



2023 Annual Impact Report



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF CENTRAL TEXAS, INC.

Serving Caldwell, Comal,
Guadalupe & Hays Counties



Fiscal Year ending 6.30.23



CASA OF CENTRAL TEXAS, INC.

The table of Contents



3 Introduction to our 2023 Impact Report

4 A Letter from our Chief Executive Officer

5 A List of our Board & Advisory Board Members

6 Organization Chart of Staff Members

7&8 FY 22-23 Impact by the Numbers: Children

9&10 FY 22-23 Impact by the Numbers: Advocates

11 Spotlight on Long-time Serving Volunteers

12 Impactful Stories Featuring CASA Volunteers & Children

13 Fiscal Report for Year Ending 6.30.23

14&15 A List of Generous Donors through Year Ending 6.30.23

Our deepest gratitude to everyone who made this report covering CASA's work in the community impactful this year. Thanks to our exceptional staff and board, valiant volunteers, and generously spirited supporters.

* Acknowledgements →



About us

CASA of Central Texas was formed in 1985 by concerned community members who recognized that children in foster care would fare better and receive more help if they had an independent, consistent adult advocating for their needs. In FY23, 226 trained CASA volunteers advocated for 500 Central Texas children. That left 186 children without a CASA. With your help, we can serve more children.

CASA of Central Texas, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and is a member of the National and Texas CASA Associations. There are more than 900 CASA programs nationwide and 73 local programs in Texas.



CONTACT US

1308 E Common St, Ste 205,
New Braunfels, TX 78130
830-626-2272
info@casacentex.org

VISIT OUR UPDATED

WEBSITE

www.casacentex.org

FOLLOW US

@casacentex



Our values

VISION

We envision a world where every child thrives in a safe, stable, and loving home.

MISSION

CASA of Central Texas, Inc. provides high-quality, best-interest advocacy for children & youth in the child welfare system. We train & empower dedicated CASA volunteers to ensure children's needs are met & their voices lifted. We commit to strengthening the connections & well-being of children in foster care, one family at a time.

Celebrating 20 years as CASA's CEO

How You Can Help

Become a CASA volunteer or donate to support
CASA's life-changing advocacy for children.

✦ casacentex.org/volunteer/ ✦ give.classy.org/give2casa



With poise and firm resolution, Norma Castilla-Blackwell has served at the helm of CASA of Central Texas for an astonishing twenty years. Well over the average tenure of a nonprofit CEO, which is a mere six years, Norma has been a gift to CASACenTex blessing our organization with her endlessly innovative ideas and focused vision to reach the often overlooked and underserved population in our community. CASACenTex has flourished since Norma's appointment in 2003, due to her efforts to transform our small non-profit ensemble of five support staff and eighty volunteers into the full-fledged business entity we are known as today. Despite the stumbling blocks that have appeared in our path, like The Great Recession and COVID-19, as our fearless leader, Norma has met each challenge head-on and CASACenTex will proudly celebrate forty years of child advocacy next year.

Her wonderful record with CASACenTex reflects breaking ground on two operating facilities, which are often referred to as our permanent homes vital in our work to champion safe, loving, and permanent homes for children in foster care. After a successful capital campaign, the construction of our training and support center in San Marcos was completed during the precarious year of the pandemic and renovations to our New Braunfels office were completed recently. We look forward to sharing our upgraded space with you soon. A true milestone for CASACenTex, and for Norma at the helm of our organization, has also been celebrating several ten-year and even twenty-year anniversaries of remarkable staff members. During the past two decades, our staff has more than tripled in size, and notably in 2023, we hired three staff members to accommodate our growing efforts to connect with our four-county footprint and accept more child protection court cases.

To anyone who has supported CASACenTex with a kind word about our program, sponsorship or donation, and volunteer application or referral, your investment has allowed us to be a positive force for change in the child welfare system. Currently, we do not have the resources to locate, screen, train, and properly supervise volunteers for the 186 children and families navigating the foster care system without a CASA volunteer. Closing this gap is certainly possible through community partnership. Now that COVID-19 is retreating into the background, we are responding to more invitations. CASACenTex is emerging in this continual post-pandemic world, ready to establish new relationships and build upon existing relationships, with community-oriented organizations, foundations, corporations, and individual supporters. To advocate services, supportive connections, and permanency for every child overcoming abuse and neglect, we will charge forward in spreading the word about our work in our four-county footprint. We are aiming to expand our network of support and reach a wider margin of the Central Texas population, thus we ask that our supporters continue to invite us to networking events, and staff luncheons as well as like and share our page on social media. Every kind word makes a difference!

Sincerely, *Hollis Burkland*

President of the CASACenTex Board of Directors



With thanks

to our board

Our Board of Directors, and Advisory Board, are comprised of gifted, insightful, and warm-hearted members representing our four-county footprint. We are honored for their service as an extension of CASA of Central Texas enveloping our rapidly growing community. Our Board actively advances our mission to provide high-quality, best-interest advocacy for children and youth in the child welfare system. Their recurring financial commitment and fundraising provides permanence in our ability to recruit, train, and support advocates. They facilitate access to community partners who share a mutual passion to support children experiencing the complexities and tribulations associated with the foster care.



