



The Art of Advocacy

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

COLORADO



2022-2024 Colorado CASA* Strategic Framework

OUR VISION: Every child in Colorado has a voice and a hopeful future

OUR MISSION: To strengthen local CASA programs and advocate for children in the child welfare system

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Lead the Narrative
Educate the Public
Grow the Brand

DATA DRIVEN

Assure Quality
Grow Capacity
Tell the Story

LEARNING

Expand Training
Leverage Thought Leadership
Foster Relationships

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Inform Policy Makers
Maintain Legislative Support
Affect Public Policy

Adopted by Board of Directors on May 2022

* State Organization of National CASA Association

DEAR FRIENDS,

On behalf of Colorado CASA, we thank you for your generous support of our mission. Because of you - our dedicated donors, partners, and friends - the CASA network in Colorado was able to serve 4,282 children and youth who needed a caring adult by their side in 2022.

This past year was full of rebuilding and growing resilience for the local CASA programs emerging out of uncertain times. We are proud to have supported 2,297 CASA volunteers in Colorado who became a critical lifeline for children and families. CASA supports family preservation and has been deeply focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility and belonging. We are proud to share our 2022 Annual Report, The Art of Advocacy, which demonstrates the tremendous work of CASA staff and volunteers throughout our state.

For over 35 years, the Colorado CASA network has advocated for a child's right to a safe and permanent home. We are so very grateful to you for your steadfast, enduring commitment, and selfless investment in 2022.

We are proud to have supported 2,297 CASA volunteers in Colorado who became a critical lifeline for children and families.

The focus for last year was on stabilizing our strategic framework to provide our statewide CASA network with the necessary resources to supporting their work to advance our collective mission. The pillars of the framework include public awareness, being data driven, a focus on learning, and government relations.

Our statewide conference was finally in-person again and provided in-depth training and experiential learning for hundreds of CASA volunteers and staff from all four corners of our state. Our monthly lunch and learns refined the art of advocacy in a variety of continuing education topics and engaged, yet again, hundreds of participants from the 18 local CASA programs. This perspective and knowledge will help us reimagine our work moving forward as we continue to provide best-interest advocacy in Colorado.

We are exceedingly grateful for your support in 2022, and your continued commitment to our mission. On behalf of children and youth who look to us with hope for a bright future, thank you.

Sincerely,



**JENNY
BENDER**
Executive Director
Colorado CASA



**STEPHEN
JENKS**
Board Chair
Colorado CASA

COLORADO CASA 2022/2023 BOARD MEMBERS

*Board members as of 6/30/2022

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CASA PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Angela Rose
CASA of the Pikes
Peak Region

Joy Thompson
CASA of Mesa County

Leah Varnell
CASA of Jefferson and
Gilpin Counties

2022 FINANCIALS

INCOME

Source	Amount	FYE2022 Percentage
CO State Funding	1,509,600	79%
Other Government	152,000	8%
Individuals & Corporations	186,000	10%
Conference fees	4,500	0%
Foundations & Organizations	21,250	1%
Membership and dues, other	27,100	1%
TOTAL	1,900,400	

EXPENSES

Source	Amount	FYE2022 Percentage
Program	1,753,700	92%
General & Administration	133,500	7%
Fundraising	19,000	1%
TOTAL	1,906,200	

2022

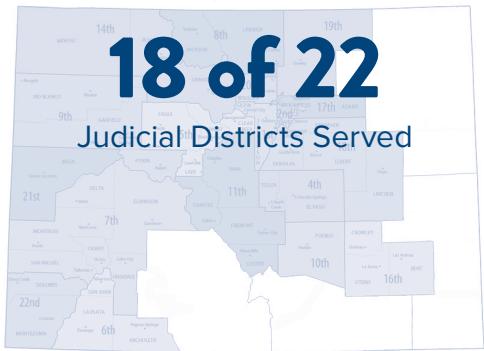
The Art of Advocacy



4,282 **2,405**
children cases served



2,297
CASA Volunteers



CASA VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT FAMILIES

In a majority of cases, the children remain or return to their parents or are placed with kinship at case closing.

- By case closing:**
- Nearly 9 in 10 of children (88%) included in the evaluation were placed with parents or kin.
 - Of the children placed with parents at the time of the case opening assessment, 9 in 10 remained with parents at case closing.



