

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



Court Appointed Special Advocates of Cook County (CASA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children in foster care throughout Cook County. By advocating for children who have experienced abuse or neglect, our volunteers give them a voice and a chance for a better life.





A YEAR OF WORKING DIFFERENTLY FOR STRONGER OUTCOMES

Dear Friends:

The year 2019 was momentous for CASA of Cook County. Our mission took a major leap forward by achieving a general order with the Juvenile Cook County Court to assign CASA to cases with 3 siblings or more. This mandate allowed us to double the number of children we serve. We also became official partners of “Safe Babies Court,” an initiative that has a keen focus on wraparound services for infants zero to three who have entered the child welfare system and their families.

The child welfare system is subject to difficult-to-forecast wide fluctuations based on changes in policies, practices, personnel, court decisions, laws and regulations. This “pattern” of unpredictable change is the reason our CASA volunteers are necessary. Each and every year, our CASA volunteer advocates take on the hardest cases of abuse and neglect that the courts see. CASA volunteer advocates meet the uncertainty of the child welfare system with consistency, becoming that one adult who shows up in so many significant ways during the most traumatic and frightening time in a child’s life. Our volunteer cohort increased from 214 volunteers to 309! CASA volunteers are the heart of the work that we do and we are most appreciative of their time, sacrifice and dedication.

We are truly humbled and grateful that we were able to turn the tide of our organization by changing the story of 593 children. This 2019 Annual Impact Report is dedicated to CASA volunteers, and supporters who make it possible to change the trajectory of a child’s life. We could not do what we do without your generous and unwavering support.

With deepest gratitude,



Lana Vukovljak

Lana Vukovljak
Board President



Bonita Carr

Bonita Carr, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Children Our CASAs Serve

Outcomes of the Last Year

53% MALE
47% FEMALE

34% 0-5 YEARS
35% 6-11 YEARS
20% 12-15 YEARS
11% 18-21 YEARS

61% AFRICAN AMERICAN
18% HISPANIC/LATINO
15% MULTI-RACIAL
6% CAUCASIAN

47% REUNITED WITH
THEIR FAMILIES

11% PLACED WITH
A RELATIVE

10% PERMANENTLY
ADOPTED

6% CASE
TRANSFERRED

3% AGED OUT

102 CHILDREN CASES **CLOSED** IN 2019.

593

CHILDREN
HAD THE
BENEFIT OF...



309

CARING
VOLUNTEER
ADVOCATES



WHO GAVE OVER
35,809
HOURS OF
THEIR TIME



SAVING THE CHILD
WELFARE SYSTEM
\$823,607
(\$23/HR)



Abused Children Can't Wait

In 2019, Our Advocate Volunteers gave **38,809 hours** of their time to the children they served and to our organization. CASA of Cook County celebrates all volunteer advocates who dedicate their time and talents to advocating for abused and neglected children in the community.

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES

We recognize all of our dedicated and passionate volunteers.



11-15 YEARS

Jim Clark
Marian Houston
Doug Patejunas
Eric Soule

6-10 YEARS

Suzanne Jacob Burns
Marian Houston
Mary Ogle
Debbie Provencher
Melanee Schoendorff
Tobia Thurman
Margaret Warner
Carolyn Wilson

5 YEARS

Teresa Andresen
Susan Kiefer
Maria Ochs
Janet Schiffman

0-4 YEARS

4 Years
Charles Lindquist
Mary Ann Manley

3 Years

Amy Karony
David Reilly
Diana Federl
Evelyn Soto
Sandy Rubovits

2 Years

Alero Egbe
Alexandria Kelly
Avis Crasko
Ayesha Dastur
Brian Morgan

Brian Robinson
Catherine St. Claire
Cecelia Coffey
Christina Shin
Danielle Hartung
Denise Rabe
Fee Tso
Jacqueline Keer
Jeremais Santos
Joseph Tollefson
Julie Gardner
Kelly Geddes
Lauren Francisco
Leah Steinberg
Melissa Curry
Michael Copenhaver
Rachel Coleman
Taylor Doyle

1 Year

Abigail Adler
Abigail Hoffman
Afia Khan
Aleksandra Bosnjak
Amy Krueger
Anita Kinney
Binita Barai
Brigette Demke
Brigid Flynn
Brittany Sommer
Brooke Blyth
Carlee Belt
Carmen Hatch
Christine White
Dana Moore
Dana Parker
Darnella Bridges
Diana Collymore
Diane Pascal