If you're interested in joining our board, visit casacentex.org/our-team/ for more information

Our Board of Directors



Hollis Burklund
President
Hays County



Dena Rodriguez
Treasurer
Comal County



Frank Pereira
Vice President
Hays County



Jennifer Martin-Rider
Secretary
Comal County



Becky Lake
2nd Vice President
Guadalupe County

Freddy Aird
Comal County

Jo Anne Germer
Caldwell County

John Hardy
Hays County

David Junkin
Hays County

James Rothfelder
Comal County

Our Advisory Board

Rachel Boyer-Meier
Comal County

Michael Hinds
Hays County

Beth Hittle
Comal County

Sara McCaffrey
Guadalupe County

Natalie Megerson
Hays County

Karla Riley
Comal County

Julie Rivas
Comal County

Meredith Sisoian
Comal County

Colette Wollenberg
Comal County

Our Team

Norma Castilla-Blackwell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kimberly Key

CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER

Tim Judkins

TEAM LEAD

Melanie Linder

TEAM LEAD

Lauren Townsend

TEAM LEAD

Kyle Benacquisto

CASEWORK
COORDINATOR

Jane Bowen

CASEWORK
SUPERVISOR

Shelley Denkeler

CASEWORK
SUPERVISOR

Susan Hankins

CASEWORK
SUPERVISOR

Lonnette LaBorde

CASEWORK
SUPERVISOR

April McNabney

CASEWORK
SUPERVISOR

Elizabeth Peña

CASEWORK
SUPERVISOR

Amanda Rehovsky

CASEWORK
SUPERVISOR

Brandi Raschke

TRAINING
MANAGER

Gretchen Yeager

COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER

Rob Edwards

CASEWORK SUPERVISOR
IT SYSTEMS SPECIALIST

Layla Coleman

DIRECTOR OF
ENGAGEMENT

Haley Brooks

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR

Michelle Cardiel

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR

Jade Dimitri

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
MANAGER

Reneé Lehmann

PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

Nicole Douglass

DIRECTOR OF
DEVELOPMENT

Danielle Feldman

FUND DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATE MANAGER

Kendall Socia

FUND DEVELOPMENT
EVENTS MANAGER

Jurnee Troublefield

DONOR RELATIONS
ASSOCIATE MANAGER

Melissa Schroeder

CONTROLLER

Kim Bault

ADMINISTRATIVE
COORDINATOR

Elizabeth Fowler

STAFF ACCOUNTANT

Tricia Schneider

EXECUTIVE
OPERATIONS OFFICER

Honorable Mention

Celebrating 20 years!

Although she recently retired as Chief Operating Officer, Tricia Schneider continues to support CASA of Central Texas as our Executive Operations Officer. She now consults and executes projects about strategy, planning and processes, and staff development. However, for nineteen years, Tricia was an unparalleled driving force in implementing fundraising initiatives and programs, cultivating and maintaining donor relationships, as well as spearheading the capital campaign project for our Training and Support Center in San Marcos. Beloved by our CASACenTex staff, Tricia is charismatic, thought-provoking, and a powerful visionary. Thank you, Tricia, for investing your heart and soul in CASA!



