



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

CASA Sacramento

2021 / 2022 Annual Report

Dear CASA Sacramento Friends and Family,

As we look back on the past year, we are truly grateful for the dedication of our CASA Volunteers, program staff and our volunteer Board of Directors. Each group has been a significant contributing factor to our overall success. As a result of our efforts, we served 286 local children in foster care and CASAs contributed advocacy hours valued at over \$416,293. Our last virtual Crab Dinner grossed \$260,000. Wow!

Many of you have contacted us because you saw our public awareness campaign through commercials, bus stops, radio ads, and in your local coffee shop. The entire campaign was underwritten by a very generous donor who believes so much in the CASA mission that he wanted to make sure the Sacramento area was aware of our great need for volunteer advocates. This campaign will have long-lasting effects, bringing donors and volunteers to CASA Sacramento for many years to come.

Looking to the future, we are pleased to share that CASA Sacramento has been awarded funding for growth through California CASA's efforts to secure state funding to stabilize operations, retain staff, and innovate programs to increase the number of CASAs serving foster children. The state legislature's appropriation of \$60 million over three years is an investment in building our capacity to reach all children in California who could benefit from a CASA Volunteer—an estimated 46,000 children. CASA Sacramento is thrilled to be able to expand services to more of our county's 1,900+ children in foster care.

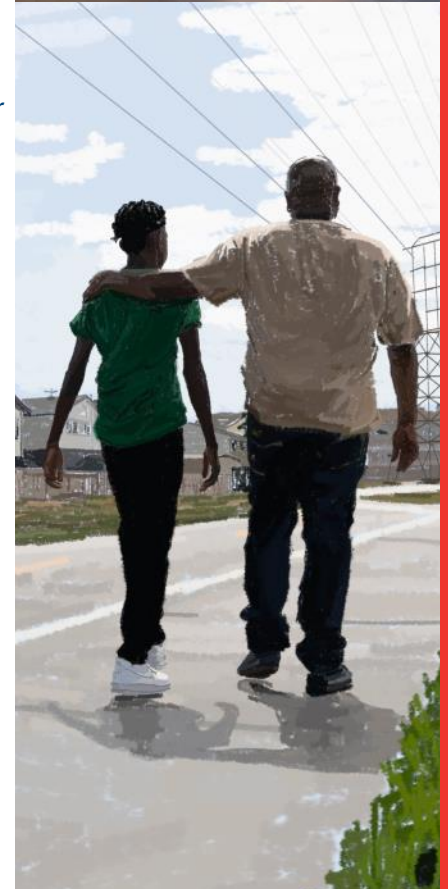
Thank you for the many ways you support us and cheer us on. Whether you are a CASA Volunteer, a donor, an ambassador on our Board of Directors, a justice partner or community partner, we could not do this work without your commitment and collaboration. Our kids deserve nothing but the best, and we are excited to embark on our expansion to change children's lives for the better.

With gratitude,

Diane Koellen
Board President



Carol Noreen, JD
Executive Director



About the cover image:

CASA Youth Art Piece, "Under the Surface"

At the CASA youth holiday party in December, we asked our kids if they would paint an under the sea tile for a collective art piece. One youth spent an hour meticulously monitoring the lines, often exclaiming, "I messed up." One youth was so excited he wanted to do 3 tiles and had to be convinced to share with another girl who was late to the activity. Another little girl was so enchanted with colors, the images of the tile were lost entirely. She asked her CASA "Is it good?" over and over, looking for reassurance that she had made something beautiful, though it did not look like the other pieces.

Our advocates make a minimum commitment of 18 months because there is so much under the surface. Thank you for making their work possible.

The CASA Mission

Ensuring consistency and support for children in the foster care system through the use of volunteer advocates advancing the best interests of each child.

The CASA Vision

Every child in need is appointed a CASA to champion them in Court, without compromise, on the path to a safe and permanent home.

WELCOME TRAINING CLASSES 93, 94, 95 AND 96



CASA Volunteers:

