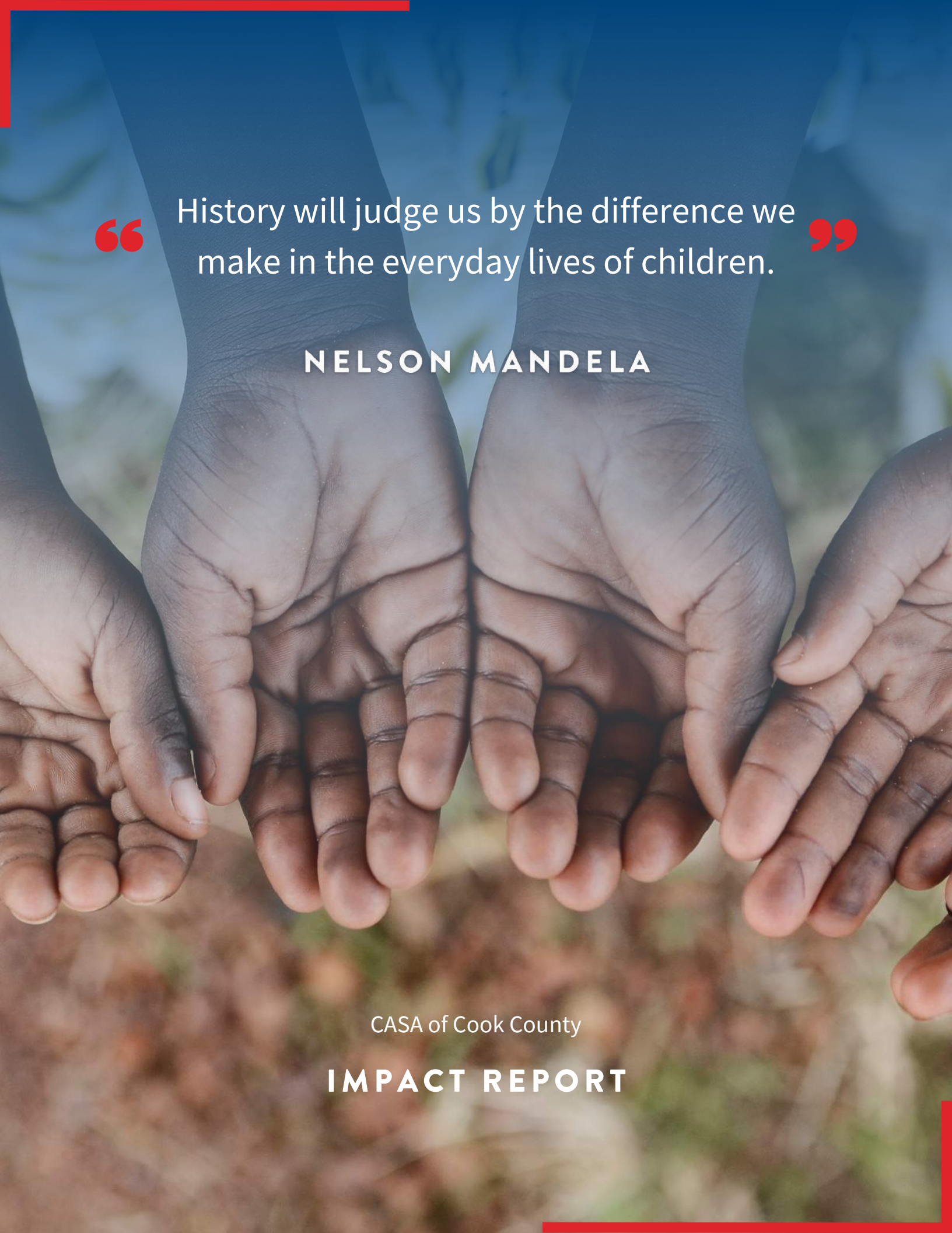




2021 IMPACT REPORT

CASA of Cook County

WWW.CASACOOKCOUNTY.ORG

A background image showing several hands of different skin tones reaching up and holding each other in a supportive grip. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. Red quotation marks are placed on either side of the quote.

“History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.”

NELSON MANDELA

CASA of Cook County

IMPACT REPORT

LEVELING THE CHILD ADVOCACY FIELD

President Biden signed Executive Order 13985, “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.” This Executive Order defined the term “equity” as the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including those who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, Indigenous and Native American, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality. **Historically, the child welfare system has not served all people equitably, and far too often, cases of poverty have been treated as neglect and child maltreatment.**

Being committed to equity means that we must be willing to have difficult conversations. **We must also be willing to examine whether and how existing policies and practices have had disparate, and sometimes harmful, impacts on historically underserved and marginalized people.** This work requires honesty, openness, and a willingness to make changes. CASA of Cook County's Board of Directors prioritized this call to action by supporting legislative efforts to address inequitable funding for CASA of Cook County. For the first time in our 36-year history, Cook County CASA was awarded 1 million dollars through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus played a pivotal role in heralding this historic investment from the state which will ultimately have a profound impact on our most vulnerable children in Cook County.

Addressing equity through CASA advocacy for foster children in Cook County was the driving force of our work this year. **Currently, a child in foster care in Cook County is 90% likely to not have a steady, dedicated CASA volunteer.** Families of color are disproportionately in the child welfare system and are more likely to experience negative outcomes compared to white families. Children of color are more likely to experience multiple placements, less likely to be reunited with their birth families, more likely to experience group care, less likely to establish a permanent placement and more likely to experience poor social, behavioral, and educational outcomes. CASA advocacy has been proven to mitigate these obstacles. The historical investment for CASA advocacy in Cook County will begin to level child advocacy for black and brown foster children.

We are deeply grateful to every individual, foundation, corporation, and government agency whose generosity has helped us reach new heights over the past year. Together, we can create better outcomes for children and families.

We believe that our vision of actualizing child advocacy equity for children in Cook County will become a reality.



BONITA CARR, Ed.D.

Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonita Carr".