Serving the community



269

children's cases closed with the help of a CASA volunteer

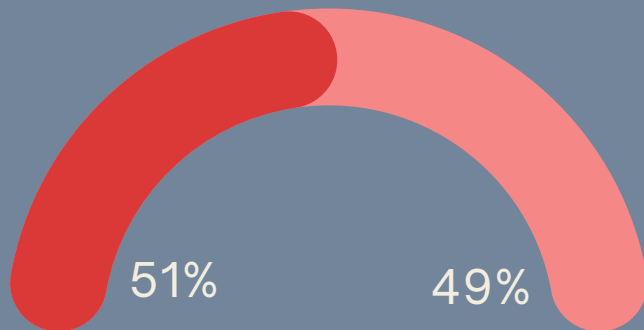
500

children had a CASA volunteer

186

children still needed a CASA volunteer

2022-23 BY THE NUMBERS



Female

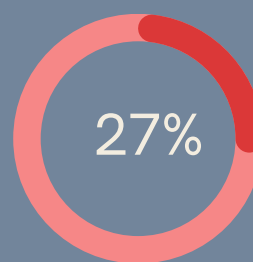
Male



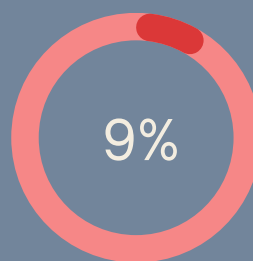
AGE OF CHILDREN SERVED



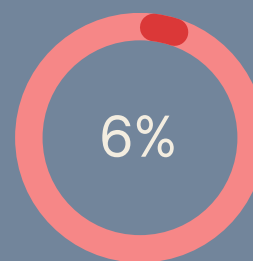
Hispanic



Caucasian



Bi-Racial / Multi-Racial



African American

RACE / ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN SERVED

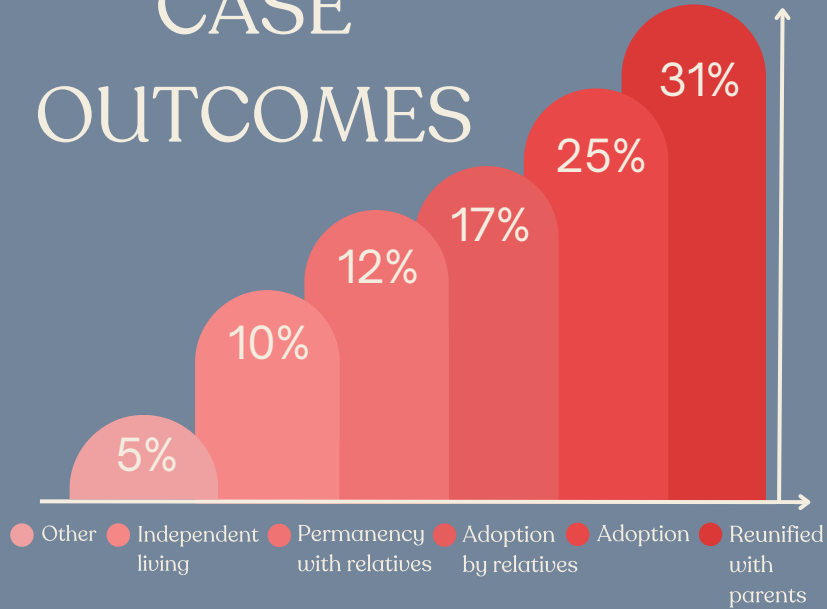
254

children received CFE Collaborative Family Engagement

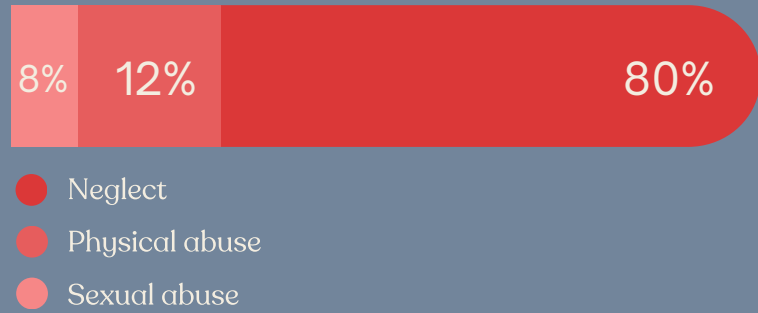
CFE is a team-based approach between local CASA programs and CPS, as well as SSCCs, to engage, find and work with family members and fictive kin in the creation and development of a lifetime network for young people in the foster care system. One of the goals of CFE is to help children achieve strong connectivity and permanency faster, preferably with relatives or other trusted loved ones. In collaboration with the Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS), local CASA programs and community partners, we are working to ensure that every child in foster care has the opportunity for lifelong connections. (Texas CASA, 2023)



