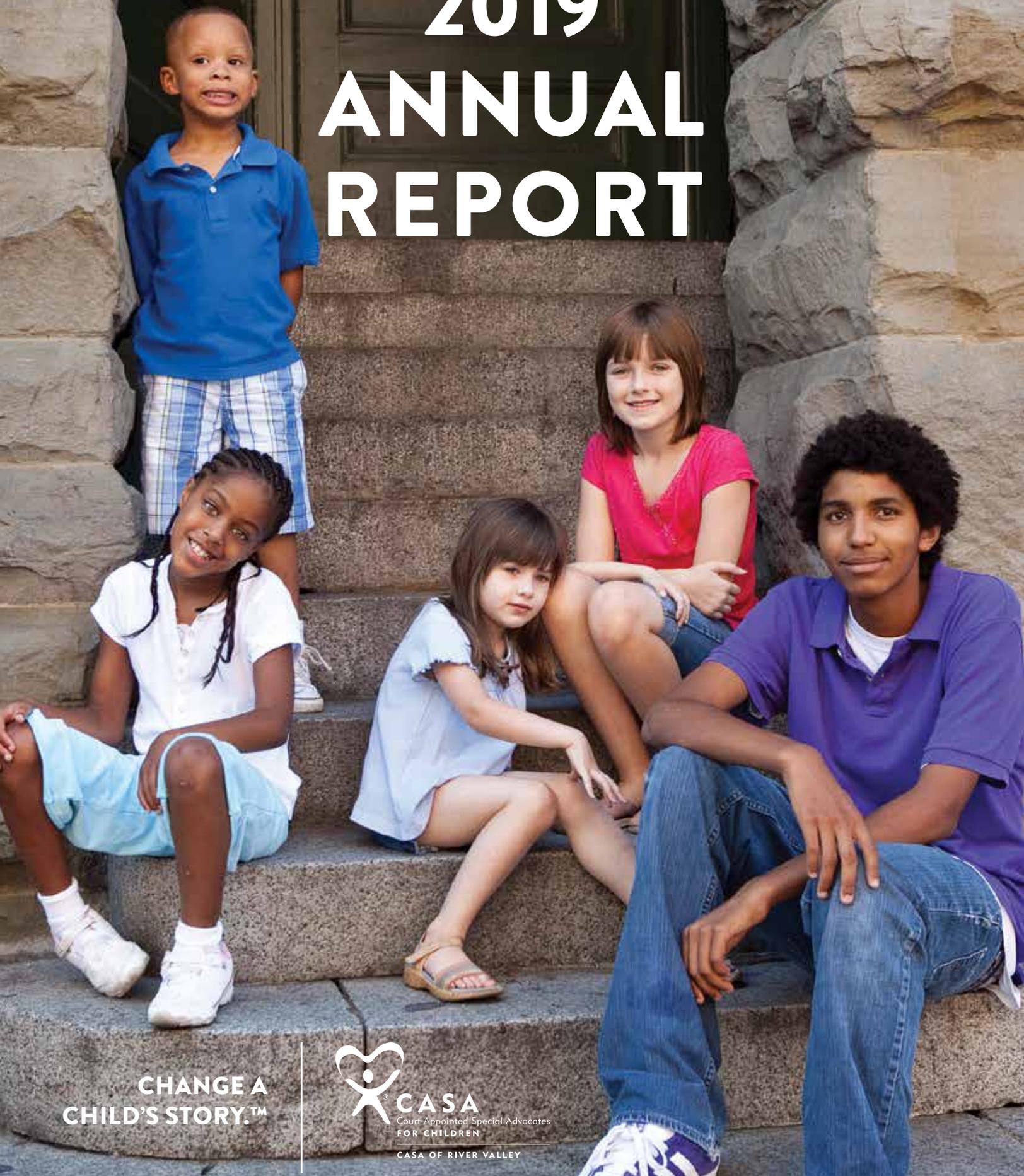


2019 ANNUAL REPORT



**CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™**



CASA
Court-Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF RIVER VALLEY

CASA of Will County is now CASA OF RIVER VALLEY

We have some exciting news to ring in the new decade! After 25 years serving Will County, we are EXPANDING to serve the community to the west in Grundy County! We are excited for this opportunity, as it means that we have grown into a capacity that will allow us to expand to an underserved community that is without a CASA program and serve even more children in need of a voice in the court system.

