



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF THE RIVER REGION

2019 IMPACT REPORT



LETTER FROM CEO



Dear Friends:

Every good cook knows that you need the proper ingredients to make a dish. At CASA, we believe the proper ingredients to help a child grow are love, encouragement, and support. Our volunteers provide these necessities to the most vulnerable children in our community every single day. As an organization, our values are based on the ingredients of relationships, justice, and integrity. We are always striving to be the very best while continually improving ourselves for the sake of our children.

For this reason, we celebrate the immeasurable contributions our volunteers have had on the lives of the children we served. Because of YOU and YOUR unwavering support, we ended 2019 financially strong and had a record number of volunteers serving children. CASA served 619 children with 238 volunteers, the most in our history. We continue to be grateful for the individuals who step up to be a friend, mentor, and advocate for children in our community, as well as those who donate to continue our work.

Lady Bird Johnson said, “children are apt to live up to what you believe of them.” We believe that the children we mentor can have bright, joyful futures. The key to success is having an adult who takes interest in them, cares for them, and stands up for them. We are grateful for your volunteerism, donations, and letting others know about our mission. With this recipe of success, we can let all children know that they are valued and deserve the very best the world can give them.

Sincerely,

William J. Myers

IN HIS WORDS

"Isn't she my mother any more?" That challenging question came from a ten-year old girl whose mother's parental rights were terminated by family court. Her CASA reassured her by saying, "she will always be your mother, she will never forget you, and she will think of you always. She just can't take care of you."

"I relearned that day what CASA has taught me—we do not meet parents who are bad, but parents who are overwhelmed by circumstances beyond their experience or understanding and are trying to do as best they can for their children. The situations are not the fault of the child and are not fair--they are what they are and we, as CASA volunteers, are privileged to take a child's hand and help them go forward and believe that it will get better.

We get far more from the children than we give to them."

- BOB STENGER, CASA VOLUNTEER, 10 YEARS

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

PREHEAT oven to 375° F.

- **COMBINE** flour, baking soda & salt.
- **Beat** butter, sugar, brown sugar & vanilla extract until creamy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Gradually beat in flour mixture.
- **Stir in** chocolate chips.
- **Shape into small rounds** onto ungreased baking sheets.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/4 cup flour
- 1 cup butter
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 cups chocolate chips



POPCORN M&M

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Combine corn syrup, butter, sugar, and vanilla over medium heat in a small saucepan. Stir frequently until completely melted.

Pour the warm sugar mixture over the popcorn, M&Ms, and pretzels. Stir until well coated.

Pour into casserole/cookie sheet in a single layer.

Melt the chocolate chips and drizzle over popcorn. Chill for 30 mins.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 bag of popped popcorn
- 1 cup M&M candies
- 2 cups pretzels
- 3/4 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup chocolate chips



IN HER WORDS

“Kyle was a 4-month old baby whose parents were cited for neglect. My first meeting with them was in the courtroom. At that time, they had done everything the courts asked them to do. They found a place to live after having been homeless. They had few baby clothes and a very old stroller.

Through the kindness of my co-workers, I was able to deliver baby clothes, diapers, toys, books, food and grocery gift cards.

After about a week, mom met me outside and was frantic. Kyle was in the hospital. He was severely abused by his father who lied to the police about what had happened. I checked in on him and made sure the social worker knew what really happened. It took time but Kyle recovered and was released into a foster home.

Kyle was lucky. His foster parents petitioned to adopt. This was one of my happiest moments—to know that this child would always have a safe place to live, would always be loved and that no one would ever hurt him again.

Today, Kyle is almost five years old. He is fun, loving and rambunctious. I can't wait to see what's in store for him!”

-SHARON FINLINSON, CASA VOLUNTEER, 14 YEARS



IN HER WORDS

Lauren & Kelly had missed 45+ days of school & home schooling efforts didn't seem to work. The courts assigned a CASA to the case due to educational neglect.