CASE OUTCOMES



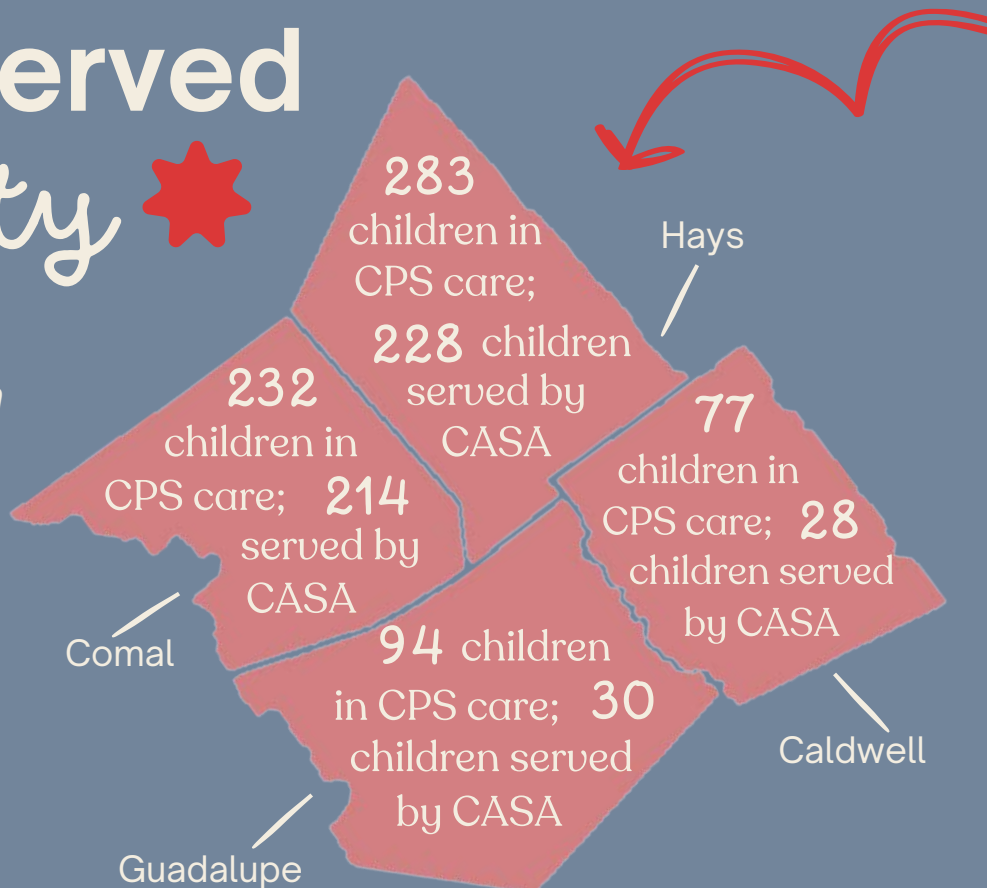
REMOVAL REASON



Children served by county

"I appreciate CASA providing this family with assistance. We've had a lot of changes in the caseworker, so it's nice to have continuity with at least one person involved on this case."

Judge Thomas Stuckey
Child Protection Court



The dedication of CASA volunteers!

43

new volunteers pledged to serve as advocates

73%

volunteer retention rate

226

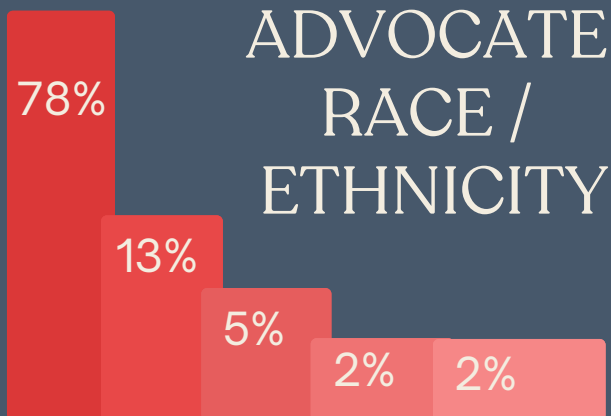
active volunteers across 4 counties

2022-23 BY THE NUMBERS

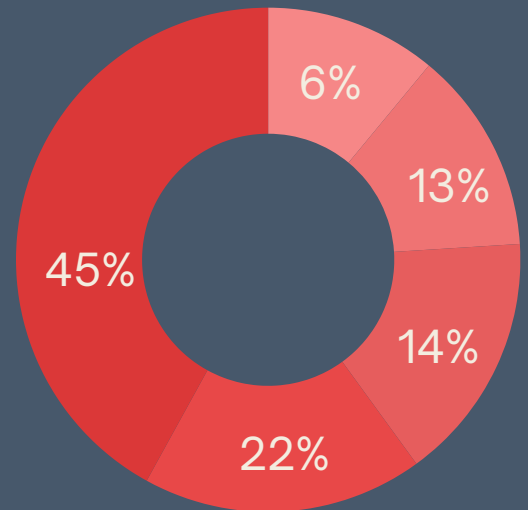
84%

16%

● Female
● Male



● Caucasian ● African American
● Hispanic ● Bi-Racial/Multi-Racial
● Other/Not Specified



● 21-29 ● 30-39 ● 40-49
● 50-59 ● 60+

ADVOCATE AGE



14,779

estimated number of volunteer hours.
Reported 7,390 volunteer hours. Estimated value of volunteer hours: \$469,972.

Based upon Independent Sector value of volunteer time at \$31.80 per hour.

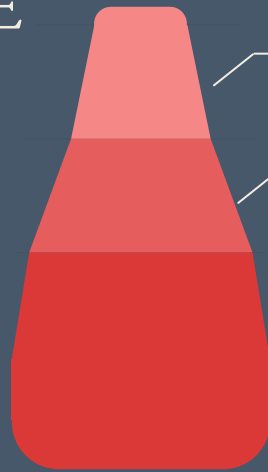
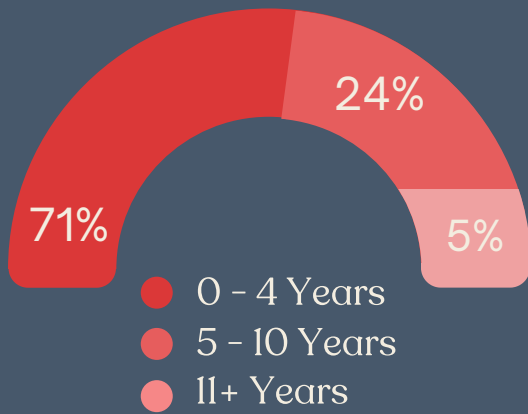
85,299

reported number of volunteer miles.
Estimated value of volunteer miles: \$55,871.

Based upon IRS standard mileage rate of 65.5 per mile.