What does this mean for the advocates, staff and volunteers with our current CASA of Will County program? To learn more, read our President's Message on the following page. In the meantime, we want to take a moment to thank all of our board members, advisory committee, honorary board members and hardworking staff whose commitment to our program and to the children of our community have made it possible to grow our program.

We could not do what we do, and we will not be able to continue to grow and to serve the communities of Will and Grundy Counties without your support.

THANK YOU

Our sincere thanks

to the individuals who work hard year-round on our behalf

CASA Board of Directors

Sarah Vahey, President
Jerry Gleason, Vice President
Mike Noonan, Treasurer
Meg Dworsky, Secretary

Members at Large

Skye Bergeson
Kristina Cameron
Colleen Mora
Sheri Ritchey
Hollie Salinas
Michele Sargent
Chris Uram

CASA Advisory Committee

Rita Facchina
Herbert Brooks, Jr.
Tony Cameron
Lisa Ricchio

Honorary Members

Virgie Bursey
Bruce Darin
Mike Hilton
Clay Johnson
Cindy June
Kevin Manson
Jarrett Payton
Anna Rocha-Gray
Karen Stratton

CASA Staff

Rita Facchina
Executive Director
Denise Beran
Program Director
Melanie Buhle
Director of Advancement
Kaitlin Larson
Director of Advocate Development
Madison Bailey
Marketing & Development
Coordinator
Laura Blum
Advocate Supervisor
Jessica Chignoli
Development Coordinator
Rebecca Cullen
Advocate Supervisor
Rebecca Howey
Volunteer Training Coordinator
Jacqueline McFedries
Volunteer Recruiter
Meg Pennington
Advocate Supervisor
Alexis Salazar
Advocate Supervisor

Dear Friends of CASA,

Although I have been serving on the CASA Board of Directors for six years, it is my honor to be writing to you for the first time as your president. And, as we enter a new decade, this could not be a more exciting time for our organization.

Last year you helped us celebrate a significant milestone – 25 years serving the Will County community! This year, we are celebrating once again as we expand to serve our neighbors to the west in Grundy County and join together to become CASA of River Valley. We marked this milestone by swearing in our very first advocate for the expanded program just before the end of the year. We were thrilled to welcome Amy Lord as our newest CASA Advocate, who will be serving the children of Grundy County.

To kick off her official swearing in, we were honored by Julianne Buck, executive director of the Community Foundation of Grundy County, who presented a \$20,000 check to our executive director, Rita Facchina as seed money for CASA of River Valley. What a way to start the New Year!

As we head into a new year and an expanded program that will serve the combined communities of both Will and Grundy Counties, you may be wondering what this means to our former CASA of Will County program, its staff, advocates and volunteers. We want to assure you that it is because of their tireless dedication and commitment to all children in need that we were able to answer the call and step up to provide a CASA program in Grundy County where one was needed.

Our mission has always been, and will remain, to recruit and train volunteers to act as the voice of children in the juvenile court system and to make sure children find a safe and loving home. We saw a need in a neighboring county and we know that, with your continued support, we will work to fill that need.

As for our Will County program, it is going strong! You'll see in this report the numbers for our 2019 fundraising efforts and the children we have served. We plan to build on this success in the new decade and to use our experience to help build a strong program in Grundy County. We will need your help. And we want to thank you in advance for being our partners in 2020 and beyond!

Best Regards,

Sarah Vahey, President
CASA of River Valley Board of Directors



(Left to Right) Judge Sheldon Sobol, CASA Volunteer Amy Lord, Judge Robert Marsaglia and State's Attorney Kyle Klukas and the swearing in of the first CASA of River Valley volunteer advocate.



Julianne Buck (left) and Devan Gagliardo (right) of the Community Foundation of Grundy County present CASA of River Valley Executive Director Rita Facchina with a check for \$20,000.00 to kick start the program.