COLORADO CASA STRENGTHENS LOCAL PROGRAMS

Public Awareness

- Served on multitudes of statewide committees and task forces, to strengthen connections with child welfare partners, stakeholders and bring the collective CASA voice to the table
- Colorado CASA staff presented at the CAFCA Annual Conference with two CASA volunteers and a former CASA youth

Data Driven

- The first annual evaluation report was released fall of 2021

Learning

- Coordinated seven Lunch & Learns for volunteers and staff across the state: Juvenile Justice for CASA Volunteers, Connect Our Kids, From Data to Advocacy, Policy with Colorado CASA, Sex and Gender Minority Families, and Human Trafficking Prevention for CASA volunteers 101 and 201
- Hosted the annual CASA conference virtually for 237 attendees

Government Relations

- The government relations and policy committee along with our contract lobbyist introduced and ran three bills through the state legislature. Two of the bills passed and were signed by the governor.
- Took positions on legislation impacting children, youth and families

CHILD WELLBEING

A large body of research demonstrates having a consistent and caring adult and concrete supports during times of need are protective factors that prevent or mitigate the effects of adverse childhood experiences, and increase children’s resilience, educational success, health, and overall wellbeing.

CASA volunteers are consistent and caring adults to their assigned children, advocating in- and outside of the court to increase opportunities and support for children. **CASA volunteers make a difference in children’s lives by showing up and increasing support during challenging times.**

In addition to permanency and safety, CASA programs in Colorado monitor and advocate for children’s health, development, education, involvement in prosocial opportunities, and transition to adulthood. The CASA in Colorado data strategy aims to measure children’s needs and volunteer advocacy efforts in these key domains.

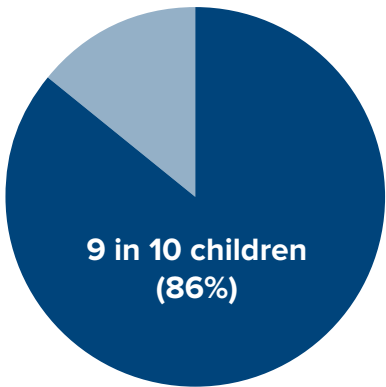


For 18 months, I feel that I have been the one constant in both the child’s and her mother’s lives. Her mother has gotten their GED, graduated from a Dental Asst. online school, gotten their driver’s license and all of their essential documents (birth certificate, S.S. card etc...), gotten multiple jobs, saved a sizeable amount of money, opened a certificate of deposit, and so on. I truly feel I have made a significant difference in both of their lives, which is very rewarding.

~CASA Volunteer for infant girl

CASA volunteers are consistent adults for their assigned children

- Nearly 9 in 10 of children (86%) assigned a CASA volunteer had that same CASA volunteer by their side at case closing.
- Two in three children were visited at least every two weeks.



CASA volunteers are informed about and advocate for children’s needs

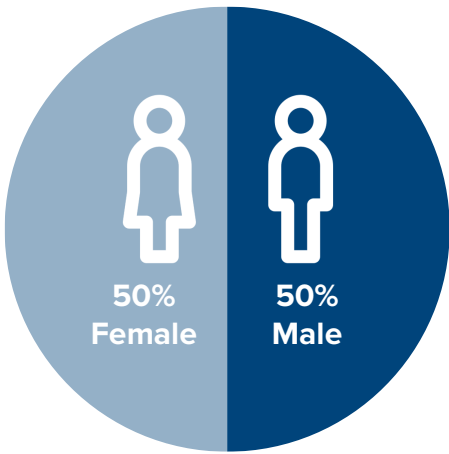
Our evaluation results found that volunteers are informed about the majority of children’s needs in the key domains. The most commonly reported advocacy action is “Made court recommendation” followed by “Advocated for services” and “Worked with caregivers”.

Preliminary results show at the end of the case children are more likely to be doing better in the key domains. For example:

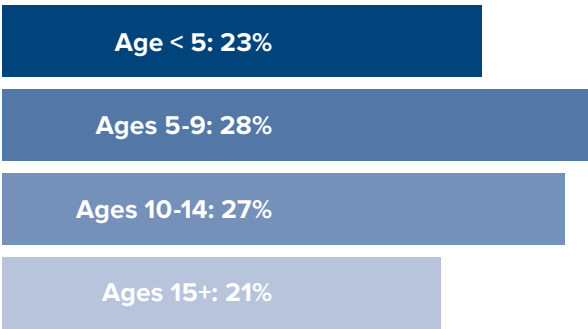
- Over half the children who had developmental needs at the start of the case showed improvement by the end of the case.
- Four in five children are receiving recommended primary care services at case closing.

