



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF THE HEARTLAND

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear CASA Supporters,

CASA of the Heartland had a wonderful year of growth throughout 2023. This growth was made possible by our exceptional volunteer advocates, devoted staff, outstanding board members, community stakeholders, the local courts, the Kentucky CASA Network, and our committed donors. Because of the monumental support we have received, CASA of the Heartland was able to support 55 volunteers in advocating for the best interests of 182 vulnerable children throughout 2023. The continued increase in child abuse and neglect throughout the state of Kentucky has made this advocacy increasingly difficult, but our consistent, caring, strong, and dedicated volunteers persevered and spent over 1,900 hours making a difference in the lives of these children.

CASA of the Heartland could not have made these strides without the generosity and kindness of supporters like you – our volunteers, staff members, board members, and charitable donors. We are immensely grateful to you!

Thank you from CASA of the Heartland!

Warm Wishes,

Michelle Kail

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



BOARD CHAIR
Grant Niebuhr
Altec



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Hardin County



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Elizabethtown Community
and Technical College



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West Point Bank



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Community Volunteer



Tanya Deneen
The Cecilian Bank



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Advocate Coordinator
& Program Specialist



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Advocate Coordinator &
Community Outreach Specialist



Patti Mayhew
Recruitment &
Training Specialist



Jordanna Pike
Advocate Coordinator



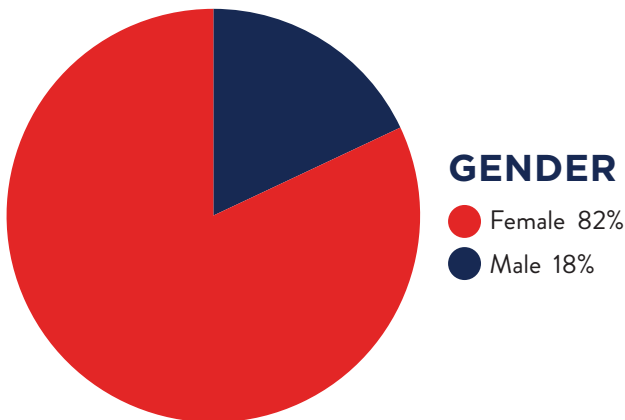
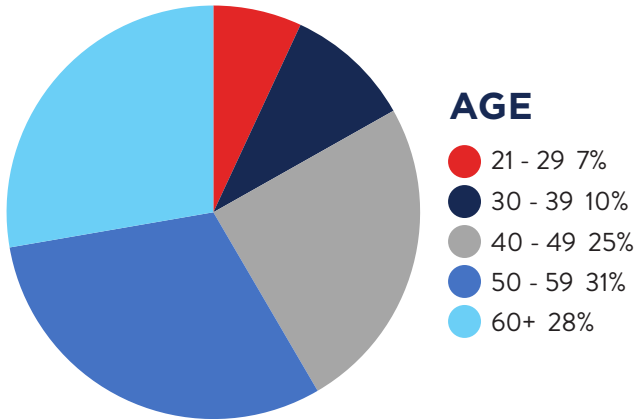
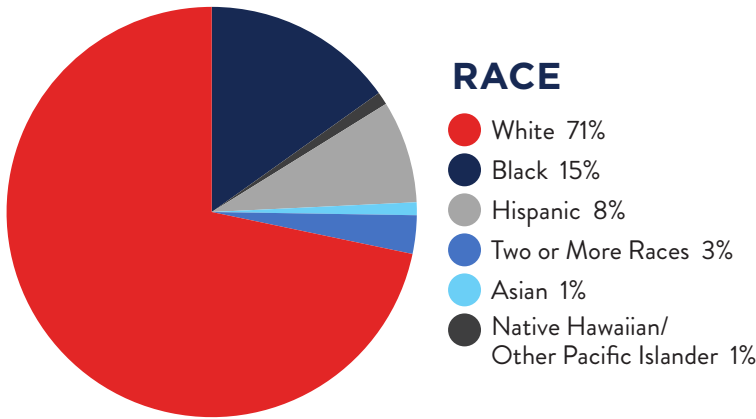
Larry Hoh
Assistant Advocate
Coordinator