Communities Served

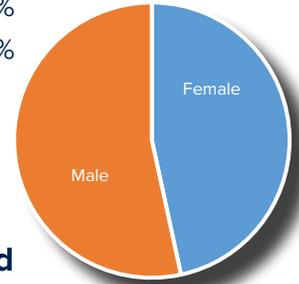
Beecher	Minooka
Bolingbrook	Mokena
Braceville	Monee
Braidwood	Morris
Caron Hill	Naperville
Channahon	New Lenox
Coal City	Peotone
Crest Hill	Plainfield
Crete	Rockdale
Custer Park	Romeoville
Elwood	Shorewood
Frankfort	South Wilmington
Gardner	Steger
Green Garden	Tinley Park
Homer Glen	University Park
Joliet	Verona
Kinsman	Wilmington
Lockport	
Manhattan	
Mazon	

In addition, we serve children that are placed with families outside of Will and Grundy Counties.

2019 CASA Client Demographics

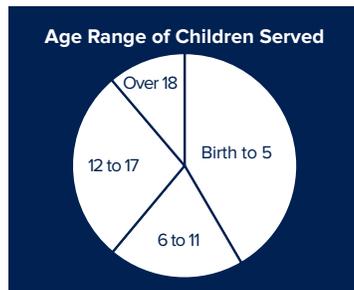
Gender

Female	158	47%
Male	181	53%
	339	100%



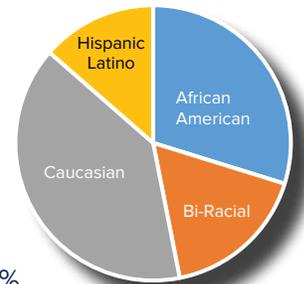
Percentage age groups served

Birth to Age 5	141	42%
Age 6 to 11	66	19%
Age 12 to 17	94	28%
Age 18 and over	38	11%
	339	100%

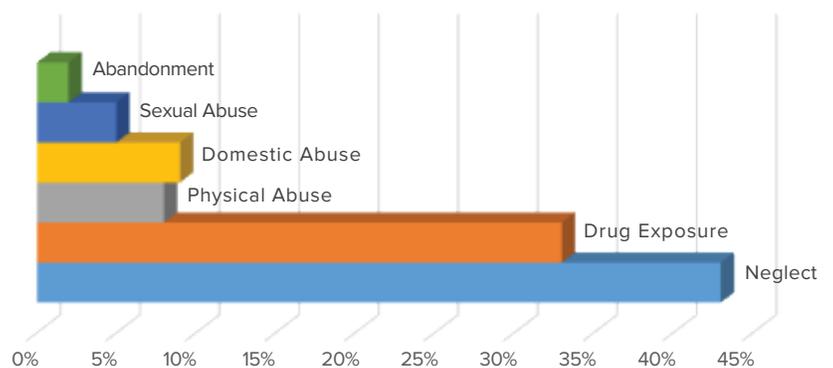


Percentage of ethnicity

African American	101	30%
Bi-Racial	58	17%
Caucasian	134	40%
Hispanic/Latino	46	14%
	339	100%



Children We Helped Came to Us as a Result of



CASA of Will County, Inc.*

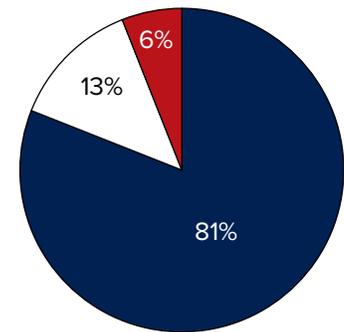
Statement of Financial Position - Modified Cash Basis

September 30, 2019 and 2018

*Prior to changeover to CASA of River Valley

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$197,457	\$211,962
Short-term investments	14,354	13,547
Total Current Assets	211,811	225,509
Office Furniture and Fixtures		
Office furniture	3,671	3,671
Computer hardware and software	6,142	6,142
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(9,813)	(9,813)
Total Office Furniture and Fixtures	0	0
Total Assets	\$211,811	\$225,509
NET ASSETS		
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	211,811	225,509
Total Net Assets	\$211,811	\$225,509

2019 Functional Expenses



- Program Services
- Fundraising
- Administrative



YEAR in REVIEW

Thank You to Our Sponsors and Partners

We wouldn't be able to expand and become CASA of River Valley without the strong support of our donors, sponsors and partners. Nearly 40 percent of our revenue is derived from our fundraising events. Sponsorship from community corporations and partners plays a key role in not only offsetting event expenses, but also maximizing revenue and elevating the profiles of our fundraisers.

