EVERY CHILD HAS A CHANCE — IT’S YOU.

2015 Annual Report
from our leadership

We are pleased to provide you with our 2015 Annual Report, full of numbers and statistics that represent our accomplishments for the year - number of children served, volunteers trained and assigned to children, volunteer hours logged and financial support received. Each of these numbers helps paint a picture of the work that we do at CASA every day. But we never can forget that behind each of these numbers is a powerful story. It is the story of a nine year old child who has been moved to five group homes and three schools over the past two years. The infant who arrives in the emergency room with thirty two fractures. The child handed all his belongings in a small plastic bag at the age of eighteen because he has “aged out” of the system. These are the stories that occur over and over again in the Texas child welfare system.

But, our stories have happy endings because of the hard work and dedication of our Volunteer Advocates, whose passion and commitment to the children we serve helps ensure children grew up in a safe and loving home.

We wish we could tell you the story of each of the precious children we serve. Instead, these numbers will tell you about the impact our advocates made. How an investment in CASA is an investment in the future of a child and how we strive for the common goal that every child in Collin County has a CASA Volunteer Advocate to speak up for them. Every Child Has A Chance - It’s You. This message speaks to the importance of every one of us and our obligation to make a better life for these vulnerable children. We thank you for your support and ask that you share this information with someone else who can make a significant difference in the life of a child.

Best regards,

Susan Etheridge
Executive Director

Buzz Kolbe
CASA of Collin County
Board President
Mary has advocated for 7 children since becoming a CASA in 2012. She firmly believes that the monitoring and friendship the Advocates provide keeps children from getting lost in an overburdened system and ensures their individual needs are met. “These children start out so traumatized, so disadvantaged that they need every helping hand available.” Mary believes her Casework Supervisor and the specialized training she receives help her effectively navigate the difficult cases and deal with the behavioral effects of abuse and neglect. “I learned to think of difficult behavior not in terms of “what is wrong with this child” but in terms of “what has happened to this child?” I could not have picked any other volunteer organization that would have more meaning for me or impact my life so positively. Being there for these children during the most difficult of times, and knowing I have made a difference, is truly a privilege.”

- Mary, CASA Volunteer Advocate
Over 47,300 children are in DFPS legal custody.

In Texas, 3 children die every week from child abuse or neglect.

In 2015, in Collin County there were 4,157 reports of child abuse and 1,393 children confirmed as victims.

My best CASA story? “The day our CASA child, who had been so withdrawn that he often would contort himself to be as small as possible, stood tall, looked directly at us, smiled and said, “Awesome!” He had lost his fear and distrust. He was becoming a happy person. I got in the car and cried.”

Wanda, CASA Volunteer Advocate
In 2015, 202 CASA of Collin County Volunteer Advocates:

**SERVED** 522 children who had been removed from unsafe homes and placed in foster care.

**HELPED** find a permanent and loving home for **234** children.

**DONATED** over **50,000** hours of service, saving taxpayers over **$4 million**

CASA of Collin County is the largest CASA program in Texas serving **100%** of children.

**My best CASA story?** “When I look into the eyes of my CASA children I see fear and hope. I try to bring out the hope and lessen the fear.”

*Michael, CASA Volunteer Advocate*
our child advocacy program

In 2015...

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.

72 new volunteers completed 30 hours of training 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 10,000 children.

84% of funds raised were spent on program services.

We provided school supplies to over 215 children and 350 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.
We are grateful to our Community Partners who make our work possible.

**revenue**

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations and Grants</td>
<td>$560,795</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>$491,511</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual and Corp</td>
<td>$289,247</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$2,694</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,369,247</strong></td>
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**expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Support</td>
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<td>General and Admn.</td>
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<td>Fundraising Expenses</td>
<td>$87,604</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,017,808</strong></td>
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It costs just $1,950 to serve an abused child for an entire year, less than what it costs for a child to remain in foster care for a month.
board of directors

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Leadership Development Coach
Owner, Kolbe & Associates

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Oscar Zevallos
Attorney
Zevallos Law Firm, P.C.
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. She 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 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!

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.
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In order to make better use of our financial resources this report has been created in a digital format.

Funds saved will provide advocacy for two additional children in the foster care system for one year.