2025

IMPACT REPORT

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF COLLIN COUNTY

A Letter from our new CEO

It is my profound honor to serve as the new CEO of CASA of Collin County. With over 20 years leading in the DFW nonprofit sector, and 10 years serving children and families experiencing trauma, I understand the vital role that CASA plays in our community. I am excited to build lasting community relationships, increase our collaborative footprint, and strengthen our support and impact in the years ahead.

Like you, we believe every child deserves a safe, permanent, and nurturing home and someone who will walk alongside them during some of the hardest moments of their lives. Our advocates are often the one consistent presence for children navigating an uncertain system, a presence that has proved to be more important than ever over the past 2 years.

In March 2024, EMPOWER took over case management responsibilities in our region from Child Protective Services (CPS) as part of a 2017 legislative mandate to privatize child welfare services across the state. That transition, and the workforce challenges it created, continues to create gaps that our dedicated staff and advocates continue to fill. With less tenured workers helping children experiencing abuse and neglect, our advocates' ability to show up consistently and gather pertinent information in all aspects of a child's life has become even more critical, impacting both safety and permanency.

Our volunteers and staff don't simply show up; they stand up, especially in court, where key decisions are made about the future. During a recent meeting with our Judges, one shared that, in making these key decisions, sometimes they don't know what they don't know. Then the Judge added, "CASA knows what we don't know."

CASA is the only nonprofit in Collin County with the authorization and capacity to provide court-appointed volunteer advocates for 100% of the abused and neglected children referred to us by the court system. As we celebrate our 35th anniversary, we do so with pride in how far we've come and a renewed commitment to the children who still need us. With your critical support, CASA of Collin County will continue to be able to serve every child who needs us during a time of extraordinary challenge for them individually and for the system they must navigate.

With gratitude,

Lauren Love

Lauren Love

About Us

Established in 1991, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Collin County remains the only court-mandated child-advocacy organization in Collin County. CASA advocates for the best interests of children in foster care. Since 1997, we have served 100% of abused and neglected children removed from their homes in Collin County.

Our Mission

CASA of Collin County trains and supports volunteers to serve as court-appointed advocates who provide powerful best-interest advocacy and meaningful connections for children in the child welfare system who have experienced abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

Our Vision

All children deserve a safe and loving forever home, free from abuse or neglect. CASA of Collin County is committed to providing well-trained Volunteer Advocates for 100% of children removed from their homes under jurisdiction of the Collin County Courts.