182 CHILDREN SERVED

18 VOLUNTEERS TRAINED

21,246.40 MILES DRIVEN

VOLUNTEER DEMOGRAPHICS



OF CHILDREN SERVED

9 | LARUE
173 | HARDIN

OF VOLUNTEERS SWORN IN

4 | LARUE
14 | HARDIN

* We began serving children in LaRue County on August 25, 2023

FINANCIALS

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

\$31,723.81

REVENUE

\$456,001.97

Donations	\$69,730.13	15%
Fundraising	\$188,928.26	41%
Grants	\$194,824.10	43%
Other	\$2,519.48	1%

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

2023 Goal: \$166,500.00

2023 Actual: \$185,911.35

Holiday Mailer	\$12,059.28
Pinwheel Planting	\$500.00
KY Gives Day	\$4,613.55
Summer Blitz	\$2,835.00
Friend of CASA	\$7,702.30
Bourbon Raffles	\$85,000.00
Giving Tuesday	\$640.00
Community Brunch	\$500.00
Light the Night 5K	\$3,745.22
Farm to Fork	\$68,316.00

112%

EXPENSES

\$447,288.05



SUCCESS STORY

At birth, Blake was removed from his birth parents due to drug addiction. As an infant, Blake was placed with a trusted family friend named Laura, who raised him for much of his life. Blake considered Laura to be his mother. Unfortunately, she was elderly and Blake was returned to foster care after setting fire to their home while attempting to cook dinner for himself and Laura. Due to her age, she was no longer physically capable of caring for Blake. Soon after Blake was removed from Laura's care, she passed away in an assisted living facility. Grief-stricken, Blake began to act out exhibiting behavioral issues which led to him being moved from several foster homes. After transitioning to several different foster homes, Judge Hall assigned CASA to Blake's case. Joe, Blake's CASA, immediately worked toward building a relationship with him. The two were able to bond over their affinity for sports - especially basketball. Joe showed Blake that he would be there for him and advocate for him no matter the circumstances. Finally, Blake was placed in a foster home with a couple, and after years in foster care, Blake was adopted! Once Blake's adoption date was set, he asked his foster mom if he could get a puppy. His foster mom consulted with Joe who got Blake a plant instead. They all agreed that if Blake could keep the plant alive for a certain period, then he could get a puppy. By the end of 2023, Blake was adopted, and he got his puppy. Joe was able to attend Blake's adoption and celebrate with his family following the adoptions.

2023 COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

ALISON RAY ♥ AMY BROWN ♥ ANNA DAHL ♥ AUGUST PHILLIPS ♥ BERNADETTE BELL ♥ BRENT GRISWELL
 CARL MILLSAP ♥ CHRISTINA RIVAS ♥ CINDY TRENT ♥ CONSTANCE BELCHER ♥ CRYSTAL COSTELLO
 DAN BRINDLE ♥ DEBRA CHAVEZ ♥ DELORIS DUNN ♥ DONNA RICHARDSON ♥ ELIZABETH KAIL
 EVELYN SCHNEE ♥ JAIME FEY ♥ JESSICA YOUART ♥ JOAN COOKE ♥ JOHN HOUSE ♥ JOSE TORRES
 JOSEPH CHANG ♥ JUDY DAVENPORT ♥ LAANNA MRAZ ♥ LAWRENCE HOH ♥ LOUISE EATON ♥ LYNN DUMMITT
 MANFREDO QUIROS ♥ MARK CHITWOOD ♥ MARSHA SENNINGER ♥ MELISSA BROWN ♥ MELISSA MONTGOMERY
 MELISSA TORRES ♥ MICHAEL CORLEY ♥ MICHELLE BERGER ♥ MISTY WILMOTH ♥ MORGAN KITTS
 NOSHIA SAUNDERS ♥ QUINTON HIGGINS ♥ RACHEL BRINDLE ♥ RENEE DENNISON
 SANDRA SHARP ♥ SANDRA WALLACE ♥ SHERRI SEARLES ♥ STARLA MITCHELL
 SUSAN LIPPMAN ♥ TAMMI PURCELL ♥ VICKI SCHMIDT
 WANDA TEEGARDEN

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS



Vicki has been a CASA volunteer for 12 years. She first heard about CASA from a friend and wanted to do her part to make positive impacts on the children in her community. Vicki encourages anyone interested in being a CASA to “give it a try!” Vicki is a mom to 3 grown guys and a grandmother to 2 fabulous 8 year olds. Outside of being a CASA, Vicki enjoys traveling, boating and spending time with her family and friends. This year, Vicki was awarded the 2023 Kentucky CASA Network Bob Babbage Volunteer of the Year.

