

ANNUAL REPORT

CASA OF THE HEARTLAND



2021

Changing children's stories in
the Hardin County and Fort
Knox area.



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF THE HEARTLAND

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



To Our CASA Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect back on 2021, it was another challenging time across the Commonwealth. It's sad to share that for the third consecutive year, Kentucky has been ranked number one in abuse and neglect; Hardin County continues to see a surge in cases as well. In fact, since the May/June timeframe, we've gone from 43 children on a wait list for a CASA volunteer to 105, and we unfortunately do not see an end in sight for rising numbers for 2022.

Continuous program challenges caused us to focus on unknown demands as we all dealt with a world-wide pandemic. With COVID, our in-person events were cancelled and some key grants were cut by 50% since the pandemic start. Yet, through your support with us,

we were able to meet all the challenges that come our way and we still served children who relied on us to be there for them.

We worked with 57 CASA volunteers who completed 434 child visits and 952 training hours all of which were focused on serving 160 vulnerable children here in Hardin County.

Based on our CASA volunteer recommendations, many children received critical physical and mental therapeutic services; while a total of 50 children went to permanent, safe and loving homes.

We are also pleased to share that besides our regular day-to-day critical advocacy, we were able to distribute new coats, hats, gloves, toys, journals and other games to vulnerable CASA children all with the outreach and support of many community partners and supporters including you.

There's much more work to do in 2022, but with you as a supporter, we will be able to provide advocates for those waiting on us to be their voice when often they don't feel they have one. Being a CASA volunteer changes a child's story and we are honored to do this work each and every day.

Best Wishes and Thank You Again,

Norma Hatfield

**Executive Director
CASA of the Heartland**

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & 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

Beth Avey

Knox Regional Development Alliance

Brannon Dupree

The Dupree Law Firm, PLLC

Dayna Fentress

Hardin County Extension Office

Gloria Fite

All Nations Worship

Lyndon Johnson

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Barbara Jones

City of Elizabethtown

Troy Lawson

Semonin Realtors

Melissa Martin

Melissa S. Martin CPA, PLLC

Megan Stith

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College

Sherry Whitman-Powers

West Point Bank

STAFF

Norma Hatfield

Executive Director

Patricia Mayhew

Advocate Volunteer Manager

Natalie Cubbage

Business Support/Advocate Volunteer Manager

Amy Hollingsworth

Business Support/Advocate Volunteer Manager

Lawrence Hoh

Advocate Volunteer Manager

Rhonda Jung*

Systems Recruiting Operations/Advocate Volunteer Manager

Natasha Mackey*

Systems Recruiting Operations/Advocate Volunteer Manager

*Indicates staff who were present in 2021 but are no longer employed with CASA of the Heartland.

CASA VOLUNTEERS CHANGE CHILDREN'S LIVES

"My experience with CASA has been amazing... A CASA is more than an advocate. They become a friend... and someone that will be there for the rest of your life. Being in the CASA Program was the best thing that ever happened to me, and I gained a best friend!"

— Sandy, Former Foster Youth

The Problem: Overwhelmed Systems



525

child dependency, neglect, and abuse petitions filed in the Hardin County and Fort Knox area in 2021



On average, a child spends nearly **2 years** in foster care



Many foster children will change homes **3 or more times**

The Solution: Citizen Volunteers

Court Appointed Special Advocates, trained volunteers who help abused and neglected children help them find safe, permanent homes.



1 Volunteer Manager



supports 30 volunteers



servicing 60 children



A WISE INVESTMENT

One year of CASA advocacy **costs less** than one month of foster care in Kentucky

The Results: Brighter Futures



CASA VOLUNTEERS CHANGE LIVES

A child with a CASA volunteer is **more likely** to find a safe, permanent home



CASA PROGRAMS REDUCE RE-ENTRY

A child with a CASA volunteer is **half as likely** to re-enter the foster care system



CASA CHILDREN DO BETTER

A child with a CASA volunteer is **more likely** to succeed in school and beyond.

Our Vision: Serving Every Child



In 2021, **57** CASA volunteers helped change children's lives every day



157 abused and neglected children had a CASA volunteer speaking up for their best interests during 2021.