INVESTIGATE barriers to success in foster care

ADVOCATE to improve current services

MENTOR youth

REPORT progress to the dependency judge

MONITOR the case

2021 / 2022 PROGRAM IMPACT



286 foster children served

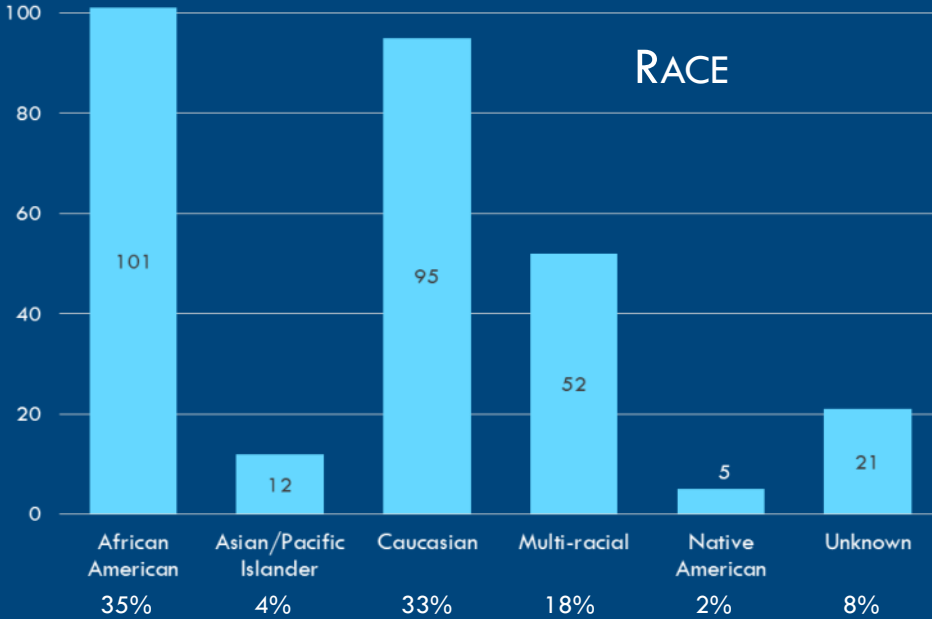
11,403 volunteer hours contributed*

64 new volunteers trained

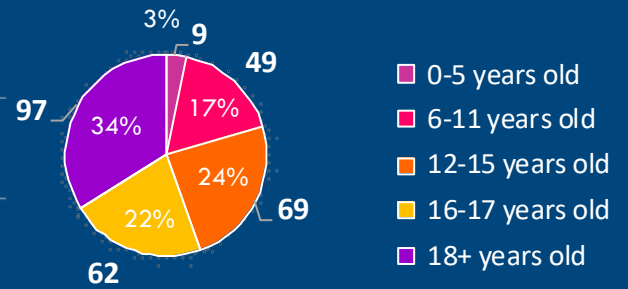
268 active volunteers

* This is a value of \$359,309 in service at the current volunteer rate of \$31.51/hr

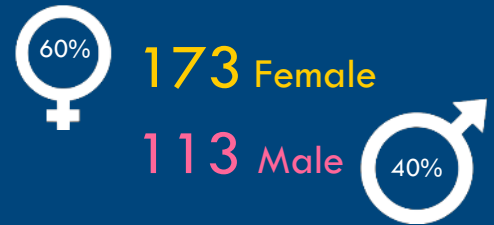
DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHILDREN SERVED:



AGE



GENDER

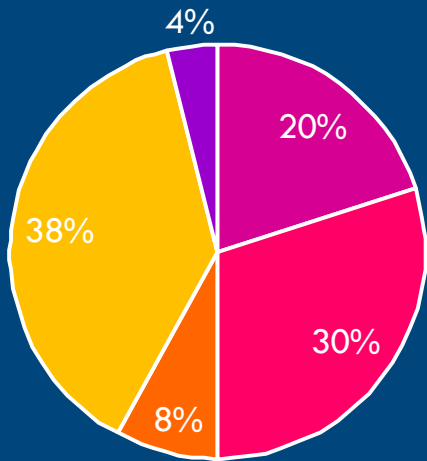


IMPACT SINCE 1991:
 3,950 foster children served by
 1,815 volunteers
 Over 248,200 volunteer hours

Youth referred to the CASA program spent an average of **118.8 days** waiting to be matched with a CASA Volunteer. Target is ≤ 90 days.

2021 / 2022 FINANCIALS

INCOME

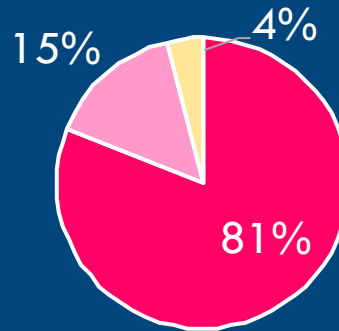


- Fundraising Events & Miscellaneous Giving
- Individual Giving
- Private Foundation Grants
- Government Grants
- In-Kind Contributions

REVENUE: \$1,569,682

EXPENSES: \$1,164,380

EXPENSES



- Direct Program
- Administrative
- Fundraising

Transition Age Youth Program



CASA Sacramento provides comprehensive support services to youth ages 16-20 who are in the foster care system. These are youth unlikely to find a permanent placement and forced to face adulthood on their own. Aging out of foster care without a permanent home is the highest-risk outcome for foster youth. One of our key strategies for expanding and improving services to transition age foster youth and young adults is to build upon our experience using the National CASA Association's *Fostering Futures Curriculum*. The curriculum provides 12 hours of additional training to CASA Volunteers to assist teens and young adults with transitional skills and planning.