CASA OF COOK COUNTY



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WELCOME TO

CASA OF COOK COUNTY

2021 Impact Report



*Imagine what it feels
like to be a child in
foster care.*

*They are waiting for a
CASA volunteer to help
them find a safe,
permanent home.*



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Cook County is to advance foster care child advocacy for children in Cook County by ensuring that their needs are met and rights are protected; by transitioning out of foster care into permanent, safe, and loving homes as quickly as possible; and that youth aging out of foster care have the resources and support they need to live independently.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION STATEMENT

At CASA of Cook County, we acknowledge that we work around and within a child welfare system steeped in structural racism. Black children, the only racial or ethnic group that is over-represented in Cook County foster care, make up only 25% of the Cook County population but more than 70% of the children in foster care. Once in foster care, Black children spend more time in the system and are less likely than children of other races to return to their parents or be adopted. This is a direct result of structural racism in every aspect of our society, which puts Black families at disproportionate risk of trauma, poverty, homelessness, and every form of family instability, at the same time that Black families are over-policed and over-monitored by social service systems.

HISTORY

CASA of Cook County was established in 1986, incorporated as an independent nonprofit agency in 2001, and is a member of the National CASA/GAL Association that is recognized and supported by the US Department of Justice and the Violence Against Women Act of Congress. CASA of Cook County is the largest of the 31 CASA programs in Illinois, the state which is last in the nation for achieving timely permanency, and has served more than 12,000 children in its 36-year history. CASA of Cook County is the only program of its kind in the county and has a unique position within the Cook County Juvenile Court, allowing the organization access to a court system that is traditionally closed to outside parties due to the confidential nature of the proceedings. Because of this relationship, CASA serves children and youth who are often unreachable by other organizations.

BOARD



LANA VUKOVLJAK

President of the Board
Council for Residential Specialists

SUSAN BRYANT

Dialog Tech

MICHAEL CAPUZZI

Allstate

KAREN FITZNER

FH Consultants

KATHERINE FLETCHER MORGAN

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &
Flom LLP & Affiliates

CHRISTINA OCHS

Corporation of Interest Rate
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ANDREW WEIL

DLA Piper

STAFF

BONITA CARR, E.d.D.

Chief Executive Officer

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Director of Finance

RAYMOND WILSON

Sr. Director of Permanency
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PAM SEATON

Court Intake Specialist/
Data Manager



ADVOCATE SUPERVISORS

FAUZIA MOHAMMAD

*Cultural & Diversity Training Manager
Advocate Supervisor*

SHUNICA ROBINSON

Advocate Supervisor

DARRYL CALHOUN

Advocate Supervisor

PATRICIA JACKSON

Advocate Supervisor

EVA GALLEGOS

Advocate Supervisor

ELIZABETH DOBRZYNSKI

Advocate Supervisor

ROLANDA CLARK

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Advocate Supervisor

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SARAH GROFF

Peer Coordinator

ROSE CICERO

Peer Coordinator

ERIC SOUL

Peer Coordinator

TOBIA THURMAN

Peer Coordinator

TERI ANDRESEN

Peer Coordinator



IMPACT REPORT

ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

The relationship fostered between the Juvenile Court and CASA allows the organization to serve foster children and youth who are often unreachable by other organizations and is highly respected for the positive outcomes associated with assigning a CASA volunteer to a child in care. Due to the unique access point that CASA of Cook County has, CASA is appointed to high priority cases that the Judge, Public Guardian, and/or State's Attorney feel need special one-to-one case management and child's best interest advocacy.



Our Advocacy Programs

EARLY CHILDHOOD COURT TEAM

CASA of Cook County is part of the Early Childhood Court Team (E.C.C.T. or Safe Babies Court), an innovative collaboration to achieve better outcomes for the most vulnerable infants zero to three-years-old served by child welfare case management and treatment teams, with a goal to reduce the amount of time young children spend in foster care and decrease the recurrence of maltreatment. Safe Babies Court places special emphasis on infant mental health, trauma recognition through Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and increasing community resources and involvement to support families. A CASA volunteer serving on the E.C.C.T. is a key partner with DCFS staff, foster parents and/or birth families, mental health providers, and community partners to “wrap around” a child and family at risk.



Our Advocacy Programs

MEDICALLY AT-RISK KIDS (M.A.R.K.)

CASA of Cook County is assigned to medically fragile children who are identified by local hospitals as victims of abuse and neglect. Through the Medically At-Risk Kids (M.A.R.K.) Program in partnership with local hospitals, CASA volunteers monitor the cases to ensure that they receive the appropriate medical care and to minimize the potential for re-abuse. CASA volunteers also work with youth that are later determined to have cognitive delays and/or medical trauma.





Our Advocacy Programs

CREATING INDEPENDENT TRANSITIONS FOR YOUTH (C.I.T.Y.)

Youth who are still in child protective custody by age 16 are particularly vulnerable; they are likely to leave the system without returning to their home of origin or being adopted. Without a safety net, the stark reality for youth aging out of foster care is that within two years they are at high risk to be unemployed, homeless, and/or incarcerated. CASA's C.I.T.Y. Program addresses these challenges by assigning a specially trained CASA volunteer to older youth with a focus on empowering the youth with tools for successful independence, including education, job training, financial planning, housing, and health care.



Our Advocacy Programs

LARGE SIBLING GROUPS

CASA of Cook County is court ordered to be assigned to all sibling groups of three or more, with seven siblings as the average family size assigned. These large sibling groups are assigned to ensure that siblings who are separated with different housing placements are able to be reconnected with their siblings via CASA for visitations, support, therapy, and as an additional resource to the family and foster parent.



CASA of Cook County



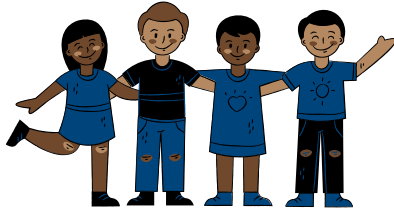
IMPACT REPORT

IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS

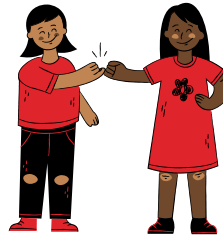
PROGRAMMATIC DATA

Data for calendar
year 2021



642

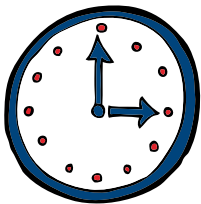
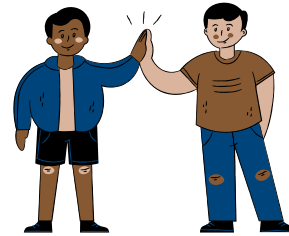
Children Served



