

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**JOHNSON & WYANDOTTE
COUNTIES**

CASA OF JOHNSON &
WYANDOTTE COUNTIES

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FROM THE CASA BOARD

Our CASA thrived this year as we continued to implement our three-year strategic plan and built foundational change. Expanding capacity for the children in our community who need advocates requires us to enhance our infrastructure and improve volunteer and employee support, skills, and knowledge. By investing and strengthening these cornerstones of success, we will be better equipped to retain and train our advocates, and in doing so, support more children.

With the generosity of our community, we greatly increased foundation grants in 2022, which has enabled us to expand and invest in our staff, update our communication platforms to better tell our story, and promote strategic guidance to support increased advocacy. Coupled with a successful inaugural board retreat, our leadership teams are especially energized by new opportunities to expand our services.

CASA is a wonderful and needed organization, and we strive to serve more children and families each year. With continued community support, we will expand our ability to be a stable and positive constant in a child's life.



FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

NATALIE JULIEN

The work we do at CASA of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties is predicated on our ability to build relationships. At the core of our mission, is the ability of our volunteer advocates to establish long-lasting and impactful relationships with children in our community who have experienced abuse and neglect so that they feel valued, supported, and heard.

In support of our advocates work, CASA Program Staff prioritize strong, collaborative relationships with our community partners, such as the Johnson and Wyandotte County Courts, Cornerstones of Care, and KVC, among others...all spending countless hours to figure out what is in the best interest of each child in care.

CASA's Volunteer Department is foundational to the relationship that is established with each of our volunteers, whether they chose to be an advocate or support the work of the organization in some other meaningful way.

Our Development and Marketing Teams build relationships with individuals, corporations, foundations, and civic organizations who have a passion for our mission and want to support our work through direct contributions and resources. And our administration, from the Board of Directors to myself, leads the way by strategically positioning the organization for greatest impact by identifying relationships that support our work at every level.

CASA of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties is fortunate to have the support of a community of individuals who care about children who have experienced abuse and neglect. This community has devoted their time and energy over the course of the year to ensure that every child who finds themselves in those circumstances knows that there are people who care about them and want to provide them with the support they need to not only survive but thrive. As we close out 2022 and prepare for 2023, we are proud of our ability to provide a voice for 385 children in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties, but we move forward with increased motivation to realize our vision of a community where every child who has experienced abuse and neglect knows that they are not alone because they have a CASA by their side.

OUR MISSION, VISION, & VALUES

MISSION

To provide a meaningful voice and connection that instills hope and builds resilience for children who have experienced abuse and neglect.



VISION

To create a community where every child who has experienced abuse and neglect is given the opportunity to thrive.



OUR VALUES

At CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties, our work will be guided and informed by our beliefs and commitment to the following areas:

SAFETY

We prioritize the needs and safety of our children.

SUPPORT

We create an environment where all people are heard and supported.

CONNECTIONS

We believe in the power of providing meaningful connections.

INCLUSIVE & EQUITABLE

We are committed to maintaining an inclusive environment with equitable treatment for all.

RESPECT

We approach all people with respect, dignity, and compassion.

RESOURCES

We empower our volunteers and staff with tools and resources that support our kids to thrive.

COLLABORATION

We value collaboration to effect positive change.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

We are dedicated to modeling diversity and inclusion throughout our community.

