



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF ADAMS &
BROOMFIELD COUNTIES

Annual Report FY2017





Mission

Our mission is to provide specially selected and trained community volunteers, CASAs, to advocate for abused and neglected children in the pursuit of safe and permanent homes.

For many abused children, a CASA Volunteer Advocate is the only constant adult presence in their lives.





Dear CASA Friends,

This report reflects the extraordinary work, commitment and leadership by CASA Volunteers, staff and supporters. Our vision is to create a world where every child who has experienced abuse or neglect is given the opportunity to thrive in a safe and loving home.

This year, CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties supported over 220 volunteers who were screened, trained and appointed by a judge of the court to serve nearly 500 abused or neglected children. A business case study conducted by Patricia Silverstein, President and Chief Economist of Development Research Partners, concluded that the advocacy and support of CASA Volunteers has the impact of reducing lifetime social costs and increasing lifetime earnings of the children served. This not only improves the lives of the children, it also has a positive impact on our community and the business environment.

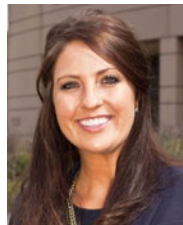
With the support of the community and our stakeholders, we aspire to recruit, train, and pair 500 much needed volunteers with the 1,100 vulnerable children going it alone in the Adams and Broomfield Counties court system.

We are honored to do this meaningful work alongside you every day and to reach for the common goal of serving every child who needs the compassion and commitment of a CASA Volunteer. Thank you for your tireless commitment – from volunteerism to funding our work – and all you do in support of building a brighter future for our community’s abused and neglected children.



Kevin Kildow

CASA Board Chair



Lindsay Lierman

Executive Director

A Judge's Sleepless Nights Sparked Creation of the First CASA Program

In 1977, Judge David Soukup, a Seattle juvenile court judge concerned about making drastic decisions with insufficient information, conceived the idea of citizen volunteers speaking up for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom. From that first program has grown a national network of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs that are recruiting, training and supporting volunteers.

1970s

1977

King County Guardian ad Litem program founded, later renamed Dependency CASA Program

“Simply stated, CASAs save our children. A CASA brings passion along with the gift of time. As volunteers, CASAs have the opportunity to focus on a single family and a single child. CASAs just don't “check-in” on a child, they spend the time needed for a child to know that there is a caring and safe adult in the world. A CASA will spend time to meet with a child's teacher, principal, and counselor. They spend time in court to tell the judge how the child is doing and what we can do better. They take that gift of time from their families and friends, and give it to a stranger's child. We have no way to return that gift. All that we can do is support CASA and say thank you.”

– Judge Ed Moss

1982

National CASA founded and managed by volunteer board

1983

Number of states with CASA programs: 29

1984

First CASA Program in Colorado incorporates when CASA of Larimer County is established

1985

Number of children served: 10,000
Number of CASA/GAL program offices: 159

1987

Number of children served: 40,000
Number of CASA Volunteer Advocates in service: 12,000
Number of CASA/GAL program offices: 271
Number of states with CASA programs: 44

1989

Colorado CASA, the statewide coordinating agency is formed

1980s

1990s

1990

Number of children served: 72,000

Number of CASA Volunteer Advocates in service: 17,000

Number of CASA/GAL program offices: 412

1994

CASA/GAL programs reach all 50 states, District of Columbia, and Virgin Islands

1995

Number of children served: 129,000

Number of CASA Volunteer Advocates in service: 38,000

Number of CASA/GAL program offices: 642

1997

National Bar Association endorses CASA Volunteer Advocacy

2000s

2000

Number of children served: 174,137

Number of CASA Volunteer Advocates in service: 47,063

Number of CASA/GAL program offices: 900

**CASA of Adams & Broomfield
Counties founded**

2005

Report released confirming that CASA Volunteer Advocates are highly valued by judges

Number of children served: 226,204

Number of CASA Volunteer Advocates in service: 53,847

Number of CASA/GAL program offices: 948

2007

2,000,000th child served by a CASA Volunteer Advocate

“Professionally trained CASA Volunteer Advocates are a vital link to ensuring that our most severely abused and neglected children have a voice in court.”