133

New Volunteers
Sworn in

384
Volunteers



46,080

Volunteer Hours



78

Children Achieving
Permanency



7,704 Child Visits

Virtual & In-Person



1,210

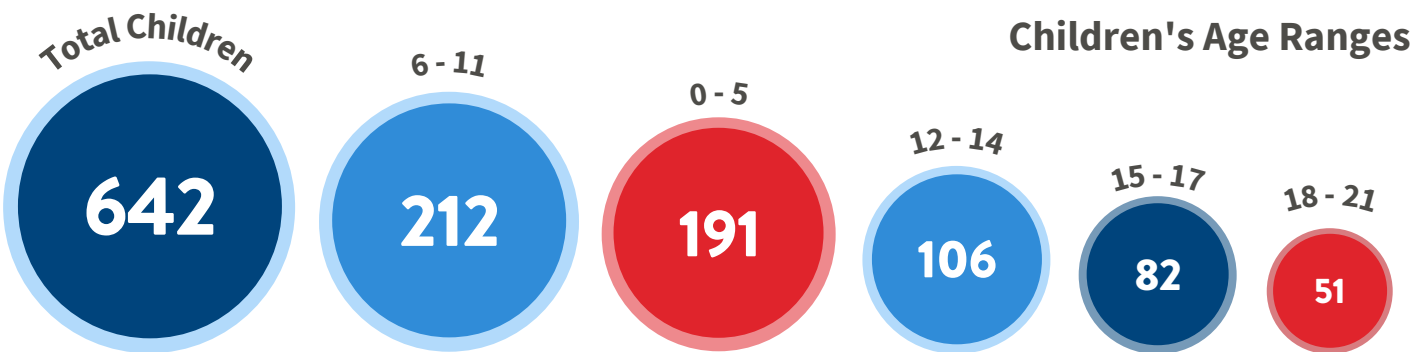
Court Reports
Written



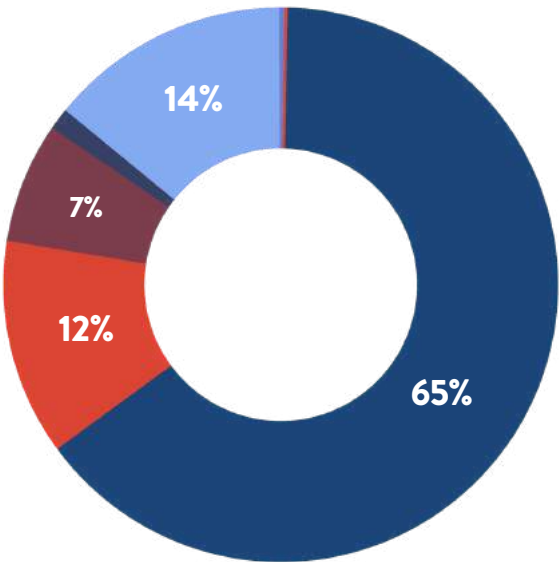
1,037

Court Hearings

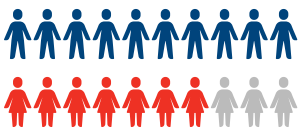
YOUTH SERVICE DATA



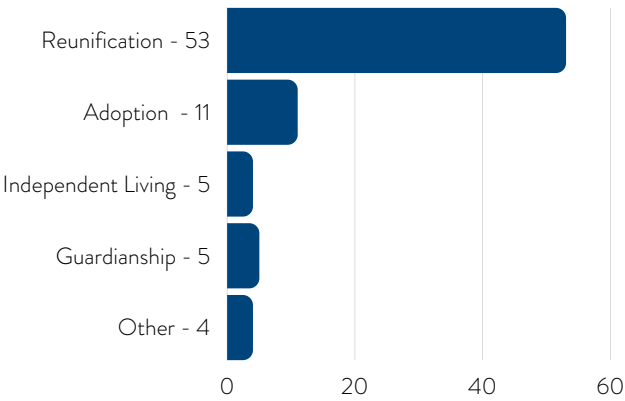
Children's Race or Ethnicity



Children's Gender

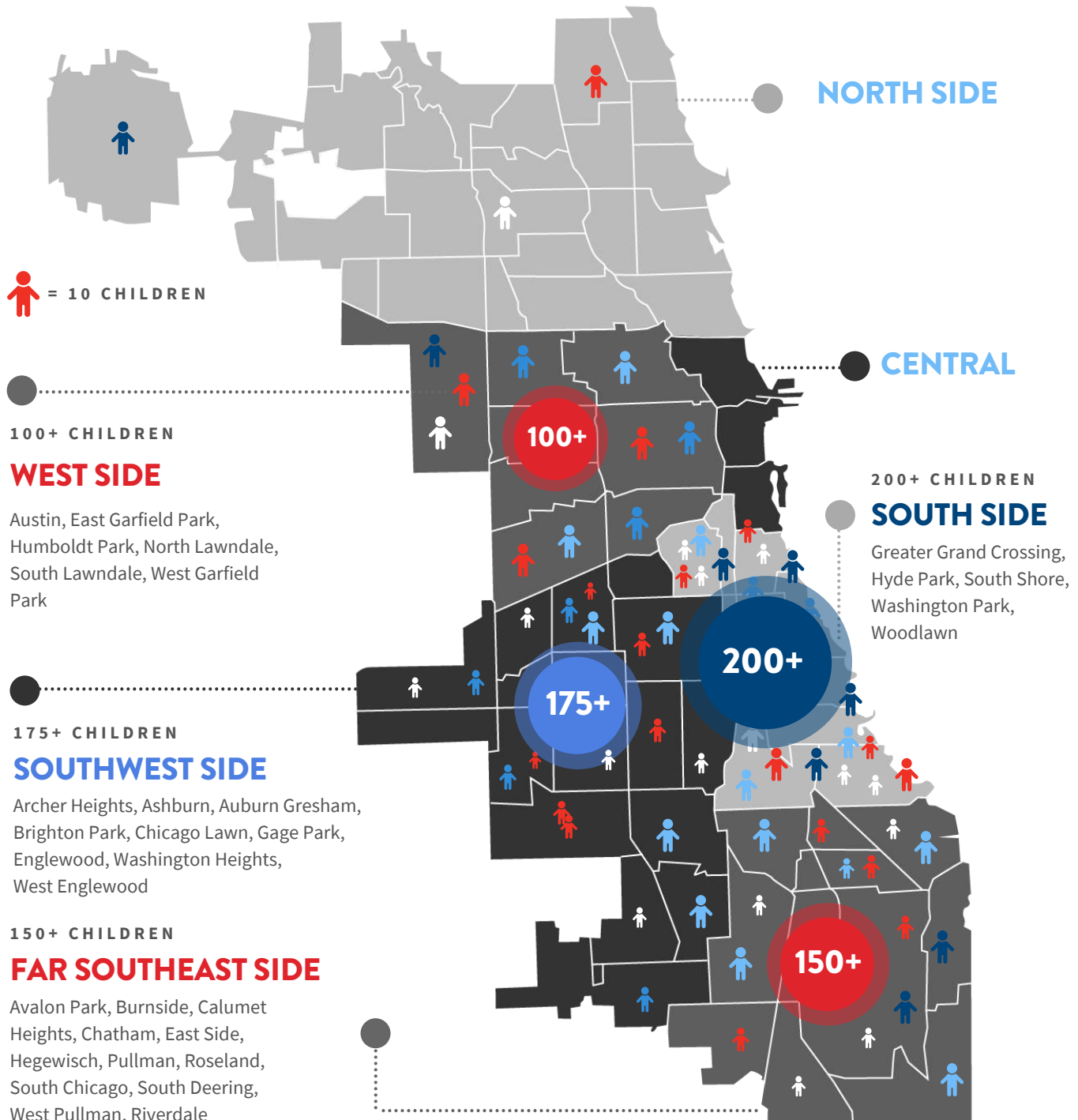


Permanency Outcomes



IMPACT MAP

Children served by CASA of Cook County are primarily from communities on Chicago's South and West sides who have experienced historical racial inequities resulting in over-representation in the child welfare system. This map shows the majority of where cases hail from; however, CASA also represents children from 130 municipalities in Cook County.



CASA of Cook County



IMPACT REPORT

VOLUNTEERS

2021 CASA OF COOK COUNTY VOLUNTEERS



*CASA volunteers are ordinary citizens
with an extraordinary passion to help
children find safety and permanency.*

Christina Abbott	Camilla Blackburn	Kathy Chaney	Candace Dalton
Hana Adas	Hannah Bliss	Kelly Chicoine	Paula Darling
Francis Agyei	Laura Bodien	Doris Childs	Annie Darmofal
Hannah Alarcon	Cecily Boley	Caitlin Chismark	Mark Dato
Jack Alexander	Andrea Bonevelle	Connie Chung	Jessica De la Rosa
Teresa Andresen	Corito Bopp	Rose Cicero	Ivana Del Real
Dionna Arimes	Sara Bosaw	Jim Clark	Brigette Demke
Ali Armacost	Aleksandra Bosnjak	Barbara Clevenger	Catherina Deunamuno
Alexis Armfield	Kevin Boyle	Joel Cohen	James Devine
Amy Auletto	Jacqueline Brinkman	Jawea Cole	Ibrahima Diallo
Kirby Aull	Pamela Britton	Rachael Coleman	Maria DiMeglio
Claudia Badillo	Tiffany Brown	Lindsay Collins	Jennifer Dixon
Sonia Bajaj	Abigail Buchheit	Lara Compton	Kate Dole
Steven Balla	Victoria Bunnell	Kathleen Cook	Clara Douglass
Binita Barai	Suzanne Burns Jacob	Amanda Cooper	Natasha Dunn
Mary Batistich	Suzana Cafi	Michael Copenhaver	Sophia Eigo
Renaud Beaudoin	Karen Calloway	Andrea Coulis	Michelle Engleman
Carlee Belt	Michelle Cardozo	Sarah Coury	Hannah Enstrom
Andrew Bennett	Kirsten Carlo	Leslie Cox	Anyia Evans
April Bernard	Julie Carnegie	Molly Coyle	Grace Evans