ADVOCATE TENURE



- Medical Advocacy
- Educational Advocacy
- Placement Advocacy



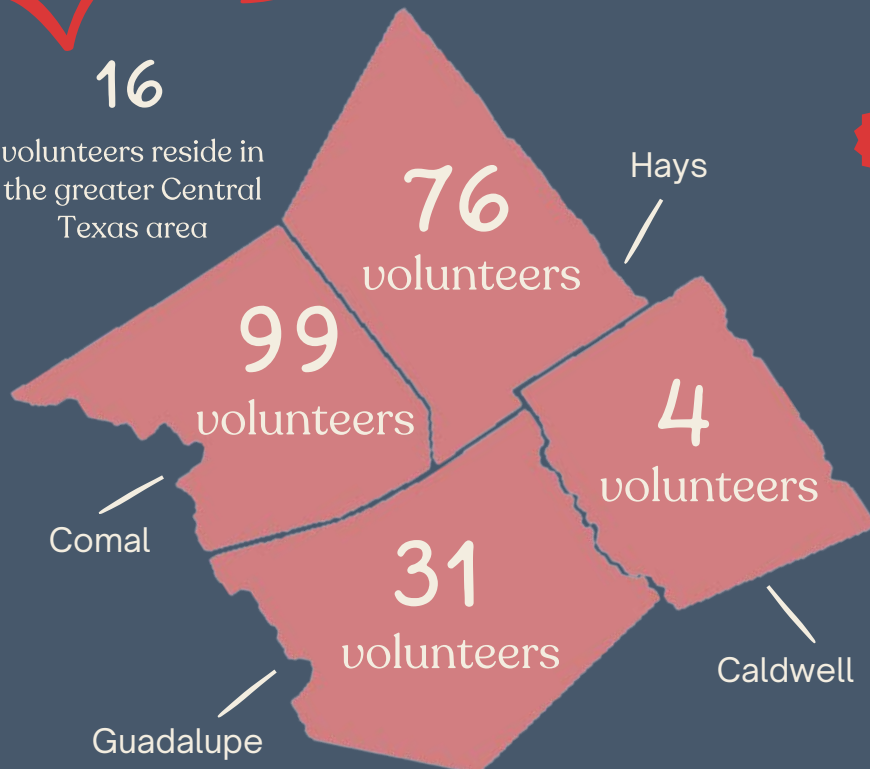
ADVOCATE CONTACT

ADVOCACY

- CPS/SSCC
- Volunteer & CASA Staff
- Contact with Child
- Parent
- Placement
- Other Case Contacts

16

volunteers reside in the greater Central Texas area



Advocates by county

"CASA plays a vital role for children who have been removed from their family by DFPS for their protection. CASA is an essential representative for the needs and best interest of children caught in an overloaded system. CASA plays a critical part in ensuring children are not overlooked and are instead getting the services they deserve."

CASACenTex volunteer

Volunteer Spotlight



16 - 20 Years

Without our incredibly selfless and tirelessly devoted CASA volunteers, serving the community would not be possible.

Gloria Harlin & Rose Tempfer

11 - 15 Years

Bruce Drobeck, Mary Eisenberg, Angie Martinez, Sara McCaffrey, Diane Purdy, Tom Purdy, Melinda Rapp, Bob Williams, Colette Wollenberg



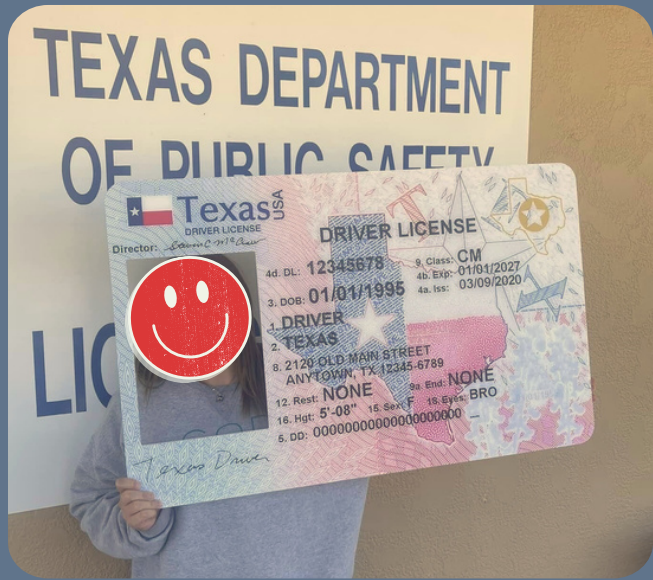
6 - 10 Years

Adrian Baker, Sophia Barnard, Steve Bazan, Melissa Bohrer, Eboni Britton, Patricia Cahill, Bill Charest, Mary Pat Coco, Melanie Donelson, Sandy Durke, Stephanie Eagle, Patti Ebrom, Mike Gentz, Paul Givens, Jennifer Graf-Sims, Robbie Hawkins, Denise Hinds, Beth Hittle, Janice Hooper, Laurel Jensen, Kathryn Jones, Sharon Krebs, John Manthey, Sharon Miller, Betty Niven, Rebecca Oekerman, Larry Patterson, Kristi Perkins, Jane Pollock, Carl Rasmussen, Laura Rice, Pamela Sadler, Donald Seymour, Nancy Seymour, Kathleen Schindler, Emma Thrift, Toni Urban, Kenneth Ward, Lynn Watson

