



2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 15 Years in the Heartland



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To All Our CASA Supporters,

2022 has again been a challenging time regards to children suffering in Kentucky. We continue to rank in the top five states for child abuse and neglect. Hardin County continues to see a surge in cases as well. In fact, for the entire year, our child wait list averaged 96 children, and we unfortunately do not see an end in sight for 2023! Note that as the system as a whole is overburdened, a Judge assigns a CASA to a child involved in the most worrisome cases; cases where the court needs an extra set of eyes and ears along with a strong, independent voice on the child's behalf. There are too many changing people within the system who come and go, but a CASA is their one constant in a time of emotional turmoil.

As for this year, continuous program challenges required us to pivot and shift to meet all the ongoing demands. We saw several grant reductions but yet many more supporters stepped in and filled in that funding gap. Through the amazing support of volunteers, donors, sponsors and community partners, we have been able to do what we do each and every day - serve the children in our community who needed us the most.

I am proud to share that this year, we were able to work with 52 CASA volunteers who completed 525 child visits, and put in over 1,400 hours; all focused to serve 126 vulnerable children in Hardin County. Based on CASA volunteer recommendations, many children received critical physical and mental therapeutic services while a total of 33 children had their cases close in the system, many reaching their safe, permanent, and loving home.

It's always a good year when you help a child.

We couldn't do this work without you - thank you for what you do for our program.

With gratitude and sincere thanks,

*Norma Hatfield*

**Executive Director**

2022  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AND STAFF

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Board Chair**  
**Grant Niebuhr**  
*Altec*

**Vice Chair**  
**Rose Harris**  
*Community Volunteer*

**Treasurer**  
**Gregory Schrecke**  
*ResultPoint Financial*

**Secretary**  
**Katie Butler**  
*ARGI Financial Group*

**Human Resources Chair**  
**Barbara Jones**  
*City of Elizabethtown*

**Beth Avey**  
*Knox Regional Development Alliance*

**Dayna Fentress**  
*Hardin County Extension Office*

**Gloria Fite**  
*All Nations Worship*

**Megan Stith**  
*Elizabethtown Community and Technical College*

**Sherry Whitman-Powers**  
*West Point Bank*

**Troy Lawson**  
*Semonin Realtors*

## STAFF

**Norma Hatfield\***  
*Executive Director*

**Patricia Mayhew**  
*Lead Advocacy Outreach Manager and Trainer*

**Natalie Curtis**  
*Business Support/Advocate Volunteer Manager*

**Amy Hollingsworth**  
*Business Support/Advocate Volunteer Manager*

**Lawrence Hoh**  
*Assistant Advocate Volunteer Manager*

**Jennifer Gardner\***  
*Systems Recruiting Operations/Advocate Volunteer Manager*

\*Indicates staff who were present in 2022 but are no longer employed with CASA of the Heartland

# OUR MISSION

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of the Heartland recruits, trains, and supports community volunteers who advocate on behalf of abused, neglected, and dependent children under the protection of the Hardin County Family Court system.

# OUR VISION

Every child in need has a compassionate, caring, and qualified volunteer advocate, and ultimately a safe, permanent, loving home where they can thrive.

MISSION  
AND  
VISION

2022 FINANCIALS

**ASSETS & LIABILITIES**

Assets.....	\$453,219.69
Liabilities.....	\$10,652.23
Equity.....	\$442,567.46
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity.....</b>	<b>\$453,219.69</b>

**REVENUE**

Grants.....	\$248,731.15
Donations.....	\$55,568.96
Fundraising.....	\$147,843.59
Other Income.....	\$935.28
<b>Total Revenue.....</b>	<b>\$453,078.98</b>

**EXPENSES**

Payroll.....	\$246,633.50
Legal & Professional.....	\$12,836.75
Fundraising.....	\$17,831.12
Other.....	\$91,261.06
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$368,562.43</b>

**126**

Children Served

**52**

Assigned  
Volunteers

**16**

New Volunteers  
Trained

**35**

Children's Cases  
Closed

**1,427**

Volunteer  
Hours  
Logged

PROGRAMS  
SERVED



## Pinwheels for Prevention

As part of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, CASA of the Heartland and our community came together to plant 591 pinwheels in front of our office. These pinwheels were planted in honor of the 591 children CASA has served since its inception. The pinwheel is a representation of a child's innocence. Through this event, our goal is to provide a visual representation of how many children have been impacted by abuse and neglect.

## Farm to Fork

CASA of the Heartland saw one of its signature events make a return in 2022. The Farm to Fork Revival was made possible through a partnership with Elizabethtown Lifestyle magazine. The event featured a meal made of farm fresh produce prepared by Tony York, drinks, music, and auction all to benefit our community's most vulnerable children. Thank you to Elizabethtown Lifestyle for making this event possible!



## CASA Cup of Tea

CASA of the Heartland held its first-ever CASA Cup of Tea fundraiser at Tunnel Hill Baptist Church. The tea party-style event provided individuals and businesses the opportunity to decorate tables in their favorite theme while helping abused and neglected children in our community at the same time. A silent auction was also held consisting of items donated by local businesses and homemakers.



