DEAR FRIENDS,

It has been another full year at Child Advocates San Antonio! Despite challenges, CASA Advocates and the team continue to serve our vulnerable children with excellence and deep care. I have never been prouder to hold this position and support the team in any way possible.

Two major changes have impacted the agency in the past year:
1. HB567 changed the reasons for removal, which led to a consequent decline in numbers of children in the foster care system. This result is mixed; while fewer children experiencing foster care is positive, we have also seen children entering foster care with more severe abuse and neglect as the threshold to remove has been heightened.

2. We hit a slump in recruiting more volunteers, but we aren’t alone. Studies show that people’s willingness to volunteer dropped 67% across the nation last year. Now, more than ever, please encourage your family and friends to attend an information session as word of mouth is our most effective recruitment tool!

In the meantime, we continue to make our vision of the CASA campus a place for our Advocates to bring the children we serve, for our community to use and enjoy, and a space that is welcoming to everyone who enters our doors.

In November 2021, our community came together to build our beautiful new playgrounds, basketball court, and theater. In the past year, we have been given gifts to build a visually secure fence around the play area, restrooms, outdoor dining area, art room, and boutique. All of these elements will combine to create a space that is inviting, safe, healing, and fun for the children and Advocates to visit and enjoy.

In the next two years, we are pursuing certification to become a trauma informed agency and implementing all aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The leadership team is looking to the future so we can live up to our vision of being a positive, influential force in the community. CASA is an essential part of the larger system of care and our voice matters, this year we have been making it heard locally with all our stakeholders and we will continue to do so.

Thank you again for supporting the children, for consistently going above and beyond. You are all a blessing and you change children’s lives. I believe there is no greater calling.

Angela White
President & CEO
OUR MISSION

The mission of Child Advocates San Antonio (CASA) is to recruit, develop, and lead highly impactful court appointed volunteer Advocates who provide constancy and support for children and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect.

We achieve our mission through advocacy for services, supportive connections, and permanency, while emphasizing family reunification when possible.
When Jeff and Janice Ivey first met Adelyn, 3, and Anthony, 5, Adelyn barely made any sounds and showed no expressions. “We thought she was deaf,” Jeff says. “But, it turned out, she had just been so neglected, she had given up.”

Jeff and Janice met the children at a shelter where they were placed after entering foster care due to neglect and domestic violence. As a baby in a neglectful situation, Adelyn had learned that her cries would not get her the care she needed.

Over the next 19 months, Jeff and Janice visited the children wherever they were and helped them transition from the shelter to a foster home. When they realized Anthony needed speech therapy and both children would benefit from play therapy, they made those recommendations to the court so the judge could order the services. They took the children to the park and on trips to the museum, regularly checked in a day care, and, eventually, recommended to court that the children be adopted by their foster mom, Lindsay.

“You should both know that you’re our heroes. The way you’ve both embraced life and welcomed happy, through everything you’ve gone through, is amazing and inspiring. We couldn’t be prouder than we are right now!

We are so excited to see what lies ahead for both of you. The possibilities are now endless; you are in a home now where love and support will never run out.

People tell us that we helped change your lives— it so, it’s one of our biggest accomplishments. But also know that you’ve changed ours forever.

With love,

Jeff & Janice

“We thought she was deaf, but it turned out, she had just been so neglected, she had given up.”

“Seeing Anthony and Adelyn’s progress and development has been amazing,” Jeff and Janice said. “The first time Adelyn smiled at us was huge! And seeing Anthony transform into a stable child has been astonishing.”

“We are CASA Advocates. But the children are our heroes.”
I am a CASA advocate because I’ve witnessed what happens when children are not seen or heard by the system. I continue to serve because there are children who need a voice. When a child says, you’re my first friend, you keep volunteering.

Sheri, advocate since 2016

I know first-hand how easy it is to be left behind and travel the wrong path; I want these kids and families to know that there are people out there that do honestly care and believe in them.

