



Little Moments



# CASA of Northwest Arkansas 2023 Impact Report



# Note From Our Executive Director

**As we celebrate** the past year, I want to take the opportunity to recognize many of the “little moments” that have made up our year. Our advocates are champions of acknowledging the small successes in the lives of the children on their cases. My hope is that this report will highlight how those **little moments can create big change for the 728 children we have served this year.**

We were excited to be able to resume offering in-person trainings this year. CASA of NWA hosted three New Volunteer training cycles and six continuing education training sessions in our Walker Family Training Room and loved having the chance to re-engage with our advocates in this way. It has been wonderful to see many of our long-time volunteers in our office again, as well as newer advocates, many of whom had never been to our office in person!

We were privileged to be able to hold our annual Light of Hope event in person again as well. November 2022, we hosted nearly 900 guests at our combined programs, and are looking forward to celebrating our 15th year of Light of Hope this fall.

In April 2023, I celebrated my 20th Anniversary with CASA of NWA. Looking back, I am so proud of what we have accomplished together - the biggest achievement being our ability to serve 100% of the children in need for the past four years running. I was personally thrilled that with the collaboration and support of our Board of Directors, we were able to roll out additional staff support this year, including health insurance benefits, a 6-week leadership and communication development training for all our staff to enhance and improve our internal communication, and the development of our shared Cultural Values and Rules of Engagement

Year after year, as we compile this report, I am blown away by the incredible work of our advocates. This year we are excited to highlight many of the little moments our volunteers, staff, and judges shared with the children and families on their cases, and I hope you feel as inspired as I do by these snapshots.



*Crystal Vickmark*



*Crystal Vickmark*

**Crystal Vickmark**  
**Executive Director**

## Board of Directors

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Suzanne Finstad, **Vice President**  
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**\*Term July 1, 2022**  
**-June 30, 2023**

# Mission

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Northwest Arkansas provides compassionate volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children. We are committed to ensuring a consistent voice, safe home, and promising future for children in foster care.

# Vision

Every child in foster care will have a fierce and skilled CASA champion by their side.

# Values

We value children above all else. In order to serve their best interests, we value:

Truth  
Hope  
Commitment  
Compassion  
Respect

## CASA by the Numbers


**259** children entered foster care in NWA in 2023

**100%** of children in foster care in NWA are served by CASA of NWA

**95%** of children in the last year had two or fewer placements

**728**  by **327**  
Kids served Volunteers

## Found Permanency

**10** Teens in foster care graduated high school or earned their GED 

**111**   
Adoptions

**44**   
Guardianships

**105**   
Reunifications







## Finding Family

**Courtney Lindsay** took finding family placement options seriously for the young child on her case. She was able to identify grandparents who lived out of state and then connected them with DHS. Ultimately, 2-year-old James was adopted by his grandparents after being in foster care for 784 days.



## Zooming by

**Sharon Thompson** advocated for the two children on her case to be placed with their great-grandma Jane. In order to help make sure Jane was present and supported during staffings, Sharon would go to Jane's home and attend zoom staffings with her.



## Day 1,115

**Theresa Barrera Shaw** was Robert's CASA for the 1,115 days he spent in foster care. Over those three years, she spent many hours at many kitchen tables getting to know the people in Robert's life. She played in backyards, celebrated birthdays at Chick-Fil-A, and brought him back-to-school supplies. When Robert was adopted by his forever family, Theresa got to celebrate that with him as well!



## All kids. All Families.

**Rebecca Renfro** and her CASA youth, Simon, became great pals during their case. Rebecca was there to support Simon throughout the reunification process with his mom. When Simon was able to return home to his mother, he returned to a home that was accepting and supportive of his identity.



## It's in the Name

"I think back to the moment we did an adoption and the child's name was changed to reflect a CASA on the case. **True impact**"  
-Judge Smith





## Bonds of a Mother

**CASA Audrey Laughlin** worked hard to support the entire family on one of her recent cases. Though Carson was not able to be reunified with his mother, guardianship was granted to his grandparents. He is thriving in their care and is still able to have visits with and maintain a bond with his mother.



## Home for Christmas

When **Susan Presley's** case was set to close just before Christmas, she saw one more opportunity to make things special for the six children on her case. Susan worked with their mother, Angela, to bring all the children's unwrapped gifts to her own home, gathered plenty of wrapping paper, and invited Angela to wrap the gifts at Susan's before putting them under the children's Christmas tree.



