



Momentum

COLORADO CASA

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 / 2017



It takes a movement to move lives forward.

This year in Colorado, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers spoke up for over 3,645 children helping them find permanency in safe, loving homes. Our work to bring volunteers, partners, donors and leaders together in collaboration to advocate for the most vulnerable children continues to gather strength and move forward. Now more than ever, it takes a movement of committed individuals, across the state of Colorado, to speak up for every child who's been abused or neglected—and is at risk of getting lost in the system.





Our movement is growing in **strength** with more volunteers.

Our movement is growing in **influence and scope** as our programs expand their service to children in new counties and regions across the State of Colorado.

Our movement is growing in **impact and lives changed** as we reach more new children.



**“MY CASA VOLUNTEER MADE SURE I HAD
A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE AND PEOPLE IN
MY LIFE WHO LOVE ME.”**

Dear Friends,

Our mission is to ensure every child who has experienced abuse and neglect has a caring, consistent adult to advocate for his or her well-being. This requires the passion, dedication, and collaboration of 18 CASA programs in Colorado, community volunteers, government and judicial partners, and our dedicated philanthropic supporters.

We promote the success of the individual CASA programs in the state of Colorado with four key strategic areas: legislative activities, fundraising, data analysis, and brand awareness.

We are pleased to report that 2016/2017 marked an exceptional year for Colorado CASA and the 18 local programs. Through high performing collaborations, 1,906 volunteers served 3,645 vulnerable children across Colorado.

Each year we celebrate great strides, however, last year, there were 10,116 children in out of home placement in Colorado, an increase of 2.5% over the previous year*. Public health officials, analyzing other data trends, increasingly attribute this rise to the growing use of opioids. Sadly, we expect this number to continue to climb.

We are pleased to share with you a number of key initiatives that served as catalysts and laid the groundwork for CASA program expansion. Our collective impact is now measured through shared data outcomes and we are making strides in measuring child well-being assessments.

Two new programs in Colorado have been added, CASA of the Southwest in the 6th judicial district and

Arkansas Valley CASA in the 16th judicial district. As a member of the National CASA Association, we are resourced to support this growth to underserved regions.

Both of us consider it an honor and privilege to provide leadership to Colorado CASA as we serve the CASA programs throughout Colorado. We are grateful for the role you play in moving young lives forward. We could not do this incredibly important work without the generous support of our donors and partners.

Colorado CASA needs your support, collaboration, and engagement in our mission more than ever as we build on 2016/2017 momentum with continued drive, dedication, and purpose.

* Colorado Department of Human Services Community Performance Center (CDHS Data Matters)



Bryan Teets
Board Chair
Colorado CASA



Jenny Bender
Executive Director
Colorado CASA

In 2016, the number of children in out of home placements in Colorado grew by 2.5 percent. Our network results show we kept pace with the growing need and then some, but more children need our help.

**Colorado
Children
Served -
3,645**

**CASA
Volunteers
in Colorado -
1,906**

**Volunteer
Hours -
96, 221**

Growth Through Collaboration

Working in partnership with our newly established Program Council, Colorado CASA, provides leadership, support, and funding to 18 programs. Through an environment of collaboration, our programs are scaling to address the unmet need,

bolster volunteer recruitment and retention, and increase the number of children served throughout the state. Colorado CASA provides over \$1 million in pass-through funds to local programs.

CASA Programs in Colorado

IN ORDER OF JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CASA of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

Leah Varnell, Executive Director
Jefferson & Gilpin Counties
1st Judicial District

Child Advocates - Denver CASA

Nancy Stewart, Executive Director
Denver County
2nd Judicial District

CASA of the Pikes Peak Region

Mittie Pedraza, Interim Executive Director
El Paso & Teller Counties
4th Judicial District

CASA of the Continental Divide

Kathy Reed, Executive Director
Clear Creek, Lake, Summit, & Eagle Counties
5th Judicial District

CASA of the Southwest

Lindsay Sherman, Executive Director
Archuleta & La Plata Counties
6th Judicial District

CASA of the 7th Judicial District

Carlton Mason, Executive Director
Delta, Montrose, Ouray, Gunnison, San Miguel, & Hinsdale Counties
7th Judicial District

CASA of Larimer County

Sabrina Stoker, Executive Director
Larimer County
8th Judicial District

CASA of the Ninth

Christy Doyon, Executive Director
Garfield, Pitkin, & Rio Blanco Counties
9th Judicial District

