



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

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CASA OF ADAMS &  
BROOMFIELD COUNTIES

# Annual Report **FY2016**



# Mission

Our mission is to provide specially selected and trained community volunteers, CASAs, to advocate for abused and neglected children in the pursuit of safe and permanent homes.



For many abused children, a CASA Volunteer Advocate is the only constant adult presence in their lives.



Dear CASA Friends,

CASA is a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization that recruits, trains, and supervises community volunteers to represent the best interests of our most vulnerable citizens – child victims of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse and neglect.

Throughout 2016, we at CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties have continued our efforts to create a bright future for every child by increasing awareness of our mission, recruiting more CASA Volunteer Advocates, and creating new partnerships within the community. We have impacted the lives of more than 500 children in need, who were shown hope and light by more than 200 CASA Volunteer Advocates over the course of the year.

However, there are more than 600 children that still need us. We can and we will accomplish this goal of helping every child in need with the continued support of our community and individuals like you.

Our vision is to provide a CASA Volunteer Advocate to every abused and neglected child in our community. We ask that you share our vision and become an AVID CASA Supporter.

**ENVISION** a bright future for every child!

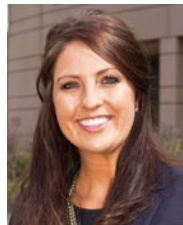
Please choose in 2017 to be a CASA AVID Supporter.

*Advocate, Volunteer, Invest, Do*



Kevin Kildow

CASA Board Chair



Lindsay Lierman

Executive Director

# A Judge's Sleepless Nights Sparked Creation of the First CASA Program

In 1977, Judge David Soukup, a Seattle juvenile court judge concerned about making drastic decisions with insufficient information conceived the idea of citizen volunteers speaking up for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom. From that first program has grown a national network of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) programs that are recruiting, training and supporting volunteers.

1970s

**1977**

King County Guardian ad Litem program founded, later renamed Dependency CASA Program

“Simply stated, CASAs save our children. A CASA brings passion along with the gift of time. As volunteers, CASAs have the opportunity to focus on a single family and a single child. CASAs just don't “check-in” on a child, they spend the time needed for a child to know that there is a caring and safe adult in the world. A CASA will spend time to meet with a child's teacher, principal, and counselor. They spend time in court to tell the judge how the child is doing and what we can do better. They take that gift of time from their families and friends, and give it to a stranger's child. We have no way to return that gift. All that we can do is support CASA and say thank you.”

– Judge Ed Moss

**1982**

National CASA founded and managed by volunteer board

**1983**

Number of states with CASA programs: 29

**1984**

**First CASA Program in Colorado incorporates** when CASA of Larimer County is established

**1985**

Number of children served: 10,000  
Number of CASA/GAL program offices: 159

**1987**

Number of children served: 40,000  
Number of Casa Volunteer Advocates in service: 12,000  
Number of CASA/GAL program offices: 271  
Number of states with CASA programs: 44

**1989**

**Colorado CASA**, the statewide coordinating agency is formed

1980s

# 1990s

## 1990

Number of children served: 72,000

Number of CASA Volunteer Advocates in service: 17,000

Number of CASA/GAL program offices: 412

## 1994

CASA/GAL programs reach all 50 states, District of Columbia, and Virgin Islands

## 1995

Number of children served: 129,000

Number of CASA Volunteer Advocates in service: 38,000

Number of CASA/GAL program offices: 642

## 1997

National Bar Association endorses CASA Volunteer Advocacy

# 2000s

## 2000

Number of children served: 174,137

Number of CASA Volunteer Advocates in service: 47,063

Number of CASA/GAL program offices: 900

**CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties founded**

## 2005

Report released confirming that CASA Volunteer Advocates are highly valued by judges

Number of children served: 226,204

Number of CASA Volunteer Advocates in service: 53,847

Number of CASA/GAL program offices: 948

## 2007

2,000,000th child served by a CASA Volunteer Advocate

“Professionally trained CASA Volunteer Advocates are a vital link to ensuring that our most severely abused and neglected children have a voice in court.”

– Chief Judge Patrick Murphy

# Program

Fiscal Year 2016

## National Stats

700,000+

Children are abused and neglected in the U.S. each year

up to \$300,000

Future community costs for each child who is unable to find a safe, permanent home

\$20 million per day

Cost of abuse and neglect, according to the Center for Disease Control

## Local Highlights

 220

CASA Volunteer Advocates helped change children's lives every day

 507

abused and neglected children had a CASA Volunteer Advocate standing up for their best interests

 600

children are waiting for a volunteer empowered to find them a safe, loving, and permanent home

## Effectiveness

- ✓ A child with a CASA Volunteer Advocate is more likely to find a safe, permanent home
- ✓ Children with a CASA Volunteer Advocate spend less time in foster care
- ✓ Children with a CASA Volunteer Advocate do better in school



# Funding Sources of Revenue

## LEGISLATIVE/STATE FUNDING

The Colorado State Legislature supports CASA's mission through a state-wide investment.

## INDIVIDUAL • MAJOR GIFTS • CORPORATE DONATIONS

Annual Holiday Appeal  
Colorado Gives Day  
Corporate Gifts  
Memorial Gifts  
Workplace Giving Campaigns

## FUNDRAISING EVENTS

CASA Classic Golf Tournament  
Cookie Campaign  
Indulge for CASA  
Light of Hope Breakfast & Luncheon  
Roast & Recognition Event

## GRANTS

CASA receives support through grants provided by local governments as well as corporate, private and community foundations who value the important work we do.

