



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**



JACKSON COUNTY CASA 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

H I G H L I G H T S

V O L U N T E E R S

F I N A N C I A L S

D O N O R S



**In May of 2018, I completed my first full year as President and CEO of Jackson County CASA. I am honored to serve this organization that exists to speak for the children whose needs have been ignored.**

Every day we see tragic cases of child abuse and neglect, and children who will feel the effects of trauma for rest of their lives. Our staff and volunteers currently serve over 44% of the children under the protection of the Jackson County Family Court. We take on the cases of severe trauma, cases with multiple siblings, and cases whose children need the extra support and advocacy that CASA provides. None of these cases are easy.

Each child assigned to CASA benefits from a three-person team comprised of a dedicated CASA Volunteer, an experienced Case Supervisor, and an expert Staff Attorney to represent that child's best interests. The team works diligently to make sure each of these children receives the educational, medical, and therapeutic support he or she needs to heal physically and emotionally. We work toward the goal of a safe, permanent, home for each child, either with a biological parent or relative, or with a new adoptive family.

We also work with teens for whom adoption is not an option. When a youth has no appropriate relatives or adoptive resources, they receive additional support from our Older Youth Specialist, who can help them secure housing, get health insurance, find transportation, continue their education, and get a job. With CASA, even after they "age out" of the system, they have someone to call, someone who cares.

CASA continues to advocate for the best interests of all the children we serve, even as our caseload increases. Your commitment to CASA enables us to write a hopeful ending for children whose life story has taken a dark turn. Thank you for your friendship and support.

With gratitude,

*Angie Blumel*



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Angie Blumel  
*President and CEO*



**As chair of the Board of Directors of Jackson County CASA, I am pleased to report the difference that CASA is making in the lives of abused and neglected children in our community.**

In 2017 Jackson County CASA advocated for 1,250 children who were removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. These children benefited from the advocacy of more than 350 dedicated CASA Volunteers. Casa recruits, trains and supports volunteers to speak for the best interests of these children in Court. Our Volunteers make a difference every day by giving their time and skills to help their kids find safe, permanent homes.

CASA Volunteers come from many different walks of life. Some have years of experience working for children and families, and some grew up in the foster care system and have felt the sorrow of moving from home to home firsthand. Two-thirds of CASA Volunteers have full time jobs but are willing to give back to help those children who were put in a bad situation through no fault of their own.

Being a CASA Volunteer doesn't require any specific background or special education; it only requires a desire to help abused and neglected children find safe, permanent homes. We are always looking for committed, caring volunteers to reach out to even more abused and neglected children in the Jackson County court system and to give these children a chance to succeed.

So, why am I so committed? Because I know that the work we are doing at CASA is improving the lives of the children we serve, and giving them hope. I am asking you to become part of the hope.

*John Newsam*

## 2017 YEAR-END RESULTS

Your generous support and thoughtful encouragement continue to mean a great deal to all of us at Jackson County CASA. We had another record-breaking year – growing to serve **1,250 children in 2017**. Here are our year-end results:



Overall we served

# 1,250

children and teens, compared to 1,200 in 2016, **an increase of 50 kids.**

### We advocate for permanent, safe homes for our children.

In 2017:

# 168

CASA children were adopted or placed with a permanent guardian, up from 155 in 2016.

# 185

CASA children were safely reunified with their biological parents.



We accepted Court assignments for

# 444

new children, consistent with 441 in 2016.



**ALL children assigned to CASA received skilled, passionate advocacy for appropriate and timely medical, therapeutic, and educational resources.**



We trained

# 89

new CASA Volunteers and maintained our very strong Volunteer retention for a total of **355 active CASA Volunteers** assigned to cases in 2017.

### CASA's Emergency and Enrichment Assistance program grew to help more children and families with basic needs:



**We provided holiday gifts for over 275 CASA children, as well as food and basic hygiene items for their families.**



**We again provided school supplies and age-appropriate backpacks for over 220 school-age children in the fall of 2017.**

## THE NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

Jackson County CASA offers a volunteer opportunity like no other. As officers of the court, CASA Volunteers are empowered to make a lifelong difference in the lives of abused and neglected children.

In 2017, 355 CASA Volunteers advocated for 1,250 children in Jackson County. While this is an impressive number, hundreds more children remain on a waiting list for our services.

