Thank you for everything you made happen last year for our kids!

You made the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, the best year yet for Heart of Missouri CASA. Your generosity helped us advocate for more of our community’s most vulnerable children. In fact, you made it possible for us to serve the most children we have ever served in one year. 44% of the children involved in the foster care system in Boone and Callaway counties had a CASA advocate, a 15% increase from the previous year!

Every day, CASA volunteers bravely give of their time, compassion, and mental and emotional energy to change the stories of children in foster care. Last year, 52 new CASA volunteers joined a strong cadre of seasoned advocates to lend their voices for children in need. 142 Heart of Missouri CASA volunteers gave nearly 9,000 hours of advocacy and drove 52,000 miles to bring hope to children in foster care last year. Your resources allowed this to happen.

Because of CASA volunteers’ stellar advocacy, children in foster care have a better chance at healing, exiting foster care quickly, and achieving a safe, permanent home. Stories of impact small and large were recorded throughout the year. We are proud of what we accomplished together. You’ll read about these accomplishments throughout this report. You should reflect and be proud of how your financial assistance improved services to our children, and consider what you can make to allow us to continue our commitment and advocacy on behalf of children in our community.

We are working fervently to reach 50% of the children in need by the end of our fiscal year, and with your critical support, we can achieve our mission of serving every child the court identifies as needing a CASA volunteer. As Heart of Missouri CASA has grown stronger, so has the need for CASA in our communities. Thank you for joining with us and providing a voice to our community’s most vulnerable children.

Sincerely,

Jorgen Schlemeier
Board Chair

Kelly Hill
Executive Director

Thank You
CASA VOLUNTEERS

CASA volunteers advocate for and ensure a child’s right to a safe, nurturing, and happy life. My hope is that through my work as a CASA volunteer, I can not only speak for a child whose voice often goes unheard but also help them to believe in themselves and their unique gifts and talents and provide support as they experience a very difficult time in life. Working with children is what I have been called to do and I am so honored to have the opportunity to be doing so as a CASA volunteer.

Linda Williams,
CASA Volunteer

(Read Linda’s success story on page 4.)
Linda’s Story

Helping Hannah

For almost six months, Hannah had been in foster care with very little hope for her future. She was in a residential setting an hour away from the friends, family, and community she had known. With only two visits from her mother within that time period, and one visit with her father, Hannah felt isolated. As a result, she had no motivation to work harder in school or control her behaviors when peers triggered her.

Lisa Evans, an accountant, wife, and mother, wanted to volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate because she wanted “children to know that there are people out there that care about them.” Though she had many responsibilities with her family and her successful career, she knew the importance of giving back to her community. Lisa attended the 30 hours of volunteer training and was ready for her first case.

Hannah was from a Spanish-speaking family and when she was first told that she would be getting a CASA, she was very disappointed that it was a person and not a house. Hannah wasn’t disappointed for very long. Lisa worked to build trust with Hannah and visited with her consistently. At their first visit, Hannah told Lisa that the main thing she needed was “someone to encourage her.” Lisa made sure to remind Hannah that she was smart, talented, hardworking, and had a great future ahead of her. She brought activities for the girls to do and the residential staff would take Hannah to meet Lisa at a nearby restaurant so that Hannah could get off campus for a little while.

Hannah often talked of her family and how much she missed them. Lisa began building trust with Hannah’s family and calling them with Hannah’s updates. She would remind them of meetings and encourage them to start attending. When Hannah made progress and made good decisions, Lisa made sure the family members were the first to know. Over time, Hannah’s aunt and father became more involved. With Lisa’s advocacy, the family support team agreed to move Hannah to a residential center in her home community so that they could begin family therapy. Lisa continued to be a support to Hannah and her family, and encouraged the family to stick by Hannah even when she was pushing them away.

When Lisa started on this case, the general expectation from the team was that Hannah would eventually age out of the foster care system. However, after a little more than a year in foster care, with Lisa’s consistent advocacy and encouragement, Hannah was able to return home safely to her family.

2019 FISCAL REPORT

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Financials

$423,449 Total Revenue & Community Support
59% Government Grants $250,768
21% Individual/Corporate Contributions $89,154
10% Special Events $41,857
6% United Ways $24,670
4% Foundation Grants $17,000

$371,709 Total Expenses
89% Program Services $330,048
9% General/Administration $33,028
2% Fundraising $8,675

Stats

By the Numbers

270 Children served
142 Active CASA volunteers
74% Cases closed with family reunification or relative placement
93% Cases closed with a permanent home
8,675 # of advocacy hours
44% of children had a CASA (up from 38% last year)
17% increase in children served (220 in 2017-2018 to 270 in 2018-2019)
23% increase in active volunteers (115 in 2017-2018 to 142 in 2018-2019)
13% increase in advocacy hours (1,584 in 2017-2018 to 1,815 in 2018-2019)
100% of children with a CASA volunteer remained free from re-abuse while in foster care (270/270)
94% of volunteers’ recommendations were accepted/ordered by the judge (424/449)
It takes a strong, caring community to keep Heart of Missouri CASA growing so children in foster care can have a voice. Through your generous support and the creativity and talent of eight bands, Heart of Missouri CASA’s 1st Annual Voices of Columbia fundraiser in April was a resounding success.

