

**20  
21**

# Impact Report

## CASA of Galveston County



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF GALVESTON COUNTY

**10000 EMMETT F LOWRY EXPRESSWAY  
SUITE 4000, UNIT 300B  
TEXAS CITY, TX 77591  
409-572-2552**

# Connie Ricketts



## Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings,

CASA of Galveston is a thriving advocacy program for children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Your support through time and financial investment is what makes the difference. In fiscal year 2021, 561 children received best interest advocacy through the dedication of more than 190 Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers.

In the early part of fiscal year 2021, CASA of Galveston County, staff and board embarked on building our strategic plan for the upcoming 5-year vision. This process involved intense education and input to create a plan that each staff and board member can participate in to move our agency forward and to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of child welfare and child protection. A result of the strategic plan also revealed our agency's core values – Collaboration, Trust, and Hope.

CASA of Galveston County is a leading example in the Texas CASA Network for proving the positive outcomes for children and families through our Collaborative Family Engagement process that is embedded in our day-to-day advocacy. These advocacy efforts have increased connections and supportive networks for our families. In fiscal year 2021, 225 children served by CASA exited the child welfare system, 73% (165 children) found permanency through family preservation. These positive outcomes are the result of intentional advocacy by our volunteers and the collaborative relations we have with our child welfare partners to ensure the safety of the children is paramount to our advocacy and the supports are in place for successful family preservation.

In fiscal year 2021, CASA of Galveston County created an Education Committee comprised of staff, volunteers, and local school district partners to move our education advocacy forward and to build supportive relationships in our school districts to ensure children served by CASA received the most appropriate education experience they deserved. This committee provided extensive training throughout the year in every aspect of the education process. Leading edge administrators and other partners participated in these sessions to ensure our volunteers and staff were equipped to advocate for academic success. These newly formed and fostered relationships are allowing our education advocacy to push beyond minimum expectations and setting our children up for success now and in the future.

Fiscal year 2021 continued to prove challenging in hosting in-person events and gatherings. We continued our virtual training and volunteer onboarding process and welcomed many new volunteers to our CASA family. Our major fundraiser moved to a virtual platform and was highly successful exceeding our goals. CASA of Galveston County is so grateful for the investment of our community in the many ways they find to support our critical mission. CASA is Hope for our children and families as they navigate an imperfect system to find positive outcomes. Our staff, board, volunteers, and you are community and stakeholders are needed to surround these children and families with the HOPE they need.

Thank you for your continued support and investment in our mission to serve every child that needs a Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer to serve their best interest.

*With warmest regards and appreciation,*

*Connie Ricketts*

## Our Mission

The mission of CASA of Galveston County is to provide trained community volunteers, appointed by the court, who advocate for the best interest of children in the foster care system who have experienced abuse and neglect in an effort to secure safety and permanency through family reunification while increasing child abuse awareness.

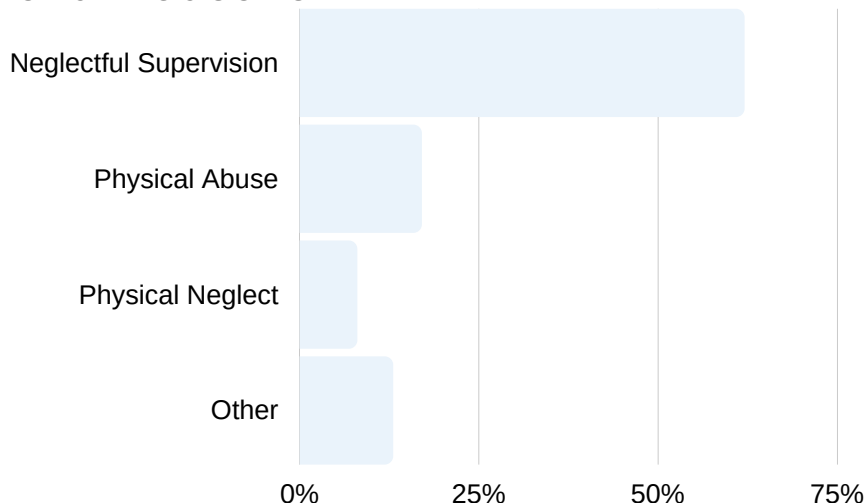
561 Served  
228 Entered Care  
225 Exited Care

# Lives Changed

## Child Outcomes

Reunified with Parents = 43%  
Kin/Relative Placement = 29%  
Adoption by Relative = 3%  
Adoption by Non-Relative = 9%  
Other = 16%

## Removal Reasons



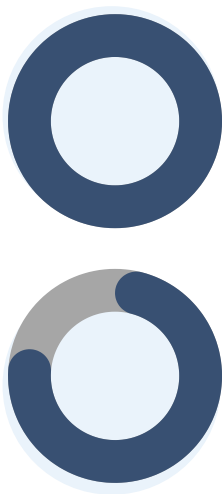
"As an advocate, I've been extremely grateful to CASA because I have been able to see the way one person can change the life of a child."