Joseph Bernstein	Flora Carranza	Airick Crabill	Krystle Everett
Kelsey Berryman	Gia Cassano	Connor Craig	Amy Ferguson
Alison Bettonville	Bianca Castillo	Avis Crasko	Katherine Ferrini
Mandy Bilbrey	Cody Castle	Ron Crowley-Koch	Michelle Filippone
Phyllis Birks	Sarah Caverly	Mary Cummings	Danielle Flagg
Samantha Black	Ivette Cebrero	Melissa Curry	Grace Flickinger

2021 CASA OF COOK COUNTY VOLUNTEERS



Timothy Flood	Phoebe Hodina	Lauren Korb	Jacquelin Mastache
Brigid Flynn	James Holtzman	Mackenzie Krage	Nadja Marie Mataya
Benaye Foster	Janet Hooten	Linnea Kramer	Angeline Mather
Kenneth Francoeur	Abigail Horan	Amy Krueger	Jillian McCann
Morgan Freeck	Marian Houston	Nicole Kubik	Patricia McCann
Jane Furest	Amber Hummel	Stephanie Labedz	Martin McCarthy
Olivia Gahan	Aisha Humphries	Emma LaBounty	Lauren McDermott
Jessica Gao	Andi Hyde	Haydn Lambert	Moira McGovern
Summer George	Allyson Jacobs	Sara LaPorte	Cynthia Medina
Danielle Gerbie	Jeremiah Jaimes	Eliza Laramée	Cortney Melton
Colleen Gettings	Rachel Javellana	Victoria Largin	Wendy Mendez
Linda Gies	April Jewell	Alexandria Laws	Kelley Micklus
Sue Gillan	Abby Johnson	Brianne Leach	Kate Migon
Selina Dawn Gobenciong	Diane Johnson	Daphne Lecesne	Rhonda Miller
Justin Gomez	Michaela Johnston	Samantha Lent	Ruth Mills
Janina Gonçalves	Scarlette Jones	Victoria Lewensky	Krista Monnier
Shelby Goodman	Ashley Justice	Tara Liceaga	Dana Moore
Abigail Goyak	Cloey Kantzioris	Kimberly Lieberman	Julia Moore
Heidi Graham	Megan Kaplan	Bridget Lockie	Nancy Morgan-Broderick
Eva Green	Amy Karony	Korynna Lopez	Brian Morgan
Susan Griffin	Katherine Karshner	Gina Loverde Prokop	Hilary Morgenstern
Catherine Grimsted	Ashley Kavain	Michelle Lowe	Ben Morton
Sarah Groff	Jacqueline Keer	Emily Lucas	Maryam Muhammad
Sarah Grubbe	Crystle Kelly	Maria Madden	Tanya Murphy
Jill Halpern	Katie Keuler	Heather Mahr	Katie Nobbe
Laura Haning	Amanda Key	Lousia Mandarino	Zuleima Ocampo
Danielle Hartung	Alison Khachaturian	Kristin Manley	Maria Ochs
Madison Haynes	Afia Khan	Mary Ann Manley	Stuart Oken
Leslie Herrera	Susan Kiefer	Jaclyn Mann	Kathleen Oliver
Tracy Hilbert	Andrea Kindorf	Melanie Mapes	Jeffery Orloff
	Abbie Klein	Kathleen Maranto	Denise Ortiz

