

VOICES FOR CHILDREN 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Change A Child's Story

MISSION

Voices for Children provides volunteer advocates who ensure children who have experienced abuse or neglect have a safe and permanent home.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Thanks to you, 476 children from our community had the powerful voice of CASA to speak-up for them in the courtroom in 2019-2020. Helping a child who has been removed from their home because of abuse and neglect is one of the most difficult volunteer jobs. Although for their best interest, imagine how traumatizing it must be for a child who is taken from the only home they know, moved to a strange place, with strange people, maybe even moved to a strange town and school where they have no friends.

Luckily, Voices for Children (VFC) has 214 CASA Volunteers who provide a safe and stable adult for each of the 476 children from our community who have suffered abuse and neglect. CASAs ensure that our community's most vulnerable citizen gets the help, support and care they deserve while living in foster care, and that they find a safe and permanent home as soon as possible.



We had some achievements this year. We opened a satellite office in Mexia to provide advocacy for children in Limestone and Freestone Counties, we continued advocating for children despite COVID, and the board and staff lived through hiring a new Executive Director, me. As we settle into the coming year, check out our a new website that is user friendly, stop by our updated office and say hello or **DECIDE TO BECOME A CASA**. The first step is to attend an orientation and fill out an application. We need you!

Although a CASA enters a child's life at a most difficult time, we're not meant to stay in their lives forever. However, I have been blessed to dance at one of my CASA child's wedding and be there for another when her first child was born. So, as I mentioned earlier, being a CASA can be the most emotionally draining and toughest volunteer job you can ever do, but the rewards are priceless. I thank you for supporting our mission in 2019-2020, and I ask for your continued support in 2020-2021. Our caseloads are rising, and the long-term affects of COVID are still unknown.

With gratitude in abundance,

Kimberly Martinez

2019 - 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Jacque Flagg
Community Volunteer

Vice-President

Alice Blue-McLendon
Clinical Associate Professor

Second Vice-President

Shane Phelps
Attorney-at-Law

Treasurer

Janet Laird
Retired CPA

Secretary

Alison Pittman
Clinical Associate Professor

Steven Carr
Financial Advisor

Katie Compian
Realtor

Delores Crum
Party Time Rentals Owner

Nkrumah Dixon
College Station ISD

Bob Goldstein
Retired

Brittany McManus
Clinical Associate Professor

Shelly Jo Payne
Centerville ISD

Sherry Pittman
Aggieland, REALTORS

Robbie Robichau
Associate Professor

Hilary Sanchez
Attorney-at-Law

Laney Smith
Madisonville ISD

Steve Zimmerman
Brazos County
District Attorney's
Office



WHY CASA? ADVOCATE STORIES



"As a community volunteer for at-risk youth, I met lots of kids loaded with potential that our current systems are failing--not because the people within those systems didn't care. In most cases, they do care, a lot. But they and these kids need more. I became a CASA so I could be part of the 'more.'"

- CASA Volunteer, Melissa Freeman

"I am so blessed to be part of this wonderful organization over the last 13 years. I have gained so much wisdom and knowledge over the years as an advocate that it has truly helped me with the journey through my personal life. Thanks to all who made this journey with me, Voices for Children Staff, judges, attorneys, CPS, families, community resources, my friends and family. I give thanks that there is a strength given to each and every one of us to help those that are broken hearted."

- CASA Volunteer, Bilaliah Hazziez



Click here to learn more about Melissa's story



WHY CASA? DONOR STORIES



"My family and I are honored to support CASA, and to invest in our volunteers' success and our children's future. The dedicated volunteers who unfailingly represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in our communities bring comfort and hope to foster children and families when it's needed most.. As a strong voice advocating in the best interests of each child, CASA's help fulfill the agency's mission of providing a safe and permanent home for every child we serve. Voices for Children - CASA makes a positive impact and a critical difference."

- CASA Board Member, Delores Crum

"I support Voices for Children because of the amazing work CASA volunteers perform in fighting for the abused and neglected children of the Brazos Valley. Without their voice, these children would have little hope in achieving permanency in a loving and nurturing home!"

- Community Member, Carl Prihoda



2019 - 2020 CORPORATE PARTNERS



PARTY TIME RENTALS
RENTAL DONE RIGHT



— THE LAW OFFICE OF —
SHANE PHELPS P.C.

Thank you to our Corporate Partners!

Corporate Partners commit to supporting advocacy efforts at the \$10,000+ level every year. Their partnership supported advocacy for 476 children this past year. We cannot thank you enough!



