



CASA OF ADAMS & BROOMFIELD COUNTIES

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2025 | JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025

A photograph of four diverse children in a classroom. In the foreground, a young girl with dark hair and bangs is smiling and clapping. Behind her, a girl with curly hair is also smiling and clapping. To the left, another girl is smiling. In the background, a boy is visible. They are all looking towards the camera. The background shows a classroom with a globe and white cabinets.

OUR MISSION

Provide volunteer advocacy and support for at-risk children and youth, empowering families to thrive.

OUR VISION

A community that values and strengthens children and families from all backgrounds and life experiences, providing opportunities to thrive and build successful lives.

OUR VALUES

Adaptability | Collaboration | Integrity | Respect | Quality | Service | Stewardship



"CASA matters because it's not just talk, it's real people changing real lives. During my time on the board, I was proud to help strengthen an organization that ensures kids have a voice, an advocate, and a path toward hope. That's work worth showing up for every day."

– Lisandra Gonzales, Board Member of the Year

Dear Friends of CASA,

This year, we celebrate 25 years of advocacy for children and families in Adams and Broomfield Counties. Since our founding, 1,548 volunteers have stepped forward to serve an incredible 4,963 children. **In fiscal year 2025 alone, 187 volunteers advocated for 382 children, providing individualized support that promotes each child's safety, stability, and overall well-being.**

This year brought many moments of hope and progress. Most notably, we launched our Family Engagement Program, developed in response to school districts identifying a need for earlier, relationship-based support for youth who are disengaged from school or at risk of truancy filings. **In its first year, the program proudly served 24 students and their families,** providing vital advocacy aimed at improving academic engagement, preventing court involvement, and linking families to essential community resources.

At the same time, families in our community are experiencing increasingly complex challenges. After several years of decline, dependency and neglect case filings in the 17th Judicial District rose by 30% in fiscal year 2025. **Truancy filings remained high.** Families are navigating issues such as limited access to healthcare and mental health support, and concerns about safety, housing, and financial hardship. These stressors can increase the risk of child abuse, neglect, and chronic absenteeism. As these issues accumulate, the need for CASA's services, and for compassionate, well-trained volunteers, continues to grow.

Federal funds have become less stable in the nonprofit sector, and many long-standing sources of support are increasingly competitive as budget constraints limit philanthropic giving. **These pressures make strong community partnerships more vital than ever.** We are grateful that our community continues to step up for CASA and the children we serve. This year, we hosted our most successful Light of Hope and Indulge for CASA events to date, and our end-of-year campaign reflected the incredible generosity of our community. CASA relies on the continued support of individuals, businesses, foundations, and organizations to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive in a safe, permanent, and loving home.

As we celebrate 25 years of advocacy, we are filled with gratitude for each volunteer, donor, partner, and friend who has walked alongside us. Together, we have built a legacy of hope and resilience, and together, we will continue ensuring that every child in our community has a trusted advocate by their side.

We could not do this work without you.

With heartfelt appreciation,



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Lisandra Gonzales".

LISANDRA GONZALES
Board Chair



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Vickie Ricord".

VICKIE RICORD
Chief Executive Officer

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS

DEPENDENCY & NEGLECT

A CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) is a trained volunteer who represents the best interests of children who have experienced abuse and neglect and are currently in the child welfare system, through no fault of their own.

CASA Volunteers ensure that the child's physical, mental, educational, and emotional needs are being met, and advocate for the child in court, all while supporting them in their journey to find a safe and permanent home.

For decades, I was a special education teacher, and I recently retired. Having spent years working with students who struggled with social and emotional challenges, I felt well-prepared to support a truancy case. I've had the chance to get to know my CASA child in a way that goes far beyond academics. At first, she was very shy, but everything began to shift the day she asked me to walk her to school.

Walking her to school wasn't typical CASA practice, but it gave us time to connect. One day, she lit up talking about a graphic novel. I brought her a few books and later sent a birthday gift card. Her mom said she picked out two books to read over the summer. That small moment felt big. It was evidence of trust, of progress, and of a growing spark in her love for learning."



- Marilyn Shea,
Truancy CASA Volunteer

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Family Engagement Advocates work one-on-one with families whose children are chronically absent from school. Advocates partner with families to identify and build upon strengths, provide advocacy and mentorship for children, and facilitate resource navigation for families to access wraparound community supports.