A Look Back at Our Impact

100%

CHILDREN SERVED ASSIGNED TO CASA OF COLLIN COUNTY BY THE COURT

334

CHILDREN SERVED WITH AN ADVOCATE

186

ACTIVE ADVOCATES
51 NEWLY SWORN IN

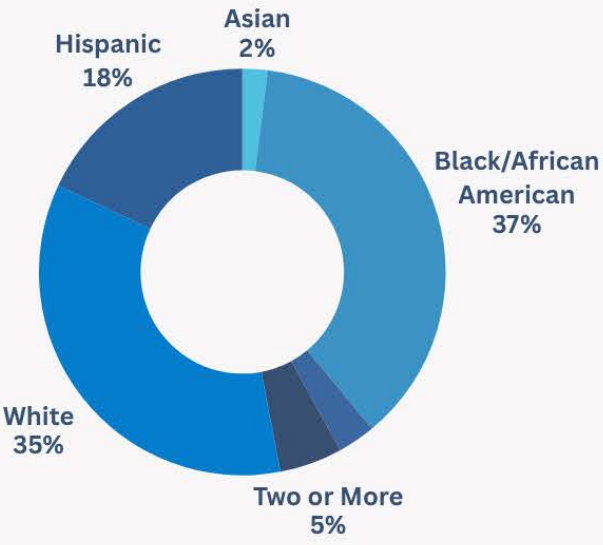
183,880

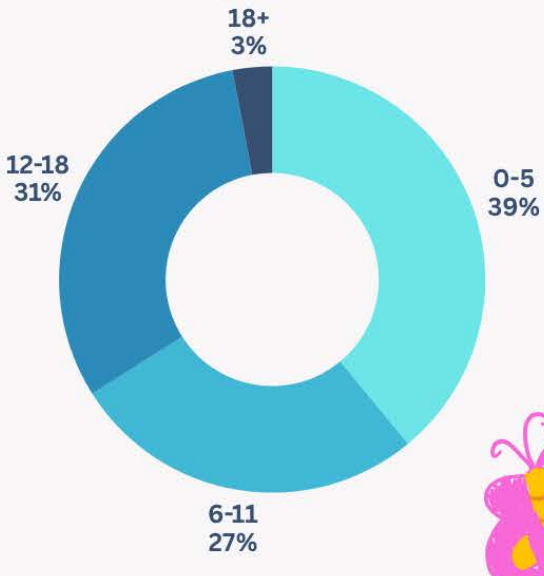
TOTAL MILES TRAVELED BY CASA VOLUNTEERS

14,790

TOTAL HOURS OF CASA VOLUNTEER SERVCE

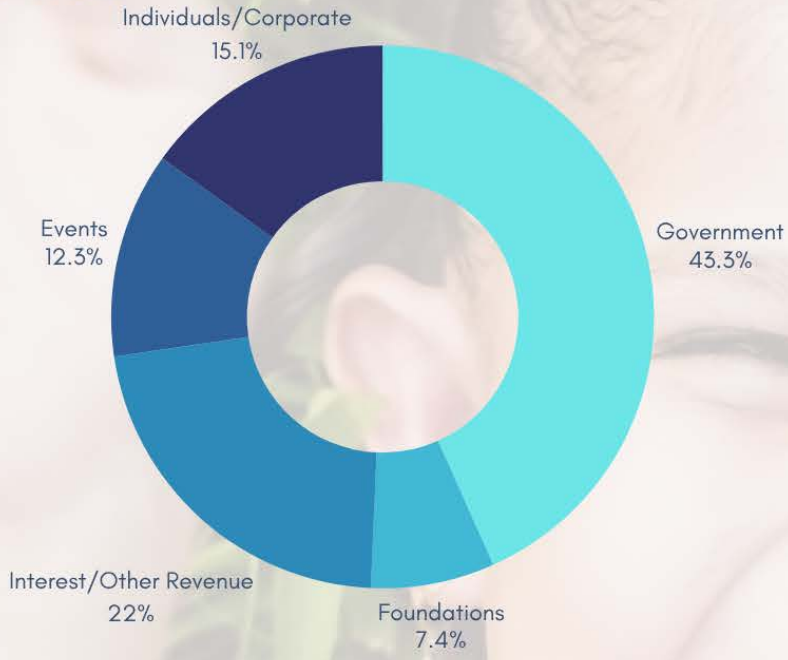
Demographics Race & Ages



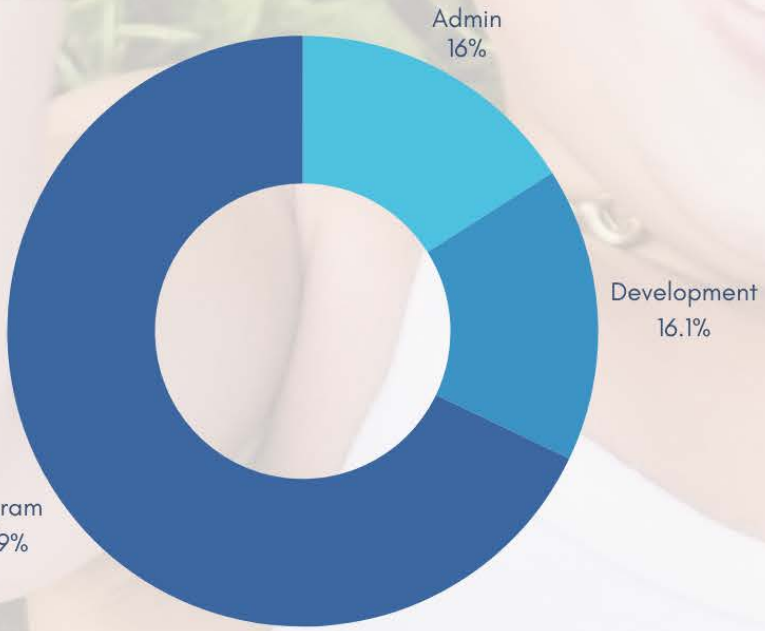


FINANCIALS

Income Overview



Expense Overview



CASA of Collin County's financial report for the fiscal year period January through December 2025. The complete audited Financial Statement and IRS Form 990 are available at request by contacting Jessica Dunn, Chief Philanthropy Officer at jdunn@casaofcollincounty.org.

Our Staff

Dedicated. Compassionate. Driven.

Our staff is the heart of CASA of Collin County.

Together, we work every day to recruit, train, and support volunteers who advocate for children and help change the trajectory of their lives.

Leadership Team

Sarah Cage
Chief Administration Officer

Jessica Dunn
Chief Philanthropy Officer

Debi Williams
Chief Program Officer

Development, Program and Administration Team

Amanda Gaumer
Community Engagement Manager

Brooke Kuehne
Donor Relations Manager

Francesca Inman
Advocacy Manager

Natasha Lawry
Volunteer Onboarding Manager

Nikki Morris
Volunteer Education Manager

Layla Beaty
Senior Volunteer Coordinator & CFE Specialist

Megan Williams
Volunteer Coordinator

Courtney Gambill
Volunteer Coordinator

Shay Jones
Volunteer Coordinator

Natalie Evans
Volunteer Coordinator

Kennedy Bonsal
Volunteer Coordinator

Patrick Wilber
Office Manager

Board of *Directors*

CASA of Collin County is guided by a dedicated **Board of Directors** whose leadership, expertise, and commitment help advance our mission of advocating for children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

Through strategic guidance, governance, community engagement, and philanthropic support, our board members play a vital role in ensuring that every child served by CASA has a voice and a champion during one of the most challenging times in their life.