Devanie Howard
Eric Soule
Feyisara Williams
Grace Evans
Jacqueline Brinkman
James Holtzman
James Sorrels
Jason Pica II
Jelena Blagojevc
Jill Haplern
Jill Pena
John Hartmann
Karen Lehmkuhl
Keith Goldstein
Kimberly Petersen
Kinnari Patel
Koryanna Lopez
Laura Rogalsky
Linda Sancen
Lindsay Colla
Maria Ochs
Maria Rivera
Martin McCarthy
Mark Dato
Mary Pittman
Megan McCarville
Melanie Mapes
Miroslava Osorio
Mobolaji Williams
Mona Nazzle
Patricia Cox
Rachel Kline
Renaud Beaudoin
Robyn Palmersheim
Ron Crowley-Koch
Ruth Mills
Sara Walther
Sheila Ryan
Stephanie Barton

Sue Gillan
Swetha Solipuram
Tanya Murphy
Teresa Andresen
Theresa Ward

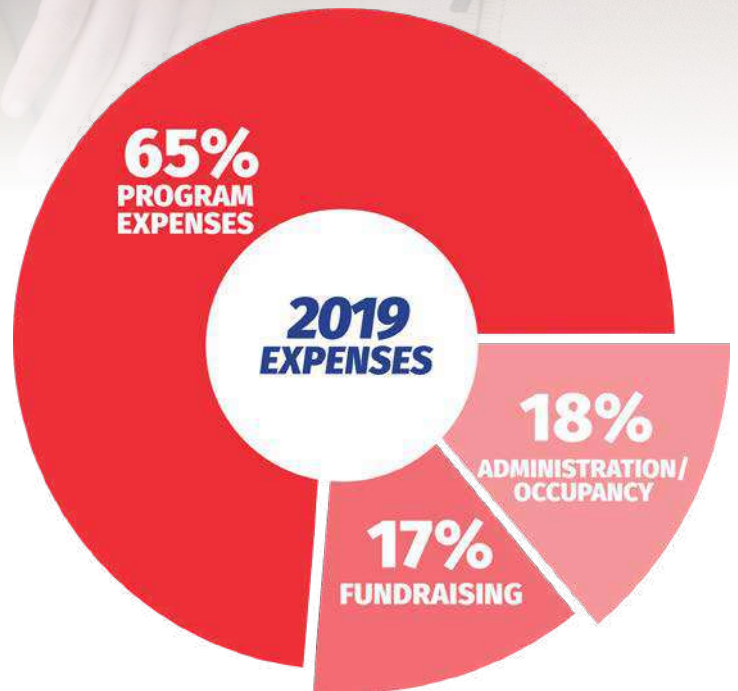
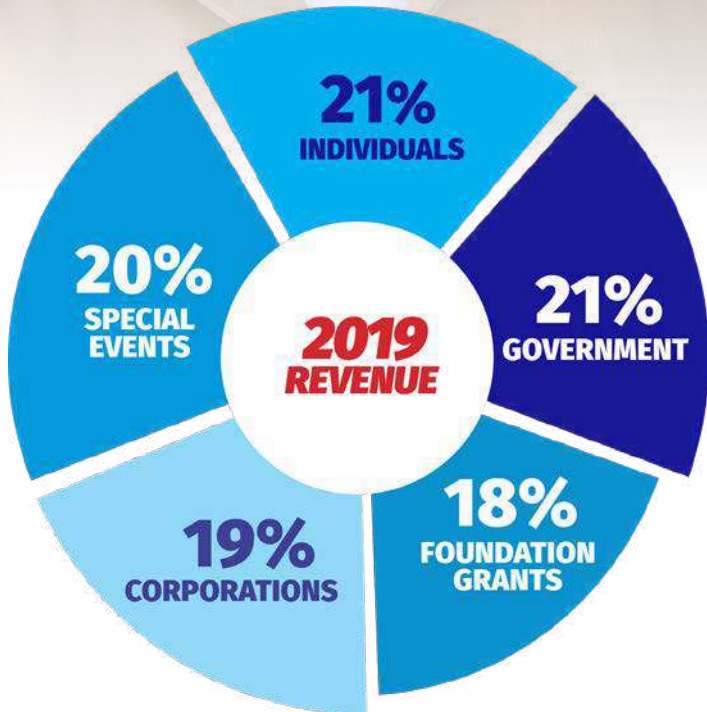
New Beginners

