

# 2024 IMPACT REPORT



Dear Friends:

In an uncertain world, we have to be ready for anything. That is true for our CASA volunteers (CASAs), as well. In many situations, CASAs encounter things they do not expect, but they handle them with grace and wisdom. This was especially true during COVID-19, when CASAs found new and innovative ways to help children, like finding baby formula or connecting to a mobile app to help doctors monitor glucose levels. ***CASAs show up & problem solve because they know that one person or one act can change a child's story forever.***

We want YOU to be prepared for the unexpected, too. In this Impact Report, you'll find information so you can be poised to act quickly. For example, all Kentuckians are mandated reporters. You are required to call the Child Abuse Hotline (1-877-KYSAFE1) if you suspect abuse/neglect. We also want to ensure you know the signs of abuse and what to say when a child confides in you.

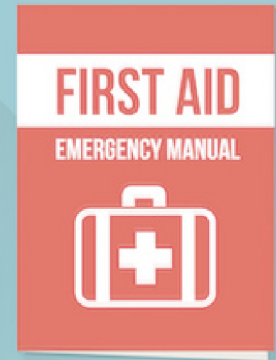
We need you to be prepared for us as well. CASA strives to be good stewards of your gifts of support. Thanks to YOU and so many in the community, CASA navigated year two of the pandemic with no cuts in programming, no budget shortfalls, and no decrease in staff.

As we enter the second half of 2022, we hope you will continue to help us prepare for the unexpected by giving your time and treasure to the children we serve. As life returns to normal, volunteerism is decreasing. If you love CASA and its mission, consider taking the next step by becoming a child advocate or encourage a friend or family member to do the same.

Through your continued support, we expand into new areas of serving children. It is only by being prepared that we can break cycles of abuse & give kids a future beyond trauma.

Yours in Preparedness,

*William J. Myers*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2020-2021

### OFFICERS

- Ashlyn Ackerman, Vice Chair
- Carol Lomicka, Facilities Chair
- Heather Metts, Finance Chair
- Leon Mooneyhan, Board Chair