## Beyond the Case

**Glen Hoffman** consistently and selflessly advocated for Joshua to have his unique needs met. When things fell through the cracks and when the caseworkers came and went, Glen was always there to make sure things got done. Glen is Joshua's trusted person and has turned to Glen in times of need. Glen and Joshua continue to be close even though the case has closed.



## Lifelong Advocacy

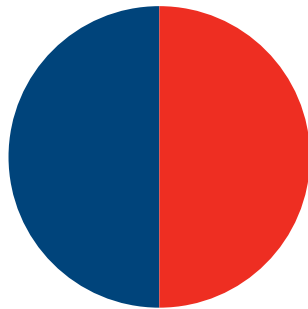
When **Katie** was approaching her 21st birthday, her CASA, Sylvia Chesser petitioned the court to become Katie's legal guardian. After 5 years of working together, Sylvia knew better than anyone that Katie deserved to have someone in her life who cared personally for her and who would continue to work for Katie's best interests.



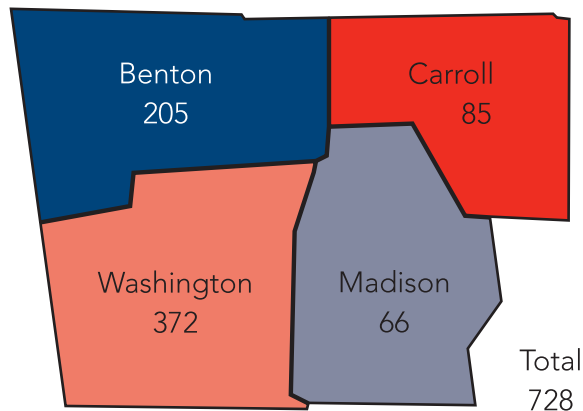
# Children Demographics

## Gender

Male 50%  
Female 50%

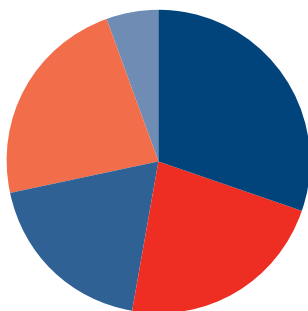


## County Of Origin



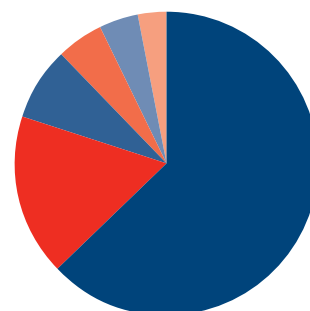
## Age

0-4 years 30.3%  
5-9 years 22.5%  
10-13 years 18.9%  
14-18 years 23%  
18+ years 5.3%



## Ethnicity

Caucasian 63%  
Hispanic/Latino 17%  
African American 8%  
Asian/Pacific Islander 5%  
Multi-Racial/Other 4%  
Native American 3%