OUR IMPACT

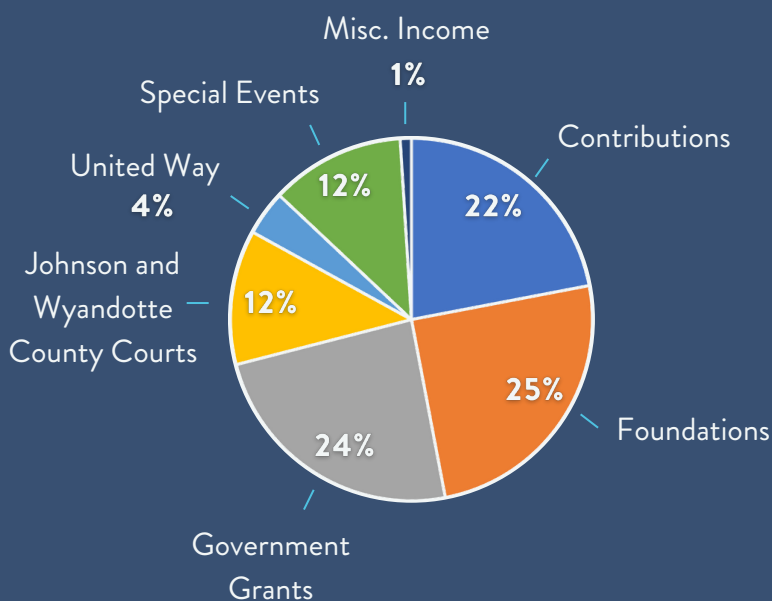


2022 FINANCIALS

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

TOTAL REVENUE

\$1,182,271



219

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES



229

FAMILIES SERVED



385

CHILDREN SERVED



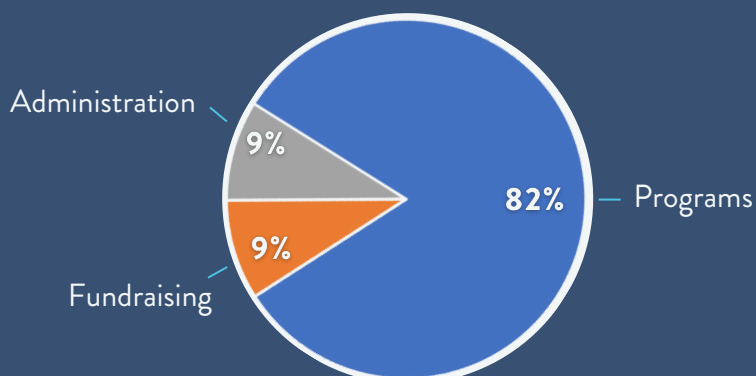
20,026

VOLUNTEER CASE HOURS



TOTAL EXPENSES

\$1,137,812



43%

of children living in out-of-home placements in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties have a CASA.

98%

of children had stability in their CASA advocate.

A CHILD'S STORY

Ricky was diagnosed with stage 4 Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma in his ear canal with metastasis to his lungs. He completed chemotherapy and radiation, however, required significant follow-up. Unfortunately, the hospital had to make multiple hotline calls due to concerns of noncompliance with his treatment. In 2019, at the age of 5, Ricky was brought into foster care and was assigned a CASA, Denise.



Ricky was moved from foster home to foster home. One of which was two hours away in Seneca, Kansas. Denise made the four hour round-trip journey to make sure Ricky settled in okay. She developed a relationship with the foster mother and the local school, ensuring frequent updates about Ricky's progress.



Parental rights were officially terminated in December 2020. Denise was present to help transition Ricky to his new home. Unfortunately, the family made the decision to discontinue the adoption process. Ricky was devastated.

In July 2021, Ricky was placed with Gary and Debora Matson. The Matson's never gave up on Ricky. Ricky officially became a part of the Matson family on July 18, 2022, after 3 years in foster care. Today, he remains in remission and is thriving.

Three years, 11 total foster placements, 4 case workers, 1 CASA.



OUR COMMUNITY

KindCraft
Birthday Supplies



**United Way of
Greater Kansas City**
Ornament Volunteers



**First Baptist Church of
Overland Park**
Quilt Donations
Jeanne, Ronda, Jean, Judi



Mr. P's Bar & Grill
Giveback Event



IN ACTION!

Back-To-School Bash
Event Volunteers



Blue Valley CAPS
Global Business Students
Data Analysis Project

Kansas City
Bier Meisters
Hops & Barley
Event Partner



Greater Kansas City
Alumnae Chapter
Kappa Alpha Theta
CASA Holiday Party

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Every one of CASA's advocates strive to be a valuable resource for the children they serve. Their time and dedication spent fulfilling our mission is truly appreciated.

