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*Completed their full 6-year term in 2023

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Tina DeClue, Boone County Advocate Supervisor
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Darrell Barnes, Boone County Advocate Supervisor
Kara Baker, Boone County Advocate Supervisor

CALLAWAY COUNTY PROGRAM
Suzanne Guerrant, Callaway County Program Director
Jamie Faulconer, Callaway County Advocate Supervisor
As we look back on our fiscal year that ended June 30, 2023, we are brimming with gratitude for the powerful impact you made in the lives of our community’s most vulnerable children. Your support enabled nearly 200 CASA volunteers to advocate tirelessly for brighter, more hopeful futures for 406 children in our local Boone and Callaway County foster care system.

Your support made it possible for two teenagers who were separated in foster care for five years to experience the joy of finally being placed back together because of the tireless advocacy of a CASA volunteer. You made it possible for kids to have a stable, caring adult during a scary time in their lives. When Jacob was being moved to a new placement after many previous moves, his only question to his case worker was, "Will I still be able to see and talk to my CASA when I move?" His CASA volunteer was right by his side to assure him she would always be there for him.

Ultimately, your support of Heart of Missouri CASA has given children in foster care hope. Research tells us that children and youth with a CASA volunteer have higher levels of hope than children without a CASA volunteer. When a child has more hope, they are also more likely to succeed in school, have greater self-control, increased optimism, and a higher sense of wellbeing. Your continued support is an investment in a brighter tomorrow for children who need us.

Looking forward, our vision is one of expansion and a steadfast commitment to the welfare of every child in the 13th Judicial Circuit foster care system. While we are serving more children than ever, over 200 children were without a CASA volunteer during this year. Together, we can bridge the gap and ensure that no child goes unheard, unseen, or unsupported. We are confident that we can make a lasting impact on the lives of even more children, providing them with the advocacy, support, and hope they deserve.

Thank you for your unwavering support. As we embark on this journey into the future, let us do so with a shared sense of hope, knowing that together, we can create a world where every child has the opportunity to thrive.
2023 FISCAL REPORT

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

$1,085,415
Total Revenue & Community Support

- Grants & Contracts $661,050* (61%)
- Individual/Corporate Contribution $168,549 (16%)
- Special Events $74,331 (7%)
- Foundation Grants $101,506 (9%)
- United Ways $31,833 (3%)
- In-Kind $36,225 (3%)
- Net Assets released from restriction $11,921 (1%)

*Includes $162,000 restricted funds for future capital purchase.

$846,225
Total Expenses

- Program Services $661,892 (78%)
- Fundraising $126,395 (15%)
- General/Administration $57,938 (7%)
**THIS IS MY WHY**

Suzanne, our Callaway County Program Director was recently at a restaurant with her husband. As the waitress approached their table, Suzanne said, "I know you!" The waitress replied, "I know you!" The waitress, Cassie, was 16 when she came into foster care in January 2016 and was assigned a CASA volunteer.

Janine, her CASA volunteer, kept up with her each time she moved to a new placement and made sure she stayed enrolled in school. This young lady was at a difficult place in life. She was a high school student, employed part-time, and felt the pressure to be a "mother" to her toddler brother. Over time, the pressure became too much and she began to give up on everything. She simply wanted out of the system. She was 21 when jurisdiction was finally terminated.

That day in the restaurant Cassie shared that she has earned an associate's degree from MACC and is currently enrolled at MU pursuing a Conservation degree. She is also employed full time. Suzanne contacted her previous CASA, Janine, and shared these accomplishments with her. Suzanne wanted her to know that she played a part in this young lady breaking the cycle.

Janine stated, "This young lady was my why!"

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**FOCUS ON GROWTH**

**2020 - 2023 STRATEGIC PLAN COMPLETION**

As this fiscal year closed, we wrapped up a comprehensive three-year strategic plan focused heavily on growth. We are pleased to report substantial progress in each of our plan's three focus areas. However, as you'll see, we are not yet serving all the children who need us. There is still much work to be done! Your continued support and advocacy will make it possible for us to continue growing to serve all children in foster care in need of a powerful advocate.

