



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

LONE STAR CASA

| 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Message from Leadership

Lone Star CASA has trained and supported volunteers for over 30 years as they build relationships with children who have experienced abuse and neglect and advocate on behalf of their best interest in court and beyond. While advocates glean insight from and encourage healthy relationships amongst important players in children's lives, judges depend on the information they gather and recommendations they provide to help children find permanency quickly.

In 2023, we saw a 135% rise in new children in need of our services and to keep up with that growth we are proud to report that we swore in 19 new advocates. The Texas Tribune recently reported that Kaufman County is the fastest growing county in the nation with Rockwall County close behind. Because of this, it's been crucial that we grow our staff and increase volunteer recruitment and retention efforts to meet the need.

At the beginning of our fiscal year, we officially expanded our Collaborative Family Engagement Program into Kaufman County. Laying the ground work for this expansion in the previous year, we are proud to report that we have been working with 39 newly eligible families to help develop life-long support systems that will help foster a healthier environment to grow up in. Lone star CASA also received its first Order To Participate (OTP) case at the beginning of FY 2023. Since then, we have served on 11 of these cases. During the 2023 legislative session, a bill introduced to allow state funding for OTP services died, creating a void in consistent funding for these efforts. In response, we worked to sure up funding from private foundations so that we can prevent child abuse and neglect while keeping kids in homes. OTP allows us to helps families identify and remove barriers that might prevent them from completing services crucial in eliminating threats to child safety and security.

In addition, the state began it's transition into privatizing the Child Welfare system this past year. Our region is the largest to transition to this model yet, and with our DFPS region having more children in care than any other, Lone Star CASA is committed to stepping up to support a smooth transition. Our advocates bring a wealth of knowledge regarding case histories, and this makes the ongoing success of our organization more vital than ever as the new region provider leans on us to glean support from our knowledge, experience, and resources.

During this time of exponential growth and sweeping changes to care, Lone Star CASA will remain a dependable and trustworthy presence in vulnerable children's lives. With your support, Lone Star CASA will continue implementing innovative programs that seek to repair harm, heal trauma, strengthen familial bonds, and prevent child abuse and neglect.

With Gratitude,



Lauren Rowe
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ashley Holman
BOARD PRESIDENT



www.lonestarcasa.org

Program Highlights

Order To Participate

Lone Star CASA is the first in Texas to implement this preventative program. We support children while facilitating parent involvement in services that directly address risk factors that impact child safety. We have served on 10 OTP cases in FY 2023 and we have helped 5 other CASA's in Texas begin OTP.

Collaborative Family Engagement

We help grow networks of support by identifying family and lifetime connections for each child. We accomplish this by fostering these connections and building healthy relationships that improve the well-being of children and families. In FY 2023, we completed 1,446 CFE activities with the families of 68 children.

National CASA Volunteer Council

Lone Star CASA Representative Sharon Chapman

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Informed National CASA/GAL Strategic Framework
2. Assisted in creation of Local Quality Review Process
3. Led National Volunteer Affinity Networking Circles at the National CASA Conference
4. Helped develop Fostering Futures and the National Training & Technical Assistance Model



Donor Highlights



Donors, supporters, and community partners allow Lone Star CASA to adequately serve the Kaufman and Rockwall community. Many wonderful people, businesses, community groups, and foundations support Lone Star CASA. We have several developments we'd like to acknowledge in our 2023 fundraising efforts.



Grant Highlights

A \$22,315 grant from the Texas Bar Foundation and a \$25,000 grant from the Moody Foundation allowed us to continue pioneering forward with our innovative Order to Participate Program.



Fundraising Events

Cars for CASA - Over \$79,000 raised
Clays for CASA - Over \$68,000 raised
Bunco & Bubbles - Over \$42,000 raised
Cookies for CASA - \$1,200 raised



Notable Donations

\$15,000 donation from Spiral X LLC
\$25,000 donation from Margot Perot
\$32,000 donation from Michael Joyce Properties



Volunteer Highlights

Lone Star CASA relies on the powerhouse of trained and experienced volunteer advocates to help carry out our mission. Our volunteers build relationships with family, conduct educational and medical advocacy, participate in monthly child visits, and encourage, coach and support families in need of dire support while advocating in the best interest of the child.



Our volunteers donated nearly 4,741 hours fulfilling their duties as Lone Star CASA Court Appointed Special Advocates!

"I had a case which involved a child who had experienced a great deal of trauma before being removed from her home. After numerous failed foster placements, I was able to collaborate with CPS in preventing the child from being adrift in the system by supporting my recommendation that she be placed permanently with her grandparents. After eight years, she continues to thrive, and she still stays in touch with me!"

Betty Shupp, 2023



"I feel my CASA child is a perfect match for my personality and skill set. I am so grateful for the efforts of CASA managers to match children with their advocates."

Lynn Watters, 2023



Lone Star
CASA
Volunteer
of the Year:

**Courtney
Hogan**



Community Engagement

Building Relationships - Outreach & Awareness

We hosted over 30 volunteer recruitment events.



Congratulations,
Advocates!



We swore in 19 new Volunteer Advocates.

2023 Impact



2023 Outcomes

- 203 Children Served
- 78 Children Found Permanency
- 121 Court Appointed Volunteers
- 145 Hearings Attended
- 692 Visits Complete
- 64,000 Miles Driven



100% of children involved in the child welfare system due to abuse or neglect received compassionate support and advocacy from a volunteer CASA within 14 days of having become involved in the child welfare system.