2021 CASA OF COOK COUNTY VOLUNTEERS



Robyn Palmersheim	Jon Repetny	Stephanie Sheridan	Susan Tobin
Sheilah Pappas	Thea Rice	Christina Shin	Joseph Tollefson
Alicia Parker	Charlene Rivkin	Christina Siems	Elizabeth Toupin
Claire Parker	John Robertson	Samantha Siros	Bernadine Trimberger
Diane Pascal	Brian Robinson	Mariam Sissoko	Erica Trujillo
Rahul Patel	Megan Robinson	Audrey Smith	Evyania Tsarnas
Delaney Paul	Samira Robinson	Curt Smith	Fee Tso
Paul Pearson	Monica Rodriguez	Isabel Smith	Brianne Turner
Jill Pena	Megan Romero	Lillian Smith	Mackenzie Turner
Elizabeth Pergande	Jeffery Rosenberg	Swetha Solipuram	Ivy Tzur
Amahlia Perry-Farr	Dorothy Rotatori	Cyndi Solitro	Debra Van Winkle
Titilayo Phillips	Sandy Rubovits	Brittany Sommer	Jeffery Varwig
Beverly Pinkney	Laurie Ruth	Madeline Soskin	Shreya Vasavada
Danielle Pinta	Colwell Ryan	Eric Soule	Sarah Vassileff
Mary Pittman	Jennifer Sabourin	Loyce Spells	Esmeralda Vazquez
Patricia Politano	Marlisa Sailer	Sara Spittler	Tresa Veitia
Carolyn Potts	Jeremias Sanots	Catherine St. Clair	Brianna Veternik
Patricia Pratt	Janet Schiffman	Alma Stankiewicz	Niki Volz
Shameesha Pryor	Liz Schild	Audrey Steely	Dale Walters
Bruce Puhr	Amy Schmidt	Leah Steinberg	Sara Walther
Rozie Pymm	Colleen Schmitt	Nicole Stone	Sonia Wang
Denise Rabe	Lucas Schmitt	Kalyn Story	Theresa Ward
Dorothy Radke	Ashley Schub	Nicole Strzelecki	Beth Warner
Joanne Ramon	Kiara Schuh	Marie Suding	Margaret Warner
Caroline Rectenwal	Rachel Schultz	Jean Sussman	Kirby Weber
Ilhana Redzovic	Holly Scott	Cora Swise	Debbie Wedren
Ashley Reed	Morgan Shaner	Pauline Taylor	Grace Weinstock
Christopher Reel	Ethan Shaw	Luciana Tescari	Julie Wernick
Robert Regalado	Michelle Sheena	Melanie Thomas	Meggan Weston
David Reilly	Jayla Shelburn	Sara Thomas	Carole White
Laura Reimers	Ashton Shelton	Tobia Thurman	Linden White



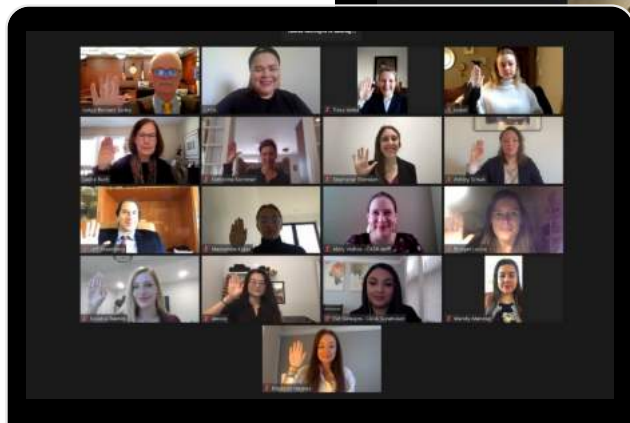
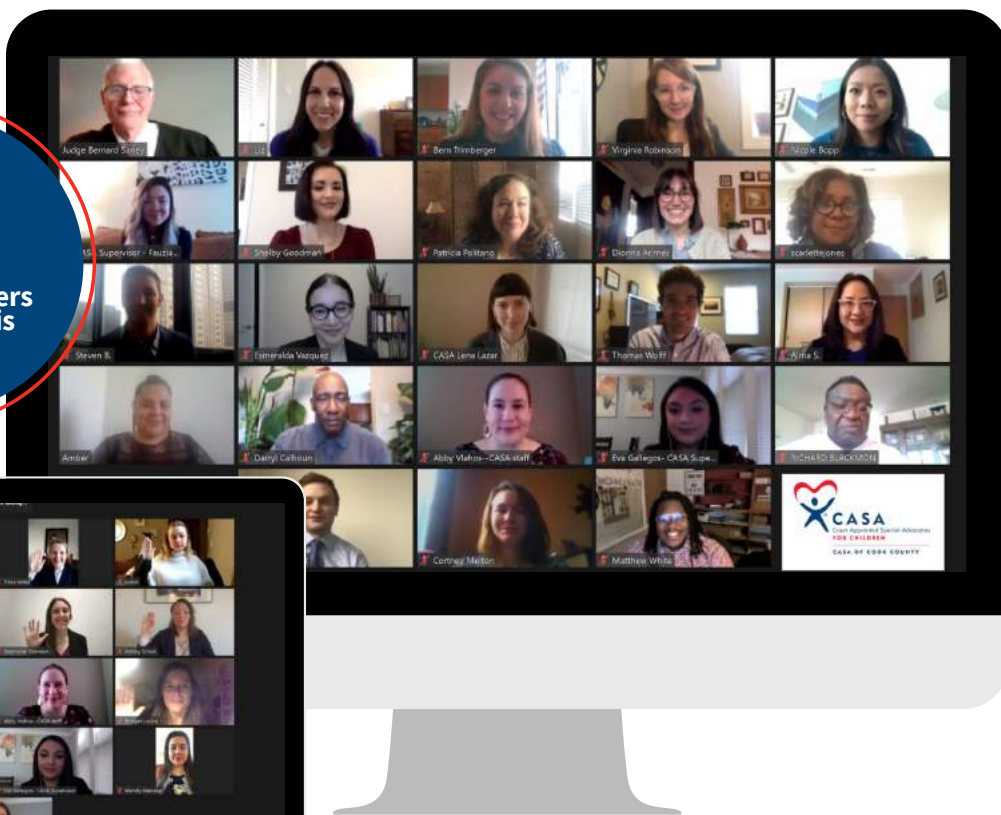
Matthew White	Mobolaji Williams	Bianca Yarborough	Kaely Zeiser
Brandon Wilbourn	Thomas Wolff	Patricia Young	Ashley Zeitlin
Brad Williams	Jennifer Wu	Judy Zager	Bridget Zimmerman
Feyisara Williams	Ammaarah Yameen	Jaqueline Zavala	