– Chief Judge Patrick Murphy

ENVISION a bright future
for every child.

Become an **AVID** CASA Supporter!

A – Advocate.
Be a child's voice!

V – Volunteer.
There are many ways to help.

I – Invest.
Support our vision.

D – Do!
How would you care to help?

Local Highlights

Approximately
 **220**

CASA Volunteer Advocates helped
change children's lives every day

 **484**

abused and neglected children had a
CASA Volunteer Advocate standing up
for their best interests

Approximately
 **600**

children are waiting for a volunteer
empowered to find them a safe,
loving, and permanent home

Effectiveness

- ✓ A child with a CASA Volunteer Advocate is more likely to find a safe, permanent home
- ✓ Children with a CASA Volunteer Advocate spend less time in foster care
- ✓ Children with a CASA Volunteer Advocate do better in school



Funding Sources of Revenue

LEGISLATIVE/STATE FUNDING

The Colorado State Legislature supports CASA's mission through a state-wide investment.

INDIVIDUAL • MAJOR GIFTS • CORPORATE DONATIONS

Annual Holiday Appeal
Colorado Gives Day
Corporate Gifts
Memorial Gifts
Workplace Giving Campaigns

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

CASA Classic Golf Tournament
Cookie Campaign
Indulge for CASA
Light of Hope Breakfast & Luncheon
Roast & Recognition Event

GRANTS

CASA receives support through grants provided by local governments as well as corporate, private and community foundations who value the important work we do.

Legislative/State Funding: \$68,851

Individual Donations: \$274,602

Fundraising Events: \$172,426

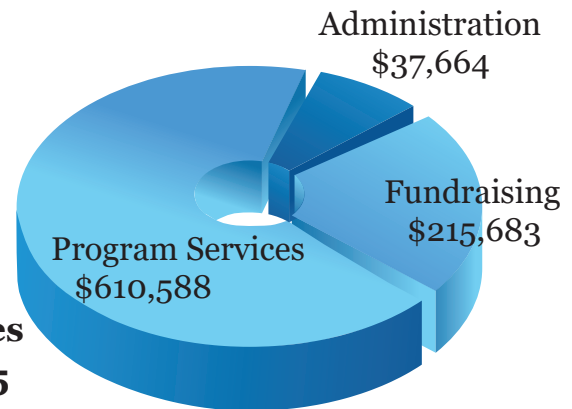
Grants: \$312,682

In-Kind: \$22,000

Total Revenue: \$850,561

Use of Funds

Total Expenses \$863,935



Success Stories

Cindy and Ty

In December 2015, CASA Volunteer Advocate Cindy Bruce asked her CASA child, Ty, what he hoped for in the New Year. Ty's wish was simple: a forever family. It was at the same time that Doug and Debbie Anderson sent in their second inquiry about Ty to a local adoption website. "[My husband] was drawn to Ty's picture and his story," Debbie said.

About a week later they got a phone call asking them to come to an event for potential foster parents and foster children. Ty's name was on the list, and the Anderson's knew they were meant to go.

For Cindy, the role of a CASA Volunteer Advocate was a chance to lift a child up, to change his life. "The most rewarding part of being a CASA is knowing that I am making a difference in children's lives," Cindy said. "To know that somebody is there to stand up for them and just to be their friend."

"Helping me to know what's right and what's wrong, it changed a lot," Ty said about Cindy's role as a CASA Volunteer Advocate. "Getting to know that someone is actually there. I think everyone needs a CASA."

Ty visited the Andersons and did a few overnights before he moved in at the end of January 2016. "He fit right in and was very much in favor of getting adopted as quickly as possible," Debbie said.

August 8th was Ty's adoption day. "I was just grateful for Cindy and her help and support through the whole process, including moving the adoption process along" Debbie said.