5 Years



Cheryl Bither, Dana Cobb, Holly Davis, Glenda Detling, John Donnally, Kimberly Francis, Glenn Groves, Loretta Hawkins, Carol Magloff, Kate Marx, Ken Marx, Kelley Shrock, Cynthia Wallace, Diane Wallis, Christine Zunker



Impactful Stories

ANNA

Recently, one of our CASA volunteers relayed the exciting news her former CASA child (now a teen) shared with her. Their bond remains intact today, and they continue to celebrate special milestones together, like Anna's new driver's license! For many years, her CASA volunteer was the only consistent individual in Anna's life as she endured multiple placement and school changes during her time in foster care. Anna's advocate was there for her when she experienced a breakdown in what appeared to be a very promising adoption. Her advocate remained a fixture by her side, until the fateful day when Anna was adopted into her forever family. It is truly heartening when we occasionally hear similar stories. To our donors, who made this sweet anecdote possible, we thank you for investing in Court Appointed Special Advocates for children to share their life wins with.

MARIA, DANNY, ALBERT & EDWARD

Maria, Danny, Albert, and Edward entered foster care due to neglectful supervision. When the Department of Family & Protective Services stepped in, instantaneously, both parents followed their safety plans to reunify with the children. The CASA volunteers appointed to this child protection court case worked closely with the parents as well as all of the other parties involved. The volunteers assisted the father with gathering the necessary paperwork needed for Danny's evaluation for the gifted and talented program at his school. The volunteers were also critical in updating the court of the children's therapeutic progress. They encouraged the children's mother to build a healthy support system and assisted her in renewing her driver's license. Together, with their CASA supervisor, the volunteers provided a Thanksgiving meal to the mother for her holiday visit with the children. They regularly attended the supervised visits between the children and their parents, observing the parent's interactions and sharing their findings with the child protection court judge. After complying with the judge's orders, the parents were able to reunify with their children and the case closed happily.

"The best volunteer organization I have ever been a part of! I have been a volunteer for 10.5 years and I will never leave. CASAs are vital in the foster care system and my wish is that every kid in the system has a CASA."

Commented by a long-time CASA volunteer and advisory board member

"I was a volunteer with CASA for over 6 years. I had been a volunteer with numerous organizations over a 50 year period. Being a CASA volunteer was the most rewarding, challenging, most fulfilling, and best all around experience during those many years."