-CASA Advocate Taylor Biddle

100% of children who enter care are appointed a CASA

80% of those children are assigned active volunteers and 20% are served by CASA staff until an advocate can be assigned

190 Advocate Volunteers  
11 Paid Staff

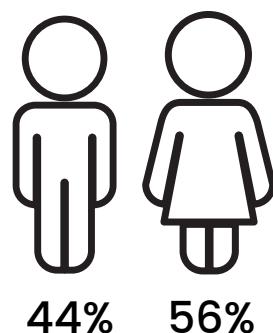


## Ethnicity

Hispanic = 23%  
Non-Hispanic White = 45%  
Non-Hispanic African American = 22%  
Non-Hispanic Biracial/Multi Racial = 6%  
Other = 4%

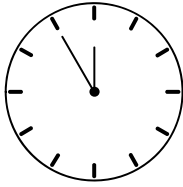
## Age

0-5 = 44%  
6-12 = 33%  
13-17 = 18%  
18+ = 5%



# Our Volunteers

**55** New Advocates  
Joined our CASA Family

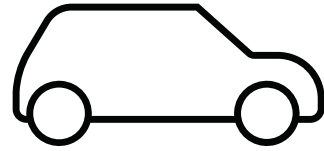


## Volunteer Hours

Case Hours = 8563.93

Value = \$642,295

Based on average Guardian Ad  
Litem rate of \$75 an hour



## Volunteer Miles

Reported = 68,591.48

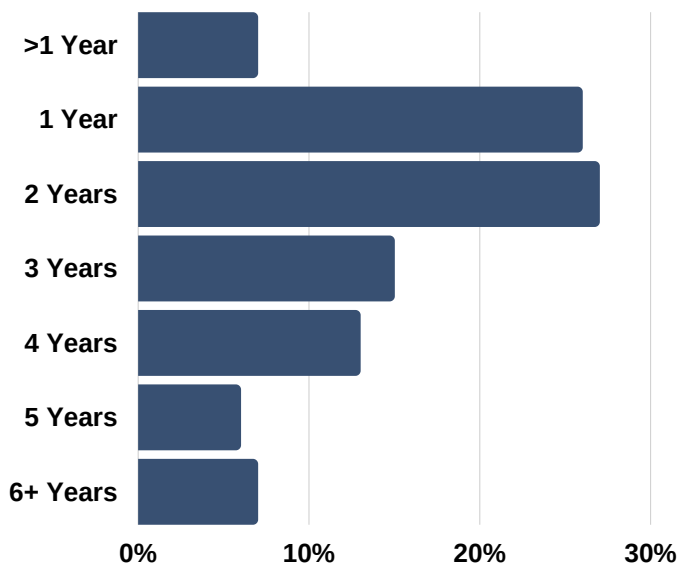
Value = \$39,440.10

Based on IRS Standards of  
\$57.5 cents per mile

My desire is to do whatever possible to make sure each child is loved fully, protected always, encouraged to reach their full potential, and become a confident and caring person.

-CASA Advocate Rayna Shaunfield

## Tenure



## Ethnicity

Hispanic = 8%

Non-Hispanic White = 82%

Non-Hispanic African American = 6%

Other = 4%

## Age

21-29 = 7%

30-39 = 17%

40-49 = 16%

50-59 = 31%

60+ = 28%





# FY 2021 Advocates

## Volunteer Appreciation Award Winners



**Louise Sawyer**  
Education  
Advocate of  
the Year



**Kristin Limke**  
Rookie of  
the Year



**Chris Spiller**  
Medical  
Advocate of  
the Year



**Mark Knox**  
Advocate of  
the Year



**Suzanne White**  
Innovative  
Advocate of the  
Year

### Advocates who served 4+ years:

Madeline Adams	Martha Hersey	Casey Kline	Danielle Royce
Robin Aleman	Dawn Hoffman	Fidencio Leija	Ana Selves
Andrea Bailey	Kathryn Holmes	Raymond Lloyd	Rayna Shaunfield
Taylor Biddle	Michele Holmes	Kristi Mayfield	Frances Sonstein
Jesse Bolen	Steve Holmes	Pamela McVeigh	Karen Spillar
Diana Chase	Mickey House	Sheila Meritt	Chris Spiller
Elizabeth Comeaux	Vaaree Hunley	Annette Miller	Stuart Spuler
Clare Cybak	Robin Husband	Laurie Nicks	Cassandra Sutton
June Dempsey	Kacee Jackson	Andrea Peto-Selby	Darlene Thibeadeau
Leanna Doherty	Kathlynn Joel-Reich	Julia Phillips	Lori Warren
Jennifer Duos	Rodney Johnson	Erin Pillow	Molly White
Judy Garcia	Jennabeth Kernahan	Claire Prida	
Brittney Gauntt	Sharla Kimbrough	Elizabeth Rhame	

