

IMPACT REPORT

FY 2024



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF GALVESTON COUNTY

10 YEARS

A YEAR IN REVIEW



Dear Valued Stakeholders,

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Galveston County celebrated 10 years of best interest advocacy in FY 2024. It was a memorable year to highlight the dedicated life changing best interest advocacy that was delivered by our valued volunteers since that first day of September 2014. CASA of Galveston County's vision is to serve every child that needs the voice of a CASA volunteer while our state motto is "Every Child Has a Chance – It's YOU". It's the "YOU" in our motto that stands out as it is YOU who supports and invests in our very critical mission.

We kicked off our celebration of 10 years with revealing our 10-year logo to celebrate this amazing milestone that started with serving 35 children and over the years has grown to more than 1350 vulnerable children having a dedicated CASA volunteer to serve their best interest. More notable is that over these years, 98% of the children found permanency and have not returned to the child protection system. This statistic shows the life changes both on behalf of the children but also the caretakers to ensure lifetime networks surrounding the children are achieved.

In FY 2024, we continued our Walk a Mile that shared the story of siblings Max and Cara along the route. Each segment highlighted how their CASA volunteer participated in their life and advocated for their rights in court.

To kickoff April Child Abuse Prevention/Awareness Month, we hosted our Candlelight Vigil on the Justice Center grounds to focus on the prevalence of children in our community who are victims of alleged abuse and neglect and find themselves experiencing foster care. This evening brought our community and partners together while hearing from Torrina Harris, music by Fanfare! Lutheran Music Academy, and a resolution from our State Legislators, Senator Mayes Middleton, Representative Terri Leo-Wilson and Representative Dr. Greg Bonnen. We continued our t-shirt program to raise awareness along with our Cups of Caring initiative, partnering with local coffee shops to display our coffee sleeves. We hosted GO BLUE DAY at the CASA office for our community and volunteers to join us and were also joined by Honorable Judge Jamie Rawlinson for legal training and a note of thanks to our dedicated volunteers. Thank you to our partners who sponsored our April 2024 to raise awareness.

We concluded our year in late July 2024 with an unforgettable evening, at the Bryan Museum as it was transformed to highlight our Strength and Resilience – A Decade of Making a Difference. We honored our agency founding board members, Mr. Tim Axt, Ms. Norma Jacobson, and Ms. Katrina McGuire. Our keynote speaker, Mr. Charles Lerner (State Massachusetts CASA Director), shared his lived experience and issued a call to action to all our guests to find their way to make a difference. Chopin Mon Ami served a delightful dinner and Ms. Constance DeRome brought the tables alive with stunning florals. This event raised over \$133,000 towards realizing our mission of a CASA advocate for every child that needs one.

To enhance our advocacy over the year, we partnered with many community resources to support our families, including the Galveston County Food Bank, St. Vincent's Hope Center, Gulf Coast Center, our chambers of commerce, The Riverside Project, The Birthday Joy Program, and many more. These partnerships allow our volunteers to have access to resources to support their advocacy for children and families. It takes a community to come together for our most vulnerable population – our children and the Galveston County community is rich with caring and giving hearts.

We increased our self-care support to our volunteers through our CASA Companion and Men of CASA groups to ensure our volunteers are taking time to care for themselves so they can fully participate in their CASA volunteer responsibilities. We are so grateful for our volunteers, Mark Knox, Molly White, and Diane Manley for supporting our volunteers in this very special way.

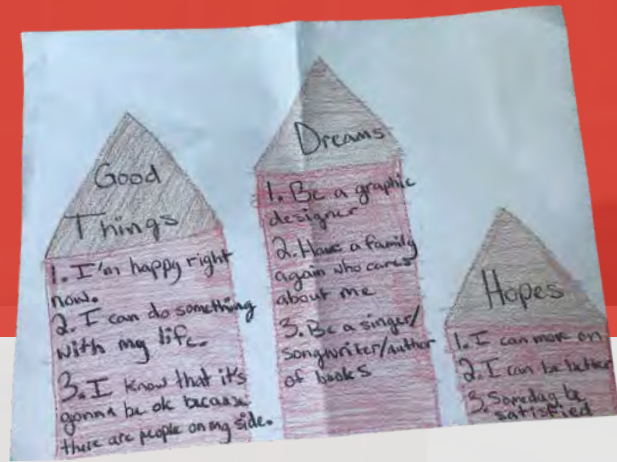
We are so incredibly grateful to all of YOU for Supporting HOPE! We will continue our fight and fulfill our mission with your support and investment. We hope you will visit every page of our impact report and see the difference that is made alongside YOU!; our volunteers, friends, family, supporters, champions, and investors.