This new, prevention-focused program is voluntary for families and operates outside the child welfare and court system. Family Engagement Advocates support students' needs to help them re-engage in school.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS

Currently, I am reconnecting with a few of my former CASA youths, per their requests. I've been doing a little mentoring and helping them process how being a foster kid affected their lives and who they have become as successful adults. With every conversation, they continue to tell me that having me as their CASA completely changed their lives.

I have a difficult time wrapping my head around their words, as I was only doing what I thought was right to advocate for them and act in their best interests. What a blessing it is to continue to speak into their lives as adults! Being a CASA is a lifetime commitment, and what a wonderful way to leave a legacy for those who, through no fault of their own, lived through a situation they had no control of and could not advocate for themselves."



-Charlene Campbell
CASA Volunteer and
Peer Coordinator

TRUANCY

A Truancy CASA is a trained volunteer who represents the educational interests of a child or youth with a truancy case in the 17th Judicial District.

Truancy CASAs work alongside the child, family, and school to identify barriers to attendance, access community resources, and improve the student's school attendance and academic success.

Being a volunteer has taught me how impactful just one person can be. When students struggle with attendance or get caught up in the court system, they need someone in their corner. They need someone who sees the whole child. Not just academics, but also their medical and emotional needs. Right now, I'm working with a student who has severe special needs. One of the main challenges has been helping him get to school consistently, so I visit in the mornings to support his grandmother with getting him ready and out the door.

Another challenge was getting him connected to medical and dental care. After his grandmother scheduled appointments, we learned that he needed three root canals and multiple crowns. He got the care he needed, and now we're working on addressing his sleep issues too. Having these needs met enables him to better engage in school."



- Nate Leaf
Family Engagement Advocate

YEAR IN REVIEW



187

VOLUNTEER
ADVOCATES

10K

HOURS DONATED
BY VOLUNTEERS

382

CHILDREN AND
YOUTH RECEIVED
ADVOCACY

321

DEPENDENCY
& NEGLECT
YOUTH

37

TRUANCY
YOUTH

24

FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT
YOUTH

244

CASES
SERVED

192

DEPENDENCY
& NEGLECT
CASES

37

TRUANCY
CASES

15

FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT
CASES

65%

OF CHILDREN
RECEIVED ADVOCACY
UNDER THE PEER
COORDINATOR MODEL



351

LIGHT OF HOPE
ATTENDEES

238

INDULGE FOR CASA
ATTENDEES



52

COMMUNITY
EVENTS



224

NEW DONORS



5

SWEARING-IN
CEREMONIES

43

NEW
VOLUNTEERS



1.2K

HOLIDAY GIFTS
DISTRIBUTED
(approximately)



200

BACKPACKS
DISTRIBUTED
(approximately)

REPRESENTATION MATTERS

We are proud to serve children and families across every race, ethnicity, ability, socioeconomic background, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and zip code. Yet, statistics show that children of color continue to be disproportionately represented in the child welfare system. Likewise, LGBTQ+ youth, already more likely to face rejection and discrimination from their family, are overrepresented in the foster care system. Children with developmental disabilities also face unique challenges, often needing someone who truly understands their perspective to help them navigate barriers and thrive.

Representation matters. That's why we actively engage in community events throughout the year. Showing up, building trust, and ensuring every child and family sees themselves reflected in our mission.

In fiscal year 2024, we achieved **Tier 1 recognition through the Human Rights Campaign's All Children, All Families Program**. A milestone that underscores our commitment to creating an inclusive and affirming environment. We proudly maintained that recognition in fiscal year 2025 and continue to work with HRC and partner agencies nationwide to ensure every youth and family receives the understanding and support they deserve. **Every child's story is unique, and every child deserves to feel seen, valued, and supported as they work toward a safe and successful future.**

Scan the QR code to learn more about the diverse children, families, and volunteers who make up our CASA community.



When I first saw the CASA table at Broomfield Days in 2019, I knew it was where I wanted to serve. But my oldest son was struggling with his second bout of cancer, and I wanted to give my all to any child I served. In 2021, when I saw the table again and my son was stable, I knew I had to sign up.

I remember during my interview telling the Advocate Supervisor that the children I most wanted to serve were those with disabilities. I felt they are likely the most underserved in a system of already underserved children. You see, not only did my son have cancer, he also has Down syndrome.

