

anything is possible

WHEN SOMEONE CARES



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CHILD ADVOCATES
DENVER CASA

2018

*annual
report*

Dear Friends,

What an incredible year it's been! Child Advocates - Denver CASA saw an amazing year of growth. Thanks to our volunteers, donors and supporters, we created 2 additional Advocate Supervisor positions and a Program Director position, allowing us to recruit and supervise a greater number of CASA Volunteers. We continue to strive toward the goal that every child in Denver who needs a CASA Volunteer will have one.

But 2018 was not just about serving more children. We want to make sure that every child we serve is paired with a well-trained CASA Volunteer who can advocate for their needs. Being a CASA Volunteer isn't easy, but 268 community members stepped up to the plate this year. They learned the best ways to advocate on behalf of a child and showed up for them in court. CASA Volunteers played, laughed, cried, shared meals and were a constant support in the lives of over 550 children and youth.

Speaking of youth, we also have plans to pilot an Older Youth Program in 2019 that will support teens as they age out of foster care. Teens aren't ready to be on their own once they hit their 18th birthday. With this new program, teens can opt to stay with their CASA Volunteers even if their case has closed. CASA Volunteers can continue to provide a mentoring relationship and help their youth with the challenges of being an adult.

We look forward to working with our partners in the upcoming year, including all of the judges, magistrates, caseworkers and attorneys who strive to improve the lives of children and youth every day. And, we hope you will continue to support us, whether you're a volunteer, donor or partner, because, together, we can make a difference in many children's lives.



Caitlin McHugh
Board President
Colorado CASA



Nancy Stewart
Executive Director
Colorado CASA

our IMPACT



527

Children
served in 2018



268

Volunteers



161,570

miles traveled by CASA
Volunteers on their cases



15,320

hours of advocacy



7,783

visits with children

Mission STATEMENT

To advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in Denver Juvenile Court through the services of specially selected and trained community volunteers from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Our vision is that all children will have a lifelong connection with a caring adult in a safe and nurturing home where they can thrive.

CASA Volunteers DO WHAT NO ELSE DOES

Our CASA Volunteers who make it happen

CASA is cost effective:

1 CASA SUPERVISOR = 30 VOLUNTEERS = 75-90 CHILDREN

They donate their time to act as the independent eyes and ears of the court, and speak solely in the interest of the child.

They are sworn officers of the court.

They work with the most severe cases of abuse and neglect.

They monitor kids’ health and education.

They identify the unmet needs of children and parents.

They facilitate communication among social workers, therapists, teachers, foster families, and parents.

They advocate on behalf of the children and make objective recommendations to judges as they make decisions that will impact the lives of the family.

CASA is the only non-profit organization that empowers everyday citizens as appointed officers of the court. Your involvement will have a direct impact on a child’s life and perhaps generations to come.

Anything is Possible **WHEN SOMEONE CARES**

Note from Pamela, a Former Foster Child

“When I was 7, I remember my mom waking me up. She was grabbing our stuff and screaming, ‘the cops are coming.’ I heard the sirens and all the yelling. I was hiding under a car and a policeman pulled me out, and then I watched as my mom faded away.

To me, my CASA means a trusted advocate. A friend. When you’re young no one listens to you and when you’re in the foster care system people really don’t listen to you. To give a child a CASA is to give them a voice. To give them a voice is to give them hope. To give them hope is to give them the world. I believe that with all my heart. I don’t know what I’d do without my CASA volunteer. I don’t want to know.”

Letter from Foster parents to CASA Volunteer

“Thank you so much for your strong advocacy during this case.

You have “looked out” for him, and gave him a “voice” when he couldn’t speak for himself. Thank you especially for communicating with us like we were ‘real people,’ and people who mattered. We are honored to have known you.”

Note from Guardian Ad Litem to CASA Volunteer

“Thank you so much for all you have done for the family.

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Katie Smith
Advocate Supervisor

Chadley Zobolas
Advocate Supervisor

Jackie Heins
Advocate Supervisor

Audrey Gilmore
Advocate Supervsior

Rachel Swank
Administrative Assistant

Child Advocates - Denver Casa

FINANCIALS

Without the support of individuals, foundations, corporations, and government we would be unable to serve the children in our community. We extend our deepest gratitude to our partners who share the Child Advocates - Denver CASA mission and successes. For a complete list of our supporters, visit our website at www.denvercasa.org

USE OF FUNDS

Program Services	\$642,537	78%
Management	\$116,357	14%
Fundraising	\$58,274	8%
Total Expenses	\$817,168	

SOURCES OF REVENUE


Individuals/Corporations	\$480,408
Foundations and Community Groups	\$157,888
Government	\$207,604
Fundraising and Events	\$246,018
Other Income	\$107
In Kind Contributions	\$21,236
Total Revenue	\$1,113,261

CATALYST FOR CASA ENDOWMENT

In 2018, thanks to the incredible generosity of donors Linda Murakami, Joseph Davis, Jennifer and Shawn Barker, the organization's first endowment was created, ensuring Denver CASA's stability and sustainability. As we continue to build The Catalyst for CASA Endowment, we encourage donors who are passionate about our mission and believe that our role is vitally necessary to serve the children in our community well into the future.

WILL YOU LEAVE A LEGACY?

Planned gifts are a crucial source of future funding that enables Child Advocates - Denver CASA to plan and carry out the best possible programs to advocate for children and youth in Denver. If you are remembering Child Advocates - Denver CASA in your will, trust, life insurance policy, and/or other planned gift, thank you! We will work hard to carry forward your legacy of compassion for Denver's most vulnerable children.



*“Now is the time to ensure we have a volunteer
to speak with the conviction and compassion
for every child who has suffered neglect, abuse
or abandonment.”*

Join us.

TARA PERRY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
NATIONAL CASA ASSOCIATION

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To Donate, visit

<http://denvercasa.org/give/>
.....

A photograph of two young girls sitting in a field of tall grass, hugging each other. The girl on the left is wearing a white shirt and jeans, and the girl on the right is wearing a pink shirt with a cartoon pattern and a floral skirt. The image has a blue tint.

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*Our momentum is growing
but so is the need*



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DENVER CASA**



Child Advocates - Denver CASA
960 N. Clarkson St.
Denver, CO 80218
P: 303.832.4592 | F: 303.832.4712
DenverCASA.org