Abbie Klein
Abigail Grady
Alicia Parker
Alistair Murray
Allie Smith
Amber Hummel
Amy Ferguson
Andrea Kindorf
April Bernard
April Jewell
Ashley Hurley
Ashton Shelton
Beverly K. Helm
Beverly Pinkney
Bianca Yarborough
Blanca Luna
Brad Williams
Brian Deneen
Brianna Turner
Bryana Perez
Caitlin Chrismark
Catherine Grimsted
Christina Abbott
Christina Martinez
Christina Siems
Charlotte Holley
Claire Parker
Claudia Badillo
Connie Chung
Danielle Gerbie
Darren Scott
Daphne Lecesne

Diane Johnson
Doris Childs
Dorothy Rotatori
Emily Lucas
Erin Lieberman
Hannah Bliss
Heather Mahr
Heidi Graham
Holly Scott
Ivy Tzur
Jaclyn Mann
Jaimie Thimmesh Rachie
Jana Daniels
Janet Hooten
Jarrie Harris
Jasmine Bridges
Jean Sussman
Jeffrey Orloff
Jennifer Mihalek
Jessica De la Rosa
Jessica Roeding
Jon Repetny
Julie Wemick
Kaley Callaghan
Kathryn Reilly
Kayley Anderson
Keianna Robinson
Kimberly Lieberman
Kirby Weber
Kirsten Carlo
Krystle Everett
Laura Haning
Laura Portillo
Leigha Sommer
Leslie Cox
Lillian Smith
Lindsey Gevry
Lindsey Kulak
Linnea Kramer

Lisa Reinwald
Lisette Cruz
Loyce Spells
Luciana Tesdari
Margaret Curran
Margaret Lindauer
Maria Manzo
Marlisa Sailer
Matthew Reddekopp
Megan Romero
Melissa Devorkin
Michael O'Neill
Michelle Lowe
Morgan Freeck
Natasha Dunn
Olivia Scott
Pamela Britton
Pamela Seaton
Patricia McCann
Patricia Young
Pauline Taylor
Sanjuana Jaime-Nix
Sara Bosaw
Sarah Abbott
Sarah Caverly
Samantha Bellantone
Serena Silguero
Shameesha Pryor
Stacy Howlett
Stephanie Ortega
Stuart Oken
Suzana Cafi
Thea Rice
Tyeisha McReynolds
Victoria Bunnell
Victoria Lewensky
Wendy Anleu

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES



Corporate Contributions
\$113,897

Foundations
\$103,850

Special Events
\$118,870

Government Grants
\$124,455

Individual Contributions
\$123,528

THANK YOU

FY 2019 Family of Supporters

CASA of Cook County gratefully acknowledges the commitment of the supporters who have contributed to the success of our 2019 activities. In doing so, we were able to demonstrate our commitment to our mission.



\$50,000-\$99,999

Teresa & Matthew
Andresen
Kappa Alpha Theta
VOCA

\$25,000-\$49,999

Crown Family
Philanthropies
Fletcher Family
Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Ackerman Foundation
AllState
Barker Welfare
Foundation
The Hasten Foundation
Ochs Family
Dr. Scholl Foundation
VCVA
W.P. & H.B. White
Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
Jim & Linda Clark
Pepsico Foundation
Smokeball Inc.
Lana Vukovljak

\$2,000-\$4,999

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Vince Arden
Susan Bryant
Dr. J. Kamala Buckner
Mike Capuzzi
George M Eisenberg
Foundation
Ernst & Young
Karen Fitzner
ILEA Association -
Chicago Chapter

Don Gimbel
Hooten Family
Katherine Fletcher
Morgan
Jeff Piela
DLA Piper
Charles & Catherine
Reiter
Sara's Strays
Foundation
Nathan Vance

