CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY.™

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

HEART OF MISSOURI CASA

2019 - 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION: We train and support volunteers to be exceptional voices for every abused and neglected child in the Boone and Callaway County Family Courts.

VISION: We believe that all children have the right to safe, healthy, stable homes, free from abuse and neglect.

LETTER FROM CASA LEADERSHIP

What a year it has been! Our last fiscal year, ending June 30, 2020, was marked by continued growth, challenges overcome, and seized opportunities. Despite a difficult end to our fiscal year due to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Heart of Missouri CASA reached new milestones because of generous supporters like you.

In January, we completed a three-year strategic plan, outlining our organization's goals through 2023. The chief priority of this plan is to increase our resources and stability so that we will be serving 75% of the children in need by 2023. Today, Heart of Missouri CASA volunteers are serving half of the children in our local foster care system. With your continued support, we will continue to grow and reach more children in need of a powerful voice.

In mid-March, when the effects of the pandemic began to hit our communities, adapting to a new virtual reality presented challenges and opportunities for CASA staff and volunteers. Faced with pivoting in-person child visits to virtual, volunteers developed creative ways to stay connected with the children. Coming up with games to play during virtual calls, sending cards, letters, and activities in the mail, and even teaching the children skills over Zoom became common place activities for our CASA volunteers. Children with a CASA volunteer continued to have the consistent support of their caring, dedicated advocate during this pandemic.

Because of your continued support, a record number of CASA volunteers, both seasoned and new, advocated for 296 children in our last fiscal year. This is more children than we have ever reached in a year and a 10% increase over the previous year. Thank you for being on this journey with us. We truly could not thank each of you enough for your steadfast support of Heart of Missouri CASA's mission. Because of you, we continue to reach more children in need. We could not make this progress without you!

Sincerely,

Kelly Hill

Executive Director

Emily Little

Board Chair

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Heart of Missouri CASA Strategic Plan 2020-2023

Focus One: Financial Stability

- Increase gross annual revenue to $679k by June 2023 to support program expansion
- Increase percentage of non-grant funding to 40% by 2023
- Improve operating reserves from 2 months to 3 months by 2023 to foster agency sustainability

Focus Two: Talent

- Increase active, assigned volunteers to 234 by June 2023
- Improve diversity of board, volunteers, and staff - closer to demographics of children served each year
- Increase staff in needed areas to be serving 75% of children by 2023

Focus Three: Impact

- Increase percentage of children served to 75% by 2023
- Improve timely permanence for children with CASA based on permanency type

For a more detailed view of our strategic plan, please visit https://www.homcasa.org/who-we-are/strategic-plan/

Volunteer Rachel Helps Family Change Their Story

The children were removed from their home due to serious domestic violence episodes between their mother and father. The parents were not allowed to attend Family Support Team (FST) meetings together due to a protection order. Although only the mother stayed involved in the case, she would yell and scream at the team during meetings. She would argue with her lawyer constantly. CASA Rachel was assigned this challenging case, and this information did not scare her away from advocating for the children.

During the case, the mother finally received an appropriate mental health diagnosis and the correct medications to help her. She also became pregnant with her 4th child. CASA Rachel reached out to the mother to work on reunification with her children. She continued to build rapport with the mother by making sure her side of the story was heard, facilitating contact between her and the team, and making sure she had any resources available to help her.

Things began to move in a positive direction and shifted toward Trial Home Placement (THP) so the children could be tentatively placed back with their mother. The mother was able to find a new place to live, and CASA Rachel dropped off bedding and supplies, and helped the mother set up beds for her children. Around Christmas time, Rachel also brought Giving Tree Christmas gifts and a Christmas tree to her.

Much to the mother and Rachel's frustration, THP kept getting held up. Rachel worked with the Children's Division to get THP started. Finally, THP was granted and the case closed with reunification between the children and their mother.

Although this was a challenging case, CASA Rachel kept an open mind about the mother and advocated for reunification of the family. This hard work on her part resulted in a successful reunion between mother and children. At the court's termination, the mother asked if Rachel would still be visiting her and the kids, because she would like that very much.

Why I Volunteer

"I volunteer for CASA because the only way I can maintain hope for a better world is to take the small action steps available to me." -- Cynthia G.

"I volunteer with CASA holding the hope that, by building relationships with kids, I can be part of a network of people that tells those kids they are heard, valued, and supported even through the most trying circumstances." -- Erin L.

"I volunteer with CASA because this is some of the most important volunteer work, advocating on behalf of children in foster care. I want to make a difference in the lives of children during a time of instability in their lives." -- Andrea W.