Cindy first heard about CASA when she attended the Farm to Fork event. She later received a newsletter that said, “You can be a model to the masses, but to have the most meaningful influence, you have to work with individuals” – and she took it as a sign and became a CASA volunteer. Cindy works at a law firm in Louisville, but lives in our community. She is married and has 1 son and 1 chocolate lab. In addition to serving as a CASA, Cindy enjoys volunteering with St. James Catholic Church & American Legion Post 113. She loves to read and spend time in the sun and water (mostly at her cabin on Nolin Lake).



Manfredo has served as a CASA volunteer for 1.5 years. He first learned about CASA online and decided to do a little research into the organization. What he learned inspired him to become a volunteer! Manfredo is originally from Puerto Rico and moved to the United States for college. He earned a Mechanical Engineering degree from Purdue University and was assigned to a job at Fort Knox. He has called our community home ever since, but he still enjoys traveling with his wife in their free time.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO MEET MORE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS!



EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS



The mission ultimately is the most important thing. Being able to not only raise funds to support these volunteers, but hopefully raise awareness of the need we have for volunteers and how critically important it is that our community come together to support children who are the most vulnerable in our community.

-Stith Family Farms

PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION

To commemorate Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, CASA of the Heartland and our community came together to plant 643 pinwheels outside of the Elizabethtown Police Department headquarters, each one representing a child that CASA has served in Hardin County through its advocacy efforts.

LARUE COUNTY EXPANSION

CASA of the Heartland announced the expansion of its services into LaRue County in April, in conjunction with the first annual LaRue County Pinwheel Planting event. A total of 433 pinwheels were placed in front of the LaRue County Courthouse, representing the children who could have benefited from CASA's services. Volunteer recruitment and training began in May, a necessary first step in ensuring that CASA can adequately support the children of LaRue County.



We know that there are needs in Hardin County and the surrounding counties, and CASA is such a viable organization to the needs.

-BlueOval SK

KY GIVES DAY

Held annually in May, KY Gives Day "is an opportunity for Kentuckians (near and far) to come together to make donations to Kentucky charities in an effort to raise as much money as possible in 24 hours." This year, CASA of the Heartland exceeded our fundraising goal for the campaign and raised \$4807.60 in less than 24 hours!

LIGHT THE NIGHT 5K

In July, CASA of the Heartland hosted its first annual Light the Night Superhero 5K at the Elizabethtown Sports Park. This family-friendly event featured a food truck rally prior to the race and was complete with a DJ and free popsicles after the run. The event's superhero theme symbolized the impact that CASA volunteers have on the children they serve. CASA volunteers provide hope for children who are living through dark times in their lives.



FARM TO FORK

CASA of the Heartland held its biggest fundraising event of the year in August: the annual Farm to Fork event at Highland Sod Farms in Elizabethtown. With support from 180 attendees, CASA of the Heartland raised \$69,296 to support advocacy for children in Hardin and LaRue Counties. This year's event included live entertainment from the band Limestone Creek, live and silent auctions, along with locally grown, farm-fresh dishes supplied by local farmers and chefs.



VOLUNTEER AWARD

CASA of the Heartland volunteer, Vicki Schmidt, received the Bob Babbage Volunteer of the Year award from the Kentucky CASA Network in October. Judges, volunteers, and program staff from across the commonwealth nominated these winners for their excellent work to advance the CASA mission. Since swearing in as a volunteer, Vicki has served 26 children on 10 different cases. Vicki has also logged over 150 hours of continuing education since becoming a volunteer. In addition to serving as an advocate, each year, Vicki assists CASA of the Heartland in securing funds for the program.



We get the benefit of seeing the future of our community grow stronger while creating bonds with the people that are involved with CASA.

-Wilson & Muir Bank

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

In December, CASA of the Heartland held a volunteer appreciation brunch at Vine Grove City Hall to celebrate the hard work of our volunteers and their service to 179* children in 2023. Volunteers were invited to attend a brunch and received CASA pullovers along with reward cards donated by Chick-fil-A. After the brunch, volunteers picked up Christmas gifts to deliver to their children.

