597 children this past year. We cannot thank you enough for your support!



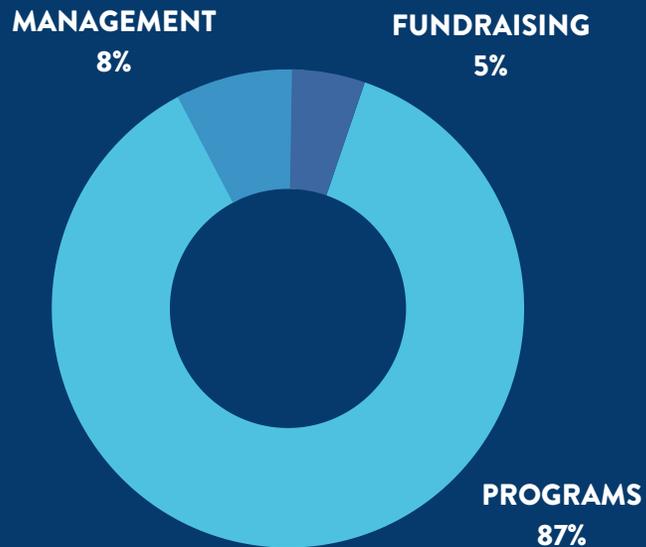
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

ASSETS, LIABILITIES, NET ASSETS

	2020	2019
ASSETS	\$602,829	\$440,330
LIABILITIES	\$15,658	\$35,626
NET ASSETS	\$587,171	\$404,704

REVENUE AND EXPENSES

	2020	2019
REVENUE	\$1,154,855	\$907,093
EXPENSES	\$933,447	\$876,698



2020 ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES



**CASA MAKES THE
DIFFERENCE**

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ADVOCATE SUCCESS STORY

"There are times when a teenager is thrown into the foster care system that will result in them "aging out" before the life of the case ends, even while their younger siblings remain in care. This can be not only very troubling for the teen but can create an added strain on the bonds between siblings placed in different homes. Such was a case I worked a few years ago involving 5 siblings. As CASA, part of our job is to encourage and advocate for the sibling bond to remain intact. Despite the age gaps and final placements of this sibling group, this young adult continues to this day to have ongoing relationships with their siblings and their adoptive families. As well, I continue my own bond with them and continue to support, advise and cheer their accomplishments."

-CASA Volunteer, Noelle Perry

*some details have been changed to protect privacy

VOICES FOR CHILDREN'S IMPACT: A BREAKDOWN

597

children served by



206

CASA Volunteers

All supported by 15 staff members.

Serving 5,000+ square miles of Texas

SEVEN COUNTIES SERVED



Brazos
Burleson
Freestone
Grimes
Leon
Limestone
Madison

CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY



11,527

hours donated by
CASA Volunteers.

Equivalent to

\$345,234

according to the estimated national
value of each volunteer hour.

The impact on a child?

Priceless.



225

children found a safe
and permanent home.



83,779

miles driven in service to families

41

new CASAs sworn in to serve
abused and neglected children



EVENTS OVERVIEW

GOLF TOURNAMENT



SHOP FOR CASA



SUPERHERO FUN RUN

ADVOCATE SWEARING-IN

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT VFC

**Our supporters make our work possible.
Want to make a difference right now?**

**Make a donation today to ensure
children have a quality advocate
as they navigate foster care.
Scan the QR for giving options:**



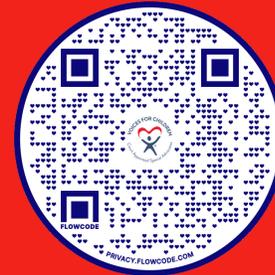
*"For our country's future, children need to be nurtured not neglected."
- Bart Challis, CASA Volunteer*

BECOME A CASA

Interested in becoming a **CASA**?

Do you know someone who would make a great **CASA**?

Make a life-changing difference
for a child in foster care.
Scan the QR code to get started:



*"The impact one CASA can have on a family is truly a blessing and amazing to watch."
-CASA Volunteer, Anna Smith*



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