Commented by a CASA volunteer

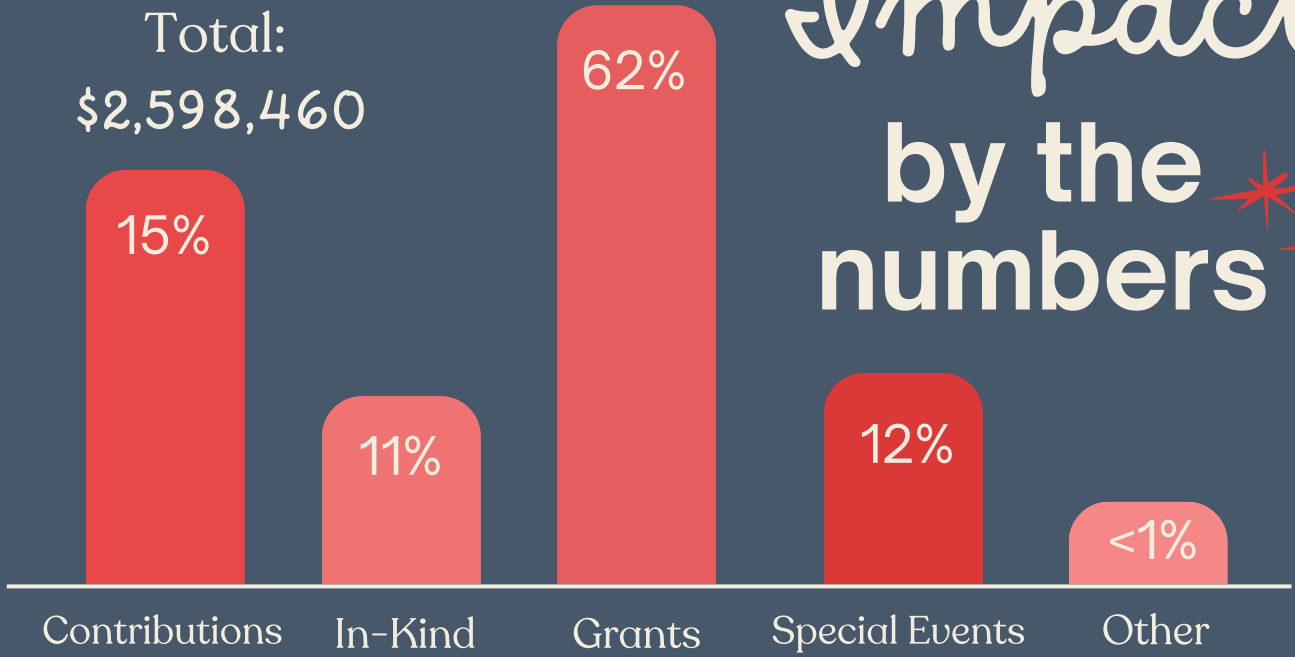
RONIKA

"Thank you for letting me be even a tiny part of your life. You have done everything with all the odds against you and you deserve everything you want out of life." A truly touching message from her former advocate now friend, Eloise. Before eventually aging out at the age of 21, Ronika lived in the foster care system for 14 years. Much of that time consisted of shifting between several placements and school systems. Though the odds were stacked against her, Ronika has risen above the obstacles placed in her path and serves as a guiding light to all.

A little-known fact is that just 3-4% of former foster youth obtain a four-year college degree. The National Foster Youth Institute credits this unfortunate outcome due to a lack of support, mentorship, and guidance. Every time a foster youth switches school districts, which is an often occurrence for children in long-term State Care, there's a chance they might lose their support system. However, when foster youth have a Court Appointed Special Advocate, as Ronika did, they are equipped with a consistent and caring individual dedicated to championing their educational needs and identifying helpful resources to achieve academic success. With the assistance of her support network, Ronika received her high school diploma and then went on to accept her associate's degree and eventually her bachelor's degree from Texas State University. As a force to be reckoned with, Ronika recently graduated with her master's degree in criminology and criminal justice from UTSA. We're incredibly proud that she has partnered with Texas CASA to share her passion for youth transitioning out of foster care and ultimately improving the foster care system across the state. Way to go Ronika!

Revenue & Support

Total:
\$2,598,460



Impact by the numbers

Fiscal Report

Year ending 6.30.23

\$3,530,779

Net Assets

\$34,216

Current Liabilities

\$65,588

Permanently
Restricted/Endowment

(held separately with the
New Braunfels Community Foundation)

\$3,685,990

Total Liabilities
& Net Assets

Expenses Total:

\$2,474,991





Many thanks to our 2022 - 2023 Donors

Year ending 6.30.23

Our donors made it possible to advocate for:

2 - 4 Children for a Year

4LIFE Wealth Advisors
Ann Bartholomew
Cemex
Chandelier at Gruene
Cheyenne Construction Group
Comal Cops for Kids Foundation, Inc.
Corridor Title
Dutch Bros Coffee
First Lockhart National Bank
Belinda & Ron Frisk
Grandmas Stocking Guild
Hill Country Rally for Kids
Karen John
Jennifer Martin-Rider
Kate & Ken Marx
Lindsey Myer Pray
Kristi Perkins
Andrea Seal
Security State Bank & Trust
Sheriff's Forfeiture Proceeds Fund
Texas Bar Foundation
Jennifer & David Terry
Sonya Trevino McDonald
Tomblin Family Foundation
TXB
Walmart Stores, Inc.
Myra & Tim Zunker

50+ Children

Kronkosky Charitable Foundation

25 - 49 Children for a Year

McKenna Foundation
Najim Family Foundation

13 - 24 Children for a Year

Bill & Autrey Ham Charitable Foundation
Burdine Johnson Foundation
Jenifer Strait Memorial Foundation
San Antonio Area Foundation
United Way of Comal County
Valero Energy Foundation

5 - 12 Children for a Year

Anderson Charitable Foundation
Downtown Rotary Club of New Braunfels
GVTC Foundation, Inc.
Harry L. Willett Foundation
In-N-Out Burger Foundation
Lola Wright Foundation
Kissing Tree Golf Club
Stacie & Nelson Poorman
San Marcos Lions Club
Melissa & Jason Schroeder
St. Luke's Lutheran Health Ministries
Topfer Family Foundation
Water 2 Wine New Braunfels

“CASA bridges the gaps in the foster care system by providing valuable information for judges and forging supportive relationships with children. Most people are going about their daily lives, while children in foster care are experiencing consistent upheaval and uncertainty for their future. CASA volunteers assist, uplift, and care for these children.”