Our Volunteers are an amazing force for good, but we need more of them. In 2018, we hope to recruit and train 100 new CASA Volunteers. With your help, we can reach that goal!

## THE VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

People who give their time to CASA come from many different places. Some have years of education and professional experience working for children and families. Some have themselves grown up in the foster care system and felt the anguish of having to move from home to home.

Being a CASA Volunteer does not require any special education or background, simply the desire to help abused and neglected children find safe, permanent homes. Volunteer advocates are asked to dedicate themselves to a case until it is closed (the average case lasts about one and one half years). Advocates work in a team alongside their CASA Case Supervisor and CASA Staff Attorney.

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER?

The first step is to meet with a CASA staff member to talk about the program and complete an application.

In addition, every volunteer must pass a background check and participate in an extensive training course.

After successfully completing the training, volunteers are assigned their first case. A volunteer's average time commitment to a case is approximately 10 hours per month.

For more information on becoming a CASA Volunteer please call (816) 984-8204, or visit us online at

[www.jacksoncountycasa-mo.org](http://www.jacksoncountycasa-mo.org).

## 2017 NEW VOLUNTEERS

Doyne Alexander	Abigail Lutz
Sarah Armbrecht	DeAnna Lyons
Kristy Bartnes	Laura Mangold
Natalie Bassford	Stacie McGee
Marcia Bennett	Taylor McGee
Tonia Best	Timothy McIntyre
Ashley Bindley	Tiffany Metzger
Gregory Blessen	Laddie Miller
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Payton Covert	Rian Ray
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Danielle Demaray	Anthony Schmiedeler
Rochelle Dillard	Christina Setter
Jill Draper	Lindsey Sharp
Cassidi Dye	Darin Short
Kendra Eason	Sheila Sievers
Reese Ericson	Mary Spalding
Ashley Fansher	Rebekah Stever (Lauchlan)
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Kami Jenkins	Patricia Werkowitch
Alicia Jernigan	Markli West
Heather Johnson	Jemela Williams
Janie Joling	Deborah Wilson
Katina Jones	Frank Wilson
Rachel Joshu	Tipton Wiscombe
Pia King	

**“IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, YOU WILL HAVE CHANGED THESE CHILDREN'S LIVES.”**

**RITA DAVIS**  
CASA VOLUNTEER

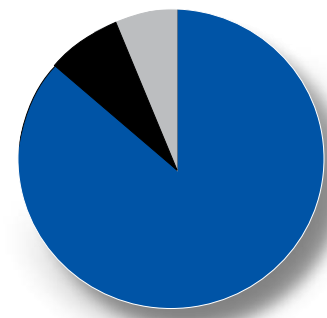


**2017 FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Total Programmatic Revenue: \$2,132,078**

Foundation support.....	<b>\$503,308</b>
United Way/CFC donations .....	<b>\$92,071</b>
Corporate contributions .....	<b>\$76,046</b>
Individual and other donations.....	<b>\$205,021</b>
County government support .....	<b>\$194,823</b>
Federal/State program support .....	<b>\$214,919</b>
Special events .....	<b>\$269,083</b>
In-kind goods and services.....	<b>\$570,270</b>
Other income .....	<b>\$6,537</b>

**Total Expenses: \$2,161,373**



● Program services .....	<b>\$1,806,417</b>
● Fundraising .....	<b>\$193,274</b>
○ Administrative.....	<b>\$161,682</b>

# The staff and board of Jackson County CASA extend our sincerest gratitude to the following friends and supporters who made our efforts in 2017 possible.

## \$50,000 and Above

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 GIVES BACK AS MUCH AS  
 YOU PUT IN.”

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*"As an organization,  
CASA is very kind,  
warm and loving."*

**KEITH D. SMITH**  
CASA VOLUNTEER

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<sup>§</sup> Part or all of the gift was in honor of someone.

*Gifts were made between January 1, 2017–December 31, 2017  
We regret any errors or omissions.*

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Joceyln Thomsen  
Top Golf USA, Inc.  
The Honorable John Torrence and  
Julie Torrence  
E. Marie Tracy  
Andre Trudell  
Truist  
Michelle Twyman  
United Way of Greater Atlanta  
John Vaglio  
Steven Van Auken



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