In 2021, an additional **368** children could have benefited from having a CASA volunteer.

"I know they're saving lives. I've seen them save families."

— Judge M. Brent Hall, Hardin County Family Court



CASA of the Heartland recruits, trains, and supports community volunteers who advocate on behalf of dependent, neglected, and abused children in the Hardin County Family Court system.

CASA of the Heartland | (270) 982-2274 | casastaff@casaheartland.org
580 Westport Rd, Suite D, Elizabethtown, KY 42701 | www.casaheartland.org

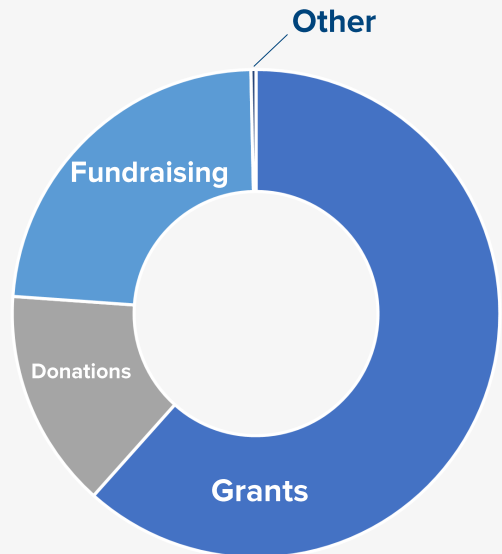
FINANCIALS

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Assets.....	\$366,776
Liabilities.....	\$8,725
Equity.....	\$358,051
Total Liabilities & Equity.....	\$373,679

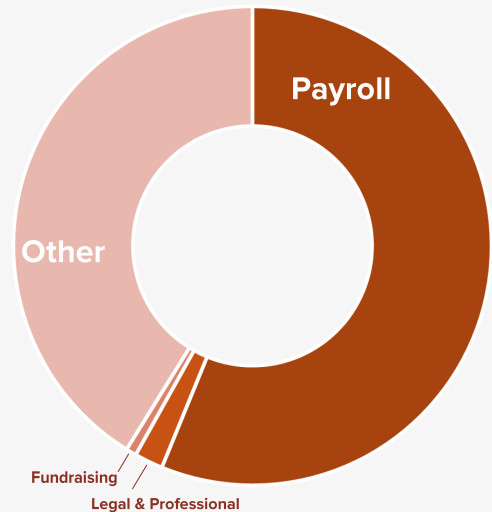
REVENUE

Grants.....	\$200,984
Donations.....	\$57,497
Fundraising.....	\$66,668
Other Income.....	\$1,098
Total Revenue.....	\$326,247



EXPENSES

Payroll.....	\$201,624
Legal & Professional.....	\$6,932
Fundraising.....	\$2,541
Other.....	\$147,718
Total Expenses.....	\$358,815



2021 KENTUCKY CASA NETWORK PROGRAM OF THE YEAR



CASA OF THE HEARTLAND NAMED THE KENTUCKY CASA NETWORK PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

CASA of the Heartland was awarded the Kentucky CASA Program of the Year at the conclusion of Kentucky CASA Week in 2021. We are so thrilled to be the recipient of this prestigious award. CASA of the Heartland, serving children in the Hardin County/Fort Knox area, was selected out of 24 programs across the state.

Our program has and remains committed to CASA's core values. We focus each and every day to make sure that every child in our community who needs a CASA gets a CASA. Doing this kind of work is not for the faint of heart, but it is for those who have a tenacity, passion and a courageous heart to change a child's story and be there for them.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors, we want to thank our volunteers, donors, sponsors, and community partners. This award belongs to all of us in the community as we've worked together to serve the children who need us.

CASA FUNDRAISING SPOTLIGHT

90 Miles in Their Shoes

Individuals and families across the country started the New Year off right by making a difference in the lives of Hardin County children. Participants signed up to walk or run **90** miles in **90** days for **90** children who were on CASA of the Heartland's waiting list. 90 Miles in Their Shoes was generously sponsored by AT&T of Kentucky.