As more assessment results are collected, we will be able to better examine child outcomes in key domains from start to end of case.

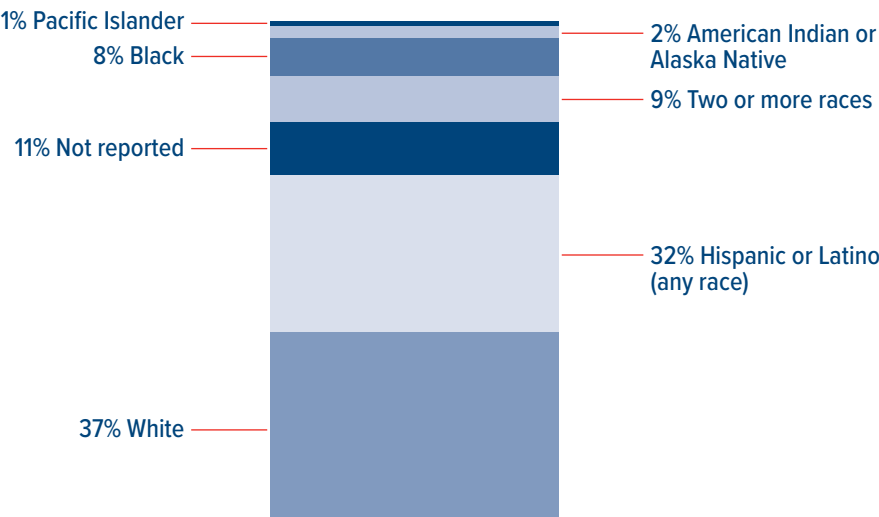
WHO DOES CASA SERVE?



Sex



Age



Race/Ethnicity



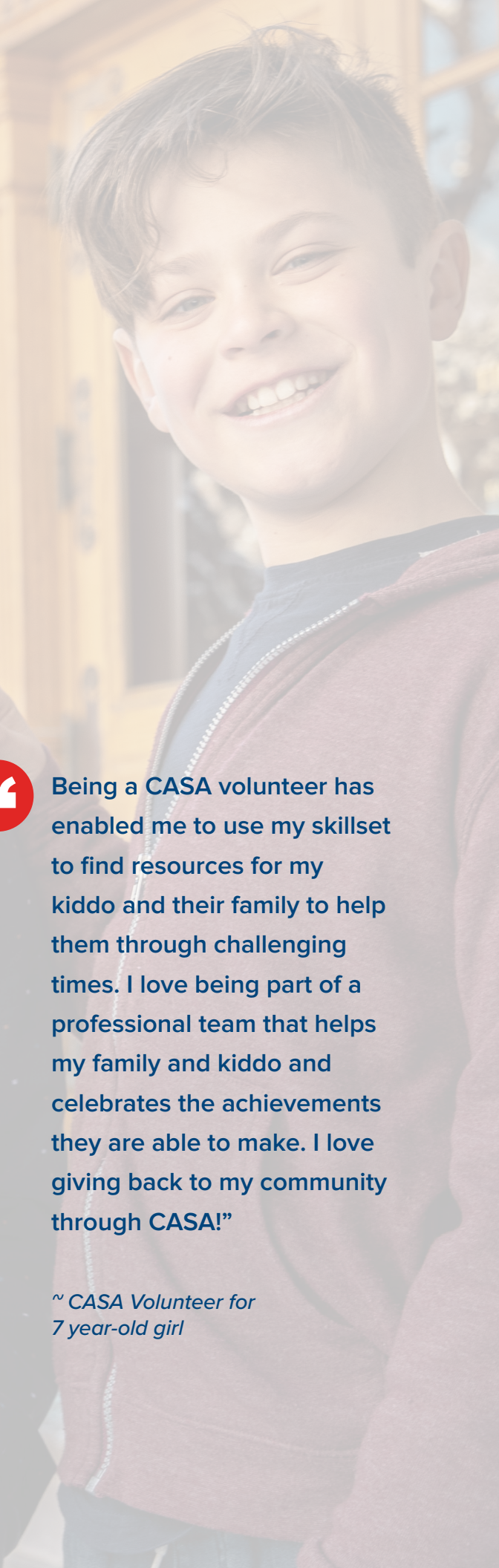
It's the little wins. Seeing the child's eyes light up when I show up with the football, hearing mom celebrate one more win toward sobriety, watching siblings play happily in their new home... that's what keeps me coming back. Each little win for the kids' permanent success."

