from our leadership

Each year in our community, too many of our children are waking up facing another day of horrific abuse or neglect. They suffer silently at the hands of adults who should be caring for them. Most people understand CPS removes children when they suffer serious abuse and their home is unsafe. Few truly realize the difficult and lengthy process these children must endure as they search for a loving, stable and permanent home.

Inside these pages you will learn about the life changing difference our CASA Volunteer Advocates make for children. You will see how an investment in CASA is an investment in the future of a child and how we strive for the common goal that every abused child in Collin County has a CASA Advocate to speak up for them. We could not do what we do without your support and for that we are grateful. Thank you for being part of a caring community that believes every child is worth saving.

Best regards,

Susan Etheridge  
Executive Director

Cheryl Vaughn  
CASA of Collin County Board President

from an advocate

My hours spent as a CASA were some of the happiest I ever experienced. It remains such a joy to know that I, with the help of those around me, was able to improve and give hope to several children. A safe place to grow up is so important and the smiles and occasional contacts I still have, make it all worthwhile.

As someone once said...

“The lawyers know the statutes, the social workers the regulations. But the CASA Volunteer is assigned to know the child... one child at a time... to understand the boundaries of her life... to telephone her teachers... to consider her hopes and dreams... to try to come to the right conclusion about what will be in her best interest. For children whose pasts have been chaotic and whose futures are uncertain, the CASA Volunteer may be the most consistent, interested presence in their lives.”

- Louise  
CASA Volunteer Advocate
Greg Abbott, Texas Governor

Applauds CASA

A key focus of mine as Texas’ Attorney General was protecting and fighting for Texas children who, through no fault of their own, were facing difficult and often heartbreaking circumstances.

As my office worked to advocate on behalf of these most vulnerable Texans, I came to realize that we needed a strong partner in our effort to help abused and neglected children overcome the challenges they are facing. Whether it was a young child who needed a mentor, or a child who needed a caring guide through what can often be complex legal proceedings, CASA was the partner we were looking for and continues to be an invaluable resource and partner for children in need.

As Attorney General, my office partnered with Texas CASA repeatedly to raise awareness about child abuse prevention, and it was my great honor to have Texas CASA recognize my commitment to protecting Texas children with its Lone Star Champions for Kids Award in 2007. Through grant funding and project collaboration, together, we have been able to help ensure that all Texas children have a chance to learn, thrive and succeed.

However, our work is not finished – a single child in distress is one too many. Texas’ children will always need a strong advocate by their side, and Texas will continue to look to CASA to help lead that effort. Nothing is more important to our great state than the future of our children. That is why as Governor, I will continue to be a strong and vocal advocate for the vital work CASA does and do everything possible to offer my support, assistance and gratitude on behalf of the State of Texas.
the need

Every eight minutes a child in Texas becomes a victim of abuse or neglect resulting in over 17,350 children being removed from their homes and placed in protective custody last year.

In 2014 there were 4,652 cases of child abuse reported to CPS in Collin County and 1,393 children were confirmed as victims.

It costs more for a child to remain in foster care for one month than for an entire year of CASA Advocacy.

mission statement

CASA of Collin County promotes and protects the best interests of children who have been abused or neglected by training volunteer advocates to improve the child’s quality of life and serve as their voice within the court system to ensure they are placed in a safe, permanent and loving home.
In 2014, CASA of Collin County Volunteer Advocates:

1. Served 517 children who had been removed from unsafe homes and placed in foster care.
2. Helped find a safe, permanent and loving home for 194 children.
3. Donated over 50,000 hours of service, saving taxpayers over $4 million.
our child advocacy program

In 2014...

Less than 1% of children served by CASA re-entered the child welfare system.

Collin County District Court Judges agreed with CASA’s recommendations in over 98% of cases.

74 new volunteers completed a 30 hour training course and were sworn in as Advocates by a District Court Judge.

CASA served 100% of children in foster care in Collin County.

Since 1991 CASA has served over 8,850 children.

84% of funds raised were spent on program services.

We provided school supplies to over 175 children and 335 children received gifts during the holiday season.

Research shows that children with a CASA receive more services, move through the system more quickly, do better in school and are significantly less likely to re-enter the foster care system than a child without a CASA.
How your financial support made a difference...

**Revenue & Support**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations and Grants</td>
<td>$539,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>$419,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual and Corporate</td>
<td>$205,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$5,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,205,647</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$823,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and Admin.</td>
<td>$71,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$84,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$979,776</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It cost just $1,890 to serve an abused child for an entire year.

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**Ben’s Story**

After being in foster care for almost a year and a half, Ben has found his forever family.