Our three longest serving advocates continue to lead and proudly represent CASA through the years. We thank them for inspiring others who follow in their footsteps.



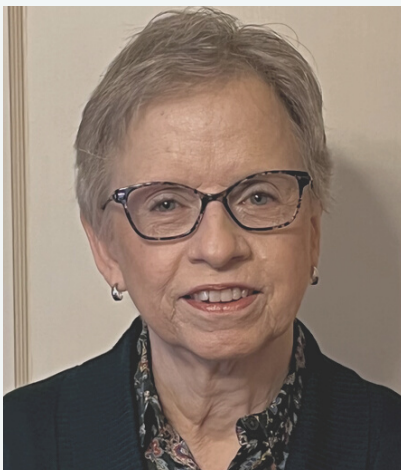
SHERI RICE

Sheri has been a CASA Advocate for 24 years, our longest serving volunteer. Before becoming a CASA, Sheri was a foster parent and she has continued using her voice for children in foster care to this day. Sheri's fondest memory from her years of advocating is being asked to attend the wedding of the first child she ever served with CASA. Moments like these are why Sheri believes "the rewards far outweigh the effort" when it comes to volunteering.



BETSY BAUTZ

Betsy Bautz celebrated her 16th year as a CASA Volunteer in 2022. She had no idea the impact she would have on the many children advocated for since that time, but she knew the opportunity to help just one child, would be a success. Recently, Betsy heard from a CASA child's grandmother, who told her that since her case closing many years ago, her granddaughter had gone on to not only graduate high school, but college as well and is now a part of the U.S. Air Force. Betsy has given great service throughout the years and has always been a voice to help children in foster care thrive.



JOANNE DENTON

Joanne Denton has been a CASA volunteer for 16 years and continues to go above and beyond for the children she serves. Joanne was an elementary school teacher and a librarian and after retiring, she knew she wanted to remain a valuable resource to children in her community. Joanne knows that beyond providing a voice for a child in court, CASAs are a constant mentor, guiding them through their young life and helping them succeed. Joanne shows her CASA children that no matter what happens, she will always care for them.

ADVOCATES CERTIFIED IN 2022



WORK OF HEART HONOREES

Work of Heart Honorees have gone above and beyond by demonstrating their commitment to serving children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

Brenda Layman

Josh Morton

Lisa Muessig

Heidi Cashman

Julie Strohmeier

Marty Swayze

Jennifer Heck

Karen High

Melinda Holloway

John Altevogt

Laura Baughan

Shep Aron

Thank you for your continued dedication to the children of our communities!

OUR EVENTS



PROMISE OF HOPE

CASA's Promise of Hope campaign brings awareness to children who have experienced abuse and neglect. This year's attendees heard about the trials and tribulations of Jacob. Jacob was only five years old when he entered the foster care system, but on December 2, 2021, he was officially adopted and found his forever home with Beth and Tim Shelley. CASA Advocate Ballard Yeates, along with Jacob's adoptive parents, attended this event and shared how they all worked together to give Jacob hope for a brighter future. Through education and impactful storytelling, the event inspires donations and volunteerism.

HOPS & BARLEY

This year's Hops & Barley event, with local beer and wine tastings at the Lodge at Ironwoods, was a huge success! Our incredible Emcee, Taylor Hemness, a delicious menu, and live entertainment from the talented duo of Sean McNown and Jason Reinhard, completed an amazing afternoon. full of high spirits and warm hearts. Guests participated in yard games, a silent auction, and wine pull, providing entertainment and giving options. With title sponsorship from Performance Contracting Group, CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties was able to raise \$107,385.85 in event sponsorships and gifts.