~ CASA Volunteer for 2 year-old girl and 8 year old boy



Being a CASA volunteer has enabled me to use my skillset to find resources for my kiddo and their family to help them through challenging times. I love being part of a professional team that helps my family and kiddo and celebrates the achievements they are able to make. I love giving back to my community through CASA!”

*~ CASA Volunteer for
7 year-old girl*



OUR SUPPORTERS

**\$1,500,000+
Children’s Circle
of Champions**

State of Colorado
General Fund

**\$10,000 - \$2,500
Children’s Circle of
Leadership**

Jordan Conley
Little Kickers Swim School
The Benevity Community
Impact Fund
Women’s Empowerment
Network at Empower
Retirement
Connor Yakish

**\$2,499 - \$1000
Children’s Circle of
Promise**

Anonymous Donors
Adriana Alvidrez
Stephen Jenks
Christinne Johnson
Midwest Trust
John C Miller
Tamara Parker Sherrill
Josh White
Justin Seth Wood

**\$999 - \$5
Children’s Circle
of Hope**

Garland Allison
AmazonSmile
Mark Balfour
Michelle Barnes & Rick
Taylor
Abigail Berger
Lori Bohn
Thomas Booth
Sarah Boulden
Debra Brown
Michael Burm
Mountaingate Capital
Charities Aid Foundation
of America
Karen Churnside
Anne Clark
Brandon Clary
Lawrence Cohn
ColoradoGives
Community
First Foundation
Andrew Conneen
Charles Cooper
Kelly DiNatale
Nancy Dolezal
Liz Donahue
Marilynn J Ducker
Emma Duffy
Lauren Ezell
Elena Thomas Faulkner
Steven and Debra
Fendrich
John Finn
Robert Fitzpatrick
Alaina Gearhart
Jennifer Gifford
Katie Graham
Gerilyn Grang
Catherine Grassman
Jennifer Gruidel
Christine Habermehl

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Kelly Pointer

Kathleen A Price
Andrija (Andy) Prodanovic
Courtney Ricci
Jacey Riggs
Gary Robinson
James Roennau
Stan Rosenberg
James Rubin
Rudy & Alice Ramsey
Foundation
Taylor Rumph
David Ryan
Robert Ryerson
Greg K Saiz
Bekka Saks
Salesforce
Janet Slate
William Z Smith
SS&C Technologies
Kent Stannard
Nancy Stockton
Greg Stults
T J R Giving Fund
The Blackbaud
Giving Fund
The Progressive Insurance
Foundation
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Nathan Thompson
Michael Turner
Chrisitna
VandenBoogaard
Ken Weil
Stephen Mark Werner
Emily West
Jeanne White
Michelle Young
Craig Zimmerman



Thank you to all of the donors and funders who make our progress possible. Together, we are a powerful voice for vulnerable children and youth.

CASA PROGRAMS IN COLORADO

CASA OF JEFFERSON AND GILPIN COUNTIES

Leadership: Leah Varnell

CHILD ADVOCATES – DENVER CASA

Leadership: Karen Silverman

CASA OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION

Leadership: Angela Rose

CASA OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Leadership:

Janine Mariani, Co-ED of Programs

Cathy Hyde, Co-ED of Operations

4 THE CHILDREN – CASA OF THE SOUTHWEST

Leadership: Bryn Joyner, Co-ED
of CASA Programs

CASA OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Leadership: Carlton Mason

CASA OF LARIMER COUNTY

Leadership: Jen Ryan

CASA OF THE NINTH

Leadership:

Traci Gurley-Tomashosky

CASA OF PUEBLO

Leadership: Zane Grant

HEART OF COLORADO CASA

Leadership: Zane Grant

NORTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLORADO CASA

Leadership: Alan Hallman

ARKANSAS VALLEY CASA

Leadership: Zane Grant

CASA OF ADAMS AND BROOMFIELD COUNTIES

Leadership: Lindsay Salas

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN CASA

Leadership: Josefina Milliner

LIFE STORIES – WELD COUNTY CASA

Leadership: Gwen Schooley

BOULDER VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Leadership: Steve Callander

CASA OF MESA COUNTY

Leadership: Joy Thompson

4 THE CHILDREN – CASA OF THE SOUTHWEST

Leadership: Bryn Joyner, Co-ED
of CASA Programs



CASA

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