



Little Moments



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

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
Executive Director

Board of Directors

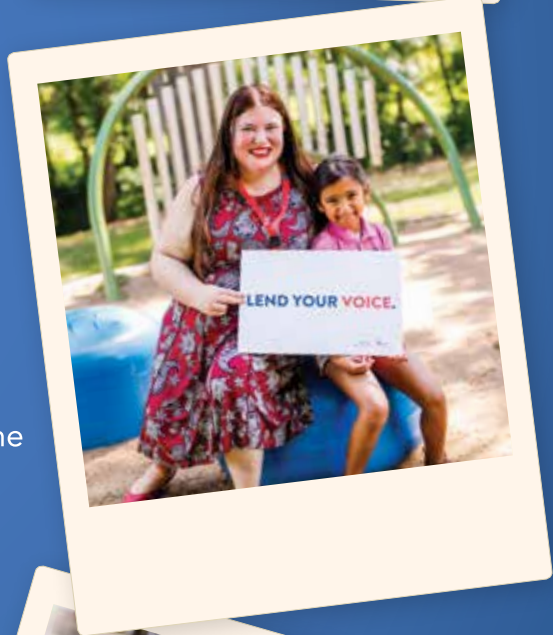
Chris Mitchell, **President**
Suzanne Finstad, **Vice President**
Brandy Furner, **Secretary**
Elise de Waal, **Treasurer**
Steven Schmitt
Wayne Hamilton
Kim Kearbey

Richard Levin
Blair Dyer
Jerrilyn Dailey
Nathanael Aspinwall
Michael Griffino

*Term July 1, 2022
-June 30, 2023



Crystal Vickmark



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.

Values

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

Truth
Hope
Commitment
Compassion
Respect

Vision

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

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 Kids served by 327 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!



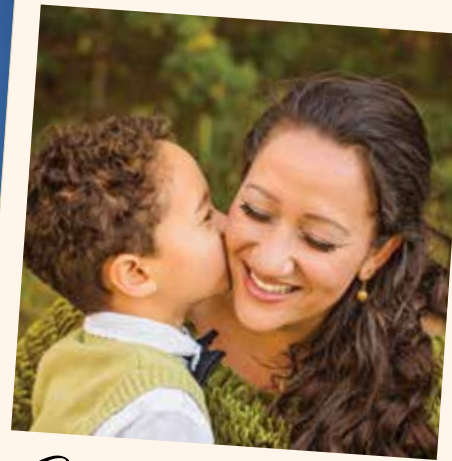
All kids. All Families.

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.



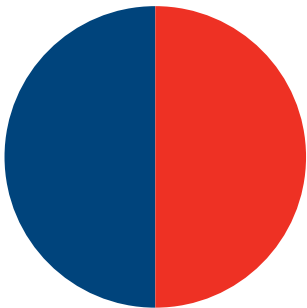
Lifelong Advocacy

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.