CASA of Cook County seeks to recruit diverse volunteers that ethnically and culturally reflect the children we serve, with an emphasis on increasing male, people of color, bilingual/Spanish-speaking, and LGBTQ+ recruitment.

2021 NEW VOLUNTEERS

133

New volunteers
sworn in this
year





CASA VOLUNTEER IMPACT

The tenacity of CASA of Cook County volunteers helped 78 children to achieve permanency in 2021, with 68 percent of these children being reunited with their families.

CASA of Cook County's goal is for children to achieve permanency, or move into safe, permanent homes, as soon as possible. Studies show that the best possible outcome for most children is to be reunified with their families when it is safe to do so. The story below exemplifies the advocacy of two CASA volunteers which resulted in permanency outcomes for the children served.

CASA volunteers Claudia C. and Amy F. trained to become court appointed special advocates to make a difference in the life of a child in foster care in Cook County. Neither volunteer could have anticipated the friendship they would develop with the other CASA volunteer on the case or the natural mother of the children they were assigned to serve on their very first case.

Claudia and Amy were assigned to a case of five siblings, ranging in age from five to seventeen years old. This large sibling group was assigned to CASA due to the recommendation and insistence of the Judge as well as the natural mother. The family had a goal of reunification; however, due to the pandemic and multiple moving placements for the children, the steps to reunification were extraordinarily complex. Neither roadblocks nor complexity hindered these **CASA volunteers who were instrumental to achieving this goal with a communication plan that involved foster parents, case workers, and schools.**

Working with the natural mother, the CASA volunteers helped to identify and facilitate mandated and other

services such as mental health support, housing resources, and transportation that would be vital to bringing the family back home together. When it became clear this family was headed in the right direction, Amy helped advocate at case and family team meetings and in court for the older siblings to be returned home first.

Shortly upon the older children returning home, tragedy struck the family when an older sibling was killed in a tragic accident. Claudia and Amy rallied to get emergency support and grief counseling in place to support the family. When Claudia discovered that there would be a delay in receiving essential funeral funds from the agency, she reached out to her Advocate Supervisor at CASA. That same day, CASA of Cook County was able to provide needed funding to support the family during this terrible and tragic time, including transportation and funeral attire.

Over the last six months, these amazing CASA volunteers worked to ensure that the natural mother had the support needed to ensure the remaining siblings could return and remain at home. Claudia and Amy tirelessly collaborated with the school, caseworker, therapist, and other family members to ensure this happened. In December 2021, the Judge officially closed this case with all five siblings returned home and both CASA volunteers staying involved as interested parties to support the family. **The story was altered for this family on the day that two community citizens took their first steps to become court appointed special advocates for children in Cook County foster care!**



IMPACT REPORT

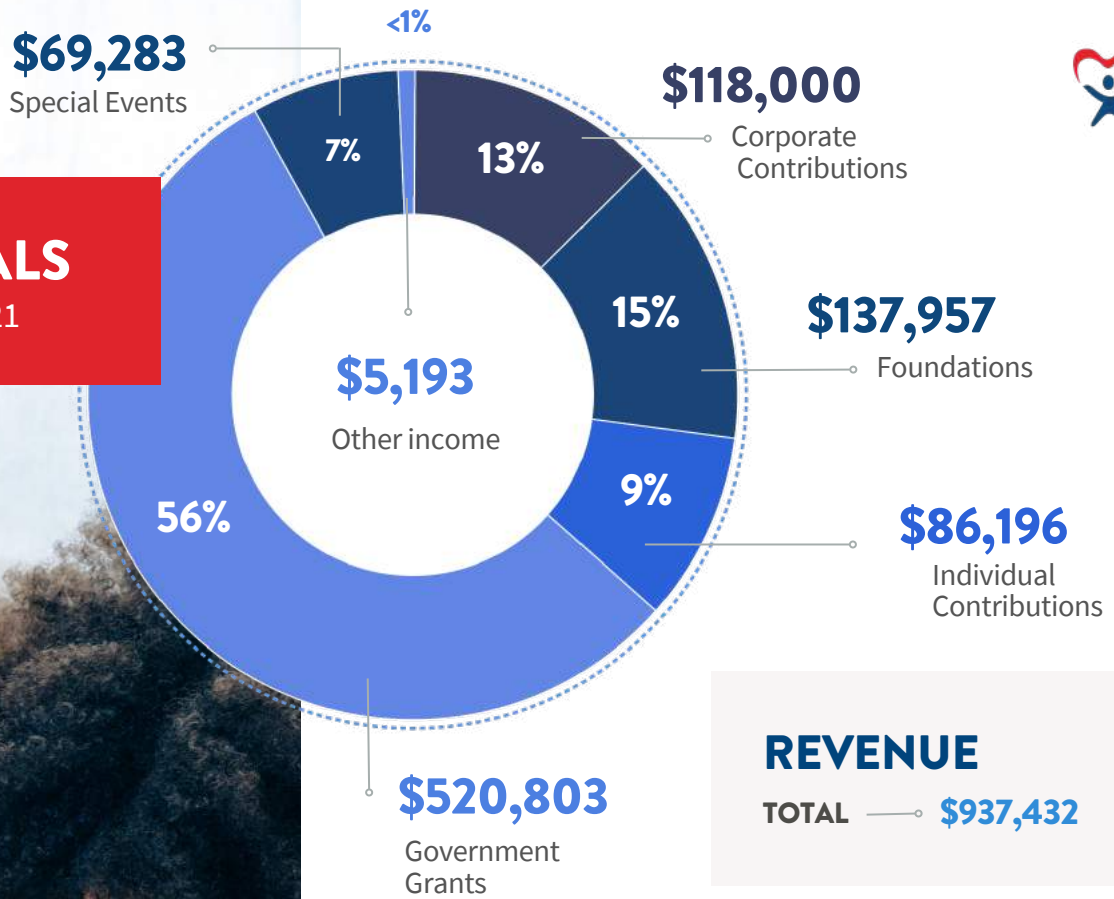
FINANCIALS

CASA of Cook County's Board of Directors maintains sound financial practices, a balanced budget, and funding diversity. Administrative and fundraising costs are kept low so that more funds go directly to services for children in foster care by recruiting, training, and supervising CASA volunteer advocates. CASA of Cook County is able to serve one child for a year at a fraction of the cost spent per child by the child welfare system.