He is now 22, and I have walked through all things related to educational and medical advocacy. I wanted to use that knowledge to help children and families struggling in those areas. Since being sworn in, I have served on five cases with nine children, and all have included a child with an intellectual or learning disability. I have always felt that if I cannot use the struggles that I have faced to help others, then what was the point? What better way to use the pain than for this fantastic purpose?"

– Frankie Dubar-Nelson, CASA Volunteer and Staff Member





2025 CELEBRATION AWARDS

The following individuals were selected for their remarkable commitment to working with at-risk children and youth in Adams and Broomfield Counties and for their dedication to furthering our mission. Together, we are so much stronger than we could ever be on our own.



Learn About Our
Award Winners

Elizabeth Martinez

Guardian ad Litem/Counsel for Youth of the Year

Adam Gromko

Rising Star of the Year

Barbara Zeidman

Peer Coordinator of the Year

Lisandra Gonzales

Board Member of the Year

Patricia Mergens

Philanthropist of the Year

Magistrate Ashley Ratliff

Judicial Officer of the Year

Tiffany Jaramillo

Caseworker of the Year

Jeanette Neubauer

Marlene Wiske, CASA Volunteer of the Year



25 YEARS OF IMPACT



2000

CASA's first Volunteer Advocate is sworn-in and the first case is served



2001

CASA starts serving Broomfield County



CASA hosts 1st annual Kaleidoscope of Hope (now Light of Hope)

2003



2007

CASA hosts 1st annual Indulge for CASA Gala at Balistreri Vineyards





2014

The Peer Coordinator Model is created



2019

CASA moves office space to the Adams County Human Services Center



2023

The Truancy Program is launched



2024

The Family Engagement Program is launched



TODAY

1,548 volunteers have served a total of 4,963 children!





Mary McWilliams, Guardian ad Litem | Jason, Former CASA Youth
Judge Kathy Delgado, Retired, 17th Judicial District | Jan Ryan, CASA Volunteer

WHEN A CASA BECOMES FAMILY

At this year's Light of Hope event, we were honored to share the story of Jason, a young man who aged out of the foster care system into adulthood. Through years of uncertainty, his CASA Volunteer, Jan remained the steady presence he could always count on.



Watch Their Story

“I was sworn in as a CASA Advocate by Judge Delgado in 2018 and have since served on five cases. Jason was my second and longest case, I supported him from 2018 until his case closed in 2023. We chose not to continue into his Youth in Transition case so he could become part of my family instead.

He's now like a grandson to me. I attended his high school graduation and visited him at college, and he's spent holidays with our family. Even joined in our Christmas nerf gun battles with a huge grin on his face.

Along with serving as an Advocate, I'm also a Peer Coordinator supporting four other volunteers. **I'll always keep a case of my own because being a CASA has truly been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.”**



-Jan Ryan
CASA Volunteer and
Peer Coordinator

“To anyone thinking about becoming a **CASA Volunteer**, be like Nike: just do it. It’s hard. It’s time-consuming. But it makes a lasting impact on a child’s life. And not just that—it could actually change how that child chooses to parent someday. When you think about it like that, we’re not just supporting one child. We’re helping change a whole generation. Honestly, I don’t understand why there isn’t a waitlist to become a CASA.”

– **Caro Timm**
CASA Volunteer



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

YEARS OF SERVICE

20+

Leanne Holitza

15-19

Judy Ackley
Jeanette Neubauer
Jillon Weaver
Rachel Williams
Barbara Zeidman

10-14

Matt Cale
Charlene Campbell
Karla Fitch
Faye Gillis
DeAnna Hackenberg
Oscar Pope
Zoe Reese
Missy Salter
Emily Urbach

6-9

Laura Afflerbaugh
Afsheen Ahmad
Mary Arrington
Natalie Beck
Linda Bennett
Laura Bohlen
Mara Buchmann
Margaret Buck

Jamie Bunker
Jennie Dreiling
Lindsey Emmons
Gerry Hernandez
Robert Hoyle
Darcy Lacy
Nathan Leaf
Joanne McCulley
Kalen Nevarez
Catherine Parra
Christine Polliard
Sabina Raver
Lisa Romeo
Janice Ryan
Kirk Sarell
Tina Schaffer
Angela Seaton
Christina Smith
Sherri Sos
Caitlin Stallings
Dustin Stallings
Katie Stephens
Candice Toller
Jacqueline White
Pamela White
Judith Witt