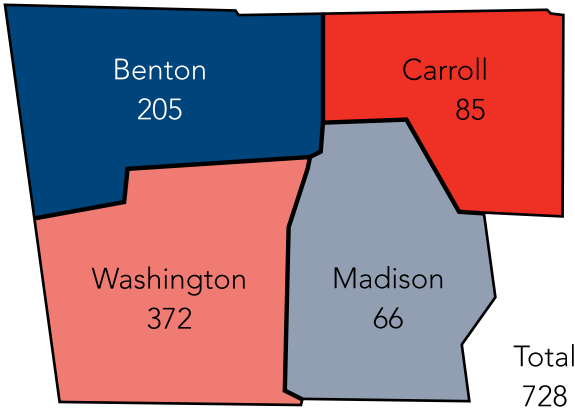
Children Demographics

Gender

Male 50%
Female 50%

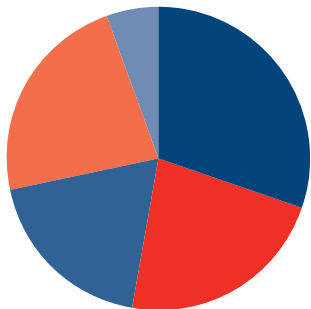


County Of Origin



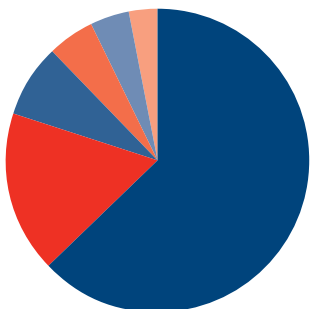
Age

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



Ethnicity

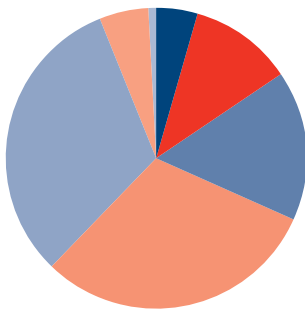
Caucasian 63%
Hispanic/Latino 17%
African American 8%
Asian/Pacific Islander 5%
Multi-Racial/Other 4%
Native American 3%



Volunteer Demographics

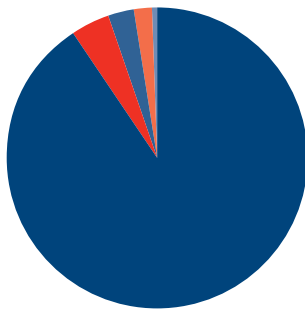
Years of Service

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



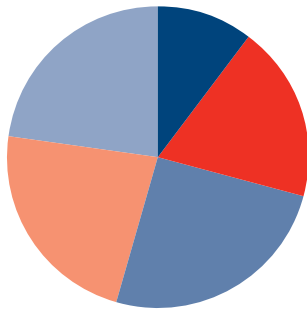
Ethnicity

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



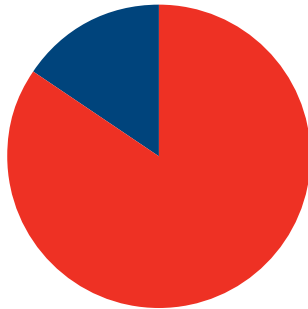
Age

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



Gender

Female 84.3%
Male 15.4%



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.



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.

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



John Corso
Debbie Corter
Francisco Cortez ★
Lenore Cottrell ★
Ann Covington
David Covington
Courtney Cox ★
Thad Crawford ★
Stacy Crider
Craig Crismon
Ashlee Cross ★
Kristin Croswhite
Jim Crouch
Kelley Cullen ★
Kelly Daniels
Doris Davis
Sheri Davis
Linda Davis ★
Marius de Waal ★★
Montana Deavila
Jennifer Deckinger
Tracy DeLeon

Kimberly Aaron
Susan Adams
Edosa Aibangbee
Michelle Alexander
Julie Allison ★
Shelby Anthony/Davis
Abigail Arn
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 Bohannan
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
Brienne 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 ★

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

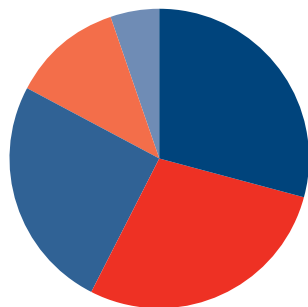
Jan Townsley ★
Kathy Trotter
Barri Tulgetske ★
Brentt Tumey ★
Elise Tusson
Jessica Van
Shelley Vanderbush ★
Amanda Vestal
Haley Vincent
Rebecca Vinzant
Linda Vytalacil
Nika Waitsman ★
Dillon Walker
Sheroll Walker ★
Sylvia Warner
Cassady Watkins
Kimberly Watson
Brenda Weigel
Jamia Weir ★
Carl West ★
Claire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



Financials

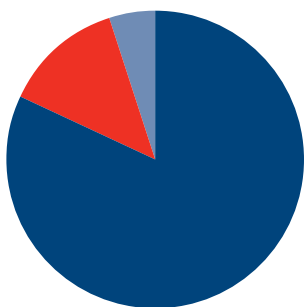
Revenue*

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.

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 to see our complete list of donors for the 2022-2023 year.



In Good Company Sponsors

Title



Gold



Bronze



Platinum



Silver



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 or 479.725.2213.



CASA of Northwest Arkansas
3825 Cawood Lane
Springdale, AR 72762