Lauren had been sexually assaulted by a peer and suffered severe anxiety. When I met her, she had not talked about it with anyone, which made the stress of school so much worse.



Mom said she didn't know how to force them to go to school. She didn't have great role models growing up either. Mom also struggles with anxiety.

"I learned everyone needs to feel like someone has their back. These girls felt so alone, in their own worlds, they couldn't cope. I let them know, I let mom know, that I was there to help them."

Five months in, Lauren has been seeing a therapist consistently. Kelly was assessed for a learning disability. Both have been attending school and getting their grades up. This year, Lauren graduated high school, received A's and B's on her report card and is looking forward to going to community college or a technical college.

"Sometimes all you need is someone to pay a little attention and show you that you matter."

- CASA VOLUNTEER, 2 YEARS

NO CHURN ICE CREAM

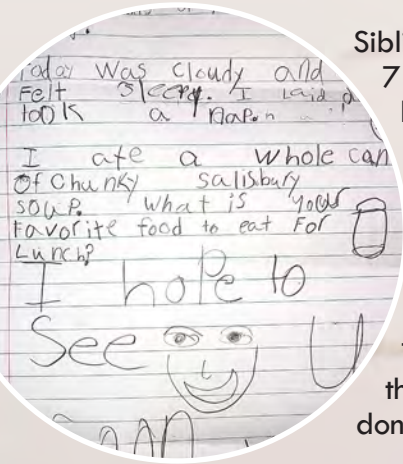
- Whip cream until stiff peaks occur, DO NOT over whip. In another bowl, whisk vanilla into sweetened condensed milk.
- Gently & slowly fold in the whipped cream with a spatula, so it stays light & aerated.
- Gently fold in your desired mix-ins.
- Transfer mixture to an insulated tub or paper containers and freeze for 4-6 hours.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 14 oz sweet condensed milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Mix-ins: chocolate syrup, strawberries or other desired flavors



IN HER WORDS



Siblings, Jamie & Lindsey, were just 4 and 7 when they were assigned a CASA. They had been through hell and back witnessing their dad become violent with their mother. They lived in constant fear. The stress of that alone is enough to paralyze anyone. But, to a child, fearing for their mother's life and their own on a daily basis is toxic stress. They can't focus on anything but their survival. They fall behind in school, they can't control their emotions and they don't trust adults.

Luckily, their CASA Volunteer, Ann, has taken the time to make them feel safe, seen and heard. She made learning fun and part of their every day activities.

"Jamie was concerned that her writing skills were slipping, so I suggested that we write letters. I gave her self-addressed stamped envelopes and instructed her to write when she felt like it, and pop it in the mailbox with the flag up. She exclaimed, "Oh! I always wondered what that flag was for!"

- ANN YOUNG, CASA VOLUNTEER, 2 YEARS



EASY CINNAMON ROLLS

Dough: Whisk flour, sugar, salt, & yeast in a large bowl. Set aside. Combine milk, water, & butter. Microwave until the butter is melted (about 110°F). Pour into the dry ingredients, add the egg, & stir until it forms a soft dough. Knead dough for 3 minutes. Place in a lightly greased bowl, cover, let rest for 10 minutes.

Fill rolls: After 10 minutes, roll the dough out in a 14x8 inch rectangle. Spread the softened butter on top. Mix together the cinnamon and sugar. Sprinkle over dough. Roll tightly. Cut into 10-12 even rolls and arrange in a lightly greased 9-inch round cake pan or pie dish.

Rise: Tightly cover the rolls with aluminum foil or plastic wrap, allow to rise in a warm environment for 60-90 minutes. Bake rolls: After rolls have doubled in size, preheat oven to 375°F & bake for 25-28 minutes until lightly browned.

Make the icing: Whisk the confectioners' sugar, vanilla extract, and coffee/milk together. Drizzle or spread over warm rolls.