This program provides training for advocates on relationship building with older youth, the "possible selves" concept and working with youth as partners in transition and independent living planning.

The CASA TAY Program was able to continue engaging with youth and CASAs with workshops and trainings that covered a wide range of life skills topics, and enhance the relationships between CASAs and their transition age youth.

37 youth over the age of 16 attended events and workshops.

35 CASA Volunteers of teens have completed the 12 hour Fostering Futures training.

40 CASA Volunteers were matched with Transition Age Youth.



CASA Sacramento's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, formed in June of 2020, aims to create stronger and more collaborative ways to address the systemic oppression of others based on their ethnicity, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, country of origin, age, or disability.

2021/2022 Trainings

September 2021 – Staff and Volunteer training on **“*Racism in the Child Welfare System*”**

February 2022 – Staff and Volunteer training on **“*Boarding Schools and Historical Trauma in Indigenous Communities*”**

June 2022 – **Recognizing Pride Month.** Staff and Volunteer training on **“*Supporting Transgender and Nonbinary Youth*”**



Danielle Dace, Training & Recruitment Manager, is participating with National CASA as a facilitator in their Book Club series which provides opportunities for professional development for staff and CASAs and a safe space for reflection, learning, and authentic dialogue. This past year, we explored poverty in America through the following books: *Poorly Understood: What America Gets Wrong About Poverty* by Mark Robert Rank, Lawrence M. Eppard, & Heather E. Bullock; *The Lines Between Us: Two Families and A Quest to Cross Baltimore's Racial Divide* by Lawrence Lanahan; *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* by Stephanie Land; and *Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Aftermath of Mass Incarceration* by Reuben Jonathan Miller.

Through California CASA, Danielle has completed a 9-month comprehensive "Train the Trainer" series focusing on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

2022 Diversity & Inclusion Committee Members

- Michael Butler - CASA Volunteer
- Kelley Donato - CASA Staff, Program Manager
- Danielle Dace - CASA Staff, Training & Recruitment Manager
- Reina Miller - CASA Volunteer
- Dani Wogulis - CASA Staff, Design & Data Management Coordinator



L-R (standing):
 Kelley Donato,
 Sarah Torres,
 Haley Cavanaugh,
 Shevon Walker,
 Larissa Shashte,
 Carol Noreen,
 Jamarian Ramirez-
 Hayes, Laurie
 Eschrich, Dani
 Wogulis,
 Bernardette Behar,
 Crystal Burns. In
 front of cow:
 Danielle Dace and
 Lindy Meeker.

Case Supervisors

Our Case Supervision staff work tirelessly in court, in community collaborative meetings, one-on-one with CASA Volunteers, and on every project and celebration CASA Sacramento hosts. This team ensures that the quality of services each child receives is of the highest standard. They read every child's file and make connections to every educational, therapeutic, medical and recreational resource in Sacramento. They negotiate and mediate the most difficult situations. They console and cheer on our volunteers in their darkest and brightest moments. Thank you Bernardette, Haley, Kelley, Laurie, Lindy, Sarah, Shevon, and Michelle Doupe (not pictured). Your wisdom, expertise and grit have changed the course of lives of CASA youth this year and for generations to come.

Recruiting Volunteers & Education of Public



CASA Sacramento actively recruits volunteers from diverse backgrounds to represent the demographics of the youth population that we serve. This past year, we were able to get out in the community as the county began to open back up. We continued our local television advertising and began an ad campaign utilizing local barbershops, beauty salons, ice cream parlors, coffee shops, and bus stops. All volunteer orientations remain online, which allows us to reach more community members.

This year, 221 people attended a volunteer orientation

Danielle Dace and Erik Harrell recruiting CASA Volunteers at Juneteenth 2022

Making Memories



Making Memories is a program of CASA Sacramento which provides special experiences to children in foster care who otherwise would not have the resources to pay for them. For children who have moved many times through many homes, basketball or theater camp has typically never been an option. Making Memories funds extracurricular activities to help children and young adults learn social skills, build confidence and provide the relief of getting to be a young person among peers.

This year, Making Memories distributed nearly \$7,800 in funds to provide 36 youth with extracurricular experiences.



Making Memories funds also support our annual summer picnic and winter holiday party.

This year's summer picnic featured delicious BBQ, creative games, prizes, a Kona Ice truck, and a whole lot of CASA/youth bonding moments.

Our winter holiday party was an outdoor celebration at Land Park with food, games, and crafts, followed by a trip to the Sacramento Zoo.

