



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**CASA OF ADAMS &
BROOMFIELD COUNTIES**

Annual Report **FY2015**

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 is the only constant adult presence in their lives.





WE ENVISION a BRIGHT FUTURE for EVERY CHILD who has SUFFERED from abuse or neglect...

CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties has launched an innovative new program model that will enable us to advocate for 100% of the abused and neglected children in need in our counties by the year 2020.

Our Peer Coordinator Model is a cost-effective new service delivery model that will allow us to increase our services to children with only a modest increase in resources. Over the next five years, we will expand our services and reduce the cost per child by 40%. We will provide a powerful voice for every abused and neglected child in Adams & Broomfield Counties.

HOW WILL WE DO IT? THROUGH the POWER of VOLUNTEERS!

Those of you familiar with our current program model know that our ability to change the lives of children has been limited by staff capacity. For every 40 CASA Volunteers we recruit and train, we have needed to fund one full-time staff supervisor to support the volunteers throughout their cases. We serve approximately 535 children each year, but over 750 more children are still on our waiting list.

With our new model, we strive to serve 100% of the need in Adams & Broomfield Counties by the year 2020, by training seasoned, experienced CASA Volunteers to support other CASA Volunteers. Now, when new CASA Volunteers graduate from training, they are supported by a Volunteer Peer Coordinator or a Senior Program Coordinator. These Peer Coordinators have been CASA Volunteers themselves for several years. They have been hand selected and specially trained to support other CASA Volunteers throughout their cases and are fully supported by our highly qualified professional team.



Dear CASA Friends,

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

Volunteer CASA Advocates are appointed by judges to be a voice for these children in court. The desired result is that children are placed into safe, loving homes where they can thrive.

Volunteer Advocates ensure that each child has a voice in court and that the judge receives up-to-date, pertinent information so important decisions may be made regarding the child's educational and health related needs, therapy, visitation, and ultimately permanency. Each Volunteer Advocate is vital in determining a safe and permanent home for the child.

For children who have been abused or neglected, CASA means having a home instead of feeling lost, and being a priority instead of feeling invisible. For Volunteer Advocates, CASA is a life-changing experience that makes our community a better place.

Our goal is to ensure that every abused and neglected child in need has a CASA Volunteer speaking up for their rights and standing up for their best interests. We ask that you stand with us and declare: I am for the child.

Bill Christopher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bill Christopher' followed by a horizontal line.

CASA Board Chair

Lindsay Lierman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lindsay Lierman' in a cursive style.

Executive Director



Stand with us
and declare:

“**I** am
for
the
child.”





“CASA Volunteers represent the positive times for children after the trauma of the case involvement has ended.”

– Judge Jill-Ellyn Straus



History

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

In 1977, 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.

Here, in Adams and Broomfield Counties, a caring group of citizens formed our local CASA program in the year 2000.



“I started the first CASA program because I was very frustrated as a judge. I looked around the courtroom and there was nobody there whose only job was to give me their view of what would be the best thing for the child.”

– Judge David Soukup

CASA Vounteers listen first. Then act.

CASA Volunteers are everyday citizens who stand up for the rights of abused and neglected children in the courtroom and in the community. They are not social workers – although they work closely with paid child welfare professionals. They are not attorneys – although they are empowered by judges to work alongside lawyers to make informed recommendations to the court.

CASA Volunteers come from every walk of life and share a commitment to improving children's lives with a willingness to learn and an open mind toward life experiences different from their own. Volunteer Advocates complete an interview, background checks and 35 hours of intensive training.

After being sworn-in by a judge, Volunteer Advocates are appointed to a child or family of children and spend an average of 15-20 hours a month advocating for these children. They get to know the children while also gathering information from the children's family, teachers, doctors, care-givers and anyone else involved in their lives. Judges highly value CASA's recommendations, which help them make informed decisions in the children's best interests.





“The Judicial Officers of Adams and Broomfield Counties value the fine work done by CASA Volunteers. Their insight into the lives of the children they advocate for in the courtrooms is helpful in making the important decisions. The special interest in the children by the CASA Volunteers has proven to be crucial in making a positive impact on them. A CASA Volunteer’s role in the judicial process can never be overestimated and is greatly appreciated by all the judicial officers.”

–Chief Judge Patrick Murphy



Program

Fiscal Year 2015

533

Total children served

203

Children's cases closed with help of CASA

77%

Children's cases closed with a permanent home

220

CASA Volunteers served on a case

767

Children still in need of a CASA

Child Race/Ethnicity

Hispanic = 30%

African American = 6%

Caucasian = 53%

Other/not reported = 11%

Child Age

0-4 = 28%

5-13 = 49%

14-17 = 14%

18 & up = 9%

Of the 203 children's cases closed . . .

26% reunified with parents

6% aged out of the system

17% other
(including case transfers,
cases dismissed, etc.)

51%
adopted or
placed with
a relative



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

FUNDRAISING EVENTS
Indulge for CASA
Kaleidoscope of Hope Breakfast & Luncheon
CASA Classic Golf Tournament
Blue Ribbon Campaign
Dine Out for CASA
Cookie Campaign

GRANTS
CASA works diligently to comply with grant guidelines in an effort to retain this valuable funding.