CASA of Pueblo

Zane Grant, Executive Director
Pueblo County
10th Judicial District

Heart of Colorado CASA

Zane Grant, Executive Director
Chafee, Custer, Fremont, & Park Counties
11th Judicial District

Northwest Rocky Mountain Colorado CASA

Alan Hallman, Executive Director
Grand, Moffatt, & Routt Counties
14th Judicial District

Arkansas Valley CASA

Zane Grant, Executive Director
Bent, Crowley, & Otero Counties
16th Judicial District

CASA of Adams and Broomfield Counties

Lindsay Lierman, Executive Director
Adams & Broomfield Counties
17th Judicial District

Advocates for Children

Josefina Raphael, Executive Director
Aurora, Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert & Lincoln Counties
18th Judicial District

Life Stories Child and Family Advocacy

Gwen Schooley, Executive Director
Weld County
19th Judicial District

Voices for Children of Boulder County

Jacob Harmon, Executive Director
Boulder County
20th Judicial District

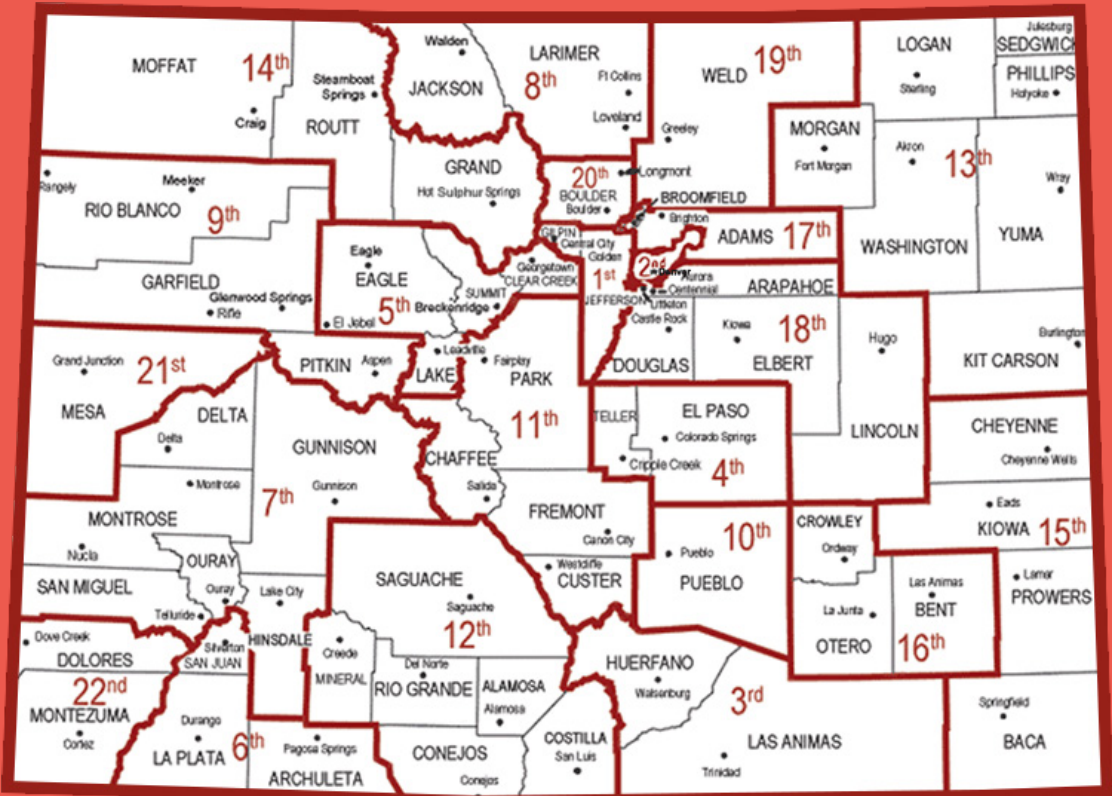
CASA of Mesa County

Janet Rowland, Executive Director
Mesa County
21st Judicial District

CASA of the Southwest

Lindsay Sherman, Executive Director
Cortez, Dolores, & Montezuma Counties
22nd Judicial District

Colorado Judicial District Map



CASA programs currently serve in 18 Judicial Districts. In 2016/2017 CASA expanded to the 6th and 16th Judicial Districts. CASA is not operating in the 3rd, 12th, 13th, and 15th Judicial Districts



A CHILD'S LIFE MOVES FORWARD SHORT STORY

My name is Will. I am 12 years old, and I live in Grand Junction, Colorado. I was nine years old when I met my CASA volunteer, Cheryl. My brothers, sisters and I didn't have any place to live before that. When I was in foster care, I moved to 15 different homes in two years. Most of my brothers and sisters were adopted, but not me. My aunt let my twin brother and my sister live with her, but she didn't want me there.