CASA Volunteer Advocate, Cindy Bruce, with Ty and his father, Doug Anderson

Amy, Kevin and Tim's Story

At two and three years old, Amy and Tim Nickerson had endured more than their fair share of trauma before finding permanency and happiness. They were put into foster care due to domestic violence at home, but after Tim suffered a traumatic head injury in a foster home and Amy was diagnosed with Reactive Detachment Disorder, the future was confusing, unsafe and seemingly hopeless for the two. Both children desired a permanent, loving family. Kevin Houck, CASA Volunteer Advocate, helped make that wish come true. For Dwayne and Jennifer, their adoption of Amy and Tim was a story of fate and faith. "I never read the paper, but I happened to read the *Denver Post* front-page article one day about Timmy getting hurt in foster care," Jennifer said. "We had just turned away two prospective adoptive children when Adams County called about Amy and Tim."

The first meeting, the couple visited with the two children for three hours and immediately knew they wanted them to be part of their family. The children were in separate homes at the time, making adopting them both more complicated. Dwayne and Jennifer attended an emergency hearing and wrote a letter to

the judge expressing their desire to adopt both children.

"It was really the CASA and play therapist at the termination trial that made the biggest impact," Jennifer said. "Because the CASA and play therapist were so diligent to attain objectivity during the case, the judge honored their voice and allowed us to adopt both Amy and Tim."



*CASA Volunteer Advocate, Kevin Houck,
with Amy Nickerson*

For Kevin, this day made the battle fought before, worth it. "Sitting at the children's adoption and just watching them with their new families, and just knowing that after a roller coaster ride of two years, everything was going to be okay for everybody involved," Kevin said. "It was just obvious that everything was going to work out and everything was worthwhile with all that we did."

Now, Amy, 14, and Tim, 15, are happy in their forever family. "My life now is kind of perfect," Amy said. "We have so many fun times and it's just full of laughter, love and family. My CASA Kevin was my voice throughout the case when I couldn't tell people what I wanted or what I needed. He is truly why I am with the parents I have today."

Thank You to Our Supporters

We have several different investment levels, designed for donor budgets of all sizes. Each investment level comes with a unique set of benefits, our simple way of saying THANK YOU for helping to make a DIFFERENCE in the lives of abused and neglected children. Please visit our website at CASA17th.org for ways to get involved.

Benefactor



**Victims of Crime Act
(FOCA) Fund**



COLORADO
Department of Human Services

**17th Judicial District
Victims Assistance and
Law Enforcement (VALE)
Program**



**Bob
Lembke**

**Ted & Lina
Shipman**

Champion for Children



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Peer Coordinators – Seasoned CASA Volunteer Advocates professionally trained
to supervise other CASA Advocates:

Barbara Bostwick Faye Gillis Irene Randall Zoe Reese Kathy Snyder
Suzanne Swanson Candie Toller Rachel Williams