ANNUAL MEETING

With support of our corporate partner and sponsor, Elevated Retirement Group, CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties held its Annual Meeting at Tyler Technologies. Attendees heard CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties' President and CEO, Natalie Julien, present on the current state of CASA. Shanelle Dupree, Regional Director of the Kansas Department for Children and Families also shared information on the state of foster care in Kansas. It was a fantastic night of discussion and learning. CASA was grateful for the time to share our accomplishments with the community.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The event welcomed local children and their families who enjoyed holiday-themed games, arts and crafts, cookie decorating, face painting, a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and more! Children had the opportunity to shop for the special adults in their lives and even received a gift from Santa himself. This annual event gives families the chance to focus on the joy of the holiday season. CASA had support from community volunteers, corporate partners, Theta alumnae, and Friends of CASA to make this party a success for the children and families in our communities.



CORPORATE PARTNERS



PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING GROUP

In 2022, Performance Contracting Group (PCG) supported CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties with a \$60,000 contribution, including title sponsorship of our annual Hops & Barley event. In addition, the company organized a lunch and learn opportunity for its employees to get involved in our organization. Employees also contributed 70 gift cards for teens during our 2022 Holiday Drive.

BNSF ARGENTINE



BNSF was a new partnership for CASA in 2022. After discussion with CASA on all opportunities, a pajama and book drive was planned. The drive was a great success which was kicked-off through three company-wide speaking opportunities. The company's book drive collected 170 new books, 108 pairs of pajamas, and numerous other items to support children living in foster care. CASA was also awarded a \$10,000 grant from the BNSF Foundation to support CASA's work with teens and those aging out of foster care.



RSM US LLP

In 2022, RSM and its Family First Initiative, kicked off a Back-to-School Drive to support CASA. RSM associates provided 129 backpacks which were distributed as part of CASA's Back-to-School Bash in August. RSM also held a lunch and learn opportunity to kick-off the backpack campaign. The company also continued its sponsorship support with a \$2,500 financial contribution.

FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

LEGACY COLLECTIVE

CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties received \$25,000 from Legacy Collective through its Giving Circle Community. These funds provide the opportunity for CASA to increase its capacity to serve more children living in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties. In 2023, CASA plans to hire two more Program Coordinators which will allow us to serve more children.



HALL FAMILY FOUNDATION

CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties received \$50,000 from the Hall Family Foundation. These funds were focused on our Volunteer Department's growth throughout the year, supporting a restructure of the department to include both a Volunteer Manager and Training Coordinator. The funds focused on improving the utilization of volunteer resources, with a primary goal to see an increase in the number of volunteers and an improved retention rate.



H&R BLOCK FOUNDATION

In 2022, CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties received \$25,000 from the H&R Block Foundation to use toward the advancement of our volunteer experience. Funds contributed by the H&R Block Foundation supported the development of a Volunteer Portal planned for completion in early 2023. Through improved processes, the organization hopes to see an increase in volunteer satisfaction and retention.



If you have connections to corporate or foundation support, contact our
Development Director, Alyssa Perbeck at:

aperbeck@casajwc.com | 913.715.4035



2022 PHILLY AWARD WINNER

The Philly Awards, hosted by Nonprofit Connect, recognize nonprofits across the Kansas City region who have excelled in their marketing and communication efforts.

In October of 2022, CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties received notification of its Philly Award. After weeks of anticipation, CASA learned of its Gold medal for the organizations new website!



CASA staff had the opportunity to attend the awards ceremony and received our trophy in nonprofit marketing and communications. It was an amazing evening showcasing our wonderful staff at CASA.

2023 PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN COMING SOON!

Through grant funding from the Health Forward Foundation, CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties is building a public awareness campaign for 2023. CASA has partnered with DMH Advertising to create a campaign that will focus on expanding our mission to increase our capacity to serve more children within our communities. Stay tuned!



SPANISH BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE!

Download your own copy on our website today!



www.casajwc.org

OUR MISSION TO THRIVE

IMPACT 100 ORGANIZATION

United Way provided \$30,000 as part of their new “Impact 100” grant process. These funds are unrestricted and have been provided to the 100 most vital health and human services organizations in the community. Ultimately, these funds will help us get closer to our mission and vision of providing a meaningful voice and connection to children who have experienced abuse and neglect and creating a community where every child is given the opportunity to thrive.