Three girls were removed from their mother due to substance abuse and inadequate housing. The mother was accepted into Family Treatment Court. The mother immediately engaged in services offered. She was able to live with her mother while she found a job and her own place to live. The mother became employed and saved up enough money for her own apartment. In addition to the CASA volunteer getting to know the children on the case, the CASA was able to develop a relationship with the mother. The CASA helped the mother look for affordable and appropriate housing. The CASA was able to ensure the children were comfortable and happy once they went on Trial Home Placement with their mother.

The CASA was a phenomenal resource and provided additional support for the family. The three children were able to successfully return home to their mother permanently.

2020 FISCAL REPORT

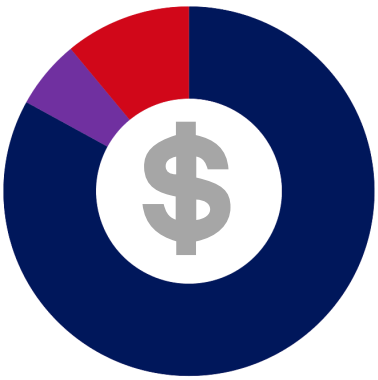
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

56% Government Grants
15% Individual/Corporate Contributions
13% State & National CASA Grants
6% Special Events
5% United Ways
5% Foundation Grants

$463,918
Total Revenue & Community Support

$526,171
Total Expenses

83% Program ($434,863)
11% Fundraising ($58,133)
6% Management & General ($33,175)



Impactful Numbers

10% increase in children served

17% increase in active volunteers

97% cases with a CASA closed with a permanent home

95% of volunteers' recommendations were accepted/ordered by the judge

62 Children's Cases Closed

52% Reunited with parents
30% Adopted by/live with non-relatives
14% Adopted by/live with relatives
6% Aged out of system

By the Numbers

296	166	43	50%	7,527
Children served	Active CASA volunteers	New volunteers trained	of children in foster care had a CASA	# of advocacy hours

Donor Appreciation

CHAMPION LEVEL

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

$10,000+
Callaway County United Way
Heart of Missouri United Way
Missouri CASA Association

$5,000+
C2 Church***
Community Foundation of Central Missouri
Kappa Alpha Theta, Alpha MU
Veterans United Foundation

***Note:** This list is the donors' cumulative giving between July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Madison Spadarotto, Development Director at madison@homcasa.org or (573) 442-4670.*

ADVOCATE LEVEL

$1,000 - $4,999
Burrell Behavioral Health***
Calvary Episcopal Church
Central Bank of Boone County***
Extract-ED, LLC***
Facebook Donors (52)
Sharon Foster
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Giving Branch Foundation
Susan Glass***
Marilyn Gordon
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Tonya Keith
Dixie Lenau
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McCortney Foundation
Missouri Foundation for Health***
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Shelter Foundation***
Jane E. Smith*
Stafford Family Foundation
Sunrise Southwest Rotary***
The Crossing Church***
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$500 - $999
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James Small**
The Missouri Bar, Young Lawyers' Section***
University of Missouri School of Law Board Advocates
Veterans United Home Loans
Mark Volkmann
Joyce Wood Harter

ALLY LEVEL

$250 - $499
Gabriela Alexander*
Sheela Amin
Rob Bartel
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Linda Sharp
David J. Shively**
Susan Zamora

****Voices of Columbia Sponsor*
***Voices of Callaway Sponsor*
**Circle of Hope Member*

Thank you to all of our friends for providing generous support, despite event cancellation this year.

We are immensely grateful to all of you for helping us continue our mission.

We would like to extend a special thank you to our Voices of Columbia and Voices of Callaway sponsors this year, who made the generous choice to let us retain their sponsorship despite the event cancellations. Even though COVID-19 significantly impacted Heart of Missouri CASA's fundraising ability this year, the generous businesses and individuals graciously continued to support advocacy for our community's most vulnerable children. Without these generous sponsors, we would not be able to continue our mission to advocate for children in foster care. Their gifts make it possible for us to sustain our efforts to advocate for Boone and Callaway County's children in foster care.

CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY.™

CASA Court Appointed Special Advocates FOR CHILDREN
HEART OF MISSOURI CASA

105 East Ash Street, Suite 102
Columbia, MO 65203

Proud Partners:

MEMBER NATIONAL CASA ASSOCIATION

United Way Heart of Missouri United Way

United Way Callaway County

Boone County Children's Services Fund

Veterans United Foundation

KAPPA ALPHA THETA

Save the Date!

HEART OF MISSOURI CASA PRESENTS
VOICES OF COLUMBIA

VOICES OF COLUMBIA

June 12, 2021
Rose Music Hall Park
Local bands will be singing to raise funds for Heart of Missouri CASA.

Mark your calendars now!

CoMoGives.com

Support Heart of Missouri CASA during CoMoGives!

December 1 - December 31

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