*at that time





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2024 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FEBRUARY 13

CASA Loves
Community Luncheon

MARCH 29
& APRIL 1

Pinwheels for
Prevention Planting

APRIL 2024

CASA Cares Campaign -
Awareness/T-Shirt Campaign

MAY 10

Light the Night 5K:
Superhero Edition

JUNE 15

Farm to Fork

DECEMBER 7

Volunteer
Appreciation Brunch

DONOR RECOGNITION

A Taste of Kentucky
 Bourbon Mastery
 A-1 Vacuum Sales and Service
 Abound Federal Credit Union
 Altec Industries, Inc.
 American Legion Riders
 Anders, Debbie
 Ann Sonneborn Foundation
 Apostoli Coffee
 Ashlock, Ben
 Atcher Insurance &
 Financial Services, Inc.
 Avery, Tiffany
 Avey, Beth
 Babbage, Bob
 Ballard, Mary
 Baptist Health Foundation
 Becca's Place Inc
 Benham, Chelsea
 Big M Chevrolet
 Bluegrass Garden Center
 & Landscaping, Inc.
 BlueOval SK
 Boundary Oak Distillery
 Bowie, Shannon
 Bowling Green Hot Rods
 Community Relations Dept
 Bowling, Courtney
 Braeger, Ken
 Breeding, Carla
 Brewer, Kimberly
 Brown, Belinda
 Brown, Eleanor
 Bruns, Andrea
 Burch, Donna
 Butler, Irene
 Butler, Katie
 Campbell, Lizbeth
 Campbell, Trisha
 Campbell, Tyler
 Carr, Eric
 Carr, Esther
 Central Kentucky
 Community Foundation
 Central Kentucky
 Race Management
 Chitwood, Mark
 Churchill Downs Incorporated
 Cincinnati Reds
 City of Elizabethtown
 Clark Jewelers
 Clark, Mitchell
 Claycomb, Valencia
 Claywell, Roxie
 Coakley, Patricia
 Colby, Jeremy
 Colomb, Mark
 Cracker Barrel Old
 Country Store
 Crowe, Debi
 Crowne Pointe Theatre
 Cupper's Choice Coffee
 Curtis, Brena
 Curtis, Natalie
 Curtis, Rita
 Curtsinger, April
 Dalts American Grill
 Davis Printing Inc.
 Day, Billy
 Dewster's Homemade
 Ice Cream and Bakery
 Dirt Works Unlimited LLC
 Dozer, Ken
 Dunn, Mary
 DuPlessis, John
 Easton, Barbara
 Eaton, Louise
 Emerine, Athena
 Emerine, Kelly
 Erny, Sally
 Fentress, William
 Fey, Jaime
 Fifty Chairs
 Fine House & Garden
 Fink, Peggy
 Fite, Gloria
 Flywheel Brewing
 Fort Knox Spouses &
 Community Club (FKSCC)
 Fugate, Barbara
 Gatlin, Aaron
 Giles, Andrew
 Give 270, Inc.
 Godfrey, William
 Gold Star Realty LLC
 Golden, Virginia-Bibb
 Gwynn, Brown
 Hardin Beauty Services -
 Head Liners
 Hardin County Bourbon Club
 Hardin County
 Cattleman's Association
 Hardin County Farm Bureau
 Harris, Holly
 Harris, Rose & Mike
 Hawkins, Kathi
 Heartland Mini Golf
 Hinton's Orchard
 & Farm Market
 Hodges Auction
 Company, Inc.
 Hoh, Lawrence
 Holiday World
 & Splashin' Safari
 Hollingsworth, Amy
 Honorable Order of
 Kentucky Colonels
 Hornback Plumbing -
 Leap Service Partners, LLC
 Howell, Kay
 Hubbs, Amy
 Ising Orthodontics
 Jack Fry's Restaurant
 Janes, Jesse
 Jarred Butler Insurance
 Agency Inc
 Jarrod Swift Insurance, LLC
 JDW Insurance Agency
 Jewell, Rachel
 John O's Liquor & Party Store
 Jones, Carol
 Jones, Lamar & Barb
 Jones, Richie
 Joy, Denise
 K&J Keepsakes
 Kaco Workers Compensation