4-5

Bradley Anderson
Anupama Anupindi
Dave Bollig
Peter Bulmer
Theresa Dorsey
Frankie Dubar-Nelson
Tara Effertz
Morgan Erzen

Suzie Ewing
Natasha Fry
Madison Gallipo
Kiana Gonzales
Kathleen Graves
Jane Hay
Kathryn Hobbs
Mary Jaquish
David Kelly
Charles Keyes
Erin Keyes
Heather Kopas
Kimberly Lewis
Kelley Lucero
James McCulloch
Nicole Mueller
John Osmundson
Karla Rivas
Beverly Shuken
Martin Sos
Michael Starr
Sonya Starr
Patricia Toornman Hunter
Cheryl Urbina
Edward Vaughn
Nancy Werner
Nancy Yoas

2-3

Marnita Ahmenatu
Lisa Anderson
Cynthia Andrews
Nadine Birkholz
Sonja BonAnno
Sarah Boonstra
Nedi Corral

Vicki Deitchel
Patricia Dimmer
Ashley Dunn
Margaret Dunnington
Luis Echeverria
Dana Evans
Sierra Fedder
Helena Ferrier
Abigail Fisher
Estelle Fleckenstein
Raechel Greschler
Randy Hay
Stephanie Hengeveld
Alexandra Hippen
Emily Holloway
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Brooke LaPlaca
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Kyle Lynch
Timothy McIntire
Christopher McMahon
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Cynthia Moser
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Jamie Paine
Amisha Perera
Catherine Pleil
Catherine Robinson
Mary Ruppel

Cesar Sanchez
Karlie Sears
Kyra Silbernagel
Shannon Slamon
Tomeka Speller
Erika Stewart
Anne Usman
Bozica Van Landingham
Courtney Webb
Nathanael Wright

1

Caylen Alms
Madison Alsbach
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Leah Martinez
Lenda Matney
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Alyshia Medina
Patricia Mergens
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Marcy Moore
Jamey Munson
Nhu Nguyen-Siedem
Elisabeth O'Brien
Teresa Plank
Rebecca Pommer
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Jayson Sale
Natalie Sauter
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Jennifer Skinner
Shelby Smith
Jennifer Snelling
Carolina Timm
Imani Williams
Grant Williamson

THANK YOU DONORS

BENEFACTORS

17th Judicial District Victim
Assistance and Law Enforcement
(VALE) Program

Adams County Collaborative
Management Program

Colorado CASA
Bob and Carol Lembke

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN

Adams 12 Five Star Schools
Adams County Commissioners
Adams County Community
Enrichment Grant
Adams County Sheriff's Office
Steve Backes
Brannan Companies
Broomfield Community Foundation

Chevron USA Inc.
City and County of Broomfield
City of Northglenn
City of Thornton
City of Westminster
Denver Children's Foundation
Michelle Gayeski and Bryan Breuer

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Ent Credit Union

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Quality Community Foundation
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Stephanie and Patrick Ruiz
Michael and Missy* Salter
Carrie Smith

Town of Bennett
Triumph Financial
United Power

HEROES GUILD

17th Judicial District, Office of the
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A-1 Chipseal Co.
Adams 14 School District
Adams Bank and Trust
Agile Education Marketing
Donna Alengi* and Tom Clark
Nagesh and Anupama* Anupindi
Gary Bliss
Roberta Bourn
Cheri Brandon/Brandon Realty
Group
Brighton Legacy Foundation
Broomfield Crossing Rotary
Kelly Campbell

Holly* and Christopher Cannon
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Civitas Resources
Brian Cohen
Colorado Bar Foundation
Community Reach Center
Connect for Health Colorado
Dawn and John Davis
Douglas* and Ann* Deam
Bill DeLisio
FirstBank
Arif and Karry Gangji
Bob Grant and Beverley Dahan
GroundFloor Media Foundation
Harris Family Law

