



# NEWSLETTER

## SPRING/SUMMER 2021

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

DONOR SPOTLIGHTS .....PAGE 2  
 CASA IMPACT .....PAGE 3  
 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS 2020-21 .....PAGE 4  
 BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT .....PAGE 5  
 OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT .....PAGE 6



### ON THE CALENDAR

**8** **EMBRACE A CHILD**  
 {VIRTUAL BREAKFAST}  
 APRIL [www.casarr.org](http://www.casarr.org)

**19** **CASA PRE-SERVICE**  
 TRAINING BEGINS  
 APRIL [ann@casarr.org](mailto:ann@casarr.org)

**30** **BACK TO SCHOOL DONATION DROP-OFF**  
 JULY [shari@casarr.org](mailto:shari@casarr.org)

**28** **CASABLANCA: A NEW EVENT AT THE MERCURY BALLROOM**  
 OCT [casarr.org/events](http://casarr.org/events)

**1<sup>ST</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup>** **CASA101 {VIRTUAL} INFO SESSION**  
 WEDNESDAY [casarr.org/casa101](http://casarr.org/casa101)

**CEO LETTER: TITLE OF WILLIAM MYERS**

Dear Friends:

We are getting ready for this year's virtual Embrace a Child Breakfast, Thursday, April 8. This year's theme is "not the same old story," and is also the inspiration for my letter.

2020 has been one of the most difficult years in memory. We all found ourselves facing isolation and uncertainty. These same feelings permeate the lives of the children we serve.

Despite this, CASA volunteers continued to make a difference. Volunteers visited children remotely, at a distance, and continued to ensure the well-being of hundreds of CASA children.

Through generous individual donations, CASA provided basic essentials, like groceries, to children and families. CASA volunteers brought toys and books to brighten their lives, as well as chromebooks to ensure participation in online school.



CASA volunteers helped change the stories of so many children. And you can too!

We are so grateful for the support of every individual and organization that donated, helped, and encouraged CASA to persevere. We are truly grateful for the response of our community. And we need that response to continue.

During the pandemic, children did not have access to professionals who normally report abuse and numbers of child abuse reports dropped dramatically.

As children return to in-person school, we expect an increase in reports and demand for more volunteers. Without teachers, counselors and coaches, so many kids didn't get the help they needed.

- We need YOUR help to continue.*
- We need YOU to encourage others to become CASAs.*
- We need VOLUNTEERS who are ready to serve.*

And, we need financial gifts to recruit and train new volunteers.

Thank YOU for sticking up for children in 2020 and thank you for continuing to be their voice in 2021.

Learn more about how CASA impacts children's lives by attending our Embrace a Child virtual event on Thursday, April 8 at 8 a.m.

RSVP by or before April 2:  
[casarr.org/embrace-a-child-breakfast](http://casarr.org/embrace-a-child-breakfast)

## JEFFERSON COUNTY GUARDIANS AD LITEM'S GIFT



CASA works collaboratively with the Family Court System, including the lawyers who represent the children and families, also known as guardians ad litem or GALs.

As the pandemic continued to shut down community services, the GALs in Jefferson County pooled together their financial gifts and donated almost \$3,000 to the most vulnerable children in our community.

“  
Everybody can be  
great...because  
anybody can serve.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

”

“We are truly grateful for this gift from the Jefferson County Guardians Ad Litem. We are already partners for the best interests of children, and we are touched at their contribution. We look forward to many years of working together for children, and appreciate all their efforts to ensure every child has a voice,” William Myers, CEO/President, CASA of the River Region.

## TEXAS ROADHOUSE NAMED 2021 CASA HERO



Every year, CASA awards an organization with its CASA Hero Award. CASA is proud to announce that the 2021 Hero Award goes to Texas Roadhouse. “We started supporting CASA in 2005 because we wanted to help kids in need in

our community who have suffered from abuse or neglect. The contributions of CASA volunteers are so important to the well-being of the children they serve,” Diania Ciresi, Senior Manager of Community Relations, Texas Roadhouse.

CEO William Myers said, “Since 2005, Texas Roadhouse and Roadies have supported our work to ensure every child has a supportive adult in their life. Their commitment to CASA and the children of our community has been outstanding, and we are grateful for our partnership. The Louisville area as a whole is lucky to have Texas Roadhouse, and we look forward to many years of working together for our community.”

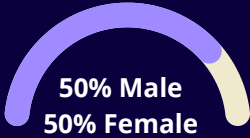
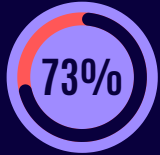
Celebrate with us at this year’s virtual Embrace a Child by reserving your spot at:

[www.casarr.org/embrace-a-child-breakfast](http://www.casarr.org/embrace-a-child-breakfast)

# CASA OF THE RIVER REGION IMPACT | 2020 IN REVIEW

## 511 CHILDREN SERVED

Seventy-three percent of children CASA serves are from low-income households.