 Kail, Elizabeth
 Kail, Michelle
 Karbec, LLC
 Keith, Roy
 Kentucky CASA Network
 Kentucky League of Cities
 on Behalf of Ed Poppe
 Kentucky Science Center
 Kidd, Sandy
 King, Susan
 Kosair for Kids
 Committee, Inc.
 Kroger Cares
 Lanz, Jeffrey
 LaRue, Ben
 Lawson, Stephanie
 Le Clair's Optical, P.S.C.
 Lee, Deborah
 Lever, Jim
 Lincoln Trail Title Services
 Louisville Bats
 Louisville City FC/Racing
 Louisville FC
 Louisville Slugger Museum
 & Factory
 Love, Ashley
 Marini, Jim
 Mark's Feed Store
 Mary Cofer Trigg
 Grant Award
 Mayhew, Christopher
 McKeever, Allison
 McKinley, Julia
 McKinney, Chris
 McMahan, Teresa
 McMullen, Ruby
 Milby, Missy
 Miller, Michael
 Montgomery, Melissa
 Montgomery, Ryan
 Morton, Steve
 Mouser Custom
 Cabinetry, LLC
 Mouser, Steve
 Mraz, LaAnna
 Mullins, Marjorie
 Navarrette, Phillip
 Neel, Emily
 Neel, Matthew
 Nelly, Woah
 Network for Good
 Niebuhr, Grant
 Nolin Rural Electric
 Cooperative Corporation
 Old 502 Winery
 Outdoor Power Source Inc.
 Parrett, Lisa
 Parrett-Fentress, Dayna
 Peak, Abby
 Pence, David
 Pennington, Tim
 Perdue, Clarence
 Perfect North Slopes
 Phillips, August
 Platinum Cleaning
 Services LLC
 Porter, Chris
 Powell, Joanie
 Powell, Rich
 Powers, Jonathan & Sherry
 Priddy, Randall
 Purcell, Ashley
 Quiggins Construction LLC
 Radcliff Christian
 Church, CWF
 Regis, Kate
 Reiman, Eric
 Reynolds, Brenda
 Reynolds, Francis
 Rich, Becki
 Richardson, Jeffrey
 Riddle, Matthew
 Rider, Susan
 Riggs, Grayson
 Roark, Kenneth
 Robbins, Bradyn
 Ryman Auditorium
 Sandlain, Seontae
 Scarborough, Priscilla
 Schiller, Tracy
 Schmidt Family
 Foundation, Inc.
 Schmidt, Vicki
 Schnee, Evelyn
 Schramm, Nancy
 Scott, Sabrina
 Second Sixty Charitable
 Foundation Inc.
 ServPro
 Shah, Navinchandra
 Sharpe, Lorna
 Shoemaker, Renee
 Signarama Elizabethtown
 Simcoe, Deanna
 Skaggs, Leighana
 Skeeters, Donna
 Smith, Aleksander
 Smith, Vernon
 Soudal Accumetric
 South Central Bank
 Spohn, Stephen
 Springsteen, Raymond
 Stanley Steemer of
 E-Town Inc.
 Stevenson, Tabitha
 Stiles, Theodore
 Stith Family Farms
 Stith, Megan
 Sweet Rebel Boutique
 Swift, Christina
 Swope Care Group
 Foundation, Inc.
 Swope Family of Dealerships
 Swope, Bob
 Tarrence, Amelia
 Tate Cattle Co.
 That Cute Little Shop
 The Blue Rose
 The Cecilian Bank
 The Original
 Impellizzeri's Pizza
 The Stephen Foster Story
 Thomas Academy Farm
 Thomas, Brittany
 Thomas, Carol
 Thomas, Craig
 Thomas, Sun
 Torres, Jose
 Trent, Cindy
 Troutt, Tracee
 Turner, Amy
 United Way of
 Central Kentucky
 Vervilles, Susan
 Vessels, E. J.
 VFW Auxiliary Post 10281
 Wade, Jill
 Waters, Jason
 WesBanco Bank, Inc.
 West Point Bank
 WHAS Crusade for Children
 White, Lisa
 Wilson & Muir Bank
 & Trust Co.
 Woman's Club of
 Elizabethtown
 Wooldridge, David
 Yerkes, David
 Ziegler, Cameron
 Ziegler, Jerry



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FOR CHILDREN

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