Images clockwise from top left: a CASA and youth head to the basketball courts; Larissa (L) and Dani (R) at the art table; Bernardette (L) and Kelley (R) enjoy shaved ice; Erik, Danielle, Crystal, and Lindy strike a pose by the prize table.





The CASA Beehive is a group of CASA Volunteers who support Crab Dinner, Big Day of Giving, youth activities and other CASA Volunteers.



This year, CASA hosted 14 virtual and in-person Caring for CASAs gatherings attended by 105 volunteers. This is a way for volunteers to connect with each other and share community resources and ideas.

Peer Coordinator Program

The Peer Coordinator program is an incredible way to retain and utilize the wisdom and experience of seasoned advocates. Once trained, the new Peer Coordinators will bring added support to staff case supervisors by taking on one to five cases during their extended service. In addition, Peer Coordinators will continue to enlarge their skill set by attending in-service trainings offered by Sacramento CASA, and through interactions with other case supervisors.

As we move into 2023, it is our goal to add at least two more trainings to the Peer Coordinator program. We will continue to look for committed volunteers who value child advocacy but would like to expand their roles by taking on a leadership position.

We are truly thankful for our Peer Coordinators: Faith Galati, Jennifer Galehouse, Barbara Kronick, and Mehran Tahoori. They make it possible to serve more children, and serving children is what CASA is all about!



ACRE/BOYA 2022



Paulette & Chuck Trainor of Trainor Fairbrook were generous supporters at ACRE/BOYA. Photo credit: Tia Gemmell

CASA Executive Director Carol Noreen presenting a certificate of appreciation to the ACRE Board of Directors.

The Association of Commercial Real Estate’s Charity Benefit/Broker of the Year Awards (ACRE/BOYA) was on May 26, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency, downtown Sacramento.

ACRE is an active philanthropic networking commercial real estate non-profit association, and the Broker of the Year Awards originated in 1992. These distinguished commercial real estate awards are presented annually to brokers who have achieved outstanding brokerage results in several categories. In addition to recognizing industry high achievers, this event has raised millions of dollars for local regional charities.

CASA Sacramento was honored to be the 2022 ACRE/BOYA charity beneficiary. The event raised over \$112,000 for CASA Sacramento. Thank you to the ACRE/BOYA committee and our team of volunteers (pictured below), who made sure the night was a success for Sacramento's kids in foster care!



CASA Volunteers at ACRE/BOYA, L-R: Haley, Reina, Anne, Rhonda, Kymila, Bryan, Susan, Lin

Community Relations & Development Director Crystal Burns with Victor Adjei, who was so inspired by our presentation at ACRE/BOYA that he has since become a CASA Volunteer!

Crab Dinner 2022

On February 5, 2022, CASA Sacramento's 30th Anniversary Pearl Crab Dinner grossed \$260,000 in celebration of 30 years of service for Sacramento's youth in foster care. We maintained a virtual event format that allowed guests to pick up their dinners and join our live broadcast and auction from the comfort and safety of their homes. Thank you to everyone who made this night possible!



Event Sponsors

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On May 6, 2021, over 320 donors came together to raise a record-breaking \$87,400 for CASA Sacramento. Thank you for giving Sacramento's children in foster care a reason to dance!

Thank You to Our Donors

- | | | | | |
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| | | | Pat Shurnas | |



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Become a Recurring Donor

By joining one of CASA Sacramento's recurring donor circles, you become a partner in a child's success. As a volunteer-driven organization, supporting CASA is one of the most effective ways to invest in the lives of local foster children, and ultimately improve the communities in which we live and work. Your commitment will ensure the good work of CASA Sacramento will continue in our community long into the future.

Giving Circle

\$210 per month – train a new CASA Volunteer and match them with a youth for a year

\$125 per month – support an existing CASA Volunteer and their youth for a year

\$50 per month - give a youth an advocate for 5 months

\$25 per month - give a youth an advocate for 10 weeks

or **Set your own level**

Monthly Gift

Annual Gift

Champion of Hope
\$25,000 and above

Support a new CASA for ten or more youth

Voice of Hope
\$5,000 - \$9,999

Support a new CASA for up to four youth

Sustainer of Hope
\$10,000 - \$24,999

Support a new CASA for up to ten youth

Advocate of Hope
\$2,500 - \$4,999

Support a new CASA for one or two youth

Circle of Hope

For more information please contact Crystal Burns at 916-212-7978 or Crystal@sacramentocasa.org

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In Memory Of

Celestine Yvonne Farmon, Dr. Gini Maulfair, Irene Weinreb, and Marjorie Woolfork

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Thank you to all of CASA Sacramento's generous supporters!

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COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO



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