INGREDIENTS

2 ³/₄ cups flour
1/4 cup sugar
1 tsp salt
2 ¹/₄ tsp instant yeast
1/2 cup whole milk
1/4 cup water
3 tbs unsalted butter
1 large egg

Filling
3 tbs unsalted butter, softened
1 tbs ground cinnamon
1/4 cup light brown sugar

Icing
1 cup confectioners' sugar
1/2 tsp pure vanilla extract
2-3 tbs brewed coffee or milk

MISSION

CASA of the River Region supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children so that they can thrive in safe, permanent homes.

SERVICES

CASA trains community volunteers to become effective advocates providing direct services to children.

CASA CHILDREN

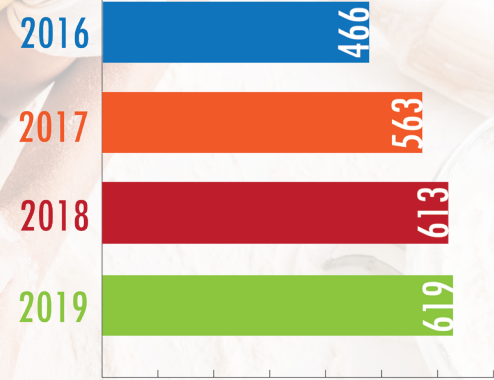
CASA serves children (0-18 years old) in Jefferson, Henry, Oldham, Trimble, Shelby, & Spencer counties.

VOLUNTEERS

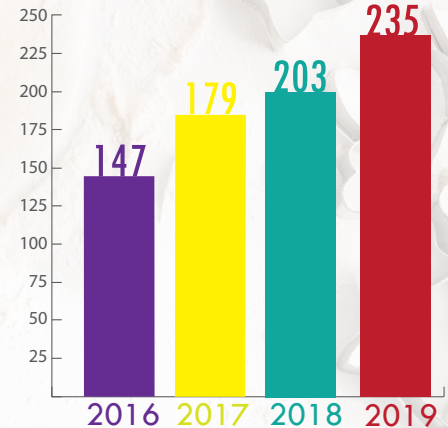
Volunteers must be 21+ years of age, pass background checks, complete 30 hours of classroom training and shadow visits. CASA volunteers are sworn in by a Family Court Judge, have one trusted supervisor and matched with one case of their choosing.

MISSION & PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

2016-2019 CHILDREN SERVED



2016-2019 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS



FINANCIALS

REVENUE

Grants & Contributions.....	\$1,113,660
Investment Income:.....	\$17,276
Special Events (net).....	\$65,695
TOTAL.....	\$1,196,631

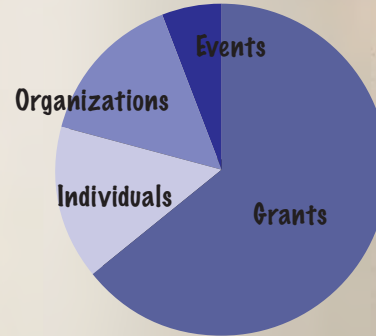
EXPENSES

Program Services.....	\$739,341
General & Administrative.....	\$56,396
Fundraising.....	\$111,582
TOTAL.....	\$907,319

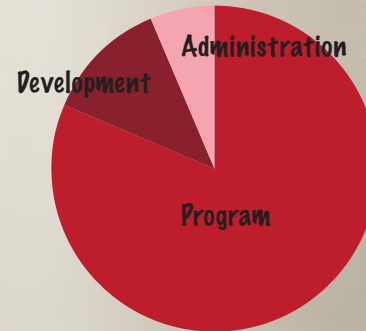
ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Assets.....	\$1,932,811
Current Liabilities.....	\$5,721
Net Assets.....	\$1,927,090
Total Liabilities & Net Assets.....	\$1,932,811

INCOME



EXPENSES





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HONORARY MEMBERS

Terri Bass

Hon. Richard J. FitzGerald (DECEASED)

Maud R. Fliegelman (DECEASED)

DR. JOAN THOMAS (DECEASED)