Kevin Hathaway
Aaron and Sara Hoffman
Home Town Fence
Hunter Douglas
Interstate Energy Inc
Thomas Johnson
Karen Langsley and Jill Wilcox
Reid and Ruthann Lester
Mark and Joanne* McCulley
McIntire Family Gift Fund*
Judge John Popovich and Nancy
Juday
Power Equipment Company
reDirect

Eugene Schmitz
School District 27J
Lina Shipman
Susan Sieber
Mike and Korrie Skibinski
Tabor Funeral Home
TBK Bank
The Lillis Foundation
Ticket to Dream Foundation
US Engineering Construction
Westminster Community Foundation
Rachel Ann Williams*
Steven and Terry Woods
Ziur Electric

POWERFUL VOICES SOCIETY

Shannon Abote
Dmitra Alvarez
Mike and Lynne Avery
Nancy and Bryon Bednar

Karen and David Bigelow
Brighton Fire Rescue
Brighton Kiwanis Club
Becky Brinkman and Margaret Burd

Bill and Ann Christopher
City of Federal Heights
Ray Coniglio
Brad Ellins and Tonya Jilling

Dave Frankel
Faye Gillis*
Lisandra Gonzales
Kathe Graves* and Bill Fine

POWERFUL VOICES SOCIETY

Scott Heasty	James and Barbara Lyall	Deysi and William Neidig	Shannon Slamon*
Amy Holton	Sam and Carina Martin	Outrigger Energy	Marty* and Sherri* Sos
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Jonathon and Simone Jones	Chris* and Caitlin McMahon	Judge Jeffrey and Lisa* Romeo	Michael Tupper and Naseem Munshi
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Dave Keanini	Tony and Nicole Milo	Boni and Michele Sandoval	Westminster Rotary
Charles* and Erin* Keyes	Codey and Jordan Morehouse	Mel and Jennie Schulman	Glenn and Nancy Whiting
Judy Lake	Ellen Muzzio	Brooke Silverthorn	Lynette and Don Woolfolk

RECURRING DONORS

Recurring donors are critical to the growth of our organization and play a direct role in helping us advance the CASA mission. Recurring monthly gifts provide a consistent revenue stream and sustain our CASA Program, so we can continue to serve vulnerable and at-risk children in our community.

Stanley Adamson	Rachel Munoz Florido	James and Barbara Lyall	Robert and Marie Reid
Laura Afflerbaugh*	Lisa Gallegos	Cynthia Manuel	Chris and Vickie* Ricord
Donna Alengi* and Tom Clark	Rosie Garner	Scott and Tamara McClure	Alyson Robbins
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	Kim Lewis*	Kaitlyn Reichert	

**indicates current volunteer*

The work that CASA does is exceptional. Most people don't understand the vulnerability of these children and their voices need to be heard."

– Cheri Brandon, Donor & Former CASA Volunteer

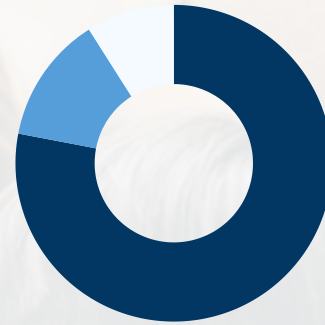
TOTAL REVENUE

\$ 1,720,730



SOURCES OF REVENUE

Donor Investment.....	31%
Grants.....	30%
Fundraising Events.....	18%
State / Leg Funding.....	12%
In-Kind.....	4%
Employee Retention Credit.....	3%
Investment Income.....	2%



USE OF FUNDS

Program.....	78%
Fundraising.....	13%
Administrative.....	9%

“My ‘why’ is simple: I believe every child deserves the chance to thrive.

Volunteering has given me a deep understanding of the challenges the youth we serve face. It’s also shaped how I give financially, making me more intentional about where my support goes. On the other hand, being a donor motivates me to stay active as a volunteer. I want to see the results of my contributions and know they align with CASA’s mission.

On my very first case, the children I supported were finally reunited with their family after years of uncertainty. **The joy on their faces was priceless, and knowing I had been part of that journey was incredibly fulfilling.** Moments like these reaffirm why CASA’s mission is so important, and why I’m proud to support it in every way I can.”