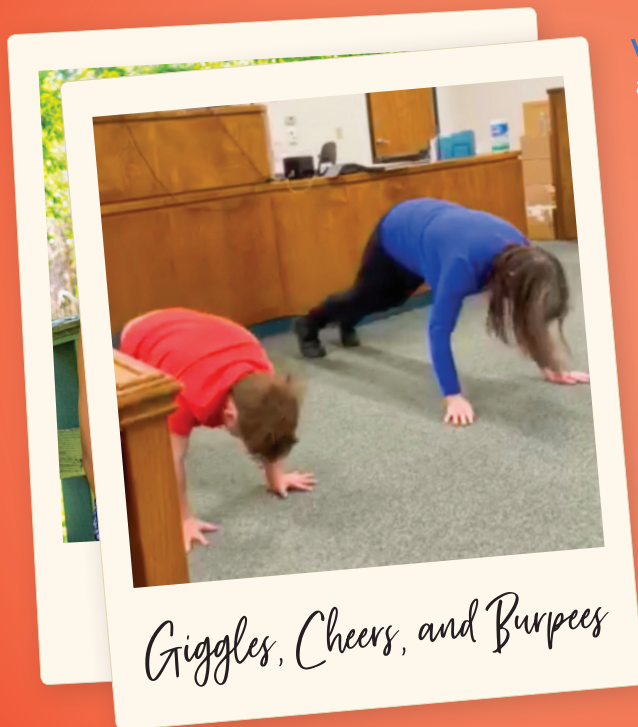


*The Sibling Bond*



**Advocating** for large sibling groups can be a real challenge. When Sylvia Warner accepted a case with 6 siblings, she knew she would have to really work hard to keep the kids in touch with one another. During their 44 months in foster care, the Harris children experienced many placement changes and were separated from one another. But for those 44 months, Sylvia was able to help arrange several in-person visits and even birthday parties for the children.



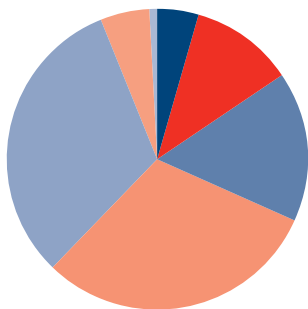


We know Judge Zimmerman as a judge who thinks outside the box. She is willing to step off the bench for moments that matter - for high fives, hugs, group pictures, and occasionally for burpee contests. When Zander, who has been in foster care since 2018, attended his last hearing, he challenged Judge Zimmerman to a burpee contest, and she was a formidable opponent. After a brief lesson in burpee form, the two competed to see who could do the most in one minute as the courtroom erupted in giggles and cheers.

## Volunteer Demographics

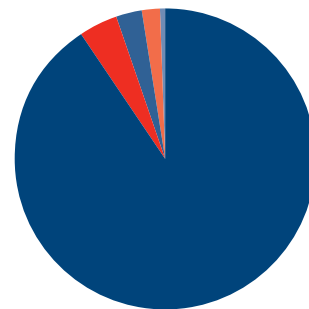
### Years of Service

Rookie	4.7%
1	11%
2	16.2%
3+	30.5%
5+	31.6%
10+	5.2%
15+	0.8%



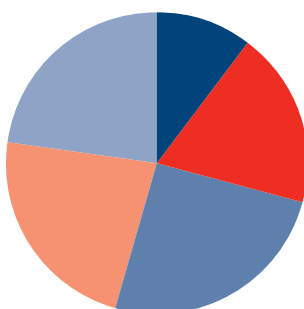
### Ethnicity

Caucasian	90.6%
Hispanic/Latino	4.2%
African American	2.9%
Multi-Racial/Other	1.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5%



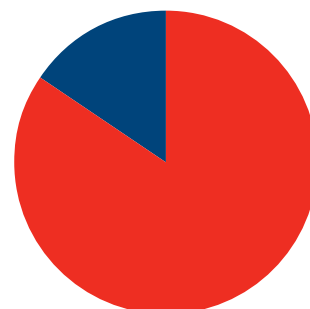
### Age

20s	10.5%
30s	18.8%
40s	25.3%
50s	22.7%
60s+	22.7%



### Gender

Female	84.3%
Male	15.4%





# Volunteers

This year's success is due to the love and commitment our advocates bring to the children and families they serve. Thank you to these individuals who gave of themselves to make sure our children's voices were heard.

★ Celebrating 5+ years of service with CASA

★★ Celebrating 10+ years of service with CASA

★★★ Celebrating 15+ years of service with CASA



Kimberly Aaron  
Susan Adams  
Edosa Aibangbee  
Michelle Alexander  
Julie Allison ★  
Shelby Anthony/Davis  
Abigail Arnn  
Kim Autry ★★★  
Ron Autry ★★★  
Laura Avant  
Theresa Barrera-Shaw  
Amber Barrett  
Shannon Barrowcliff  
Steven Beaumont  
Sharon Becker ★  
Jennifer Becnel  
Robin Beeler  
Tana Beenken ★  
Kara Biggs ★  
Mary Blankenship ★  
Jeff Blaschke ★  
Kristi Blaschke ★  
Cari Bogulski ★  
Tracy Bohannon  
Whitney Bohn  
Emily Bost ★★  
Emily Bowman  
John Bradley  
Sarah Bradshaw  
Laurie Brady  
Susan Breese  
Rick Brekelbaum  
Mandy Broadstreet ★  
Helen Brown ★  
Patrick Brutus