\$1,000-\$1,999

Anonymous
Anonymous
Rita Anand-Padhi
James Anderson
Mary Ann Enerson
Leslie Cox
Thomas Elden
Charitable Gift Fund
Cameron Ferguson
Fourth Presbyterian
Church
Julie Gardner
Annie Geraghty Helms
Don Hermanek
Howard Family
Charitable Foundation
The Hon. John Huff
Henry Jap
Diane Johnson
Kelly Klinko
Justin Knowles
Joanna Koh & Jan
Lupinek
Marshall Field
Pat Moran
Tiphonie Schaeztle
Robert C. and Mary
Alice S. Strodel Fund
The Hon. Peter Vilkelis
UNISON-CASA MLK DAY

\$500-\$999

Todd D. Alexander
Hannah Bliss
Susan Campbell
Michael Cavanaugh
Joel Corona
Xavier Cruz
Michele De Jesus
Krista Easom
First Congregational
Church of Lagrange, IL
Elizabeth Heckinger
Amanda Inskip
Jonathan King
Gale Kozloff
Helen & Bernard
Kozloff Family
Foundation
The Kriens Family Fund
Harvey & Dawn Loeb
Mary Ann McLaughlin
Roger Myerson
Meeting Tomorrow
Rita Padhi
Jessica Paridis
Timothy Ressimyer
Dean & Mary
Schraufnagel
Lisa Stegink & Michael
Erickson
Jody Schultz
Julia Shteytenberg

\$250-\$499

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Aramark
Arnie Becker
James Biery
Philip D. Block III
Family Fund
Brad Bloecher
Heidi Bloom
Katie Bluestone

Julie Rhea Carnegie
Callie Carr
Sabrina Clark
Amanda Falsetta
Tyler Firmage
Carlton Gates
Lorena Georgeoglou
Lewis Goldstein
Lisa Humphrey
Jill Javors
Phyllis Katz
Samantha Katzbeck
Kaufman Segal Design
Lori & Corey Kilkelly
Kimberly E. Krubeck
Tate and Kenzi
Locklear
Jennifer Maloney &
Steven Loveless
Joanne Medak
Mark Mintman
Diane Mulligan
Daniel Myerson
John Nelson
Diana Palomar
Joel & Jessie Solomon
Mark Swanson
Anita Thies
UL LLC
Dominick Viramotes
Doug & Dina Whitney
Keith Wright

\$100-\$249

Anonymous
Anonymous
Mary Beth & Stanley
Adelman
Saras Agarwal
Michael Amer
Brigitte Atcheson-
Demke
Jackie Barclay
Tom Benneche
Alex Berger

Roland Berger
April Bernard
Randy Clark
Christine Clauson
Katelyn Feltman
Randy Fens
Amy Ferguson
Nicholas Ferrell
John Firmage
Richard and Lucy Gaven
Pattie & Melvin Gerbie
Dan Giese
Peter Glowacki
Stacey Goodwin
Jennifer Graves
Mark & Jaclyn Hoffman
Prabodh Gupta
Rajiv Gupta
Frank Gurick
Charles Harper
Christy Harris
Yolanda Harvey
Larry & Pat Hatfield
Alex Hayes
Debbie Henson
Alan Hertel
Adam Holmes
Rikaleigh Johnson
Stanley Jozefiak
Yogesh Kansal
Leila Keene
Megan Kokontis
William & Mary Ann
Kopp
Margaret La Raviere
Patrick Leatherman
Gayle Lee
Kimberly D. Lewis
Thomas Malia
Fred & Marilyn Walz
Stephanie Weber
Mary Wright
Meghan Wright
Julie Yeh
Nicolas Zimmermann

2019 Board of Directors

The members of the Board of Directors,
as of December 31, 2019, are:

Lana Vukovijak

Board President

Susan Bryant

Mike Capuzzi

Karen Fitzner

Katherine Fletcher Morgan

Christina Ochs

Andrew Weil

CASA STAFF

Staff Members as of
December 31, 2019 are:

Bonita Carr, Ed.D.

Executive Director

Candice Brown

Office Administrator

Anibal Vega

*Director of Community
Engagement and Training*

Abby Vhalos

Director of Development

Melissa Reyes

Director of Programs

Nicole Cribaro

Senior Advocate Supervisor

Carolyn Cain

Advocate Supervisor

Eva Gallegos

Advocate Supervisor

Darryl Calhoun

Advocate Supervisor

Lena Lazar

Advocate Supervisor

Jennifer McGowan

Advocate Supervisor

Kelly Villanti

Advocate Supervisor

Pamela Seaton

Court Intake Specialist

Shameesha Pryor

Volunteer Education Coordinator