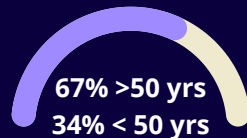


Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic events such as abuse, neglect, domestic violence, etc. CASA children have an average ACEs Score of 5.2. Scores above 6 are tied to chronic health conditions & reduce life expectancy by 20 years.

“**CONSTANT  
KINDNESS CAN  
ACCOMPLISH  
MUCH.**”

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

## 215 TOTAL VOLUNTEERS



Ninety-one percent of volunteers who completed training took a case.



## CASA IMPACT

Sam's mom moved him around a lot. By the time he was 8, he lived in three different states. When they finally came to Kentucky, his mom jumped around even more and when she couldn't take care of him, she left him with child welfare services.

While in KY, he has lived in multiple foster homes and a residential care facility. Sam's mom was easily frustrated and angry. He remembers when she got so angry she hit him with a frying pan.

When he was surrendered by mom to child services, there were no open foster homes. Due to his behavioral issues, he entered a residential facility. This is when he noticed the same person visiting him every week. It was his CASA. He was wary of her at first. She brought coloring books so that he didn't have to talk much. She also started reading adventure books to him. He liked her because she didn't make him talk about all the bad stuff.

When he would get angry and throw his toys, she sat patiently and waited for him to calm down. Then, she asked him why he was so angry. He was used to being yelled at when he yelled. But, when his CASA asked him why, he sat down and cried.

Later, Sam confided to his CASA that he's angry because he gets ignored and tossed like he's garbage. But, he said that she is the first grown up who talked to him and asked questions. Since then, he knew he could always count on his CASA.

**20+ YEARS**

Diane Drescher

**15-19 YEARS**James Ashley  
Karen Ashley  
Kathie Lepping  
Lee Staudter**10-14 YEARS**Michael Bright  
Sharon Finlinson  
Carolyn Garner  
Tony Garner  
Linda IlnickNick Temple  
Stephanie VonTrapp  
Dorothy Watts  
Eric Weisbach  
Yvonne Woods**2-4 YEARS**Nancy Abell  
Timothy Adams  
Mallory Alonso  
Taylor Amerman  
Suzanne Andrew  
Jay Ankenbrand  
David Anna

# THANK YOU

**ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS | JAN 2020-MAR 2021**Patricia Hart  
Michelle Hayden  
Mary 'Sister Chris' Hock  
David Hopkins  
Jessica Hume  
Mark Johnson  
Kyung KangKelly Roos  
Alan Rosenberg  
Caroline Russell  
Jocelyn Schlegel  
Caroline Schulz  
Joan Schumer  
Kimberly Self  
James Shaeffer  
Glenda Smith  
Debra Steele  
David Stermer  
Matthew Taylor  
Helen Turner  
Nancy Underwood  
Kelly Valenti  
Therese 'Kay' VanArsdale  
Cheryl Via  
Ruth Wagoner  
Elizabeth Walton  
Janet Walton  
Maya Warrior  
Katherine Weidmann  
Deborah Wesslund  
James Whitaker  
Brooks White  
Chantay Wickcliffe  
Nancy Willis  
Matthew Winkler  
Barbara Winters  
Ann Young  
Stephen Zaricki  
Jennifer ZimmerHannah Edwards  
Nicole Ervin  
Mattie Eubank  
Lisa Glenn  
Robert Goodin Jr  
Brenda Hackett  
Jordan Hall  
Carter Hannah  
Ruhiiyyih Henderson  
Yvette Hill  
Natalie Horn  
Jamie Jarecki  
Nia Jolly  
Kelly Karlen  
Kathleen King  
Mary Katherine Kirby  
Lee Kortens  
Cynthia McCarthy  
Elizabeth Means  
Hannah Mockbee  
Kelly Moritz  
Lauren Mountz  
Patricia Nelson  
Julie Padgett  
Pamela Parson  
Rachel Rearden  
Lisa Richards  
Barbara Rosenman  
Timothy Salansky  
Rita Scanga  
Kelli Schmidt  
Ann Schnepf  
Elizabeth Sebastian  
Alexandra Serrano  
Kristee Shipman  
Christine Smith  
Dawn Smith  
Jordan Smith  
Veronica Stivers  
Jamie Swyers  
Kathi Tabb  
Kim Tabler  
Brenna Teegarden  
Melissa Todd  
Edwin Vetter  
Gayle Vincent  
Sheri Weyhing  
Olivia Whatton  
Briana Whittle  
Eve Zartman-Ball  
Mary Jane Zimmerman

“

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

”