CASA Cooking in the Heartland

The CASA Cooking in the Heartland cookbook features recipes from right here in the Heartland. To make things even more fun, CASA was joined by local businesses and characters who cooked up their favorite dishes for Cooking with CASA segments featured on our Facebook page. Cookbooks can be purchased by contacting CASA of the Heartland at 270-982-2274, CASASTAFF@CASAHeartland.org, or by visiting CASAHeartland.org. CASA Cooking in the Heartland is graciously sponsored by AT&T of Kentucky.

CASA Honors and Memoriam

A donation to CASA of the Heartland can be a meaningful way to celebrate life's special moments such as a graduation or to commemorate a loved one. Your generous, tax-deductible gift will continue a lasting legacy in honor of that special person while helping to serve abused and neglected children in need today.



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

CASA of the Heartland held its First Annual Pinwheel Planting Event at its office location in April 2021 to bring awareness to child abuse prevention. A total of **543** pinwheels were planted in CASA's front lawn by CASA staff, Board, volunteers, community and state leaders, and community partners. Each of the **543** pinwheels planted represented a child who had been served by CASA. **Let's all do our part and prevent child abuse!**



THE EMPTY CHAIR

Help Us Fill The Empty Chair

The Empty Chair is for a child who is dependent, abused, or neglected and having to navigate the complex and overwhelming inner workings of the Hardin County Family Court system. The Empty Chair signifies a child who needs one constant in their lives while other things in their lives change. That one constant is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer.

Help CASA of the Heartland fill the Empty Chair by serving as a CASA volunteer today. Contact us at 270-982-2274, CASASTAFF@CASAHEARTLAND.ORG, or visit CASAHEARTLAND.ORG.



Giving the Gift of Comfort During the Holidays

CKCF Granted Program Provides CASA Kids Gift of Warmth

CASA of the Heartland was awarded a \$10,500 grant from the Central Kentucky Community Foundation Granted Program to provide the gift of warmth to CASA children during the holiday season. No child should be cold in the winter, and the Central Kentucky Community Foundation helped CASA provide warmth and care to those who needed it most.



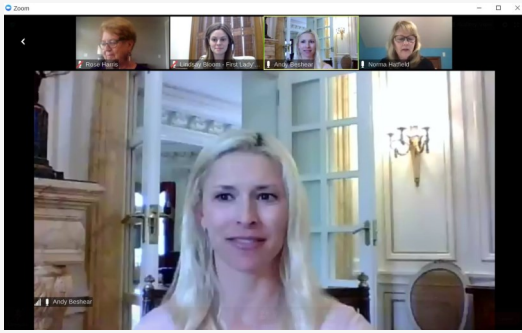
The CASA Coats for Kids Program provided a heavy coat, pair of gloves, and winter hats to each CASA child served. In total, 65 coats and 96 hats, gloves, and scarves sets were purchased and distributed to 96 children who were being served by CASA of the Heartland. Thank you to the Central Kentucky Community Foundation Granted Program for making this possible.

Kosair Charities

Through the support of a grant awarded by Kosair Charities, CASA of the Heartland purchased \$2,000 worth of gifts for our CASA children during the holiday season. Socks, toys, sketch pads, journals, and games were gifted to nearly 100 CASA children being served. We are grateful for the continued support of Kosair Charities to improve the well-being of children served by CASA in the Hardin County/Fort Knox area.



CASA IN THE NEWS



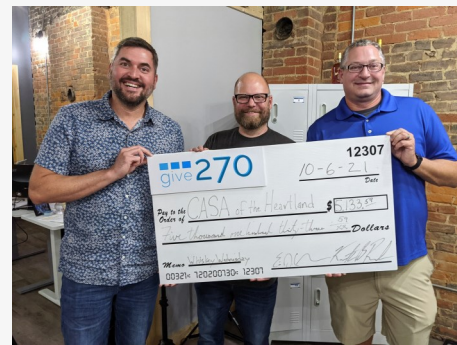
CASA of the Heartland Meets with Kentucky First Lady Brittainy Beshear