PROGRAMS - SERVICES

# CASA OF THE HEARTLAND MURAL



## The Future is in Our Hands

CASA of the Heartland unveiled a mural made from handprints of local children served by the organization. "The Future is in Our Hands" mural was made possible by a grant from the Fort Knox Spouses and Community Club and is displayed in the lobby of the CASA of the Heartland office.

**"Though you may not see a CASA child or know their names, they leave a lasting imprint on Our Hearts."**





# SUCCESS STORY

## Community Connection

A group of young siblings were removed from their parents for environmental and other serious concerns. The children, each of them having their own significant needs, were placed in foster care. When a CASA volunteer was assigned, the volunteer noticed the children were not interacting with one another in the foster home. When conversing with the foster parents, it was learned that the children were kept separate due to the children not being able to interact safely with each other. Bedwetting, trouble focusing, throwing tantrums, not following directions, and medical issues were present in the children's lives. The foster parents were willing to work with the children in any way necessary to improve concerns that were shared with them. CASA recommended the children receive family therapy to address behavioral



concerns among the siblings. Foster parents later reported that therapy was greatly helping the children and noticed a difference in how they interacted at home. The goal of this case was return to parent, and during this time, the mother was working with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to complete her case plan and seek reunification of her children. The mother and CASA had a supportive, working relationship. The mother reached out to CASA as she needed car seats for her children. CASA connected with the Family Resource Center at the school in which the children attended. Through this connection,

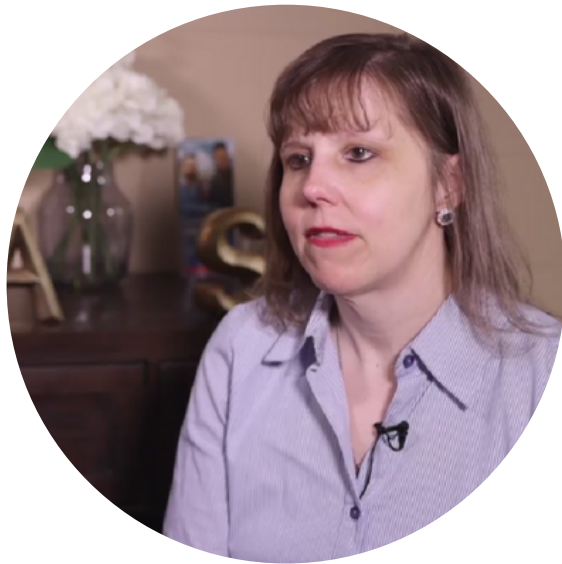
CASA was able to help this family get car seats. The mother at this point had unsupervised visitation with her children, and CASA continued to be a support to the family. In May 2022, the children were returned to their mother's care. The children adjusted well to being in mother's home, and CASA continued to have consistent contact with the family until the case was officially closed in September 2022. Through CASA's advocacy and support, a family was reunited.

"As a CASA, you really do have the opportunity to make a huge impact. I don't think I was prepared for the relationships that I've developed with CASA. There are three kids who are now a part of my life whose lives I'm interested in and invested in..."



"You actually have a say and you get to speak for these kids. You get to listen to them. You get to relay what they want and what they need."

**-Melissa Torres, CASA Volunteer**



"Everybody has their specialties. Everybody has their gifts, and it's just great to be on the Board to give your gift and be able to give advice and expertise on things that you are familiar with. It's a good way just to give back."

"If you're the one giving back then you get the blessing. Not only do the kids get blessed, but you get a blessing knowing you're helping someone... Kids are our future."

**-Barbara Jones, CASA Board Member**

REFLECTING  
THE SPOTS

2022

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

Katie Anderson  
Aileen Arreguin  
Ivan Arreguin  
Constance Belcher  
Brittany Benton  
Michelle Berger  
Dan Brindle  
Rachel Brindle  
Amy Brown  
Melissa Brown  
Joseph Chang  
Etonta Churchill  
Joan Cooke  
Crystal Costello  
Anna Dahl  
Judy Davenport  
Renee Dennison  
Lynn Dummitt  
Deloris Dunn  
Louise Eaton  
Jaime Fey  
Brent Griswell  
Lawrence Hoh  
John House  
Aundra Lett Jackson  
Sherry Johnson

Elizabeth Kail  
Darlene Kersey  
Morgan Kitts  
Susan Lippman  
Melissa Lyons  
Carl Millsap  
Rebecca Miranda  
Starla Mitchell  
Gina Moeller  
LaAnna Mraz  
August Phillips  
Manfredo Quiros  
Sarah Ratliff  
Donna Richardson  
Temira Ricks  
Noshia Saunders  
Vicki Schmidt  
Marsha Senninger  
Sandra Sharp  
Teresa Strunk  
Louise Taylor  
Wanda Teegarden  
Melissa Torres  
Cindy Trent  
Sandra Wallace  
Misty Wilmoth



**CASA of the Heartland**  
580 Westport Rd, Suite D  
P.O. Box 6065  
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

-  270.982.2274
-  [CASAHEARTLAND.ORG](http://CASAHEARTLAND.ORG)
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