MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Dallas CASA,

Because of the generosity of our donors and supporters, many more Dallas children are experiencing the positive, critical difference a CASA volunteer makes, but we continue to focus resolutely on the unmet need and the unserved children. The cover of our 2015 Annual Report, with three out of five children featured in color, represents the significant progress we have made. Yet two out of five abused and neglected children in protective care from our Dallas community still wait for us to expand our program capacity to meet the entire need. The successful closing of the $37 million Abused Children Can’t Wait Campaign at the end of 2015 reinforces our steadfast belief that we are equal to that challenge.

Last year produced results in total numbers of children we served and new volunteers we recruited that exceeded our 2015 goals. Dallas CASA could not have achieved those record-setting outcomes without your support. Once again our volunteers and donors proved to be our very best recruiters. You clearly are passionate about and committed to changing the trajectory of the lives of our most vulnerable children. An increase in our donor base and the total revenue raised provided the resources necessary to recruit and train 334 new volunteers and to supervise a total of 926 volunteer advocates serving 2,680 children in 2015. Our volunteers continue to serve no more than two children at a time on average, meaning significant growth is occurring without sacrificing the low volunteer-to-child ratio that is essential to maintaining focused attention on the needs of each and every child.

As the campaign moved forward toward its successful conclusion, Dallas County child welfare statistics did not stand still. The number of Dallas County children in protective care annually jumped a dramatic 18% from 2012 to 2015, a rate far exceeding the 0.4% state-wide annual increase and outpacing all other large Texas urban areas over the same time period. When children are at risk, we do not want the rate of removal to decline. We will deal with the rise and fluctuations in numbers and will not waver from our commitment to serve all Dallas County children who need our help.

Last year concluded on a disheartening note with the release in December of a federal court class action decision ruling that the Texas foster care system violates the constitutional rights of children in long term foster care by failing to keep children safe from harm. The court’s conclusion that children routinely exit the system in worse condition than when they entered foster care is indeed alarming. We were gratified however, that the court decision specifically credited CASA volunteers for their unique...
and critical contributions to the lives of children who otherwise are at risk of being lost and forgotten. Explicit recognition of the unique benefit and impact of CASA volunteers only heightens our resolve to serve more children. Responding to the December court ruling, we prepared a call to action in the form of an opinion piece published in The Dallas Morning News and reproduced here on the inside back cover. When you are asked by friends and family what they might do to make a difference, we hope you will encourage them to consider becoming a Dallas CASA volunteer.

On our community’s watch, we will together offer our most at-risk children the very best chance to heal from trauma, recover from injuries, reach developmental milestones, stay on track in school and live protected from further harm. Thank you for your commitment to creating a better future for children who are our community’s future.

With gratitude,

Kathleen M. LaValle
Executive Director and President

OUR MISSION
CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children under the protective care of the state, so they will have safe, permanent homes where they can thrive.

INSIDE
2 THE NEED AND OUR PROGRAM
4 OUR HIGHLIGHTS AND EVENTS
6 OUR VOLUNTEERS
8 OUR FINANCIALS
10 OUR DONORS
18 OUR LEADERSHIP
20 HOW TO HELP
IN 2015 IN DALLAS COUNTY

23,981 children were reported abused or neglected

5,847 children were confirmed victims of abuse

4,646 children were in foster care under the protection of the state

18% increase over the number of children in protective care in 2012

2015 COMPARED TO 2014

334 new volunteers trained and sworn in as advocates

16% increase

926 volunteer advocates assigned to children’s cases

20% increase

5,847 children were reported abused or neglected

2,680 children served

18% increase

4,646 children were in foster care under the protection of the state

590,172 days of volunteer service to abused children

21.5% increase

CHILD DEMOGRAPHICS

CHILDREN BY AGE
CHILDREN SERVED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number Served</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2,264</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,869</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>907</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>932</td>
</tr>
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VOLUNTEERS ASSIGNED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number Assigned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
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OUR VISION

We envision a day when every child in foster care has a powerful voice in the court and in the community.
Alliance allows volunteers and staff to visit children in distant locations

Recognizes AT&T employees with Judge Barefoot Sanders Award and features former CASA youth Ashley Rhodes Courter

Honors Kappa Alpha Theta Dallas Alumnae Chapter and raises funds for abused children