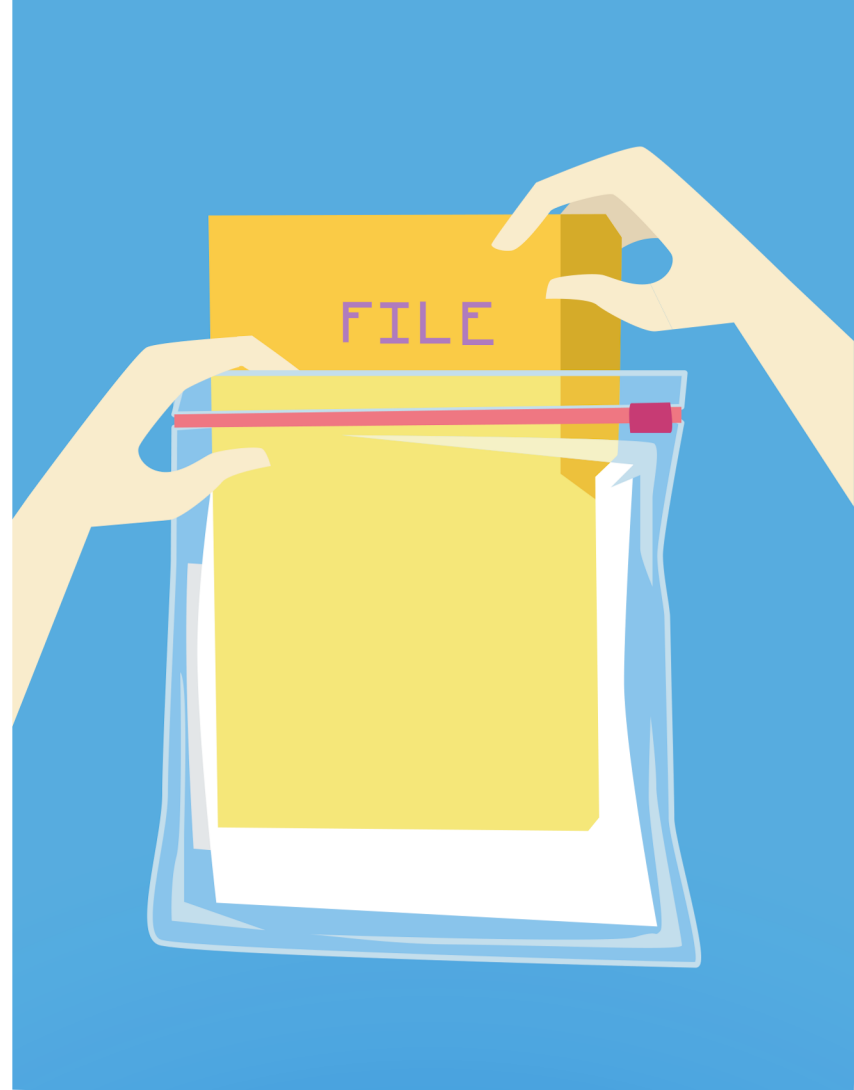
### MEMBERS

- Steven Blevins
- Kevin C. Brown
- Emily Digenis
- Carl Heck
- Matthew Nichols
- Mitchell Payne
- Bryan Sisto
- Johanna Wheatley
- Jessica Wissing

## MISSION

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

[www.casariverregion.org](http://www.casariverregion.org)



# FINANCIALS

## REVENUE

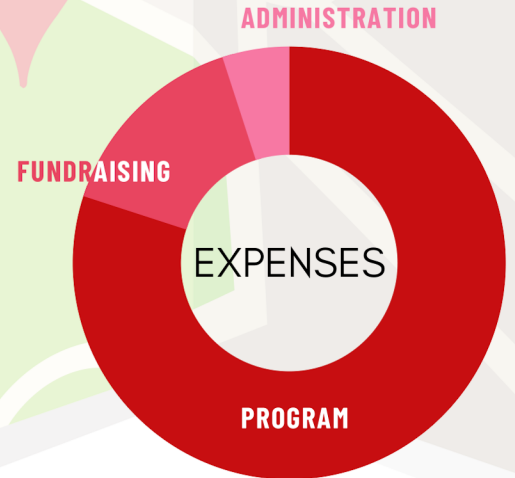
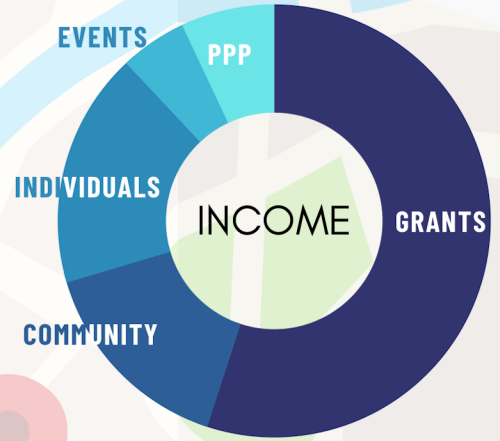
Grants & Contributions.....	\$1,002,654
Investment Income.....	\$234
Special Events (net).....	\$45,894
Paycheck Protection Program.....	\$85,000
Other Income.....	<u>\$6,880</u>
Total.....	\$1,140,662

## EXPENSES

Program Services.....	\$897,009
General & Administrative.....	\$39,143
Fundraising.....	<u>\$97,371</u>
Total.....	\$1,033,523

## ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Assets.....	\$2,203,849
Current Liabilities.....	\$10,203
Net Assets.....	\$2,193,646
Total Liabilities & Net Assets.....	\$2,203,849







## 110 APPLICATIONS

CASA reached 91% of its target.



## 58 NEW VOLUNTEERS TRAINED

CASA reached 89% of its target.



## 206 VOLUNTEERS PAIRED

CASA reached 106% of its target.

AGE 21-39



AGE 40-59



AGE 60+



79% FEMALE

21% MALE



55% WORK FULL-TIME

38% RETIRED/  
NOT EMPLOYED

6% WORK PART-TIME

# VOLUNTEERS

# What can YOU do?

- All Kentuckians are mandated reporters, meaning you are legally required to report any suspicion of child abuse.
- Report any suspicion of child abuse and/or neglect in Kentucky, by calling (800) 752-6200.
- If a child is in need of immediate help, dial 911.
- Become a child advocate. Spend 1-4 hours/week supporting children with active cases in Family Court.
- Give a financial gift to support other volunteers advocating children.
- Sponsor a child during CASA's Back to School or Holiday Gift Drive.