With most sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Connie A. Ricketts". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Connie A. Ricketts
Chief Executive Officer

OUR STORY



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.

CASA'S IMPACT

The People on My Side - The Story of "A" and Leslie, her CASA Advocate

"A" came into care in 2021 at 15 years old due to abuse. Leslie was assigned as her CASA Advocate as soon as she entered care. Leslie visited A consistently, ensuring all her health, education, and physical needs were being met.

The outcome of A's case resulted in having to prepare for independent living. A graduated from high school on May 24, 2024, and on her 18th birthday, successfully transitioned to a Supervised Independent Living (SIL) home. Leslie's advocacy did not stop there. Leslie continued to visit A, and motivated her to complete her FAFSA, apply for community college, learn how to budget, and monitor her mental health.

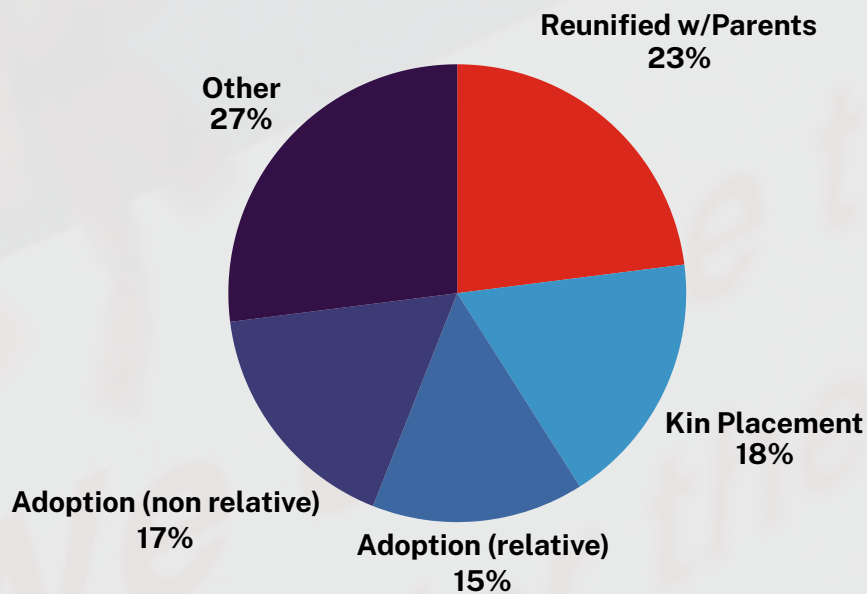
A remained in care for 4 years. Leslie never left her side and always advocated for A's best interest in and out of the courtroom. A knew everything was going to be ok because there were people on her side. Leslie was one of them!

THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

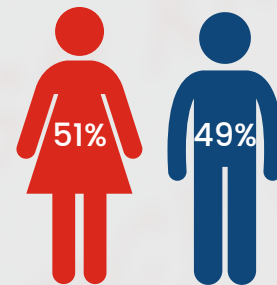
261

CHILDREN SERVED

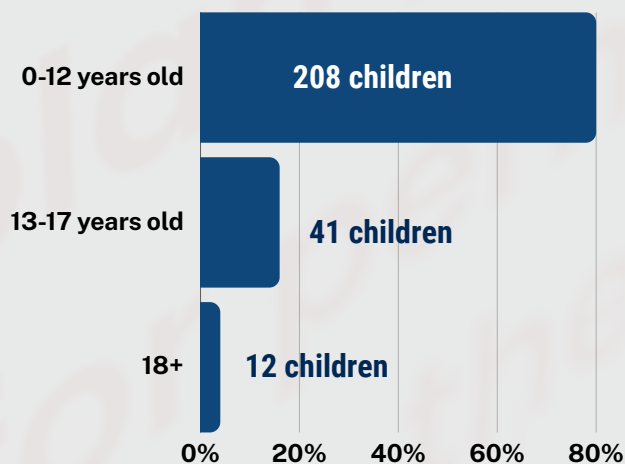
OUTCOMES



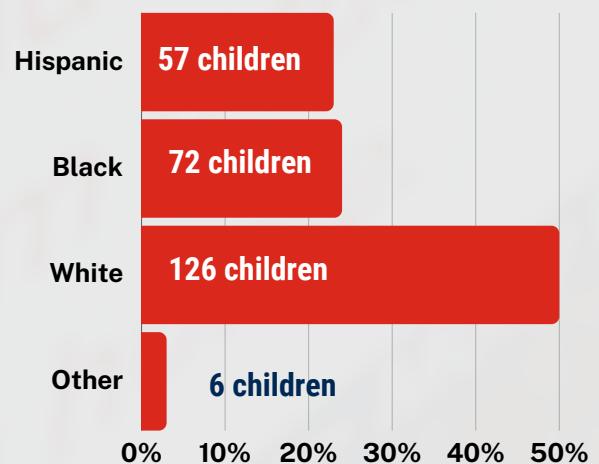
GENDER



AGE



RACE/ETHNICITY



OUR ADVOCATES

113 ASSIGNED ADVOCATES

VOLUNTEER HOURS

7,596

Hours



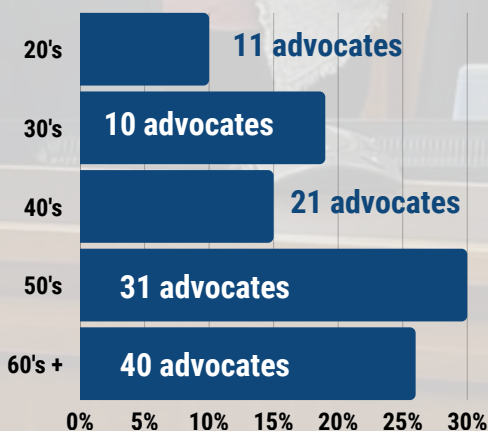
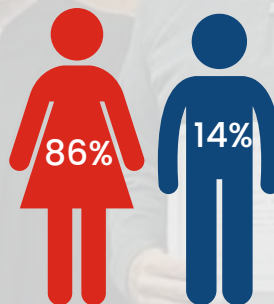
VOLUNTEER MILES

80,286

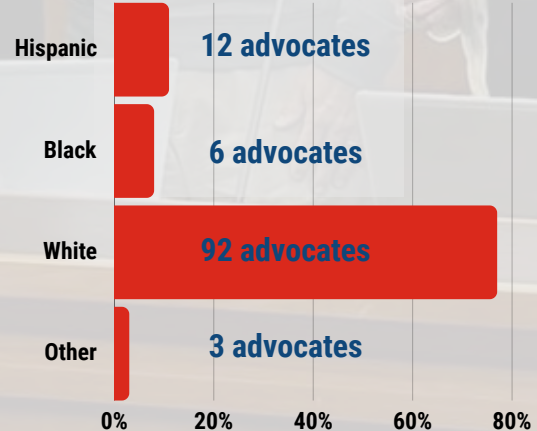
Miles



GENDER



AGE



RACE/ETHNICITY

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARD WINNERS



Education Advocate of the Year:

Chris Spiller

Innovative Advocate of the Year:

Chrystal Wilcox

Medical Advocate of the Year:

Jennifer Duos

Rookie of the Year:

Cynthia Gardner

Advocate of the Year:

Judy Garcia



COLLABORATIVE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT - CFE

CFE is a team-based approach between CASA and CPS to engage, find, and work with family members and fictive kin in the creation and development of a lifetime network for young people experiencing foster care. One of the goals of CFE is to help children achieve strong connectivity and permanency faster, preferably with relatives or other trusted loved ones. CASA works hard to ensure that every child in foster care has the opportunity for lifelong connections.