MARGARET MEAD

John Kiesel  
Judy Metcalf  
Walter Reichert  
Rosalind Scott  
Robert Stenger**5-9 YEARS**Susan Aiple  
Hannah Barrineau  
Marty Burke  
Mike Carroll  
Steve Dalton  
Doug Dukes  
Donna Dye  
LuAnn Galbraith  
John Hale  
Mimi Heick  
Liz Hubbard  
Mariya Leyderman  
Enid Mason  
Douglas Michael  
Paula Miller  
Doreen Miller  
Julianne Morris  
John Mullins  
Rita Ostwalt-Whitfield  
Terri Phelps  
Thomas Pike Sr  
Dolores Radasch  
Carmen Riggs  
Alicia Rowe  
Michelle SchultenMelinda Arbough  
Alicia Barnett  
R 'Matt' Beeson  
Malissia Bell  
Patricia Bland  
Mike Boblitt  
Suzette Bole  
James 'Sandy' Boomer  
Lianne Bradshaw  
Dustin Brown  
Diane Campbell  
Adam Caperton  
Christy Cates  
Denise Clark  
Debora Dale-Quarles  
Carolyn Downey  
Sarah Drake  
Sidney Ehrenborg  
Melissa Ensch  
Shawn Eve  
Sharron Faith  
Paul Field  
Lisa Fleck  
Debra Fulkerson  
Jennifer Fuller  
Kimberly Gillespie  
Anne Gordon  
Nancy Graham  
Joseph Grove  
Della HardinKylie King  
Lisa Lesshafft  
Cong li  
James Locke  
Peggy Makowski  
Mara Maldonado  
Annie Mathew  
Renee May  
Michele McCallion-Christner  
James McCormick-Goodhart  
Holly McDevitt  
Emily McDowell  
Jennifer McLendon  
James Melchior  
Lynda Merz  
Patti Meyer  
Elizabeth Montgomery  
Carol Beth Mooneyhan  
Sonnie Moore  
Martha Morrison  
Susan Muldoon  
Sean Muldoon  
Ashley Newton  
Karen O'Hara  
Angeline Penasa  
Sallye Pence  
Lissi Petersen  
Peg Peterson  
Jennifer Plyman  
Tracy Pope  
Valecia Quinn  
Gottfried Reck  
Miranda Reece



**KEVIN BROWN, ESQ., BOARD MEMBER**

Kevin serves as the General Counsel of the Jefferson County Public Schools and the Jefferson County Board of Education in Louisville, Kentucky. In July 2020, Kevin received the William T. Nallia Educational Leadership Award presented by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators.



**MATT NICHOLAS, BOARD MEMBER**

Matt serves as the Senior Director of Business Development for Churchill Downs. "As a Louisville native, I love this city and want to invest my time and energy in supporting a cause that makes a positive impact on the local population. CASA's mission...really resonated with me, as I can think of no group more worthy of assistance than children in challenging situations."

Read more about our new board members at [www.casarr.org/news](http://www.casarr.org/news)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

**EAT FOR CHANGE**



Come in to the Chipotle at 1075 Bardstown Rd., Louisville Monday, March 22nd, 5-9 pm.

Show this flyer or tell the cashier you're supporting CASA to make sure 33% of the proceeds will be donated.

For online order, use code QFH3VEF before checkout in 'promo' field. This unique code will be counted towards the fundraiser.



Come in to the Panera at 3131 Poplar Level Rd., Louisville Tuesday, March 30th, 4-8 pm.

Order online at [panerabread.com](http://panerabread.com) and enter code PRFUND at checkout.

You can also bring this flyer or show a digital version to the cashier when ordering at the cafe to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.



*Not the* **SAME  
OLD  
STORY**



## Embrace a Child

*virtual*  
Thu, April 8, 2021 | 8:00 a.m.

These are NOT the same old stories you will hear. Because of CASA, children who have suffered abuse/neglect can hope, not just for a better future, but a better tomorrow. They know someone is looking out for them, that someone cares.

Please join us and invite a friend (or 2 or 3) for a free 50-minute virtual event to learn how CASA changes the stories of hundreds of vulnerable kids in our community.

Now, more than ever, their stories need to be heard. With so many children unseen during the pandemic, CASA expects a rise in cases when they go back to school and teachers, coaches and counselors can see them again.

**REGISTER BY OR BEFORE APRIL 2:**

[casarr.org/embrace-a-child-breakfast](http://casarr.org/embrace-a-child-breakfast)

10.28.21

CASABLANCA

Mercury  
Ballroom



2020-08 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DRIVE-BY



CASA PHOTO ALBUM



2020-12 HOLIDAY DRIVE-BY PARTY



VIEW ALL EVENT PHOTOS: [FACEBOOK.COM/CASARIVERREGION](https://www.facebook.com/CASARIVERREGION)