# CHILDREN



551 CHILDREN SERVED

CASA reached 98% of its target.

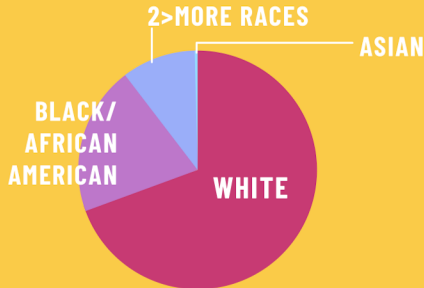
AGE 0-5

AGE 6-12

AGE 13-18

46% FEMALE

53% MALE



REASONS FOR REMOVAL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DRUGS IN THE HOME

NEGLECT

PHYSICAL ABUSE

EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT

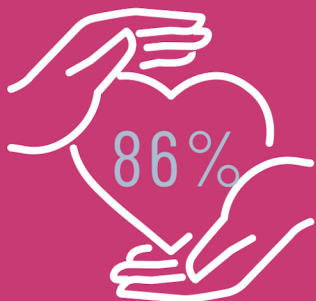
SEXUAL ABUSE

- Bruising or burns on babies who are not cruising yet.
- Bruising to the ears, neck, torso, buttocks, or genitals, at any age.
- Unexplained injuries of any kind, at any age.
- Pain when toileting, frequent yeast infections or urinary tract infections, or any sexually transmitted disease or related symptoms could be signs of sexual abuse.
- Aggression toward peers, pets, other animals.
- Increase in nightmares and/or other sleeping difficulties, withdrawn behavior, angry outbursts, anxiety, and not wanting to be alone with a particular individual(s).
- Fear of telling because they feel ashamed, don't want the abuser to hurt them or others, don't want to burden caregivers, or don't want their abuser to go to jail.

## *How to spot abuse?*



91%  
% of children who found permanent, stable housing through reunification, adoption, or guardianship.



86%  
% of volunteers who served in 2020 also served in 2021.

**BACK TO SCHOOL** 

129 kids received new school supplies.

**HOLIDAY SPONSOR** 

134 kids received holiday gifts.

# IMPACT

## *What do you say when a child tells you they've been abused?*

**LISTEN CAREFULLY:** Focus on the information and do not express your own views or feelings.

**REASSURE:** Tell them they've done the right thing by telling you.

**REMOVE BLAME:** Tell them it's not their fault. They need to hear it and know it.

**TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.** They could be scared they wouldn't be believed, so tell them you can be trusted to listen/support.

**STAY SAFE.** Do not personally confront the alleged abuser.

**EXPLAIN/BE HONEST:** Tell them what you will do next, like speaking to someone who can help, or for older kids, explain how you need to report the abuse to someone who can help.

**REPORT ASAP:** As soon as they have shared this information, report it. Stick to what the child has shared.



FILM NEGATIVE



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When children find themselves in Family court, it is through no fault of their own. Such was the case of Mandy, Sam and Charlie. Charlie was only 9-months-old when his case came to Family Court. Mom didn't take him to the emergency room for arm pain despite three days of persistent crying. The ER doctor diagnosed Charlie with an oblique fracture, likely caused by being yanked or pulled. Mom blamed it on falling off a bed, but no one could corroborate her story. The court was familiar with mom after Mandy was found wandering the street as a toddler after being left home alone. Mom was diagnosed with low IQ & the children were sent to live with their grandmother. At the same time, the Family Court Judge appointed CASA to their case.

New CASAs, Jennifer and Alexa, chose to work on this case together. They visited the children regularly & won their trust. They helped with schoolwork and played games. They also brought donated new items, like games & toys, from the CASA "toy room" that they could call their own.

Besides visiting the kids, the CASAs made sure they kept everyone in the loop, from social workers & guardians ad litem to their CASA supervisor. As child advocates, they made recommendations to the court. For example, Jennifer & Alexa worked with the school district to get the kids evaluated/paired with the right educational services.

Through lots of research, the CASAs helped establish paternity for the children. They have been a constant support to grandma, especially navigating the court system. With the CASAs' knowledge, strength, & consistent emotional support, grandma was awarded full & permanent custody.