"I've become very blessed and humbled to know that I can be a constant presence in the toughest and darkest times of a child's life."  
-CASA Advocate Cassandra Sutton

# CASA of Galveston County

## Staff & Board

### Executive Director

Connie Ricketts

### Recruitment, Training, and Communications Director

Erin Cohen

### Advocacy and Communications Associate

Kasey Warren

### Director of Advocacy

Alice Kent

### CFE Coordinator

Valerie Delgado

### Senior Advocate Supervisor/Education

Barbara Bischoff

### Advocacy Team Leader

Devin Pastrano

### Advocate Supervisors

Lauren Miller

Alaine Nix

Yvonne Ramirez

Ricci Rodriguez

### Board President

Norma Jacobson

### Board Vice-President

Kris Lucas

### Treasurer

Lydia Cook

### Secretary

Thomas Munoz

### Past President

Tim Axt

### Board Members:

Kelli Becka

Mike Hahn

Patrick McDonald

Linda Stickline

Candice Towels

Nicholas Viator

"I think it is important to provide the best outcomes to the children of our next generation."

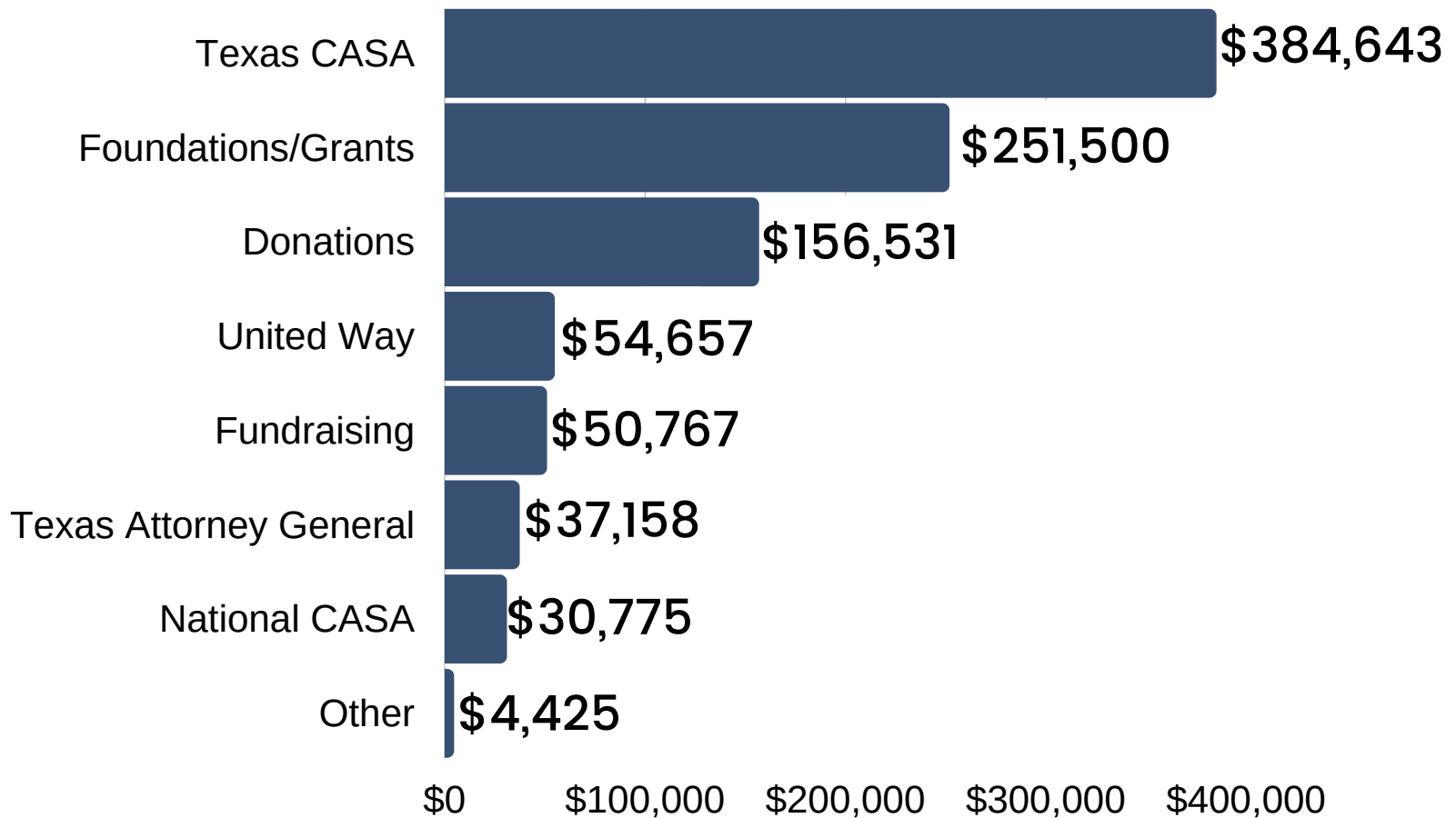
-CASA Advocate Marte Hersey

# Fiscal Report

**Revenue \$970,456**

**Expenses \$852,429**

## Total Revenue



**CASA of Galveston County is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization**

## THE CASA WAY

**We have an uncompromising belief that we will achieve what others think is impossible, and each of us is an essential part of the solution.**



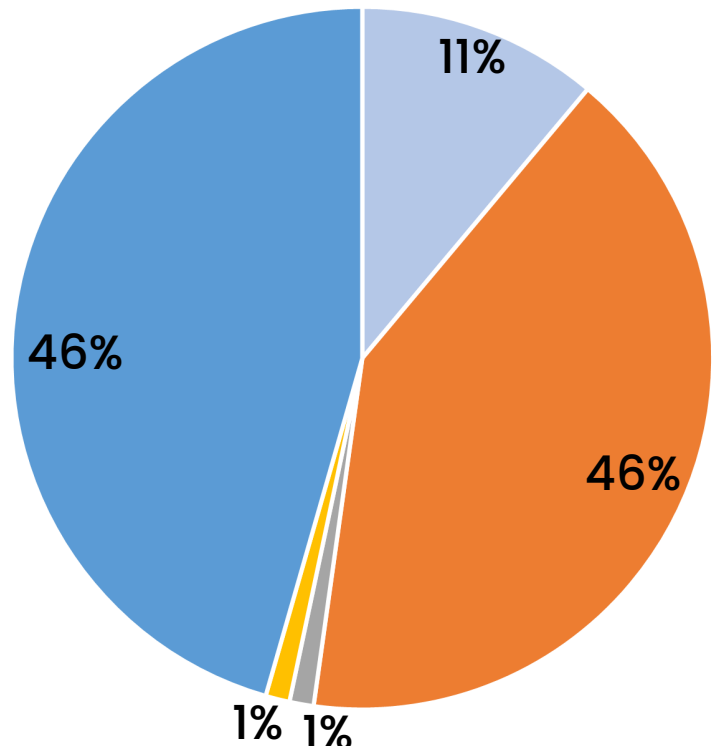
- Created a standard for obtaining education records
- Collaborated with Dickinson ISD to discuss how CASA can assist students in care
- Developed an Education Referral form for CASA advocates' use
- Hosted an Education Day with CPS, Advocates, Attorneys (over 100 attendees)
- Hosted a Focus on Early Childhood Education Training Series