100% of children received consistent advocacy throughout their case.



76% of children who meet the criteria for our Collaborative Family Engagement program increased and/or strengthened their network of support with extended family or other fictive kin.



87% of families were reunified or placed with relatives.

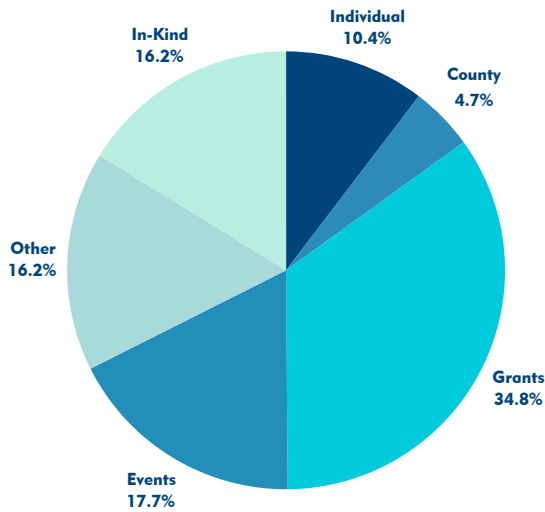


Volunteer scored 4.8 out of 5 on being adequately trained to fulfill their duties as Advocates.



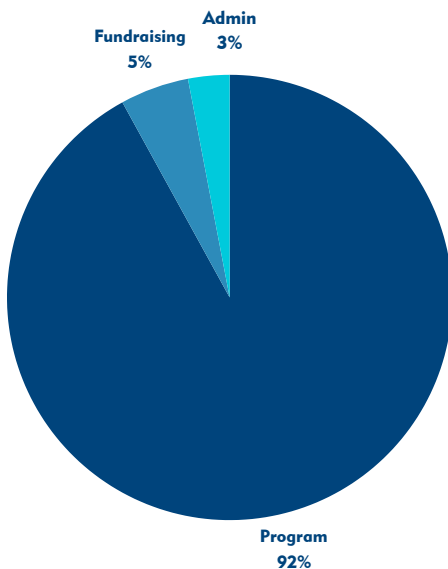
Our community partners rated CASA staff professionalism 5 out of 5.

Revenue & Expenses



2023 INCOME / REVENUE

Individual Contribution	\$ 140,055
County Contribution	\$ 63,304
Grants	\$ 470,557
Fundraising Events	\$ 239,180
Interest, Investment, Other	\$ 25,082
In-Kind Donation	\$ 218,967
Total Income	\$1,157,722



2023 PROGRAM EXPENSES

Salary / Taxes / Benefits	\$ 368,357
Professional Fees & Labor	\$ 23,799
Training	\$ 8,035
Program / Travel	\$ 21,550
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 57,632
Occupancy	\$ 53,440
IT & Office Expenses	\$ 34,729
Insurance	\$ 9,869
Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 15,671
Telecommunications	\$ 7,733
Other	\$ 8,248
In-Kind Donations	\$ 218,966
Total Program Expenses	\$ 828,028

Lone Star CASA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency organized on May 1, 1992, under the laws of the State of Texas. Financial support of Lone Star CASA supports programs that advocate for children in Rockwall and Kaufman Counties who have been abused, neglected, and/or abandoned. Lone Star CASA accomplishes our mission with 9 employees, a volunteer Board of Directors, and the dedicated service of more than 100 volunteers. Lone Star CASA utilizes professional services of a staff CPA who oversees formal controls and procedures to ensure the long-term financial stability and integrity of the agency. Additional copies of this annual report and completed audited financial statements are available at lonestarcasa.org

Mission & History

Lone Star CASA elevates the voices of children in Kaufman and Rockwall County who have experienced abuse and neglect by providing trained volunteer advocates to work alongside children & families so they can achieve safety and stability to fulfill their potential.



1976

National Chapter is formed by Seattle Judge Soukup.

1989

Texas Chapter started - now includes 72 programs statewide.

2004

Lone Star CASA expands service area to Kaufman County.

1992

Lone Star CASA is formed by community members to serve Rockwall County.

2015

Lone Star CASA officially serves 100% of all children in care in Kaufman and Rockwall County.

2023

New Lone Star CASA advocates are sworn-in at Kaufman Justice Center for the first time. CFE & OTP expands into Kaufman County.

Thank You To Our Generous Donors

Corporations, Foundations, Government Entities, & Community Groups Over \$5000

Bright Funds	JS Helwig & Sons LLC	Rusty Wallis Honda
Charities Aid Foundation of America	Kaufman County	Spiral X
City of Rockwall @ Rockwall Cityplace	Michael Joyce Properties	Terrell Bingo Unit Trust
County of Rockwall	Margot Perot	Texas Bar Foundation
CVC/HHSC	Moody Foundation	The Rees-Jones Foundation
Holy Trinity by the Lake Episcopal Church	OVAG	TVEC Charitable Foundation
		VOCA

Corporations, Foundations, Government Entities, & Community Groups Up To \$5000

ABOX Packaging Co.	First United Methodist Church	QuikTrip
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Austin Community	HomeBank	Rockwall Oral & Facial Surgery
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Thank You To Our Generous Donors

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Chris Hoffmeyer, Child Advocacy Specialist
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“CASA holds the hands of vulnerable children and helps them make it out of darkness and through the wilderness of the legal system.”

———— Honorable Judge Hall ————



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Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

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