As we review our fundraising events of 2019, we would like to acknowledge those sponsors and partners who helped make our year a success!

“Have a Heart for the Child”

Benefit Auction Gala

Presenting Sponsor

Castle Law

Silver Anniversary Sponsor

ComEd Exelon

Technology Sponsors

Jay and Lori Bergman

Illinois American Water

Entertainment Sponsor

The Sargent Consulting Group, LLC

“Have a Heart” Presenting Sponsors

D'Arcy Motors

Deerfield Construction

Henkels & McCoy

Lewis University

Marquette Bank

McDermott Law Group

Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Co

Rotary Club of Bolingbrook

Schiller, DuCanto & Fleck

Table Sponsors

CASA of Will County

Delaney, Delaney & Voorn

Edward Jones / Skye Bergeson

First Midwest Bank

Hinsdale Orthopaedics

Hometown National Bank

Deerfield Construction

Jerry Gleason Board Member

NRG

PMI

Julie McNeill, Independent Rodan +

Fields Consultant

Village of New Lenox

Wengler Law

Wine Pull Sponsors

Breakthru Beverage Group

Exxon/Mobil

Jerry & Corrie Gleason

Marius & Cathy Katilus

June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C.

Midland States Bank

Linda Sticklen

Wolfgang Industrial Supply House

In-Kind Partners

All Occasions Balloons

Bella Fiori Florist

David Nelson Exquisite Jewelry

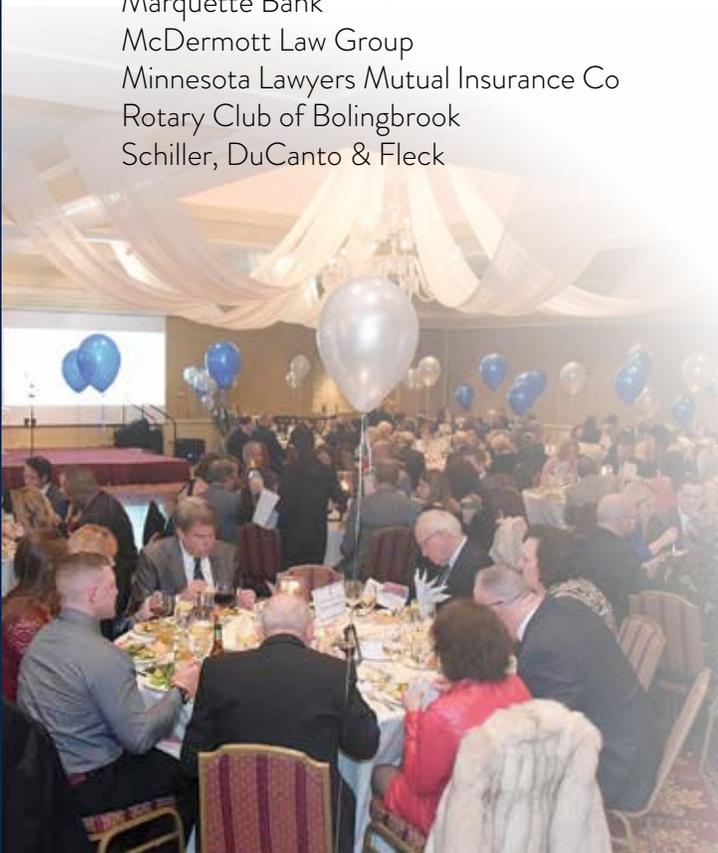
Impress Printing

MAD Suburban Productions

Sky Byrd Photography

Event raised more than \$130,000

2020 Event Date – February 29





"Golf for the Child" Classic

Presenting Sponsor

D'Arcy Motors

Luncheon Sponsors

Henkels & McCoy

Strategic Retirement Partners

Golf Cart Sponsor

ComEd

Beverage Cart Sponsors

Edward Jones / Skye Bergeson

Red & Ritchey Orthodontics

Golf for the Child Sponsors

DOT Foods

The Mather Group

The Sargent Consulting Group, LLC

Bloody Mary Bar Sponsor

TranSystems

Thank you to our many Hole Sponsors!