CASA of the Heartland Awarded United Way of Central Kentucky Grant



CASA of the Heartland and Quicksie 98.3 on Wave Country



CASA of the Heartland is Beneficiary of Give270 Whiskey Wednesday



Quicksie 98.3 Sign Wars



CASA of the Heartland Holds First Annual Virtual Valentine's Auction



CASA of the Heartland Received Kentucky Colonels Good Works Program Grant



Hardin County Family Court Judge M. Brent Hall Featured on National CASA/GAL Association Website

HEAR FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS



When speaking about her CASA child, Vicki Schmidt shared this powerful statement:

“CASA provided Valerie with someone who would listen to her, someone who did not expect anything from her, someone who would help navigate her through the foster care system, and someone who would love her, regardless of the circumstances.”

-Vicki Schmidt, CASA Volunteer

“The CASA volunteer is a steady, single adult who is always there for them. It never changes. The CASA volunteer is always the same person...That could be like a rock in a middle of a rushing stream for a child to have one individual that they know they can trust and count on to be there.”

-Larry Hoh, CASA Volunteer



“The CASA volunteer is a steady, single adult who is always there for them. It never changes. The CASA volunteer is always the same person...That could be like a rock in a middle of a rushing stream for a child to have one individual that they know they can trust and count on to be there.”

-Toshie Murrell, CASA Volunteer

“CASA is one of those organizations that steps in and advocates for those who don't necessarily have a voice for themselves whether its from neglect, abuse, or dependency cases. It's certainly one of those organizations that is needed.”

-Jackie Kelley, CASA Volunteer



SUCCESS STORY: CASA IN ACTION

A precocious brother-sister duo were removed from their Natural Parents and immediately placed with loving foster parents, who only after a few weeks had the pair adjusting to their new environment. The children's CASA volunteer entered into their lives several months later. The CASA volunteer quickly



grew attached to the children and was eager to help them navigate the rest of their journey to permanency; the next 6 months were spent working through this process. The foster parents were not a concurrent home, meaning they weren't open to adopting the children. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services began looking for a new placement that would be a permanent placement for the two siblings. After 23 months with their first foster family, they were moved to their second foster home. The children still see their first foster parents from time to time. During this time, the CASA volunteer advocated on the children's behalf by communicating with



social workers, teachers, foster parents, and the court. As more time passed the court began shifting toward getting the children adopted. After 38 months in care, the children were adopted by their second foster parents. Despite the changes this duo encountered, their CASA volunteer was a consistent, loving adult who listened and cared about whatever

they had to say. They're now in a loving home where they know their parents love them and they feel safe. Given the circumstances, what more could one ask for!

2021 COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

Katie Anderson
Brittany Benton
Jordan Bible
Dan Brindle
Rachel Brindle
Amy Brown
Melissa Brown
Donna Burch
Alyssa Carter-Demary
Joseph Chang
Joan Cooke
Anna Dahl
Judy Davenport
Lynn Dummitt
Deloris Dunn
Louise Eaton
Lorna Ester
Jaime Fey
Peggy Fink
Brent Griswell
Chad Hart
Lawrence Hoh
Aundra Lett Jackson
Sherry Johnson
Jackie Kelley
Darlene Kersey
Carolyn Leonard
Robert Leonard

Angie Lilly
Paula Link
Susan Lippman
Lynette Mathis
Rebecca Miranda
Starla Mitchell
Gina Moeller
Angie Montes
Janet Munden
Toshie Murrell
Sarah Ratliff
Temira Ricks
Janet Robinson
Noshia Saunders
Vicki Schmidt
Marsha Senninger
Teresa Shannon
Sandra Sharp
Pam Shearer
Wanda Teegarden
Melissa Torres
Cindy Trent
Sandra Wallace
Jennifer Whitaker
Misty Wilmoth
Kevin Wooden



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF THE HEARTLAND

CASA OF THE HEARTLAND

580 Westport Rd, Suite D
P.O. Box 6065
Elizabethtown, KY 42701



270.982.2274



CASAHEARTLAND.ORG



/CASAOFTHEHEARTLAND



@CASAHEARTLAND



@CASAOFTHEHEARTLAND



CASASTAFF@CASAHEARTLAND.ORG