When he first came into the custody of CPS, he was assigned CASA volunteer, Ann. Ben was showing extreme signs of neglect. His teeth were rotting from lack of any kind of oral hygiene care, and at meal time he would eat so fast he would choke - in fear of where his next meal would come from. He had severe separation anxiety when his foster parents would drop him off at school, and was even unsure what it meant to have ‘playtime’.

Against the odds, Ben started to thrive. He had support. His attorney, CPS, and foster family all began to work together to create a solid plan for Ben to succeed. CASA was the supportive role. His foster family helped execute the plan and showered him with love. CASA volunteer, Ann visited twice a month to check on Ben’s progress. She complimented the work of the foster family, and was a resource to them, as well as Ben. They taught Ben that he had value, and that his interests, likes/dislikes, were important. Ann also taught Ben that there are people who want to love and support him - not hurt or neglect him.

He was beginning to excel. His teeth had been fixed, he wasn’t worrying where his next meal came from, and he started to trust. He trusted his foster family to love him, support him, and create a safe environment for him. Ben had even started to participate in various sports activities! The best part is that the Ann was able to witness the support of this foster family, and the bonding that Ben and his (now) siblings shared. After his birth mother relinquished her rights to Ben, Ann knew the best was yet to come. He was joining a forever family that was going to show Ben what it means to belong to something great and unconditional.

On March 13, 2015, Ben celebrated his “GOTCHA DAY” (adoption) with his forever family. You couldn’t wipe the smile off his face - he was so excited! His entire support team was there to celebrate with him. Many thanks to our CASA volunteer, Ann and CASA staff member, Francesca for working diligently to help make Ben’s story a complete success!
Alcatel - Lucent
Suzanne and Al Cardenas, MD
Melissa Bargainer
Baylor Medical Center at McKinney
Baylor Medical Center at Frisco
Centennial Medical Center
City of Allen
City of Frisco
City of McKinney
City of Plano
Classic BMW
CoServ Charitable Foundation
East Plano Bingo / Mr. Edwin Bransom
First United Bank
Frost Bank
Robert Gattuso / Total Auto Services
Goodman Networks
Carole Hannon Estate
David Harvey
Independent Bank
Kiwanis Club of McKinney
Joyce and Mike Konrad
Deborah and Jake Krocheski
LegacyTexas Bank
Mason Brown Family Foundation
Rebecca and Jim McGarry
PepsiCo Employee Giving Campaign
Plano Women's Healthcare
Pogue Construction
Prince of Peace Catholic Community
Deanna and Ron Ross
Russell Grimes Management LLC
Strasburger & Price
Texas Briar Club Foundation
Texas CASA, Inc.
Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano
Texas Instruments and the TI Foundation
The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano
The Rees-Jones Foundation
The Shops at Willow Bend
Torchmark Corporation
Toyota of Plano
Traxxas
Veritex Bank
ViewPoint Bank
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
Jamie and Todd Upson
board of directors

President
Cheryl Vaughan
Attorney / Mediator

Vice President
David Harvey
Private Equity Investment
SteelRiver Operations, LP

Secretary
Bron Austin Deal
Founder & CEO
Bron Austin Deal Enterprises, LLC

Treasurer
Alan McDonald
Senior Vice President
First United Bank

Melissa A. Bargainer
Vice President Labor Operations
Hewlett Packard

Shelley Whiddon-Bartek
Vice President, Public Affairs
Alliance Data

Steve Bell
President
Financial Renovation Solutions, Inc.

Aimee Bentson
Fashion Designer, Entrepreneur
Dilly Baby, Victory Mountain Threads, Avyn Inc.

Tina Bigalke
Human Resources Vice President
Frito-Lay

Amanda Bloom
Sr. Director
Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano

Member at Large
Mark Carswell
Consultant
PACE Envirowater Gp.

Paul Fego
VP Worldwide Manufacturing & Technology
Texas Instruments

Rusty Gentry
General Manager
Toyota of Plano

Terrance Grant
Restaurant Management
On The Border Restaurant

Keith L. Griffitts
Retired President/Owner
Western Petroleum Resources, Inc.

Orlala L. Icenberger
Area Vice President
Post Corporate Apartment

Patrick D. Keating
Attorney
Haynes and Boone, LLP

Member at Large
Buzz Kolbe
Leadership Development Coach
Kolbe & Associates

Deborah Krocheski
Administrator
Client Connection, Inc.

Russel May
Police Officer / Sergeant
McKinney Police Dept.

Cindy Ritchie
Civic Volunteer

Oscar Zevallos
Attorney
Zevallos Law Firm, P.C.