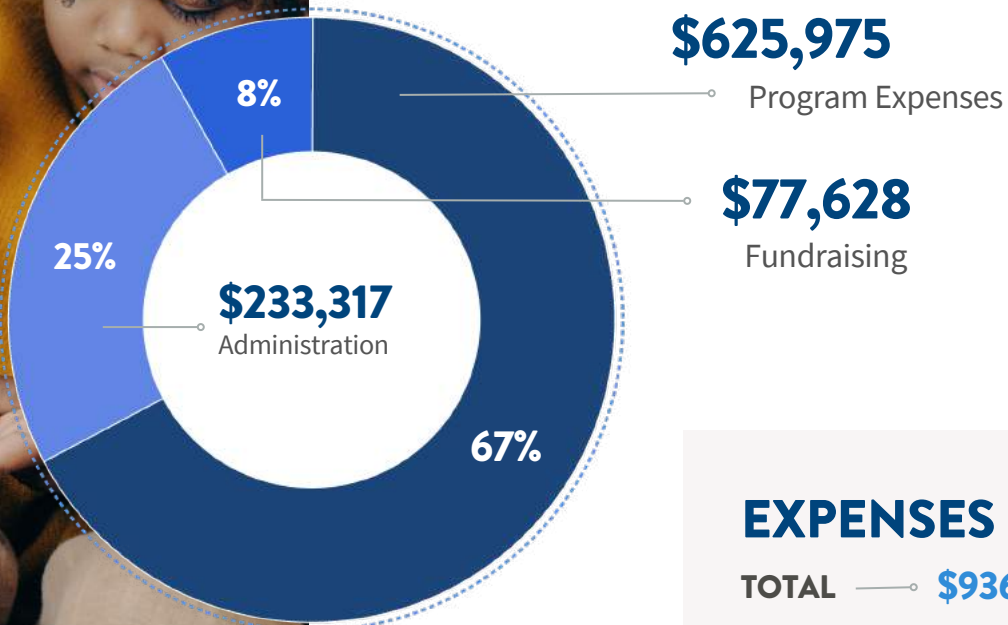
FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year 2021



REVENUE

TOTAL — \$937,432



EXPENSES

TOTAL — \$936,920

2021 LEADERSHIP GIVING CIRCLE

Leadership Giving Circle members make an extraordinary commitment to children in foster care by donating major gifts to CASA of Cook County. Our Leadership Giving Circle levels include:

Champion | \$25,000 **Protector | \$5,000** **Advocate | \$1,000**
Guardian | \$10,000 **Defender | \$2,500**



Christina Abbott
Michael Auletto
Kevin & Laura Boyle
Mary Breen
J. Kamala Buckner
Michael Capuzzi
Leon Chism
Mary Katherine Clark

Jim & Linda Clark
Emily Cross
Karen Fitzner
Timothy Flood
William Flood
Mary Ann Flood
Don Gimbel
Asha Justice

Crystle Kelly
Lori & Corey Kilkelly
Jon & Kim King
Peter & Kristen Marshall
Mary Ann & Liam McLaughlin
Frank & Beckie Meyer
Michael Michelotti
Emily Moreno

Maria Ochs
Christina Ochs
Debbie Provencher
Marc Roth
Steve Schrier
Lana Vukovljak
Brian Walls
Jonathan C. Wertz



FEATURED

MARIA & CHRISTINA OCHS

An extraordinary commitment to CASA of Cook County runs in the family for mother and daughter Maria and Christina Ochs. Maria served as a CASA volunteer on four cases over eight years before retiring from her role. She credits serving as a CASA volunteer with giving her so much in return for her service—a deep knowledge of the child welfare system and a compassion for the families stuck in the system. Maria has shared what she learned as a CASA volunteer over the years with family and friends. Her first-hand experience motivated many others to become involved with CASA, including her daughter Christina who now serves on the CASA of Cook County Board of Directors.



Christina says she supports CASA because she is proud of her mother's work as a CASA volunteer and wants to support that. But there is also a personal connection for her as an adoptee. Christina says, "I could very easily have been a child served by CASA if I had not been adopted into a loving home. It isn't a child's fault that they are in the child welfare system. They have been failed by the adults in their lives, and it is our responsibility and honor to make sure that they are cared for." Christina says that her knowledge of the impact of a CASA volunteer through her mother's work coupled with her work at the Board level makes for a very powerful personal appeal to her network. "CASA makes this tremendous impact on children, and I know as a Board member that the organization is incredibly lean and efficient. Dollars donated go directly to training volunteers who serve children." While Maria no longer serves as a CASA volunteer, she continues to hear from some of the children she has served—including annual Mother's Day cards—and is grateful for all she gained from the experience. She says, "Because of CASA, my heart has expanded, and my life is richer because of it." **Thank you, Maria and Christina, for your inspiring example of a commitment to CASA and children in Cook County foster care!**

CORPORATE SPONSORS, FOUNDATIONS, & GOVERNMENT GRANTS

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Allstate Foundation	Dr. Scholl Foundation	Lindemann Chimney Co
@properties	First Congregational Church of La Grange	Living On The Go Foundation
The Barker Welfare Foundation	Andrew and Alice Fischer Charitable Trust	Madison Capital Funding
Built In	The Fletcher Family Foundation	National CASA Association
Chicago White Sox Charities	GEM Realty Capital	The Albert Pick, Jr. Fund
Col. Stanley R. McNeil Foundation, c/o Bank of America	Greater Horizons	Pure Barre Lincoln Park Chicago
Constellation Men's Ensemble	Illinois Attorney General	Sara's Strays Foundation
Delaney Delaney & Voorn, Ltd.	Irving Harris Foundation	SSI Technology
Illinois Department of Children & Family Services	James M. and Louise C. Roche Foundation	Strong Design Consultants LLC
	John R. Houlsby Foundation	W.P. & H.B. White Foundation

2021

DONORS

Thank you to all of our mission partners who gave generously in 2021 to ensure that CASA of Cook County could continue to serve hundreds of children in Cook County foster care.