Event raised more than \$40,000

2020 Event Date – June 26



RUNNING 4 THE KIDS 5K/10K

Presenting Sponsor

Atrium Family Dental

Champion Sponsors

CITGO

Currie Motors

Star 96.7

Triple Threat Sports

MAD Suburban Productions

Food Sponsors

Chicago Dough Company

Frankfort Food Pantry

Prairie Farms

Gold T-Shirt Sponsor

Orange Theory Fitness

Silver T-Shirt Sponsors

Aurelio's Pizza

Chiro One

Dr. Brad Dworsky

Hipplehaueser & Associates

Running For Kicks

The Sargent Consulting Group, LLC

Tim Baldermann, Republican for State Representative

In-Kind Partners

Angel Hooves Healing Hearts

Dan Johnson Radio Team

DJ Ron Edes

FnA Outdoors

New Lenox Cert Team

Event raised \$15,000

2020 Event Date – October 4



North Pole Presenting Sponsor

Midland States Bank

Santa's Reindeer Sponsor

CITGO

D'Arcy Motors

Red & Ritchey Orthodontics

Santa's Workshop

Holly Club of Joliet

The Sargent Consulting Group, LLC

Santa's Helpers

Del Webb

Ballroom Sponsor

Joliet Junior Woman's Club

\$250 Sponsor

A Little Room to Play

Event raised \$49,000

2020 Event Dates – December 5 and 6



A young girl with long brown hair in a braid, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a light blue t-shirt, is leaning against a brick wall. She has a thoughtful expression. The background is a warm-toned brick wall.

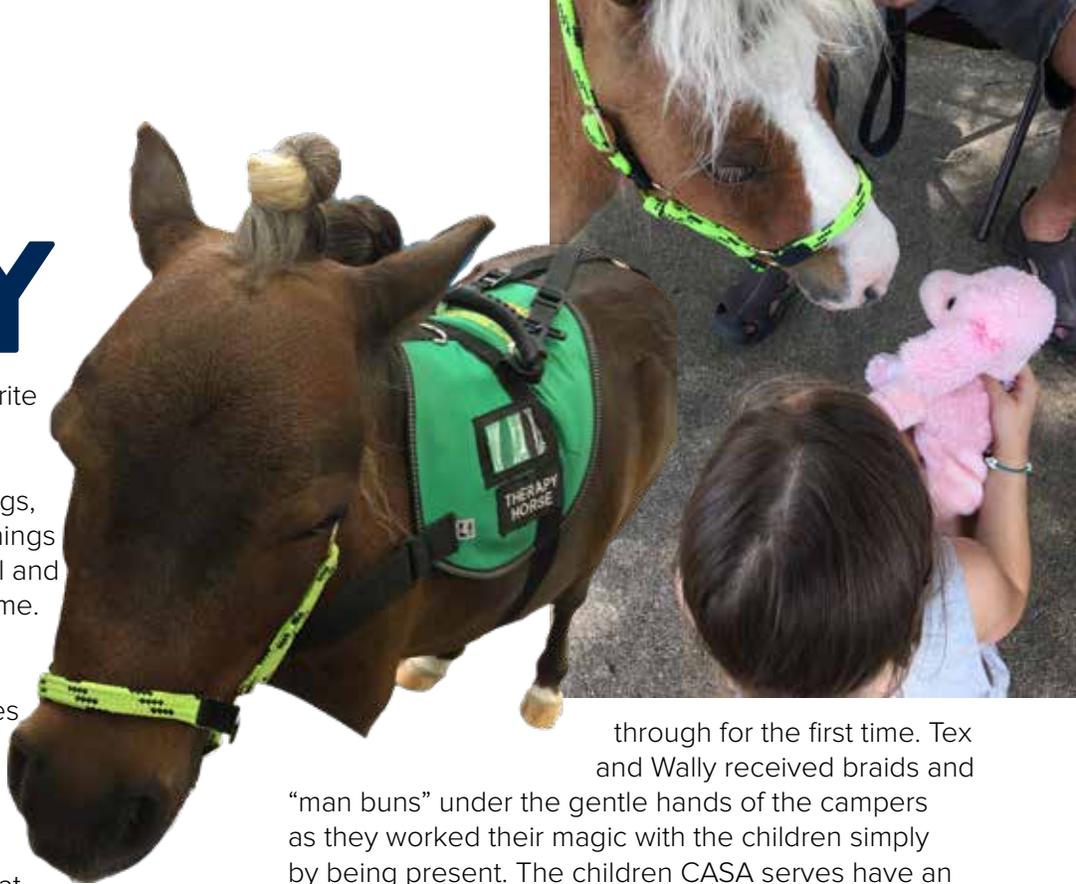
With your help, we can
put the magic back into
childhood.