Stephanie Brutus  
Jenny Buchanan  
Brianna Burford  
Happy Burgmeier ★  
Sara Burns  
Shelby Burns  
Hannah Butler  
Maggie Butler  
Valerie Buxton  
Debbie Bzowski  
Cindy Capobianco  
Candice Carlsen  
Kim Carlson ★  
Carolyn Carney ★  
Lacey Carney ★  
Belinda Carpenter ★  
Rick Carpenter ★  
Shannon Carpenter ★★  
Anne Carroll  
Haley Carson  
Karen Casey ★  
Kate Chapman ★  
Brittany Chase  
Sylvia Chesser ★  
DeAnne Christoffersen  
Deanna Cicatiello ★★  
Terance Clark  
Blair Clark-Green  
Karen Clarkson  
Mandy Clawson  
Brandi Clifford ★  
Judy Cockrum ★  
Ashley Coffman ★  
Tina Cone ★  
Teresa Cornett ★

John Corso  
Debbie Corter  
Francisco Cortez ★  
Lenore Cottrell ★  
Ann Covington  
David Covington  
Courtney Cox ★  
Thad Crawford ★  
Stacy Crider  
Craig Crismon  
Ashlee Cross ★  
Kristin Crowwhite  
Jim Crouch  
Kelley Cullen ★  
Kelly Daniels  
Doris Davis  
Sheri Davis  
Linda Davis ★  
Marius de Waal ★★  
Montana Deavila  
Jennifer Deckinger  
Tracy DeLeon  
Heidi Dennis  
Dana Dever  
Susan Dewar  
Tricia Dickerson  
Deborah Doerr ★  
Priscilla Dorado  
Candis Drechsler  
Britt Dugal  
Kaelan Dula  
Kristen Dunavant  
Jessi Duncan  
Amber Duran  
Tom Dyal  
Judy Eddington ★  
Amy Edwards  
Dianna Eldridge  
Adam Ellzey  
Hannah Favorite  
Amy Ference  
Jael Fields  
Heather Fite  
Olivia Fletcher  
Jacob Ford ★  
Kristyn Ford ★  
Katisha Fortune ★  
Julie Foster  
Amy Fowler ★  
Keisha Fowler  
Sabrina Freeman  
Nick Fritsche ★  
Randi Fritsche ★  
Robin Fuller ★  
Marcia Gaddy ★★  
Shaneace Gard  
Joe Gardner  
Cana Gardner  
Miranda Gauthier ★

Lacey Gebhart  
Toni Gemper ★  
Julie Gibbens ★  
James Gibbons  
Jason Gill  
Kara Gill  
Liz Gilmore  
Amber Girdley  
Summer Glass  
Erin Goodwin ★  
Tiajuana Gough ★  
Aleza Greene  
Jay Greene  
April Grimes ★  
Daphne Gurel  
Christi Guthrie ★  
Megan Hadden  
Elizabeth Hale  
Marie  
Halvorsen-Ganepola  
Olga Hamilton ★  
Sheri Hammond  
Elizabeth Hannum  
Sydney Hanshew  
Susan Hantz ★  
Shirley Harder  
Kelli Harris ★  
Jacquelyn Harvey  
Mary Harvey

Danielle Hatch  
Kristin Havens  
Stacy Hayes  
Amy Hearting  
Shari Heinzelmann  
Hayley Hendren  
Tracey Hendren  
Tamara Henschell  
Maren Herby  
Angie Hewat ★  
Bryan Hill  
Devyn Hinds  
Adrianna Hinson  
Glen Hoffman ★  
Barbara Hogberg ★  
David Hogberg ★  
Becca Horner  
Nicole Huddleston  
Lon Hudson ★★  
Jennifer Hudspeth  
Summer Hull  
Marla Hunt ★★  
Simon Hyde  
Ruby Jackson ★  
Rachel Jardot ★  
Joel Jazmines  
Megan Johns  
Jo Johnson ★  
Jenna Johnston ★