Mary Beth & Stanley Adelman	Shelby Cabala	Julie Fairchild	Sheryl Hilbert
Joseph Alexander	Susan Campbell	Ricky Fairchild	Tracy Hilbert
Carlos Alvarez	Dr. Bonita Carr	Edward Falkenhayn	Stanley Hill
Kesha Alvarez	Elysa Chew	Amanda Fang	Mark Hoffman
Gregory Athas	Mindy Chou	Amy Ferguson	William Houston
Amy Auletto	Brian Collins	William Forsyth	The Hon. John Huff
Gabriel Ayala	Ann Collins	John Fuerst	Laney Hunter
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2021 DONORS



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Donors listed gave between \$100-\$999 in 2021. To see a list of all donors, except those who have requested to be anonymous, visit CASA of Cook County's website at casacookcounty.org.

FUNDRAISING TEAM LEADERS



Each year, amazing individuals harness the power of their community to raise critical funds for CASA through the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle, and the annual Gala. In 2021, these team leaders raised over \$100,000 for CASA of Cook County. Thank you!

Bank of America Chicago Marathon

\$46,259

*Hannah Becker • Brigitte Chauvette • Christine DeAlba •
Missy DiBenedetto • Jeremy Dugas • Yale Fairchild •
Amanda Fang • Laura Hancock • James Hartley • Brooke Hartley •
Tracy Hilbert • Asha Justice • Mary Ann McLaughlin • Joseph Meylor •
Steven Michelotti • Cara Nossaman • Travis Perez • Chris Romans •
Dawn Shaffner • Spencer Slabaugh • Curt Smith*

Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle

\$3,610

*Christina Abbott • Andrea Coulis •
James McIntyre • Abby Vlahos •
Cameron Zelaya*



Giving Back to the Future Fall Gala



\$58,621

*Hana Adas • Andrea Boneville • Kevin Boyle • Susan Bryant •
Mike Capuzzi • CASA Staff • Amy Ferguson • Tim Flood • Karen Fitzner •
Benaye Foster • Greater Chicago Alumnae Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta •
Kingdom Branding • Rhonda Miller • Julie Rhea • Lana Vukovljak*

Team Leader-Giving Back to the Future

TIM FLOOD

New CASA volunteer Tim Flood was in training when he answered the call to lead a Giving Back to the Future Team as part of CASA's 2021 Gala, which was virtual for the second time during the pandemic.

Not only did Tim lead a team, but he also achieved the highest fundraising total for the event, raising nearly \$15,000 from friends and family. Tim said he chose a fundraising goal that was both achievable and aspirational. He was encouraged by the enthusiastic response to his appeal from his connections through his Notre Dame University alumni network, business contacts, and Evanston community members.

Tim applied to be a CASA volunteer on the recommendation of a friend who knew he had been interested in becoming a foster parent and, having recently sold his business, was looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity. Going through the CASA training he learned about the systemic issues that bring so many Black and Brown families into the Cook County child welfare system and then keep them stuck there. While it can seem like one person can't make a difference in the face of so many challenges, Tim's long-time friend who is a social worker in Chicago confirmed that becoming a CASA volunteer is deeply impactful. He shared with Tim that studies show that one consistent adult who invests in the life of a youth can truly change the story for that child. Tim has since been sworn in as a CASA volunteer and assigned to an older youth from a large sibling group who has recently experienced the loss of several key adults and service providers. Tim's desire to impact a child's life immediately, while helping drive permanency, is truly a dream realized for both him and the youth he is assigned to. **Thank you, Tim, for making a life-changing impact in the lives of many children through your service and fundraising!**

WHAT'S NEXT

Our 3-Year Growth Plan



GOAL ONE



INCREASE ADVOCACY OF CASA VOLUNTEERS

- Annually Recruit & Train 120 New CASA Volunteers
- Annually Conduct 6 CASA Volunteer Training Classes
- Annually Increase diversity of CASA volunteers by 10% for Males, People of Color, Bilingual and LGBTQ+

GOAL TWO

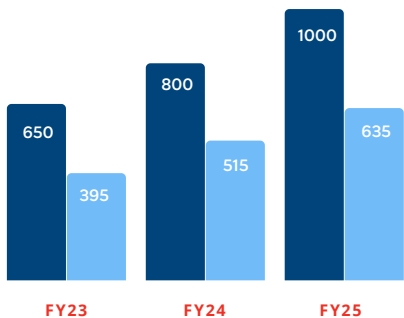
IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH IN CARE WITH STRATEGIC FOCUS ON HIGH-RISK DEMOGRAPHICS

- Hire a Psychologist to focus on multi-tiered trauma
- Hire a Reunification and Family Resource Manager
- Hire an Advocate Supervisor with specialized focus for youth in care with incarcerated parents
- Conduct continuing education for volunteers with specific focus on trauma, cultural competency, diversity, and reunification supports for children at risk for juvenile justice involvement and/or with incarcerated parents

GOAL THREE

INCREASE EQUITY FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN COOK COUNTY

- Serve 20% of children in Cook County foster care by 2025
- Annually hire 3 additional Advocate Supervisors
- Annually hire 1 additional Case Manager
- Annually hire 1 additional Volunteer Trainer



 Children Served  CASA Volunteers

Join Our Mission

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Share the story of CASA of Cook County with your community to help recruit new volunteers and raise funds so that we can change the story for more children in Cook County foster care.



BECOME A ADVOCATE

Change a child story. Apply online today!



MAKE A DONATION

Your gift will allow us to recruit, train and supervise CASA volunteer advocates to serve more children in foster care.



ATTEND AN EVENT

Check our calendar for upcoming events, all to benefit children in Cook County foster care.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow for updates, how you can get involved and volunteer stories.

 /CASAofCookCo  @casaofcookcounty  @CASAofCookCo  CASA of Cook County



THANK YOU

FOR CHANGING A CHILD'S STORY.



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF COOK COUNTY

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