We are deeply grateful for their service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the children and families of Collin County.

Pam Murray, *Chair*
Sharita Butler, Vice Chair
Jason Hurd, *Treasurer*
Wendi Costlow, Corp. Secretary
Dennis Harris, *Executive at Large*

Rendell Gazzingan, Past Chair
David Smith
Erinne Conner
Tracie Frazier
Kim Brown
Suzanne Bain
Russel May
Gareth Hooper
Julia Wiener
Scott Jenkins

> *"It is an honor to serve alongside such a passionate and talented group of leaders who give their time, expertise, and hearts to change the lives of children."*
>
> **– Pam Murray, Chair**

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

ONE
SHARED MISSION
A VOICE, A CHAMPION,
A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

15
DEDICATED
LEADERS

COUNTLESS
HOURS OF SERVICE
AND STEWARDSHIP

Thank you FOR LEADING WITH HEART.

Impact Stories

Seen, Heard, and Safe: Sofia's Story

At just nine years old, Sofia had already learned how to stay quiet.

In her home, silence felt safer. There were nights filled with yelling, days when no one checked if she had eaten, and long stretches where she felt completely invisible. School became her escape, but even there, her teachers began to notice she was falling behind, withdrawn, and carrying more than a child ever should.

When she entered foster care, everything changed overnight. New home, new school, new faces. It was overwhelming, and for Sofia, it felt easier to shut down than to try again.

That's when her CASA volunteer, Emily, stepped in.
Emily showed up consistently. Week after week, she sat with Sofia, sometimes talking, sometimes just coloring quietly side by side. Slowly, trust began to grow. Emily worked closely with her school to get her the academic support she needed and made sure she had access to counseling services where she could begin to process her experiences.

But more than anything, Emily made sure Sofia felt seen.
Over time, Sofia began to open up. Her grades improved, she started making friends, and she even joined her school's art club, something she had always been too shy to try.
Today, Sofia is in a safe, stable home where she continues to thrive.

"I used to feel like no one noticed me," she shared. "But Emily always did. She made me feel important."

Keeping Siblings Connected: Alexa & Liam's Story

For siblings Ava and Liam, being together meant everything.

They had always leaned on each other through difficult times at home, with Ava often stepping into a caregiver role for her younger brother. When they entered foster care, the thought of being separated was devastating.

And at first, it was their reality. Placed in different homes, both struggled with the loss of one another.
That's when their CASA volunteer, Rachel, stepped in.

Recognizing the importance of their bond, Rachel advocated for consistent visitation and worked closely with foster families, caseworkers, and the court to keep them connected. She didn't stop there, she pushed for a permanent solution that would reunite them.

After months of advocacy, Ava and Liam were finally placed together in a safe, loving home.

Today, Ava can focus on being a child again, and Liam is thriving with his sister by his side.

"I was so scared we wouldn't be together," Ava shared.
"But Rachel made sure we didn't lose each other."

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Supporters!

Because of your generosity, children in our community had someone by their side.

To all our incredible donors, sponsors, and community partners, thank you. Your support in 2025 has helped change the story for children experiencing abuse and neglect. You've made it possible for CASA volunteers to advocate, empower, and uplift those who need it most.

You Showed Up

Just like our volunteer advocates, you took a stand. Your belief in our mission ensured children had a voice in the courtroom and a trusted adult by their side.

You Made Advocacy Possible

Your support directly funded child-focused advocacy, helping us provide hope, stability, and consistency for kids navigating the foster care system.

You Helped Kids Heal and Grow

With your help, children began to rebuild emotionally, physically, and mentally. You gave them a chance at a safer, brighter future.

Once again, your kindness leaves a profound impact that transcends mere words; it resonates in the lives you have influenced. We extend our sincere gratitude to you! Thank you!

Mercedes-Benz of Plano

SRS Distribution

SRS Raise the Roof Foundation

Communities Foundation of Texas

Traxxas — The Fastest Name In Radio Control

Thomson Reuters

Heritage Cares

Capital for Kids

Cheryl & Grant Foxworth

In-N-Out Burger Foundation — Hope & Change for Young Lives

CoServ

Gary & Lori Swan Family Foundation

The Rees-Jones Foundation

Primrose Schools — Konrad Schools

Emerson

Corrine & Thomas Hawkins

Frontier — Powered by Hightower

Baylor Scott & White Medical Center — McKinney

MCDC — McKinney Community Development Corporation

H-E-B — Helping Here

Globe Life

MEDC — McKinney Economic Development Corporation

Primrose Schools — Primrose School of West Plano

Baylor Scott & White Medical Center — Centennial

Dallas Association of Young Lawyers

Ruiz Foods

and many other generous donors!

Together, we are building a future where every child has a voice and a champion.

www.casaofcollincounty.org