Brianna Jones  
Teresa Jones ★  
Emily Jost  
Allison Judson  
Kim Justis ★  
Stephanie Kear  
Jennifer Keefauver ★★  
James Keenan ★  
Amy B. Keith ★★  
Crystal Kelly ★  
Chelsie Kennedy  
Brandie Kersey ★  
Kenneth Key  
Cynthia Kimbrough  
Mindi King  
Kilby Kirkconnell ★  
Katie Koscheski  
Kathy Krantz ★  
Melissa Kronauer  
Lynn Kutter ★  
Laura Ladd Poff  
Leslie Lamb ★  
Karen Lancot  
Karen Langston ★  
Holly Lar  
Tim Larsen ★  
Jeff Larson ★  
Audrey Laughlin ★  
Bethany Lee  
Lee Lee  
Mara Levy  
Jackson Light  
Jordan Light  
Debie Liljenberg ★  
Courtney Lindsay  
Davina Lockhart ★  
Laura Luchi ★  
Rachel Ludeman  
Shannon MacNeel ★  
Mallory Magie  
Kay Magness ★  
Scott Manamon  
Andrew Martin  
Carol Martin  
Leah Martin ★

Margot Martin  
Alice Martinson  
Julie Matkins ★  
Megan Mattler  
Jennifer May Brust  
Eve McCain  
Kelly McCarty ★  
Lori McCleskey  
Matt McCleskey  
Mary McCord  
Jordan McFarlane  
Kristi McGinnis  
David McMath  
Kasey Meadows ★  
Ashley Mears  
Meredith Menhennett  
Jill Messer-Sams  
Katie Meyer  
Celeste Michaud  
Ana Micula  
Michael Miller  
Priscilla Mondt  
Joshua Moody  
Ainsley Moore ★  
Krystal Moore ★  
Melody Moore ★★  
Gwen Moore  
Keri Morris  
Heather Morton  
Angie Muldoon ★★  
Marla Muller ★★  
Kendra Murphy-Golden  
Rebecca Murray  
Sita Nanthavong  
Linda Neff Colston ★★  
Robyn Nelson ★  
Greg Nesmith  
Sally Ann Nesmith ★  
Rachel Nichols  
Heather Nielsen ★  
Jessica Nohl ★  
Carie O'Banion ★  
Denise Oglesby  
Michelle Palmer  
Daneen Parish ★

Vennessa Parker  
Gary Paryzek  
Erin Patterson  
Glenda Patterson  
Allison Pederson ★  
Tom Perry ★  
Jennifer Peterson  
Liz Petray  
Avery Phillips  
Cindy Pickney  
Nancy Plagge  
Kimberly Powers  
Andi Pratt ★★  
Rhonda Prenger ★  
Susan Presley-Prophet ★★  
Meredith Purifoy  
Donna Rackley  
Kerry Rateliff  
Cynthia Rauth  
Jessica Raychek  
Ruth Reavis  
Rebecca Renfro  
Shelby Reynolds  
Becky Richards  
Lisa Richards  
Scott Richards  
Sue Richardson ★  
Miranda Ritter  
Jessica Robinson  
Travis Rodmon  
Alyssa Rogers  
Marni Rogers ★★  
Briana Ruff  
Savanah Ruff  
Vanessa Sanchez  
Paul Savas  
Rob Saylor  
Crystal Schmidt  
Carin Schoppmeyer ★  
Stephanie Schriener  
Robin Schumacher  
Sharon Scogin

Christine Scott ★  
Jeffrey Seidensticker ★★  
Becky Seidl  
Denton Seilhan  
Corey Seller  
Kristen Sherrill  
Irene Sibaja  
Stefany Sierra  
Hunter Simmons  
Mike Simmons  
Christine Smith  
Vicki Smith ★★  
Christy Smith ★  
Andrea Smith ★  
Nakisha Snell  
Wendy Sooter  
Kesha Soule ★  
Pauli Springer  
Sharon Spurlin ★  
Meghan Srader  
Caroline Srygley  
Neta Sue Stamps ★  
Edna Stanley  
Allison Steffens ★  
Mike Steffens ★  
Sloan Stephens  
Emily Stephenson ★  
Mimi Stewart ★  
Richard Stewart ★  
Lanna Stone  
Bryan Striegler  
Misty Sutley  
Meghann Swafford  
Pam Sweeney ★  
Barbra Tabor ★  
Loretta Tanner  
Sabrina Thiede  
Anita Thomas  
Kendra Thompson  
Sharon Thompson  
Langlee Threlkeld  
Fernanda Torres