– Christine Polliard, Peer Coordinator and Donor



BOARD



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Association of Colorado



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District Judge



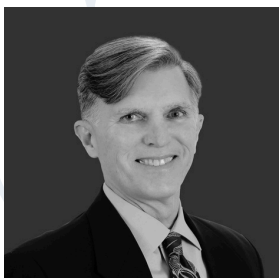
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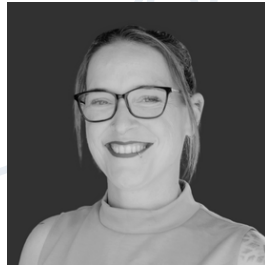


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CALE**

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Supervisor*



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Program Director



**EMILY
TARR-WHEELAN**

*Lead Referral Specialist
& Peer Coordinator
Supervisor*



PEER COORDINATORS



**LAURA
AFFLERBAUGH**
Since 2024



**AFSHEEN
AHMAD**
Since 2021



**LINDA
BENNETT**
Since 2023



**CHARLENE
CAMPBELL**
Since 2022



**ASHLEY
DUNN**
Since 2023



**MORGAN
ERNZEN**
Since 2024



**ESTELLE
FLECKENSTEIN**
Since 2023



**FAYE
GILLIS**
Since 2014



**GERRY
HERNANDEZ**
Since 2022



**JIMMY
MCCULLOCH**
Since 2023



**JOANNE
MCCULLEY**
Since 2019



**TIM
MCINTIRE**
Since 2024



**KALEN
NEVAREZ**
Since 2021



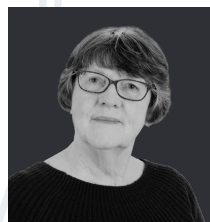
**CHRISTINE
POLLIARD**
Since 2022



**ZOE
REESE**
Since 2016



**LISA
ROMEO**
Since 2022



**JAN
RYAN**
Since 2019



**CANDIE
TOLLER**
Since 2017



**EMILY
URBACH**
Since 2021



**PAM
WHITE**
Since 2021



**RACHEL
WILLIAMS**
Since 2015



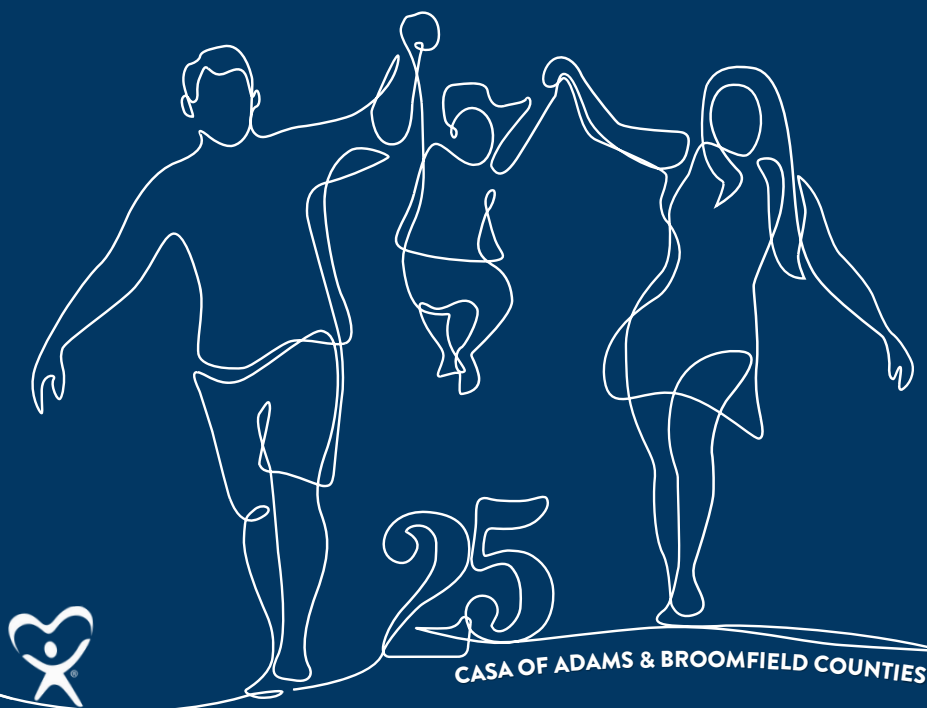
**JUDY
WITT**
Since 2021



**BARBARA
ZEIDMAN**
Since 2018



Peer Coordinators are experienced, specially trained volunteers who step into a supervisory role to assist other volunteers.



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