TEX & WALLY

Take a moment to think of your favorite summer memory: Maybe it's running through fresh cut grass with friends, climbing trees, catching lightning bugs, or jumping into a lake. It's the little things in life that make a childhood magical and create memories that will last a lifetime. For children who find themselves in foster care, they oftentimes haven't yet had the opportunities in their lives to make these memories. We at CASA help with the "big things" to improve the lives of the children we serve, like advocating for children in court and making sure that they are safe, but we also realize that the "little things" matter in a big way.

Over the past few years, CASA has developed a partnership with Royal Family Kids' Camp, a camp that focuses on providing a traditional overnight camp experience to children in foster care, with a few additional perks such as a giant birthday party for every child at the camp, and trauma-informed staff. Each year, Royal Family Kids' Camp is kind enough to offer 10 lucky CASA children a spot at their camp. When CASA staff members visit the camp, they are greeted by children everywhere splashing in the pond and playing games, their faces flushed happily from the outdoors. For one very special week out of the summer, these children are able to forget about constantly feeling "different" and stressing about their current circumstances, and instead are able to enjoy just being a kid.

In both 2018 and 2019, two of CASA's four-legged volunteers were able to enhance the camp experience for children even more. Tex and Wally, with the assistance of their handlers (CASA volunteers Tina and Dave Durbin, founders of Angel Hooves Healing Hearts, Inc.) came to spend time with campers as well. Groups of children lined up to pet, groom, and create hairstyles on the miniature horses. Children who were hesitant to open up to camp counselors or their peers began grinning from ear to ear, telling Tex and Wally stories and letting their vibrant personalities shine



through for the first time. Tex and Wally received braids and "man buns" under the gentle hands of the campers as they worked their magic with the children simply by being present. The children CASA serves have an additional advantage as well -- Angel Hooves Healing Hearts doesn't simply enhance the lives of children by visiting them at Royal Family Kids Camp; Tina and Dave work with Tex and Wally throughout the year to visit foster children in need of an animal friend to help comfort them. They also provide an extra dose of Christmas magic by selecting a few special families to have Tex and Wally deliver Christmas presents to each year.

For every child, the circumstances that require them to be placed in a foster home are stressful and traumatic and are often followed by a plethora of meetings and appointments with social workers, doctors, therapists, and more. CASA's goal is to make sure that a child's need for fun, play, and the chance to simply be a kid is never forgotten or overlooked. Please consider a donation to CASA today. With your help, we can put the magic back into childhood, and help make happy endings come true.



Ways **YOU** CAN **HELP**



As we enter into this new year, please keep in mind the number of ways that CASA of River Valley can fit into your planned giving. You can make a difference in the lives of the children in your community.

Recently, CASA was able to reunite Haley with her mom Sasha after a long year apart. Like many of the cases that we see come through our system, Sasha had been struggling with drug abuse and was unable to take care of her child. But CASA advocated for Haley and worked with Sasha to get her the services she needed so she would be able to care for her daughter again. The pair was excited to spend the holidays together.

Every child deserves the chance to experience the comfort of being able to be returned to a home where they are loved and their parent is able to care for them. Helping them overcome their traumatic pasts and finding them a loving, forever home makes this possible, but it can only be done with your help.