Legislative/State Funding: \$80,321

Individual Donations: \$279,977

Fundraising Events: \$176,940

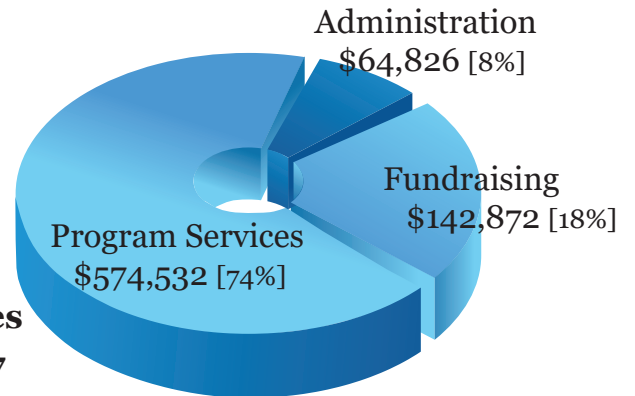
Grants: \$257,015

In-Kind: \$22,000

**Total Revenue: \$816,253**

## Use of Funds

**Total Expenses \$789,697**



# Trenton's Story

Trenton Black, former CASA Youth, age 10, has seen more in his lifetime than most ever will. Growing up in a home where his mother would disappear and his father frequently had abusive and angry behavior put Trenton and his four siblings in a place where love, compassion and nurturing were all but present.

At school, his teachers and faculty longed for a day when Trenton could find a safe and loving home. This school is where Joan Kniss, CASA Volunteer Advocate, found him.

"I knew a little bit about Trenton in that, I taught where he was a student." Joan said. "That school staff really watched over him, they had his picture in the office."

Joan met with Trenton's teachers, visited him in the foster home to ensure that Trenton and his siblings were well taken care of, and was a constant in what was otherwise and extremely unpredictable and hectic life for Trenton.

Like Joan, James and Megan Black, Trenton's adoptive parents, met him in his first grade classroom, volunteering at their son Mikey's class Halloween party. "I wanted to mother him right off the bat," Megan said. "I just wanted to take care of him."

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Joan advocated for Trenton for the three years that his case was open.

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*Joan and Trenton*

After his biological father's behavior became so extreme, Trenton's parents' rights were terminated, and the Black's got a call letting them know he would be available for adoption if they were serious about it.

They were, and the couple immediately began their six-month fostering requirement in order to be eligible to adopt Trenton. Eleven months later, Trenton was adopted into the Black family.



For Joan, her relationship with Trenton and his family didn't end at the adoption. "Everyone in the family loves [Joan],"

Megan Black said. "She would drive all the way to Loveland to deliver Christmas gifts and see the children even after the case closed, and you could tell it was because she really loved these kids."

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"Kids in foster care, when they move, they lose everything. Joan's relationship is one we didn't lose."

Megan

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*James, Megan, and Trenton Black*

brother, Mikey. "He doesn't let his past defeat who he is now," Megan said. "He has great ideas of who he is going to be."

"I like my life because I have a family, I don't have to go through the things you have to go through in foster care,"

Just two months after Trenton's adoption, the Black family adopted his younger biological sister, Anna, as well.

"After the adoption Joan had a party at her house for each of them," Megan said. "Kids in foster care, when they move, they lose everything. Joan's relationship is one we didn't lose."

"What I have come to realize is that every child in the foster care system and social services...they need a CASA," Joan said. "We are the constant in their lives, and we know them better than anybody that is currently involved in their lives."

Now, Trenton plays football, helps out with household chores and plays with his friend, and now

Trenton said. "I love this family and I never want to leave."

This story, along with many others, exemplifies how we are envisioning a bright future for every child at CASA.

CASA Volunteer Advocates lift up a child's voice and fight objectively for their interest.

We are extremely grateful for volunteers like Joan and families like the Black's that

give hope to children in our community that need it most.



*The Black Siblings*

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"We are the constant in their lives, and we know them better than anybody that is currently involved in their lives."

Joan Kniss

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# Ways to Invest

We have several different investment levels, designed for donor budgets of all sizes. Each investment level comes with a unique set of benefits, our simple way of saying THANK YOU for helping to make a DIFFERENCE in the lives of abused and neglected children.

Visit our website at [CASA17th.org](http://CASA17th.org) for ways to get involved.

**Benefactor: \$20,000+ [Help 17 children in need]**

**Ted & Lina Shipman  
Bob Lembke**

**Champion for Children: \$10,000+ [Help 8 children in need]**



**Friend of CASA: \$6,000 [Help 5 children in need]**



**Heroes' Guild: \$2,500 [Help 2 children in need]**

**Powerful Voices Society: \$1,200 [Help 1 child in need]**

ENVISION a bright future  
for every child.

Become an **AVID** CASA Supporter!

**A** – Advocate. Be a child’s voice!

**V** – Volunteer. There are many ways to help.

**I** – Invest. Support our vision.

**D** – Do! How would you care to help?





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**FOR CHILDREN**

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**CASA OF ADAMS &  
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**FY16 Board Members:**

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