---

**FOCUS AREA #1 - FINANCIAL STABILITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15%</th>
<th>27%</th>
<th>131%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal to Increase Gross Revenue Annually</td>
<td>Achieved Average Growth Each Year</td>
<td>Growth in Annual Revenue from 2020-2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOCUS AREA #2 - TALENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>200</th>
<th>192</th>
<th>37%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal Active, Assigned CASA Volunteers</td>
<td>Achieved Active, Assigned CASA Volunteers</td>
<td>Growth in our Active Volunteer Base</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOCUS AREA #3 - IMPACT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>75%</th>
<th>406</th>
<th>36%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal to Serve 75% of Foster Children</td>
<td>Children Served in FY23, 65% of those in Need</td>
<td>Increase in Number of Children Served</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## IMPACT

### BY THE NUMBERS

**July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boone County</th>
<th>Callaway County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active, Assigned CASA Volunteers</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Volunteers Trained</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>7,896</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Increase in Children Served**: 4.9%
- **Increase in Active Volunteers**: 10.6%

- **97%** of our Volunteer’s 758 Recommendations were Accepted/Ordered by the Judge

- **88%** of Cases Closed with a Permanent Home
- **66%** of Cases Closed with Family Reunification or Relative Placement
STATISTICS

114
Children’s Cases Closed

- 39% Reunited with Parents
- 27% Adopted by/Live with Relatives
- 20% Adopted by/Live with Non-relatives
- 2% Aged out through APPLA (Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement)
- 12% Aged out of the System or Transferred to Another Jurisdiction

Of the 624* Children in Foster Care in Boone and Callaway Counties:

- 387 had a dedicated CASA volunteer
- 19 were served by CASA staff members
- 218 still needed CASA’s Advocacy

“I became a CASA after experiencing a lot of frustration serving on a local jury trial. The young adult who was tried had aged out of foster care. As I heard his story during sentencing, I kept thinking we can and should be doing better than this for children who are brought into care. Not long after, a friend invited me to an event to learn more about serving as a volunteer. I decided that evening that this was what I had been looking for and I have not looked back.

I love being a CASA. I have spent the last year supporting two children. We have had lots of fun times getting to know one another. I look forward to our visits. It can also be challenging at times, and I worry about them when they are struggling. But I remind myself that what I feel as their friend and advocate can’t compare to what they are experiencing. We are working on a permanent solution for them, and I hope to stay connected once their case closes and I receive another assignment.”

Denise Mauzy
CASA Volunteer

*Based on the Federal Fiscal Year, Oct 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023, data
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

VOICES OF COLUMBIA
A Record Setting Event!

Voices of Columbia 2023 was truly one for the record books, shattering our fundraising goal by raising $74,000—an outstanding $22,000 more than ever before.

On June 25, 2023 we gathered at Logboat Brewing Company in their newly expanded outdoor space while we enjoyed performances by Forrest McCurren, J. ARTiz, and Pat Kay. Kids enjoyed carnival games and cooled off with Kona Ice throughout the afternoon. Guests also enjoyed JDAWGZ Street Food, Pizza Tree, and Logboat’s craft beer selections while they relaxed or bid on some of our incredible auction items. Drawing a crowd of approximately 500 people, Voices of Columbia celebrated its highest attendance ever. We are thankful for Logboat’s partnership and hospitality, which made Voices of Columbia accessible to everyone with free entry to the event.

The monumental success of VOC was made possible by the support of our sponsors. The impact of their generosity goes beyond numbers; the $74,000 raised translates into 2,960 hours of care and advocacy for local children in foster care through the dedicated service of CASA volunteers over the next year.

Make plans to join us for Voices of Columbia 2024 on June 9, at Logboat Brewing Company!
CALLAWAY GOES BLUE FOR CASA

The last week of the campaign we held an awareness event at The Playhouse called, Remembering Trauma. With approximately 100 people in attendance, we learned about the unique challenges foster youth face in our community and how CASA volunteers support them. A former foster youth from Callaway shared his story of a traumatic childhood and the difference a few caring adults (including his CASA volunteers) made in his life.