CASACenTex donor

1 - 2 Children for a Year

Alliance Building Services
Dr. and Mrs. Gary S. Barr
Bear Creek Ranch of Comal County
Cheryl Bither
Bluebonnet Electric Corp
Broadway Bank - New Braunfels
Jennifer & Jared Broderick
Buda United Methodist Church
Mary & Frederick Budworth
Carolyn & Hollis Burklund
Canyon Lake Knights of Columbus
Canyon Lake Noon Lions
Canyon Lake Rotary Foundation
Capital Farm Credit
Carson Family Foundation
CBE Group, Inc.
Community Bible Church Bulverde
Tricia Criswell
Mike Cummins
Davidek Law Firm
Carola Davis
Diane Davis
Elsa DiMelo
Jade & Derek Dimitri
Sue & Earl Dittman
Nicholas Doffing
EOG Resources, Inc.
FastSigns
William Feick
First Christian Church
First Presbyterian Church
Lydia Foster
Lisa & Michael Fredrickson
Frost Bank - San Marcos
Garden Ridge Women's Club
Jo Anne Germer
Tammy & Jason Gorman
Grande Community Chest
Greater Texas Federal Credit Union
Growin' out Loud Darlin'
Guadalupe County United Way
Guadalupe Family Health PA
Kim & Whit Hanks
Heldenfels Enterprises
Shane Hines
Beth & Karl Hittle
Hochheim Prairie Branch 204
Lauren Kate Holt
Ingram Family Foundation
J&R Gymnastics
Margaret & Austin Jeffers
Laurel & Kai Jensen
J. Joseph
Angel Jones
Juniper Ventures of Texas LLC
Jill Kean
Keith Kebodeaux
Kebodeaux, Hargroder
& Associates LLP
Kyle United Methodist Church
Becky & Gene Lake
Anthony Laughlin
Cari & Jason Leach
Renee' & Reagan Lehmann
M&S Engineering

Barbara & John Manthey
Rachel Boyer Meier & Seth Meier
Roger Molinet
Moody National Bank
New Braunfels
Community Foundation
Debby & Steve Oatman
Dermot O'Driscoll
Pyper Olson
Greta & Edward Omohundro
Daniel Ortega
Maury Osborn
Sharon & Frank Pereira
Constable David Peterson
Robin & David Pfeifer
Prosperity Bank
Diane & Tom Purdy
Reagan Burrus
Julie & Daniel Rivas
Mayra Rivera
Carol & Jack Robison
Dena Rodriguez
James Rothfelder
Susie Russell
San Marcos Bluebonnet
Lions Club
Nancy & Louis Scantland
Kristi & Chris Schaeper
David Schmidt
Kristen Schramme
Allie Sisoian
SJRC Texas Belong
South Central Texas
Community Foundation
Stratajam LLC
Structura General Contractors
Eileen & Robert Sudela
Ten 31 Texas
Texas Regional Bank
Therapy 2000
Betty & Bill Thomas
Touchstone Builds
Tuttle Family

United Way of Hays
& Caldwell Counties
Unlock the PPO
USAA
Angie Watson
Lisa Weber

Gloria Whelan
Robert Williams
Stephanie & Jason Williams
Tamara Winter
Colette & Skip Wrape

1 - 2 Children for 3 - 6 Months

Heidi Aleman
Robert Almonte
AmazonSmile.org
Baird Foundation
Brooke Barker
Robert Best
James Blakey
Allen Borchelt
William Braun
Jeff Burns
Eleanor Butt Crook
Dr.'s Catherine &
Corey Carothers
Brad Chelton
Chevron
Peter Cravotta
Dell Corp
Robert Duran
Sandra Durke
Pat & Jerry Elbel
Michael Field
Antonio Gage
Mallory Grau
Ellen & Michael
Grady Grimm
Paula & Chuck Harms
Hays County Child
Protective Board
H-E-B
Helicopters for Heroes
Hermann Sons-Bulverde
Vicki & Albert Highfield
Horton Draperies of
Texas, Inc.

Laura Infante
Jeneen Irwin
Debbie Jenkins
Robert Kirkland
Nina Klippen & Gary Lewis
Kathy Lockhart
Mensor Cares, Inc.
Stephanie Muth
Chloe & John Navarrette
New Braunfels
Presbyterian Church
Paloma Montessori School
Rebecca & James Parman
P.E.C. United Charities, Inc.
Matthew Putzi
Brandi & Nate Raschke
David Rastellini
Tim Resler
SABR Ventures, LLC
Tricia & Mike Schneider
Nick Sisoian
Jeanie Slavic
Star Tex Real Estate
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Sullivan Properties
Tri City Distributors
Twice Blessed
Consignment Shop
Paula Vacek
Donna & Kevin Walker
Marla & James Wells
Julie & Glen West
Claudia & Paul Mark Woods

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- ★ We sincerely appreciate everyone who sponsored, purchased tickets or auction items, and donated in-kind gifts to support our fundraising events this past year. With much flair, the Tailgate with Team CASA dinner and auction event went off without a hitch and our donors showed incredible sportsmanship through the paddle raise. Also to our utter delight, the 6th annual Corridor Title - CASA Classic sold out in record time. This event continues to level up year after year. Considering the wonderfully generous golfing community of Central Texas, that's par for the course.
- ★ A special acknowledgment of all of our end-of-year giving supporters, who indubitably embraced the charitable season. Our fundraising outcome was over a staggering \$100,000, a remarkable milestone for CASACenTex. Though the words can't convey our gratitude enough, we offer our biggest, heartfelt thank you.



Every child
deserves to
feel cared
for & safe



CASA OF CENTRAL TEXAS, INC.

We encourage everyone to contact our office in the event that they observed a misspelled or missing name. Please accept our apologies in advance.

 830.626.2272

 info@casacentex.org

 casacentex.org

Thank you

to all CASA donors,
volunteers & supporters!