Erin, advocate since 2020
This fiscal year, Child Advocates San Antonio (CASA) Educational Advocates served college-bound youth by connecting them to High School credits, touring universities and colleges, applying to FAFSA and higher education, and ensuring our young adults with foster care experience have access to housing and other needed resources while transitioning into adulthood. Educational Advocates were instrumental in ensuring their college-bound youth had access to complete PAL classes, budgeting workshops, employment workshops, and job opportunities. In collaboration with CPS and BCFS PAL, CASA Educational Advocates educated themselves and their youths on their permanency options (i.e. extended care, aging out) as well as the benefits the youth will receive based on their permanency goals, such as their Tuition and Fee Waiver, Education & Training Voucher, and emergency funding through DFPS PAL. To date, youth assigned a CASA Educational Advocate have received acceptances to a variety of higher education institutions including UTSA, TAMUSA, Alamo Community Colleges, Austin Community Colleges, UT-Austin, Texas A&M–Corpus Christi, Texas A&M–Prairie View, Texas State University, University of North Texas, and Texas State Technical College.

**THE MISSION:**
The Bexar County Fostering Educational Success Project will improve college enrollment, retention and graduation rates for students with a history of foster care, will expand students’ emotional, social and professional networks, and will increase the number of children in foster care in Bexar County who understand that attending college is achievable and expected and are academically and emotionally prepared to do so.
COLLEGE YOUTH SERVED

As of the Spring 2022 semester, our CASA Educational Advocates have worked alongside 39 young adults to graduate high school and attend higher education or trade opportunities. Congratulations again seniors, we wish you the best in your future endeavors!
We are so happy to share that we were able to serve 1,419 children who had been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect this year.
SERVICE MODEL

Founded in 1984, Child Advocates San Antonio (CASA) is the only organization in Bexar County legally recognized by the Texas Family Code and authorized to provide court-appointed advocacy for children who are in the care of Child Protective Services. CASA’s highly trained and supported Volunteer Advocates are authorized by a judge to advocate for the child’s well-being, including medical and educational services.
ACTIVE ADVOCATES

CASA Volunteer Advocates are special and truly inspiring. They devote an average of 180 hours on each child’s case, giving children a highly trained and supported adult to count on. Thank you for helping CASA kids!
2022 ADVOCATE AWARDS

RECRUITER OF THE YEAR AWARD:
BEVERLY ALLISON

Beverly not only demonstrated dedication to their case, with tremendous impacts and moments that will last a lifetime between her and her CASA kids, but in addition she has shown a commitment to recruiting additional volunteers through the promotion of our mission in various recruitment activities throughout the year.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD:
DIANA DE PAZ

Diana hit the ground running in her first case when faced with different concerns from multiple children. She built a great relationship with her CASA kids and was an amazing steward of the resources available to our advocates. She strives to solve the concerns of all the children in her case and remain a constant support for each of them.

JUDGE SAKAI AWARD
JUAN VILLAREAL JR.

The Judge Sakai award is to represent an advocate that has been innovative and gone above and beyond to support a reunification. Juan demonstrated great levels of compassion as he successfully worked on three cases over the last year, all cases successfully closed with the children returning home.

ADVANCING THE MISSION AWARD
JOAN ULSHER

Joan worked beyond her official duties to advance the mission of CASA through many amazing efforts! She created the Legislative Action Team (LAT), helped facilitate meetings with almost every single representative and Senator for our area, watched the bills as they were being proposed, attended Texas CASA trainings, presented to our board, and has become a wealth of knowledge about all of the bills that were presented, discussed, passed, or fell by the wayside.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD
JEFF & JANICE IVEY

Jeff and Janice have worked a total of 8 cases serving 22 children over this past year. They are a huge asset to our organization as they speak at recruitment opportunities and help when and where they are needed. Taking the children on outings to give them a sense of normalcy and providing experiences for them that they might have never had has made them extra special in their CASA kids Lives.
2021 SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