A LOOK INTO 2023

Throughout 2023, CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties' will focus on increasing awareness of CASA programs throughout our communities. Our efforts to share our mission on a larger scale and your contributions to our organization will allow the opportunity to expand our reach.

Program Goal : **Serve more children**

- Provide an advocate for 450 children over the course of the year
- Expand services for teenagers in foster care to include additional supportive services and connections in the community
- Continue to build/expand relationship across Wyandotte County

Volunteer Goal : **Recruit & train more volunteers**

- Train 60 new volunteer advocates over the course of the year
- Recruit 30 new general or skills-based volunteers
- Maintain an 80% retention rate for volunteer advocates
- Begin utilization of volunteer portal by incorporating effective communication, calendar, and resource strategies

OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrea Bernica
Chair
Black & Veatch

Caroline Wake
1st Vice Chair
Madden-McFarland

Sarah Lauk
2nd Vice Chair
H&R Block

Kristen Hughes
Treasurer
RSM US LLP

Kristi Pruder
Secretary
Garmin
International

Angie Leoneddis
Immediate Past
Chair
Dobies Health
Marketing

Jennifer Dougan
Elevated Retirement
Group

Jason Hendricks
Performance Contracting
Group, Inc.

Jayne Friedland Holland
Tyler Technologies, Inc.

Angela Mosby
Community Partner

Kama Moseley
Lockton Companies

David Palmatier
Oracle

David Platt
Community Partner

Judge Thomas Kelly Ryan
Tenth Judicial District of Kansas

Kathleen Sherman
Emerging Advisors, LLC

Allen Skeens
Blue Valley School District

Michelle Suter
Commercial Law Group, P.A.

Cezanne Wikoff
Jacent Strategic
Merchandising, LLC

ADMINISTRATION

Natalie Julien
President & CEO

DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING DEPARTMENT

Alyssa Perbeck
Development Director

Esther Jost-Mengarelli
Development Coordinator

Noah Sweeney
Marketing Coordinator

Tracy Sampat
Administrative Assistant

VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT

Courtney Mead
Volunteer Manager

Jamie Sink
Training Manager

PROGRAM DEPARTMENT

Amorita Johnson
Program Director

Abby Banden
Associate Program Director

Aimee Ramirez
Program Coordinator

Annabel Murphy
Program Specialist

Julie Kingsley
Program Coordinator

Robin Porter
Program Coordinator

Sarah Emanuels
Teen Advocacy Coordinator

Vicki Shepherd
Program Coordinator



SAVE THE DATE

MAR.

25

FOSTERING FUTURES EXPO: FOCUSING ON MY FUTURE

This educational event provides teenage foster youth with skills needed to successfully age out of foster care. Opportunities for post-secondary and vocational education along with the exploration of different careers and trades will be accessible to them. Resources such as money management, how to maintain a healthy lifestyle, and a variety of independent living skills will be offered.

APR.

29

PROMISE OF HOPE: STORIES ON STAGE

This theatrical event showcases the performances of young actors portraying the lives of those impacted by the foster care system. This performance inspires community engagement through education and storytelling.

OCT.

20

HOPS & BARLEY

Enjoy beer and wine tastings along with dinner and an auction for a fun and entertaining way to promote and support CASA's mission.

DEC.

1

ANNUAL MEETING

This educational meeting provides a perfect opportunity to stay involved with CASA, connect with staff, community members, and learn how CASA continues to spread its mission.

CASA IS MOVING!

This spring, CASA will be moving to its new office located in the Cloverleaf Office Park off Shawnee Mission Parkway in Overland Park! Stay tuned for more information.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DESIGN CONTEST WINNERS!

T-Shirt
Brooklyn, Age 15



Notecard
Rose, Age 9



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COUNTIES

For more information about CASA,
contact our office at
913.715.4040

Connect with us on social media!

@CASAJWC