A special thank you goes to our incredibly generous Hero Sponsor, C2 Church. “C2 Church is always praying and looking for opportunities to play a greater role not only in Columbia and Mid-Missouri, but in the lives of foster kids and families. This past year I remember writing down a goal for our annual giving initiative we call ‘Kingdom Builders.’ The heart of this campaign is to see and participate in God’s work globally, locally, and in the next generation through giving financial support. It has been exciting to see members of our church not only give and sacrifice to support organizations like CASA, but watch several of them become CASA volunteers,” says Pastor Jeremy Risner.

The talent of eight local bands and musicians made Voices of Columbia a reality. These groups raised funds and spread CASA’s message to the community. Each musical act performed two songs and guests ‘voted’ for their favorite performance. The band who raised the most funds for CASA was awarded the title, “The Voice of Columbia.” Thank you to our first winner, The Burney Sisters, who raised over $1,500!

Because of the community’s tenacity and generosity through our 1st Annual Fundraiser, Voices of Columbia, 20 more children who have experienced abuse and neglect now have an advocate of their own.

**DONORS**

**CHAMPION LEVEL**

$100,000+
Boone County Children’s Services Fund
Missouri Department of Social Services

**$10,000+**
Anonymous Donors (2)
Callaway County United Way
Heart of Missouri United Way
Missouri CASA Association
Missouri Citizen Government Partnership Charitable Fund

**$5,000+**
C2 Church
Employees of Veterans United
Kappa Alpha Theta, Alpha MU (MU)
Nearby Neighbors Foundation

**ADVOCATE LEVEL**

$1,000 - $4,999
Affordable Equity Partners Inc.
Anonymous Donors (11)
Boone Electric
Community Trust

**SUPPORTER LEVEL**

$500 - $999
Boone County Bar Association
Brian McCartney
Callaway Singers
Candace Iveson
Charles and Lisa Parrish
Cindy Gergen
Dan and Shirley Pierce
Dixie Lenau
Ford, Parshall, & Baker LLC
Host Committee Inc.
Jerrie Bell
John A. and Marilyn K. Jordan Foundation
Joyce Wood Harter
Kingdom Christian Academy
Landmark Bank
MU Health Care
Olive + Grace
PEO: Chapter KE
Palm Music Center
Pat Leyhe
Rob and Emily Little
Rogers, Enhardt, Weber & Howard LLC
Seal-Rite
Sharon Horbyk
Show Me Cosmopolitan Club
Smith Lewis LLP
The Blue Note
The Lighthouse Church

**ALLY LEVEL**

$250 - $499
Achieve Balance Chiropractic
Allied Sawing & Services Inc
Candida Rogers
Carol Miller
Central Bank of Callaway County
David Guerrant
Ginny Crabb
Henry Clay Niles III
Joan Sampson
Linda Williams
Lisabeth Ovatt
Marian Hjelmfelt
Matt Phillips
Matthew McNamara
Melanie Peszold
Michael T. Basnett, DDS
Pamela Crawford
Rob Bartel
Sheela Amin
Steve Racels
Susie Lock
Veterans United Home Loans
Young’s Welding & Machine Shop LLC

**VOICES OF CALLAWAY FUNDRAISERS:**
Audrey Nichols & Emily Schwiss $452.87
Mary Schneebiel $515.21
Gabby Nielsen $565.59
McKenzie Bacon $996.43
Sabina Bastian $1,144.89
Jillian Bryant $1,265.74
Molly Phillips $2,024.33

**VOICES OF COLUMBIA FUNDRAISERS:**
Natalie Myrick $438.65
The Onions $448.37
Emily Lock $570.52
John Galbraith $755.82
Boone Howlers $1,037.56
The Naturelles $1,249.99
The January Lanterns $1,391.36
The Burney Sisters $1,545.86

**CHAMPION DONOR**

THE MISSOURI CITIZEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP CHARITABLE FUND

When a politician wraps up their career, they must decide how to handle their remaining campaign funds. One scarcely used option is donating these funds to a nonprofit agency. Mr. Bob Griffin served as Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives in the 1980s and 1990s. Mr. Griffin’s family has a strong history with Heart of Missouri CASA. His daughter, Julie Griffin Wesley, has been an advocate for over three years, and his granddaughter, Rachel, became an advocate in 2018. Instead of selecting another option, such as giving the funds to a current candidate, Mr. Griffin decided to give a noteworthy portion of his remaining funds to CASA, a cause for which he and his family care deeply.

As CASA has grown, the importance of diversifying and strengthening our revenue streams has become a strategic priority. Our leadership’s goal is to secure funding to launch a development position that could focus solely on raising funds to help us further our mission. Presented with this strategic project, Mr. Griffin generously donated a portion of his remaining campaign funds as matching funds to this endeavor. His donation gave CASA the leverage needed to secure additional contributions to start this new position. Mr. Griffin’s donation will impact Heart of Missouri CASA for years to come. We are incredibly thankful for his generosity.
Save the Date

2nd Annual
VOICES OF COLUMBIA

April 2, 2020
The Blue Note

Local bands will be singing to raise funds for Heart of Missouri CASA.

Mark your calendars now!

COMO GIVES 2019

Support Heart of Missouri CASA during CoMoGives!

You can give a voice to more children in foster care by giving to Heart of Missouri CASA’s CoMoGives campaign.

December 1 – December 31

Giving is easy!
Visit ComoGives.com