Collaborate

4,142

**CPS & CASA
Contacts**



Cultivate

327

**CFE Tools
Completed**



Convene

366

**CFE Family
Meetings**



Connect

44

**Family/Child
Connections**

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

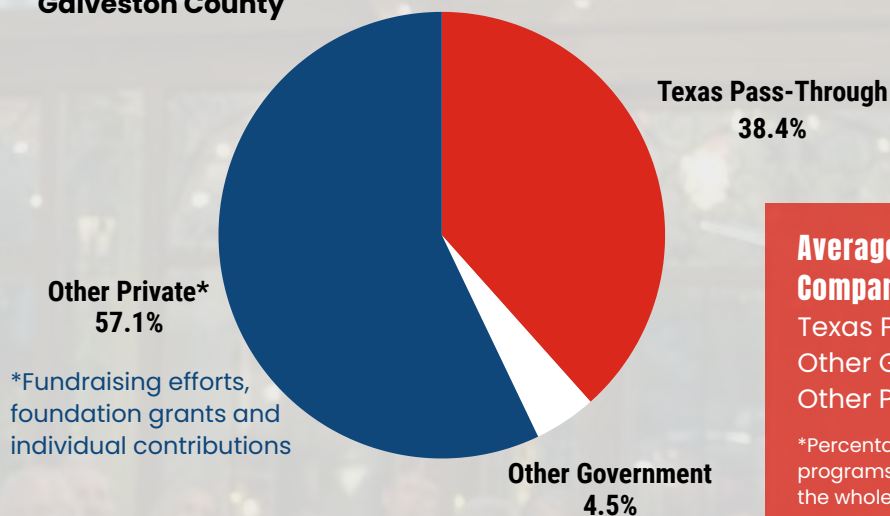
- 100% closures rate for all Education Referrals
- 100% school history documentation for cases
- CASA of Galveston County had an 8 person Education Committee & F/T Staff Member to oversee educational needs

FISCAL REPORT

Organizational Revenue for FY 2024:

\$1,089,584

Program Funding Distribution for CASA of Galveston County



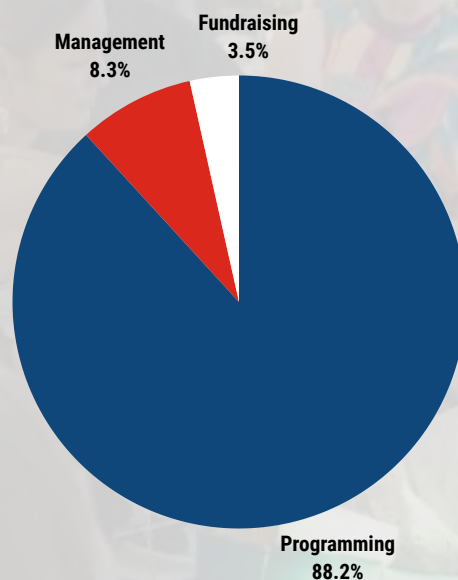
Average Funding Distribution for Comparable Sized CASA Programs

Texas Pass Through: 58%
Other Government: 10%
Other Private: 46%

*Percentages are based on the individual programs data within the group, averaged for the whole group

Organizational Expenses for FY 2024:

\$1,070,847



CASA of Galveston County is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. If you have questions regarding the organization's form 990, please reach out - connie@casagalveston.org

DONORS

GIFTS \$5000+

CASA of Galveston County's life blood are our volunteers, donors, and corporate partners. We are grateful to our stakeholders that are giving of their time and talents and who share our vision and make a financial investment to help us amplify the voices of children experiencing foster care in our community.

Dr. Leon Bromberg Charitable Trust
The Harry S. & Isabel C. Cameron Foundation
Charles A. Frueauff Charitable Foundation
May Jeanne and Garland Slaughter Foundation
Ippolito Charitable Foundation
Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund
Mary Moody Northern Endowment
Moody Permanent Endowment Fund
Texas Bar Foundation
Texas Attorney General Office
United Way of Galveston
United Way Galveston County Mainland
Valero's Children's Fund
AMOCO Federal Credit Union
Mac Haik Toyota League City
Marathon Petroleum Corporation
Paul Mitcham and Fallon Franklin
Wally and Debbie Scoggins
Hey Mikey Foundation
Kat and Mike Bouvier
Marty and Jackie Fluke
CT Florez

Only 40% of our funding comes from Texas CASA grants. Thank you for helping us bridge the gap and helping us make an impact.

A YEAR IN CASA

Every Child Has a Chance – It's YOU!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Current Board of Directors:

Board President – Patrick McDonald

Vice President – Erin Callahan

Secretary – June Demsey

Treasurer – Marc Renjard

Board Members – Dan Butler, Kent Etienne, Rose Lazo,
Tom Munoz, Rebecca Pitman, Meg Winchester,
Michael Miller

Current Staff:

Chief Executive Officer – Connie Ricketts

Chief Operations Officer – Alaine Nix

Director of Advocacy – Devin Siordia

Marketing & Outreach Coordinator – Joanna Mendoza

Recruitment & Training Lead – Jocelyn Smith

CFE Coordinator – Lauren Davis

Advocate Supervisors – Sitinna Blankenship,
Amelia Smith, Kate Sonnier, Tanya Stephens

Program Assistant – Allison Hines

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



10 YEARS

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409-572-2552



@CASAgalveston

Pass this along to a friend or loved one
with a heart as big as yours. Sharing this report could
be the reason that a child's life changes for the better.

CASAgalveston.org