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

SUSAN GLASS
ASHLEY HALFORD
CHRIH HORN
KAYLA HUTTON
ALLISON MCGOUGH
CHARLES PARRISH
MEGAN STEEN

LESLIE RIGDON
Boone County Advocate Supervisor

CHIMENE SCHWACH
Boone County Advocate Supervisor

LAURA BRAGG
Boone County Advocate Supervisor

JAMIE FAULCONER
Callaway County Advocate Supervisor

Kelly
Emily
Hill
Little
Boards
Executive
Director
Board
Chair

BOARD MEMBERS

STAFF
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/
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.
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

$463,918 Total Revenue & Community Support

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

$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 Children served
166 Active CASA volunteers
43 New volunteers trained
50% of children in foster care had a CASA
7,527 # of advocacy hours
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.
Support Heart of Missouri CASA during CoMoGives!

105 East Ash Street, Suite 102
Columbia, MO 65203

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.

Save the Date!

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!

Proud Partners:

CoMoGives.com