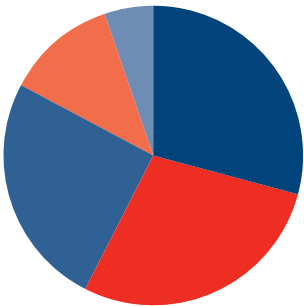
Jan Townsley ★  
Kathy Trotter  
Barri Tulgetske ★  
Brentt Tumey ★  
Elise Tusson  
Jessica Van  
Shelley Vanderbush ★  
Amanda Vestal  
Haley Vincent  
Rebecca Vinzant  
Linda Vytlacil  
Nika Waitsman ★  
Dillon Walker  
Sheroll Walker ★  
Sylvia Warner  
Cassady Watkins  
Kimberly Watson  
Brenda Weigel  
Jamia Weir ★  
Carl West ★  
Claire Williams  
Aurelia Wilson  
Allie Wilson-Seelig  
Morgan Wodka  
Beverly Woessner  
Camrie Worley ★  
Laura Wright ★  
Ashley Yayock  
Dara Yeager ★★  
Tracy Young ★★  
Kelsey Zenko



# Financials

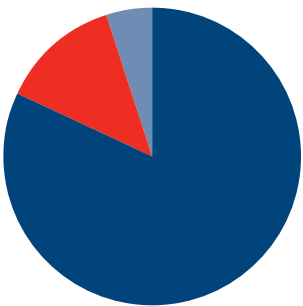
## Revenue\*

Individuals	29.3%
Events	28.2%
Government	25.1%
Corporate	12%
Foundations	5.4%



## Expenses\*

Programmatic	82%
Fundraising	13%
Administrative	5%



## The Efficiency of the CASA Model



\*These numbers represent unaudited financials for the FY2021-22, ending June 30, 2022. For the most recent audited financial information, please visit [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).

# Annual Donors

CASA of Northwest Arkansas is grateful for the benevolence of its donors and believes every contribution makes a difference. You inspire us as we pursue our vision to provide an advocate to every child in need. Please scan the QR code on the right or go to [www.nwacasa.org/about-us/impact-reports](http://www.nwacasa.org/about-us/impact-reports) to see our complete list of donors for the 2022-2023 year.



# In Good Company Sponsors

## Title



## Platinum



## Gold



## Silver



## Bronze





# Above and Beyond

## CASA Closet

The CASA Closet is a versatile and valuable resource designed to support both our volunteers and staff in their mission to advocate for the children on their cases.

The CASA closet consists of a room full of essentials and thoughtful gifts for the children on their cases. When our dedicated volunteers encounter a child who may be lacking basic necessities or in need of some extra comfort, they can stop by the closet and shop for the items that will make a positive impact on the child's life. From clothing and school supplies to toys and personal care items, the closet is stocked with an array of products to cater to different age groups and needs.

Beyond having physical items available, we also have a designated fund that allows us to cover some expenses that may not be covered by the Department of Human Services, such as summer camp, sports registrations and gear, gas gift cards, and more.

## Christmas for a Child

We began Christmas for a Child in 2006 when we saw a need to ensure every child in care was able to have a meaningful Christmas. In 2022, we were able to serve 407 children with the support of over 120 community sponsors. These sponsors range from individuals to groups such as churches and corporate teams. This program is about more than just the material items. It's about providing hope to a child. It's about communicating that they are not forgotten, they matter, and they are important and valued. While we can't fix all the things that are hard in these children's lives, at CASA we recognize that the gifts of hope and of Christmas joy are no small things.

## Older Youth Program

Our Older Youth Program adds an additional layer of support beyond their CASA volunteer for youth ages 14-21. In partnership with DHS, we help facilitate Independent Life Plan classes. These classes allow the youth to practice independent living skills and engage with other youth in foster care. We also maintain a supply of household items for young people to take as they begin living on their own. These items include kitchen essentials (dish sets, small appliances, cooking utensils), bedding sets, laundry baskets, detergent and hangers, and personal care items, all of which are donated by community supporters.



If you have questions about other ways to make an impact contact Courtney Voigt, Director of Development and Marketing, [courtney@nwacasa.org](mailto:courtney@nwacasa.org) or 479.725.2213.



CASA of Northwest Arkansas  
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Springdale, AR 72762