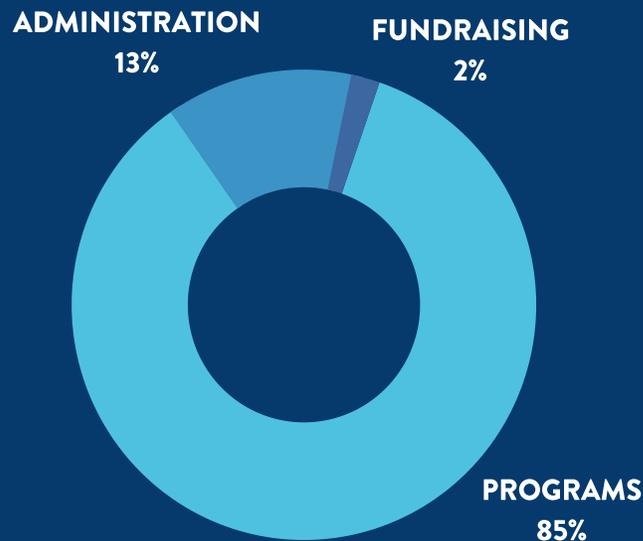
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

ASSETS, LIABILITIES, NET ASSETS

	2019	2018
ASSETS	\$538,570	\$440,330
LIABILITIES	\$117,057	\$35,626
NET ASSETS	\$406,473	\$404,704

REVENUE AND EXPENSES

	2019	2018
REVENUE	\$897,604	\$824,332
EXPENSES	\$882,564	\$793,937
EXCESS/SHORTAGE	\$15,040	\$30,395



2019 ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES



**CASA MAKES THE
DIFFERENCE**

MISSION

Voices for Children provides volunteer advocates who ensure children who have experienced abuse or neglect have a safe and permanent home.

ADVOCATE SUCCESS STORY

When CASA Volunteer, Jessica Prihoda, was appointed to her CASA child Carson*, he was unable to verbally communicate with anyone around him. At the time of placement, he was classified as profoundly autistic and non-verbal at age 7 years. He would minimally parrot verbal interactions but was unable to engage. Through attending many ARD meetings, Jessica advocated for specialized accommodations for Carson, including advocating for a tablet that facilitates communication for him.

Due to the work of the foster parents and the support of Jessica, Carson is now able to participate in conversations. She has also worked with the foster parent and medical providers to determine which medications work best for Carson and she coaches the foster parents through advocacy for him.

Through Jessica's diligent advocacy, she has helped Carson find his voice. That is the CASA difference.

*child's name has been changed to protect their privacy

VOICES FOR CHILDREN'S IMPACT: A BREAKDOWN

476 | 214

local children served by CASA Volunteers

All supported by 17 staff members.

Serving 5,000+ square miles of Texas

CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY



8,719

hours donated by
CASA Volunteers.

Equivalent to

\$237,157

according to the estimated national
value of each volunteer hour.

The impact on a child?

Priceless.



166

children found a safe
and permanent home.



76% of those children

reunited with family.

10% adopted by a non-relative.



67,466

miles driven in service to families

53

new CASAs sworn in to serve
abused and neglected children



YOUR KINDNESS GOES BEYOND THE COURTROOM



COLLABORATIVE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

While struggling with a very difficult choice to separate siblings to get them both to placements that could meet their needs, the CFE tool “3 Houses” was just what our CASA needed. After using the tool with one of the 9-year-old siblings, the girl confided in her CASA that someone taking her sister away was her very worst fear. The tool helped our CASA understand just how much this decision would affect both girls, and ultimately reported to the Judge the splitting them up was not a recommendation CASA would be making.



MEDICAL ADVOCACY

Peggy is serving on a case with two young siblings who had been prenatally exposed to drugs and have significant speech and developmental delays. The children are with family who are at an elevated risk for COVID and lack the tech skills to connect with resources the children need while in isolation. Peggy has coordinated access to technology and internet coverage to allow virtual physical and occupational therapy for the children.

EVENTS OVERVIEW

CHRISTMAS DRIVE 2019



SHOP FOR CASA 2020



ART OF HELPING CHILDREN 2020

ADVOCATE SWEARING-IN

NOMINATE A CASA

Do you know someone who would make a great CASA?

Nominate them today at www.nominateacasa.org!

**5 - 8 hours per month can make the
life-changing difference for a child in foster care.**

"For our country's future, children need to be nurtured not neglected."

- Bart Challis, CASA Volunteer



MISSION

Voices for Children provides volunteer advocates who ensure children who have experienced abuse or neglect have a safe and permanent home.

115 N. Main St. Bryan, Texas | 979-822-9700

@vfcbrasos | www.vfcbrasos.org

ADVOCATES CELEBRATING MILESTONES

YOUR KINDNESS GOES BEYOND THE COURTROOM



EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY



**COLLABORATIVE FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT**



MEDICAL ADVOCACY