

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY



**HOPE NEEDS A
HELPING HAND**

YOU ARE THE DIFFERENCE!

If this last year has shown us anything, it is that CASA Volunteers are resilient, tenacious, and committed to ensuring Omaha's children are not lost in a world of paperwork, mind-boggling minutia, or a worldwide crisis. 263 CASA Volunteers stepped up to the challenge during the most difficult of times, and provide life-changing advocacy to over 500 children in foster care. These are just two stories that made an impact on us this year:



*Michele Brown
CASA since 2017*

Working in a corporate setting with sales, I felt like I needed to do more. At that time in my life, I wanted something more than just mentoring; I wanted to make an impact when I volunteered for an organization. I found CASA through the internet and it immediately spoke to me. It gave me the opportunity to use my degree in Criminal Justice, as well as helping young African American girls who look like me through the foster care system. This is something that spoke deep inside my heart, as I remember when I was growing up and wished I had someone who looked like me and could relate and understand me more deeply.

The first case I was assigned to could have easily scared me, being it was my first time working with a parent who was diagnosed with a mental illness. Throughout the years, I saw the effect she had on her children. It was when I realized we have to put as much energy into our young kids as we are with getting the parents help. This case ended in a beautiful reunification! After the case was closed, I bumped into the mother at a neighborhood store. This gave me a sense of pride, not only was I helping a family, but it was bigger than that. I was helping my community.

CASA has become like a family to me. During the pandemic, at times I would feel lonely and out of the blue would receive an appreciation card and plant from the team. It was amazing to know they not only care for the children and their families but continually showed appreciation & support to their volunteers. I joined the Volunteer Advisory Committee and this year took a leap to be the VAC Chair. I believe in the mission of CASA wholeheartedly and want to spread the word about how awesome this organization is. I'm so happy with the growth from 4 years ago and where CASA is heading is just amazing! I'm proud to be part of such an amazing organization!

My daughter was grown up and out of the house and I wanted to do something to give back to the community. I heard about CASA and since I enjoy kids, it seemed like a good fit for me. Out of the gate, I was assigned a rather challenging case. The young man to whom I was assigned didn't want anything to do with me, or anyone for that matter. I just showed up every week and kept plugging away. Eventually, he began to warm up to me and we were able to establish a great relationship that will continue for a long time. The progress he has made in the almost four years we've been together has been nothing short of amazing. He is kind, funny, and has a huge heart. He will age out of the system in a few months, at which time I will become his legal guardian. Shortly after that, I accepted another case that wasn't quite as challenging, but through persistence and some great teamwork with his GAL, therapist and others, he was reunified with his mother in the spring of 2019. He has since graduated from high school, has his own apartment, and is working full time. We're still in touch and enjoy getting together for lunch or dinner.

The thing I enjoy most about being a CASA is the pleasure of seeing these kids grow and mature. Many people in society would give up on them but they were fortunate to have outstanding professionals and volunteers on their team who cared about and worked tirelessly to improve these kids' lives. At the end of the day, they're just kids who want what every other kid wants - places and people in their lives who make them feel loved, cared for and safe. Volunteering as a CASA is truly one of the most rewarding experiences I've had in my life and I've learned more from the young men I've been associated with as a CASA than I could ever teach them. I'm more socially aware about the needs of children who find themselves in sometimes horrible circumstances through no fault of their own. Sometimes being a CASA is frustrating and heartbreaking, not because of the kids, but the cumbersome and slow-moving system. The CASA staff and supervisors provide outstanding support to help volunteers deal with those situations. CASA Douglas County is an outstanding organization and I am proud to be associated with them.



*Chad Couillard
CASA since 2018*

Mission

Training, empowering, and inspiring volunteer advocates to improve the lives of abused and neglected children.

Vision

To provide a CASA Volunteer to every child in foster care who needs one.

Core Values

Diligence, Service, Inclusivity, Tenacity, Collaboration, Courage, Innovation.

503

Children

Served by

263

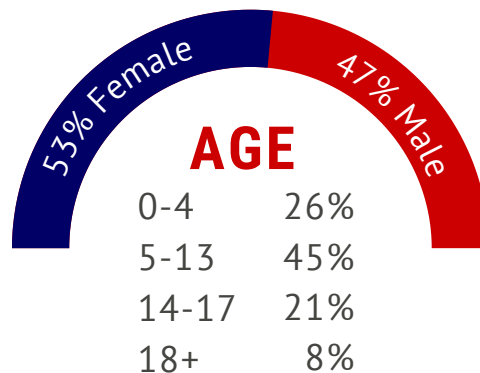
Advocates

WHY DID CHILDREN COME INTO CARE?

92% Neglect
4% Physical or
Sexual Abuse
4% Other

RACE / ETHNICITY

African American	45%
Caucasian	27%
Hispanic	13%
Multi-Racial	8%
Native American	5%
Asian / Pacific Islander	1%
Other / Not Specified	1%



137 ACHIEVED PERMANENCY

45% 20% 9% 6% 20%
Reunified Adopted Aged Out Guardianship Other

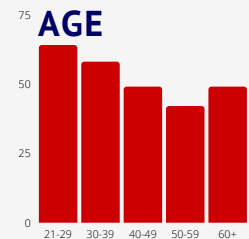
OUR ADVOCATES

RACE / ETHNICITY

Caucasian	81%
African American	7%
Hispanic	6%
Asian / Pacific Islander	4%
Multi-Racial	1%
Other / Not Specified	1%

Gender

84% Female
15% Male
1% Non-binary



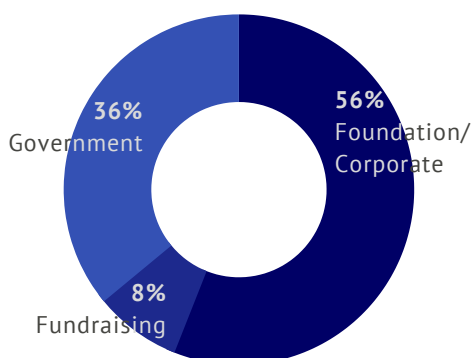
EMPLOYMENT

65% Full time
11% Part Time
5% Not Employed
11% Retired
2% Students

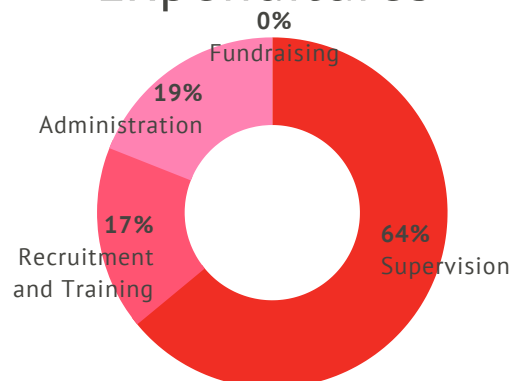
FINANCIALS

Visit our website for the full financial audit and more: casaomaha.org

Revenue



Expenditures





LEND YOUR VOICE

There's a child in foster care waiting for an advocate like you.

Change a child's story by becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate Volunteer.



FIND YOUR PASSION

- Join Friends of CASA
- Help with Project Hope Pack
- Learn about upcoming events & trainings
- Invite CASA to give a presentation at your workplace



MAKE AN IMPACT

Make a gift to support CASA's vital work.

Your generosity to CASA gets us closer to our vision of providing a CASA Volunteer to every child in foster care who needs one.

Visit CASA's new website to discover more ways you can get engaged. For more information, scan the QR code.



CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™



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