Legislative/State
Funding: \$98,543

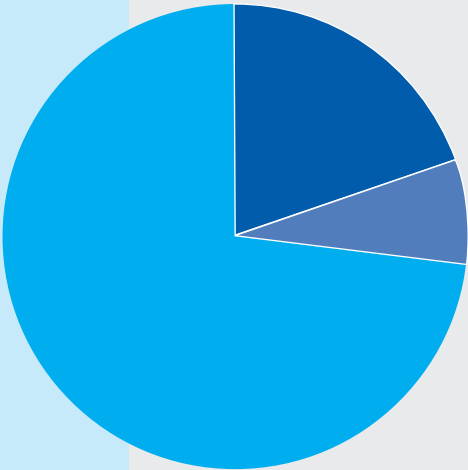
Individual Donations: \$258,245

Fundraising Events: \$141,379

Grants: \$198,329

In-Kind:
\$22,000

Total Revenue: \$718,496

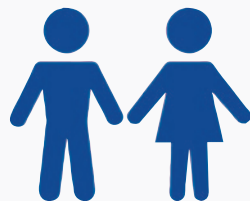


Use of Funds

- Administration
\$65,493 [9%]
- Fundraising
\$133,387 [18%]
- Program
\$520,512 [73%]

Total Expenses \$719,392

CASA's Impact



RECIDIVISM

88% of children in Colorado will not reenter the child welfare system within 12 months.
(cdhsdatamatters.org)

99% of children **WITH a CASA Volunteer** in Adams & Broomfield Counties will not reenter the child welfare system within 12 months.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

46% of children ages 3-5 in the foster care system nationwide are not enrolled in early childhood education to encourage and support school readiness.
(datamatters.kidscount.org)

90% of children ages 3-5 in the foster care system **WITH a CASA Volunteer** in Adams & Broomfield Counties are enrolled in early childhood education to encourage and support school readiness.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

27.5% of children in Colorado in the foster care system will graduate high school by the age 18.

(Colorado of Education & Datamatters.kidscount.org)

99% of children in the foster care system **WITH a CASA Volunteer** in Adams & Broomfield Counties will graduate high school by age 18.

THE
DIFFERENCE:
VOLUNTEER
ADVOCACY.

Jewel's Story



Jewel with her CASA Volunteer, Charlene Campbell.

As a young child my family was torn apart. At only two years old my father was sent to prison. This forced my mother, sister, and me to seek shelter on the streets, in turn exposing us to every kind of abuse. Eventually we were able to find some stability, but my mother was then diagnosed with cancer for the third time. In addition to my mother's physical debilitating illnesses, her mental state was also fragile. Due to her heavy drug addiction she was extremely abusive. After several events of severe mental instability, my mother subjected my sister and me to a life threatening situation caused by her hand. At this time the state approached the situation, resulting in my sister and me being placed in foster care.

I entered the foster care system when I was 15 years old. It was really hard because even though you have so many people working with your family, they work with limited resources with so many children on their caseload.

And then one day the court told us we had a CASA, and I thought "that's house in Spanish, we have a house?" I was really confused. They introduced Charlene, and I didn't think much of it. I was taught not to get too close or put my trust in people. But, Charlene was there for me. She listened and spoke up for me when I felt I had no voice. She truly cared about me and my sister.

Having a CASA is more than just a process, you build a relationship. You build connections. There's that sense of family there that you didn't feel before. So, I intend on having her at my graduations, my baby showers, and my wedding. She will be at all the important events in my life. She has earned her right to be there because she has helped me get past one of the hardest situations I have ever faced, and I came out on top. I have to thank CASA for that, thank God that they gave me such a wonderful person to guide me through this.



“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



Invest

Invest in the life of a child. Invest in our future.

Our success relies on many partners, including a large network of dedicated community members, corporations and government funders . . . people just like you!

CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties is very proud of the help our volunteers provided last year for over 530 children. We also realize this was less than half of the children in our community needing our services. Your financial support can help us move closer to our goal of serving 100% of children in need.

Help change the life of a child.

Contributions support CASA Volunteers in their efforts to guide children through the overburdened legal system to safe, permanent homes where they can thrive.

Your TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT can help turn a
LIFE OF HURT into ONE OF HOPE.

There are nearly
1,300 children
with open abuse and
neglect cases in
Adams and Broomfield
Counties.



Help us put
a caring adult
in the life of
every child
who needs
one.



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 for ways to get involved.

Benefactor: \$50,000 [Help 42 children in need]

Ted & Lina Shipman

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



Bob Lembke



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]

Fiscal Year 2015 Board of Directors

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I am for the child.

To listen to her.

To stand up in court for her.

To speak for her.

To champion without compromise for what's in her best interest.

I am the voice of the child.

To ensure that she is heard.

To affirm to her that she is worthy.

To believe in her.

Because I am there for her,

I know that she is that much more likely

to find a safe, permanent home.

That is the child I am for.

Who am I?

I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer.

I AM YOU.





CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**CASA OF ADAMS &
BROOMFIELD COUNTIES**

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CASA17th.org