# Collaborative Family Engagement



## CFE Interventions in FY21

- My Three Houses:** helps children to articulate what they are worried about, what they dream about, and what is currently working well in their lives
- Connectedness Map:** a quick and easy tool that uses simple shapes and lines to illustrate that person's connections
- Circle of Trust:** a diagram of concentric circles to visually indicate how connected the child, youth, or family is to the network around them.
- Mobility Map:** a visual timeline the person draws of their life, starting from the place they first lived and/or the first memory, up through present day
- Family Searches:** online searches utilizing various databases to learn more about maternal and paternal family members.





**\*Donation or  
Grant receipts  
\$5,000+**

# Donors

Albert and Ethel Herzstein Foundation  
Andrews Foundation  
Brazos Urethane  
Charles Frueauff Foundation  
Day One Bags  
Dow Chemical  
Dr. Leon Bromberg Charitable Trust  
ExxonMobil  
First Presbyterian Church of Galveston  
Galveston County Recovery Fund  
Galveston County Rotary Foundation  
Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund  
Houston Endowment  
Ippolitto Foundation  
Junior League Galveston County  
Mary Moody Northern Endowment

*thank  
you*

Mary Moody Northern Endowment  
May Jeanne and Garland Slaughter  
Foundation  
Moody Permanent Endowment Fund  
National CASA/GAL Program  
Paula Gremmer  
Shell HERO's  
Susan and Richard Anderson  
Texas Attorney General  
Texas Bar Foundation  
Texas CASA Association, Inc  
The Cameron Foundation  
United Way Galveston (Island)  
United Way Galveston County Mainland  
Valero Children's Benefit Fund  
Walmart Community Foundation  
YAGA's Children Benefit Fund