Celebrates the adoption of more than 60 foster children into forever homes
Makes dreams come true for teens in foster care through Comerica partnership

Selects Dallas CASA as one of its Fifty Years of Giving beneficiaries

Recognizes all children deserve to grow up in safe homes

Ranks as largest single-day, non-PGA charity golf tournament

ABOVE: Flotek CEO and President John Chisholm, Kathleen LaValle, Pioneer Chairman and CEO Scott Sheffield and PAA Chairman and CEO Greg Armstrong at the Dallas CASA Classic

RIGHT: Dallas CASA board member and volunteer advocate Linda Swartz with husband Rob at The Closing Party at PIRCH

BELOW: Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy musician at the Dallas Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Event hosted by Dallas CASA

RIGHT: CASA teen finds her dream prom dress during the Comerica Prom Dress Drive
Dallas CASA is grateful to all OUR VOLUNTEERS who serve abused and neglected children in our community.

Many CASA volunteers find they were born to fill this critical role and dedicate years to serving children.

We wish to recognize the following volunteers serving as advocates during 2015 who have generously served for five years or more.

16-20 YEARS
Mona Baker
Larry Dolan
Pamela Fletcher
Sandra Teter

11-15 YEARS
Margaret Duryee
Schenita Floyd
Nicole LeBoeuf
Carlen Penfold-Long
Elizabeth Smith
Dianne Robinson
Tim Sexton
Elizabeth Smith
Alicia Wagoner

1:2 average volunteer to children ratio
Click **HERE** to meet our volunteers and former CASA youth.
Our work would not be possible without the generosity of many individuals, companies and foundations, in addition to generous public funding.

Click [HERE](#) to view full financial statements.

2015 revenue excludes campaign contributions.

Financial policies for Dallas CASA are reviewed annually by the Dallas CASA Board of Directors Finance Committee and approved by the Dallas CASA Board of Directors.

Audit and IRS Form 990—Independent auditors review our financial statements each year, preparing our audited financials and tax returns. Access to our audit and tax filings can be found online at dallasasa.org.
$6.2M
total revenue excluding campaign contributions
- 10.1% increase

$7.1M
in campaign contributions

$5.6M
total expenses
- 6.7% increase

$1,910
cost per year to provide a CASA volunteer to an abused child

925
individuals made cash gifts of $100 or more

206
corporations made cash gifts of $1,000 or more

34
foundations and organizations made cash gifts of $2,500 or more
Dallas CASA is pleased to announce the conclusion of its transformational $37 million campaign.

The campaign was launched in 2012 to grow our program capacity to serve all Dallas children in protective care in need of a CASA volunteer advocate. Funds from the campaign first allowed us to build a much larger 25,020 square foot headquarters to accommodate the growth of staff we need to meet our goal. The balance of the campaign funds has allowed us to accelerate our program growth and increase our staff who recruit, train and supervise more volunteers to close the gap of children served. Since the campaign launch in 2012, we grew our staff from 49 to 66 employees by year end 2015. Our new facility also provides a meeting center where we and other child welfare organizations can convene to collaborate on issues facing our community’s most vulnerable children.

We are grateful to all OUR CAMPAIGN DONORS and recognize here those major donors who made gifts or pledges of $1,000 or more to Abused Children Can’t Wait—The Campaign for Dallas CASA.
$15,000,000 AND ABOVE
Anonymous

$500,000 TO $1,000,000
The Crystal Charity Ball
The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation
James and Angela Thompson Foundation

$250,000 TO $499,999
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Fran and Mark S. Berg
Hamon Charitable Foundation
Hillcrest Foundation
The Hirsch Family Foundation
Becky and Jim Lozier
The Meadows Foundation
Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Foundation
Stephen B. L. Penrose
Kimberley and Scott Sheffield
Myra and Darwin Smith

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The Gaudin Family
The Hoglund Foundation
Jeanne and Joseph Manogue
Kay and Bob Schleckser
The Smith Family
Nancy and Rex Spivey

$50,000- $99,999
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Hawn Foundation, Inc.
Hoblitzelle Foundation
Junior League of Dallas
Kathleen and Michael LaValle
Maverick Capital Foundation
Hannah and Greg May
Mindy and Woody McMinn

$25,000-$49,999
Priscilla and Corey Anthony
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Shari and Karl Nelson
Linda and Rob Swartz

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The Baldridge Foundation
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Cynthia and Alfred Calabrese
Christie Gayden Carter
Cynthia Pladziewicz, Ph.D.
Michelle Tycher Stein
Vin and Caren Prather Foundation
Cindy and David Warner

$1,000 to $4,999
Anonymous
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Christine and Anthony Beshara
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We are grateful to all OUR 2015 DONORS and recognize here donors who made cumulative cash contributions of $100 or more January 1 through December 31, 2015.