This past school season, our community supporters came together to donate school supplies, write notes to students, and stuff backpacks for over 250 foster youth! Thank you so much again for your dedication to prepare our kids for school to achieve optimal educational success.
2021 CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we were able to provide over 600 foster youth with toys and gifts during this past holiday season. Approximately 2,375 gifts were distributed during shopping and put a smile on all of these kids’ faces with your donations. Thank you for being a light of hope for children in need!
FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT NOTES:
• Net assets at end of fiscal year: $4,899,840
• Complete audited financial statements are available on our website: www.casa-satx.org

REVENUE & SUPPORT
Total: $8,247,454

- In-Kind Fixed Assets (Building, Land, and Playground) ................. $3,800,297 - 46%
- In-Kind Donated Goods, Volunteer Services, and Professional Fees ... $814,212 - 10%
- State Awards ........................................................... $780,970 - 9%
- Federal Awards ....................................................... $1,070,305 - 13%
- General Private Contributions ....................................... $807,414 - 10%
- United Way ............................................................ $170,333 - 2%
- Foundations and Grants ............................................. $832,010 - 10%
- UTSA ..................................................................... $155,806 - 2%
- Other Income (Rental, Investment Earning, and Interest) .......... ($183,893) - (-2%)

EXPENSES
Total: $4,130,742

- Program Services ................................................. $3,353,410 - 81%
- Support Services .................................................. $347,683 - 9%
- Fundraising ......................................................... $429,649 - 10%
The Champion of Hope Society brings sustainability to our mission all throughout the year. The collective impact of these supporters have come together to ensure more children in foster care continue to have sustained advocacy support.

Thank You
FOR YOUR IMPACT!

You came together to provide 578 children with a trained and supported Advocate. You are truly Champions!

If you would like to become a Champion of Hope to serve more children in San Antonio, please contact Blair Ortmann at:
(210) 225-7070
Bortmann@casa-satx.org
MONTHLY DONOR SUPPORT

Our monthly donors are our GEMS de Esperanza – their Gift Every Month provides hope for children in the foster care system and sustains the life-changing work of trained, dedicated Advocates. Thank you for your ongoing commitment.

“I believe the work of CASA and advocacy for children is very important, especially in San Antonio. That’s why I chose CASA.”

Denise Doyle, CASA Monthly Donor
2021 GALLERY OF HOPE

Last year was one of the largest, most successful Gallery of Hope Galas we have ever seen at CASA. Thank you to all of our sponsors and attendees for helping us raise over $261,340 that night, allowing us to serve over 174 foster children in Bexar County!

2021 SPONSORS:

Valero
Construct a Kid’s Christmas
Gibson Plumbing
H-E-B
Holt Texas LTD
Sundt Construction & John Carlson
Alamo Colleges District
Ginny and Wayne Peacock
Lorien & Marc Whyte & Krishna Reddy
Texas A&M University - San Antonio
University of Texas at San Antonio
Akin, Doherty, Klein & Feuge, PC, Dixie Star Wenger Foundation
Alterman
Bank of San Antonio
Broadway Bank
Christina & Steve Lecholop
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Kathryn & Sean Goertz
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Underwritten:
Akerman LLP
IBC Bank
Killen, Griffin and Farrimond, PLLC
Rachelle & David Roth
Salus Texas Solutions
GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER
Become a CASA and be the voice for children in foster care!
Call 210-225-7070 or Visit: casa-satx.org/become-an-advocate

DONATE
Make a greater impact and give a gift online at:
casa-satx.org/donate
Contact Blair at 210-225-7070 or bortmann@casa-satx.org to learn about more giving opportunities such as donation drives, corporate matching, or including CASA in your will.

LEAVE A LEGACY COMMITMENT
A legacy commitment is an investment in children who can break the cycle of abuse and neglect when they get the care they need. Leaving a gift in your will or estate is one of the most powerful actions you can take to help children heal from the trauma they have experienced.