CASA Volunteer Advocates FY 2017

Ackley, Judy	Del Valle, Alexander	Kethcart, Katie	Nicol, Elizabeth	Smith, Lindsey
Alengi, Donna	DelFrari, Christina	Kirwin, Kimber	Nunez, Malysa	Smith, Richard
Archuleta, Lillian	Dinkin, Alyson	Knaack, Twila	O'Donnell, Joyce	Snyder, Peter
Argys, Richard	Dove, Jenice	Kniss, Joan	Ornelas, Ana	Solis, Yadira
Arnold, Megan	Drucker, Bruce	Kobayashi, Maile	Otterson, Jennifer	Sommer Connors, Jamie
Austin, Brittany	Duran, Matthew	Krieger, Helena	Otto, Shannon	Sonntag, Robin
Bailey, Brent	Dussart, Jessie	Kusel, David	Pacheco, Corina	Spikes, Kimberly
Bakke, Jacob	Eigenberg, Deborah	Lamborn, Gwen	Parks, Kenneth	Stack, Paula
Banks, Cassandra	Ensor, Lynn	Landes, Chris	Peacock, Millie	Stasulli, Dominique
Barkley, Alyssa	Erickson, Anthony	Laughlin, Sharon	Peniston, Cherylin	Strock, Steven
Barner, Suzanne	Evans, Katie	Leck, William	Perry, Kathryn	Stueve, Crystal
Bastian, Cynthia	Falbo, Dena	Lierman, Lindsay	Peska, Kaile	Swanson, Suzanne
Beck, Natalie	Ferguson, Sue	Ligrani, Nora	Piccone, Danny	Sweeney, Mary
Beedle, Kimberley	Fields, Joni	Lindburg, Ann	Piccone, Zella	Sylvester, Brandy
Bernstein, Silvia	Fitch, Karla	Loeck, Diana	Pierotti, Nancy	Taylor, Kim
Bliss, Carol	Frank, Sandra	Luetters, Michele	Pierson, Marie	Taylor, Melvena
Bohlen, Laura	Franklin, Jean	Magallanes, Christina	Piperato, Jim	Tijerina, Rajean
Bostwick, Barbara	Gallegos, Sierra	Mahoney, Amanda	Pomerinke, Delores	Toller, Candice
Bourn, Roberta	Garneau, Rebecca	Marler, Bev	Pope, Oscar	Torrens, Jose
Branigan, Michelle	Garrison, Annette	Martin, Sonya	Post, Lisa	Trevino Cruz, Elva
Breedlove, Dianna	Garrity, Robert	Martinez, Carla	Quinn, Megan	Trevino, Xanadu
Breidenstein, Gail	Giordano, Heather	Martinez, Shae	Randall, Irene	Tyler, Christine
Breske, Nicole	Givray, Deborah	McCulley, Joanne	Raver, Sabina	Urbach, Emily
Brizzolara, Rebecca (Becky)	Goater, Judith	McDivitt, Carolyn	Raynes, Annette	Van Camp, Elizabeth
Brown, David	Goetz, Darla	McGhee, Kenneth	Reese, Zoe	Vanzo, Monica
Bruce, Cindy	Grace, Alayna	McGuire, Glenna	Ricord, Vickie	Viado, Georgia
Bryant, Reanna	Greschler, Raechel	McManus, Diane	Rieb, Catherine	Walker, Tessa
Buck, Margaret	Gross, Sean	McMillan, Joy	Roberts, Neola	Wallace, Rebel
Cain, Melissa	Gudenauf, Elizabeth	McPherson, MaryAnne	Rodriguez, Marisol	Watterson, Nila
Camalick, Tamara	Gullette, Wesley	Medina, Alyshia	Rosales, Emerald	Weaver, Jillon
Campbell, Charlene	Hackenberg, DeAnna	Medina-Andrade, Maria	Ross, Martha	West, Rebecca
Campbell, Pascha (Rain)	Hansen-Breuer, Cheri	Middaugh, Kimberly	Rota, Desirae	Whitcomb, Katie-Beth
Carstensen, Toni	Hanson, Martin	Mijares, Christina	Rove, Sara	White, Dorcas
Chambers, Rosa	Hanson, Meta	Millan, Perla	Rutter, Shanna	Wigotow, Casey
Coburn, Melinda	Henderson, Ashley	Miller, Lorraine	Salter, Missy	Wilde Buchmann, Mara
Collison, Melissa	Henderson, Randy	Miller, Wendy	Sampish, Rebekah	Williams, Jack
Connell, Judy	Hensel, Charles	Montoya, Mary	Sanchez, Alexis	Williams, Rachel
Cooper, Tamme	Hessel, Cora	Moreira, Maria del Carmen	Sarrazin, Amy	Woods, Terry
Crist, Rebecca	Hoff, Maureen	Morgan, Samantha	Sauer, Katherine	Woodriddle, Carly
Crowther, Daniel	Hoffman, Terry	Munoz, Anna	Schiola, Kathy	Wooten, Shannon
Crowther, Mary Alice	Holitz, Leanne	Murphy, Natalie	Scudder, Carolyn	Worster, Jenny
Cruz, Valerie	Jackson, Kathleen	Nance, Guiovanna	Sell, Yvonne	Wuthrich, Jan
Cushman, Jennifer	Kaminski, Erin	Nelson, Jill	Shireman, Loretta	Zeidman, Barbara
Dahlstedt, Kevin	Kernes, Kandy	Neubauer, Jeanette	Simpson, Garrett	Zuercher, Therese
Davis, Emily	Kernes, Keith	Nevarez, Kalen	Sims, Tassa	
DeGeer, Patricia	Kessler, Rebecca	Newhouse, Kellie	Sitthisay, Wivina	



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**CASA OF ADAMS &
BROOMFIELD COUNTIES**

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