$1,000,000 AND ABOVE

Anonymous
The Rees-Jones Foundation

$250,000- $999,999
The Crystal Charity Ball
Pioneer Natural Resources

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Jenny Reynolds, Children’s Council President and CASA volunteer advocate, was a finalist for Dallas Foundation Good Works Under 40 award, pictured with her Dallas CASA supervisor Joy Horn.

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Abused children can’t wait
While courts reckon with Texas’ failed foster care system, here’s a way to help

A federal court has ruled that the Texas foster care system is unconstitutional based on findings that children in foster care more than one year are not protected from harm and do not receive appropriate care. While parties to the lawsuit pursue the appeal process, we appeal to the Dallas community to become volunteer voices for children in foster care.

The court decision recognizes Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers for the difference they make. CASA volunteers, the opinion concludes, gain in-depth knowledge of each child and “make sure foster children don’t get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system or languish in inappropriate group or foster homes.”

The Dallas community long ago recognized the importance of CASA volunteers. Dallas CASA started 35 years ago and today is the oldest and largest CASA program in Texas, benefiting from strong government, private donor and community support. Our volunteers play an important role by helping our judges determine whether a child can safely return home and, in those unfortunate instances when returning home is not an option, recommending the best alternative for a child to grow up in a safe and loving home.

In 2015, Dallas CASA’s 920 volunteer advocates served 2,680 children, providing 590,172 total days of service to children, a 21.5 percent increase from the year before. Yet only about half of the Dallas County children in protective care last year had a CASA volunteer. Thankfully our county judges, primarily the 304th and 305th juvenile district courts, work with us during those excruciating times when our supply of volunteers runs out.

Children in protective care live with the uncertainty of not knowing if a return home will be possible, how long a current placement will last, and whether visits with siblings in other placements will happen. “I knew you would come — you always do,” are the words our volunteer advocates hear from the children they serve.

While often wishing they could have an even greater impact — with speedier solutions and greater inclusion in processes — survey responses affirm our volunteers know they make a difference. Some of what they say: “This is what I was born to do.” “The best thing I’ve ever done.” “I am so proud to be a CASA volunteer.” “I am making a difference in a child’s life.” “It’s priceless to see the kids’ faces when they recognize you and feel at ease with where they are.” “I went into this not really knowing what to expect. It’s now the most important thing I do.”

In our weekly information sessions, you’ll learn that experience with court processes is not necessary and that the majority of CASA volunteers work full-time. The expectations are high and include 30 hours of required pre-service training — either in-person or through an option combining online and in-person training — and a minimum one-year commitment.

You’ll also find out you can partner on a case with another volunteer. Worried about the emotional component? It might help to know CASA volunteers focus on a child’s future, helping secure access to services to help each child recover from trauma. And the frustration of sitting on the sidelines, silently outraged by yet another account of a child who has been beaten, starved or abandoned takes its own personal and societal toll.

As resilient as children are, each passing day represents an opportunity — lost or gained — to impact a child’s development. We hope the child’s future includes staying in school and, ultimately, breaking the cycle of abuse, while avoiding homelessness, prison, teen pregnancy, human trafficking and substance abuse. Even when children begin to give up on themselves, our volunteers never give up on the children they serve.

Please consider becoming a CASA volunteer advocate or help us spread the word by inviting Dallas CASA to speak to your organization, employee, alumni or faith-based group.
Serving more children than any CASA program in Texas and one of the largest non-profit CASA programs in the country.

To learn more visit dallascasa.org

Click HERE to view Champion of Children Award dinner video featuring former CASA youth, Ashley Rhodes-Courter.

Images used are not of actual children in foster care.