When he entered foster care with his sisters as a 14 year old, he struggled to find hope and meaning in life. He said, "Abuse made me feel unwanted. I wanted parents who would help me succeed. I wanted and needed to be loved and appreciated. I felt useless because I could not protect myself or my siblings."

His life took a positive turn when committed, caring adults came into his life. His adoptive parents showed him the kind of love he had always longed for and needed. He knew he finally belonged.

He also talked about the difference his volunteer advocates made in his life. "Kids are supposed to be protected. CASA helped protect me. My CASA workers, Donna and Jim, had such a positive impact on my life. They always had our backs and checked on us often. My first CASA worker, Joanna, was Jim's wife. I was heartbroken when she passed. But then Jim stepped in. Jim's health is declining, and this makes me very sad. Because he loves me and has always supported me. I thank CASA for all their support." After Walter finished sharing, everyone stood to their feet with applause. It was a privilege to be in the room and bear witness to this important moment in his life. Hope for a brighter future was on full display.

CASA Jim has since passed away. We are so thankful for the impact he made, especially in Walter and his sisters' lives. We are inspired by his life of service and are committed to carrying CASA's mission forward, so more kids can have an advocate like him.

"To all the people who supported me and helped me grow—you helped me graduate high school, and you helped me grow into the person I am today. I am Walter Leroy Carl Camp. This is just the beginning of my story."
LOOKING FORWARD

THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

FY 2024 - 2026

As we entered the final stretch of our 2020-2023 strategic plan, we began a comprehensive planning process to create our next three-year strategic plan. We gathered input from stakeholders, evaluated data, and collaborated to determine the most important priorities on which to focus our efforts. We've created an ambitious 2024 – 2026 plan and are excited to share more detail with you. As we strive to serve more children in need, we will be focusing our efforts in three main areas:

1. **Brand Awareness** to grow our reach in the community.
2. **Workforce** to ensure we have an equipped, satisfied, and engaged staff team and volunteer base.
3. **Organizational Sustainability**, which not only focuses on improving our development efforts and financial foundation but also includes a major capital project to expand our headquarter facilities and create a unique, innovative space for children and their CASA volunteers.

Our goal is to be serving 80% of children in need in Boone and Callaway Counties by the end of the plan.

To continue reaching our strategic goals, dynamic growth of resources, both financial and volunteer, must take place. Your continued partnership with us will make these goals a reality. Your support will give more children in foster care the powerful advocacy they need and deserve.

Go to [www.homcaso.org/who-we-are-2/](http://www.homcaso.org/who-we-are-2/) to read the full Strategic Plan.
Boone Supported Living co-owners, Charles Parrish and Julie Schupp, have been investing their time, energy, and resources into making the lives of children in foster care better for over a decade. Charles and his wife, Lisa, have been foster parents, adoptive parents, and CASA volunteers over the years. Lisa now works for Coyote Hill and Charles just finished a full six-year term as a board member for Heart of Missouri CASA. Julie has been a CASA since 2015 and is still advocating for a teenage boy in foster care. When asked what has compelled them to make such a big investment in the lives of children in foster care, Charles said, “The need is real. We ultimately asked ourselves, if not us, who? If not now, when? Those were clarifying questions that helped move us forward.” This commitment has changed the lives of so many. We thank Boone Supported Living for giving children hope for a brighter future.

“CASA is meaningful to me because it helps children in the foster system to have someone who is always going to be there, it gives them a voice in a world that tells them to be quiet. I love CASA and all that we as volunteers do. It makes a difference. I’m a CASA for two sisters who are older youth, and one of them once told me that some of their worst weeks were made better by a visit with me, and I think about that all the time.”

Rachel Fisk
CASA Volunteer
PROUD PROGRAM PARTNERS

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573-442-4670 . www.homcasa.org

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