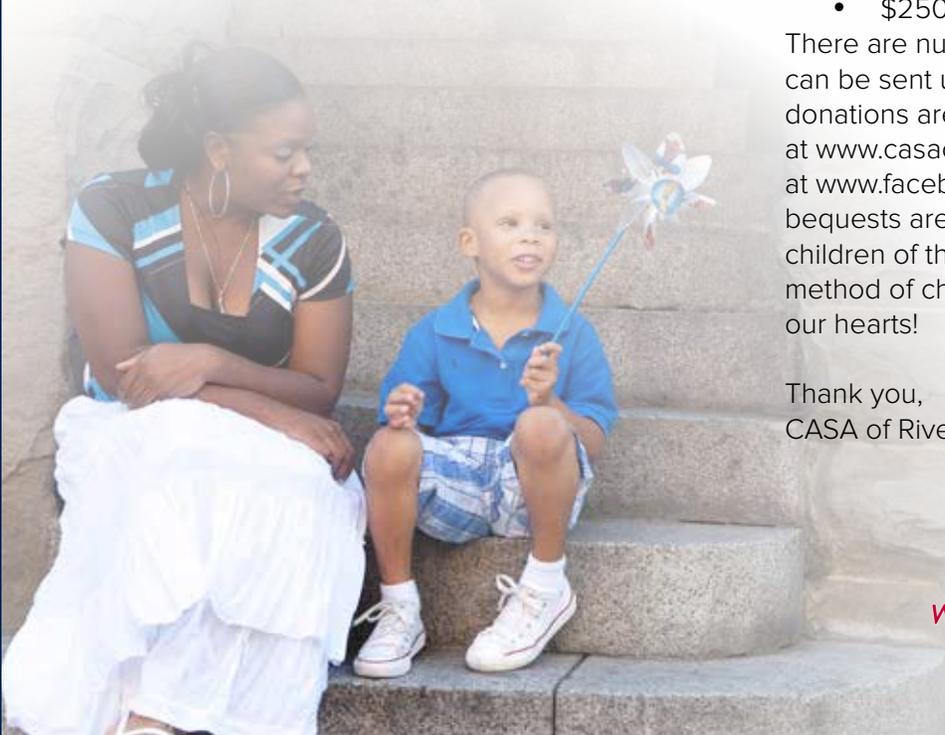
It costs \$1,000 to provide a CASA services for one child for an entire year. Can you help us save a child? No amount is too small. Please consider your pledge based on your ability to give, taking into consideration the following:

- \$1,000 = One child for 12 months
- \$500 = One child for 6 months
- \$250 = One child for three months

There are numerous ways to donate. Checks can be sent using the enclosed envelope, and donations are accepted online through our website at www.casaofrivervalley.org or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/casarivervalley. In addition, bequests are a wonderful way to support the children of the future. Regardless of your donation method of choice, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Thank you,
CASA of River Valley

*Let's make sure that
2020 is the year
we reach all children in need!*



Lend your voice.



A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained volunteer who is appointed by the Juvenile Court Judge to represent the best interests of an abused or neglected child.

CASA volunteers are appointed as Guardian ad Litem (GALs) and act as the eyes and ears of the Judge by documenting each child's circumstances and making recommendations for services and permanency. The ultimate goal of the CASA is to help ensure that every child lives in a safe and permanent home. This could mean reunification with the parents, placement with relatives, or adoption by a loving family.

Help an Abused or Neglected Child **Volunteer Today!**

2020 Training Sessions*

Session 1: Jan. 25, 28, 29, Feb. 1, 4, 5

Session 2: April 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 29

Session 3: July 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 22

Session 4: October 17, 20, 21, 24, 27, 28

* Contact our office or visit our website for more details.

What are the requirements to be a CASA/GAL?

- Anyone 25 years of age or older with good communication and writing skills is welcome to apply (bilingual volunteers needed!)
- Pass DCFS and criminal background checks
- Attend 35 hours of training

What are the expectations of a CASA/GAL?

- Visit children at least monthly
- Interview everyone involved in the child's life
- Prepare written court reports with findings and recommendations
- Complete 12 hours of in-service training annually

CASA of River Valley strives to contribute positive outcomes in the lives of mistreated children. CASA advocates are well-supported by case management, staff, and mentors.

To learn more about the CASA of River Valley program, please call our Volunteer Coordinator at 815-730-7072 or visit our website at www.casaofrivervalley.org.

We're waiting to hear from you!



HOPE NEEDS A HELPING HAND

**CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™**



We are a nonprofit, 501(C)(3) organization that trains volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the Juvenile Court System.



CASA of River Valley is a United Way agency, a member of the National CASA Association and a recipient of the Will County Development Block Grant

Located in the River Valley Justice Center
3200 W. McDonough Street • Joliet, IL 60431
Phone: 815.730.7072 • Fax: 815.730.7073

Sign up for our newsletter at CASAofRiverValley.org
All photos courtesy of National CASA/GAL



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Follow us on Twitter:
[Twitter.com/casarivervalley](https://twitter.com/casarivervalley)