From all of the places I lived, I had Cheryl's business card. When she would visit me, I showed it to her and said, "I still have your card!" I wanted to make sure it was okay that I could still talk to her and that she still wanted to be in my life. She seemed like the only person who cared what happened to me.

Finally, after two really bad years, I moved in with my great aunt, Beth. I have lived with Aunt Beth for a year now. I have a special box where I keep all of my favorite things, and I still keep my CASA volunteer Cheryl's business card in there. I have had it for a long time now, but I don't ever want to get rid of it. Cheryl made sure that I had a good place to live and people in my life who loved me. I don't want to think about where I would be now without her.

Board Members Listing

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bryan Teets, Board Chair MarkWest Energy | Linda Weinerman Office of the Child’s Representative |
| Gwen Schooley, Secretary Life Stories Child & Family Advocacy | Kathy Reed CASA of the Continental Divide |
| Jereme Koehler, Vice Board Chair FirstBank | Janet Rowland CASA of Mesa County |
| Leah Varnell CASA of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties | Lindsay Lierman CASA of Adams and Broomfield Counties |
| Alicia Nelson, Treasurer Airpush, INC. | Zane Grant CASA of Pueblo, Heart of Colorado and Arkansas Valley |
| Carlton Mason CASA of the 7th JD | |

Staff

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Jenny Bender, Executive Director | Cynthia Cavo, State Coordinator |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|

Measuring Our Impact – Evidence Based Outcomes

To increase the effectiveness of our advocacy on behalf of children, we are continually assessing our activities and interventions. What works best for children in foster care? In the midst of a devastating opioid epidemic and with human trafficking on the rise, what do children in today’s society need most under these difficult circumstances? How can we ensure the best outcomes possible?

Colorado CASA is seeking to answer these questions and many more with our new statewide Outcomes Project. This project focuses on measuring outcomes to answer the question, “How are our CASA Volunteers changing the odds for children?” This project resulted in the awareness that the sustainability of the CASA organization depends on becoming an evidence based program. Colorado CASA’s response to this issue was to provide outcomes where meaningful change is measurable, sustainable, linked to the program’s efforts, and there is accountability for results.

Financials

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| INCOME | | |
| Colorado State Legislative Funding | 1,020,000 | 79% |
| Other Government | 29,877 | 2% |
| Individuals and Corporations | 221,356 | 17% |
| Conference Fees | 5,277 | 0% |
| Membership and dues, Other | 21,561 | 2% |
| Total Income | 1,298,071 | |

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| EXPENSES | | |
| Program Services (Disbursements, Training, Technical Assistance) | 1,322,975 | 95% |
| General & Administrative | 68,748 | 5% |
| Fundraising | 7,638 | 1% |
| Total Expenses | 1,399,361 | |

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| * Return of prior year's excess funds to Program Services | (101,290) |
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WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR 2016 STATEWIDE SUPPORTERS,
FOR A FULL LISTING PLEASE VISIT COLORADOCASA.ORG

Advancing Volunteer Training

Training of the Facilitators
In 2016, National CASA made significant improvements to the CASA volunteer training used to train over 1,900 CASA volunteers in Colorado. As the needs of children change, we are committed to ensure the highest quality advocacy possible. Colorado CASA delivered this training to all of the facilitators in the state, offering three training sessions in various regions.

Colorado CASA Conference

CASA volunteers, staff members, board members, key stakeholders, judicial partners, and professionals in the child welfare field joined forces for a day of learning, engagement, and collaboration.

Local and national experts on a variety of topics presented many tracks and options for attendees. The day is punctuated by a Recognition Award Lunch and ended with a facilitated panel discussion featuring key players in the Dependency and Neglect judicial process. We benefited from the incredible day of networking, learning best practices, and making connections across Colorado.

Our momentum is growing but so is the need

**“NOW IS THE TIME TO ENSURE WE HAVE
A VOLUNTEER TO SPEAK WITH THE
CONVICTION AND COMPASSION FOR EVERY
CHILD WHO HAS SUFFERED NEGLECT,
ABUSE OR ABANDONMENT. JOIN US.”**

Tara Perry, Chief Executive Officer,
National CASA Association

