



**I** am for the child

A child's voice.

A child's life.

Lifted up.

**BY YOU.**

**2014 | ANNUAL REPORT**



## **I** am for the child

I am for the child who lived in motels and in cars and in shelters. I am for him. The child who finally was taken away, and put in foster care. A group home. I am for that child. So I am there for that child. To listen to him. To champion without compromise for what's in his best interest. That is the child I am for. I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

**I** am you!

# Dear CASA Family,

In 2014, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Denton County celebrated 22 years of service to abused and neglected children. While volunteers, advocates, members of the Board of Directors, donors, staff and community partners all come from different walks of life, one single commitment binds us all together: **WE ARE FOR THE CHILD**. When children are abused or neglected, they need someone to speak up for them, and for 22 years, we have been that voice.

As we look back on the past year, and the 485 children we served, we are grateful to everyone who plays a role in the work that we do. You will see on the "Stats at a Glance" page that CASA continues to have a meaningful impact in the community. Our 138 advocates drove more than 132,000 miles and spent nearly 19,000 hours in service for abused and neglected children.

Each year, more and more children enter the foster care system. Children who may be given a black trash bag in which to pack their belongings. Children who may feel directionless as they move from placement to placement. Children whose grades may be suffering because they sit in the back of the classroom at a new school and have an out-of-date prescription for their glasses. Children who may have never celebrated their birthday.

We know the work we do is important and life changing. We appreciate those of you who also know that and are playing an active role in our efforts to help abused and neglected children. Your investment in CASA is critical to building a stronger community. Please help us make our vision of "a CASA for every child who needs one" a reality so that an abused or neglected child is given a chance to not only survive, but also thrive.

Sherri Gideon  
Executive Director



## **I** am for the child

I am for the child who's had seven addresses in a single year. Because she is in foster care. Because her father abused her. And because her mother couldn't believe her. I am for that child. So I am there for that child. To speak for her. Because if I am there for her, I know she will be half as likely to languish in foster care, and that much more likely to find a safe, permanent home. That is the child I am for. I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

## **I** am you!

# Volunteers Make a Lifelong Difference

Six cousins, aged nine and under, were left to mostly care for themselves when their mothers, who were sisters, succumbed to prescription drug addiction. The women used so many different drugs that they had different colored pills strewn around the apartment, and the children had been taught that when they found a pill, they should put it into a big bottle they called "vitamins." When Child Protective Services arrived to investigate a report, they found that one mother had already overdosed and had been hospitalized while the other was incoherent and fell asleep during their questioning. There was little food in the house, except for a few crackers and the kids kept asking the investigators for something to eat. The youngest, a one-year-old, seemed listless and due to concerns that he had swallowed something from the adults' stash, he was taken to the emergency room and was found to have been dosed with high levels of Tylenol.

When the children were placed in foster care, no home was available that would take all six so the two girls and the baby were together in one home, and the three boys were placed in a different home more than an hour away. Their CASA volunteer was with them every step of the way, making a special effort to be sure the children saw their siblings and cousins. This eased the stress, but it was not enough, and the older two children kept acting out. One of the girls made an outcry against her foster mother and was moved again, having to be separated from all the others.

Meanwhile, a maternal aunt had come forward who wanted to take all six children into the same home. She had a good job and

stable lifestyle, and she even visited with the children weekly when their mothers failed to appear. Her biggest hurdle was furnishing and financing a home big enough for all of them. The children's CASA volunteer was instrumental in providing support not only to the children but also to the aunt! The volunteer advocate helped source donations of home furnishings, toys and many items needed to make the house a home for the large family. CASA of Denton County accessed its devoted network of donors, and gifts for the children came in from other advocates, community groups, and even a baseball team.

The kids moved in and were reunited with their great-aunt, cousins and other relatives who stepped in to help care for them. Their mothers continued to struggle with drug addiction, failing to maintain stable housing or get jobs. Reunification was not possible.

This past November, the great-aunt officially adopted all six children on Denton County's Adoption Day. She also legally changed her last name back to her maiden name right before the adoption so she and the children could all share their family name. Thanks to the help of their CASA volunteer and the CASA family, these six children are all in one home together, have a nice place to live with a caring relative and no longer have to suffer the consequences of their parents' challenges. Their CASA volunteer, although officially off the case when adoption was achieved, will be a part of this family forever!



## **I** am for the child

I am for the child who has attended eight schools in four years. Because he is in foster care. Because his birth mother, debilitated by mental illness, neglected him. I am for that child. So I am there for that child. To listen to him. To champion without compromise for what's in his best interest. That is the child I am for. I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

**I** am you!

# FY 2014 | Stats at a Glance

## CHILDREN SERVED

Cases Worked . . . . .	285
Children Served . . . . .	485

## PERMANENT PLANS ACHIEVED

Total Number of Children . . . . .	198
Returned to Family . . . . .	69
Placed with Legal Guardian . . . . .	32
Adopted . . . . .	75
Aged Out (turned 18) . . . . .	9
Other . . . . .	13

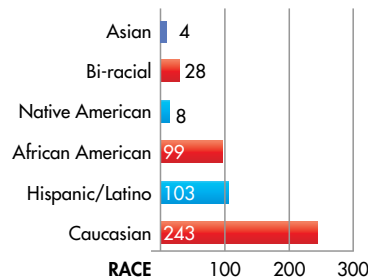
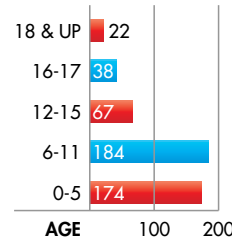
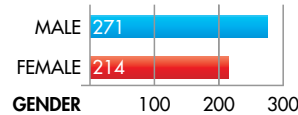
## OUTCOMES

- 99% of CASA recommendations were accepted by Judges/Juries.
- 57% of children achieved permanency within 18 months of CASA's acceptance of the case.
- Less than 1% of children served by CASA entered the child welfare system for a second time within six months of case closure.

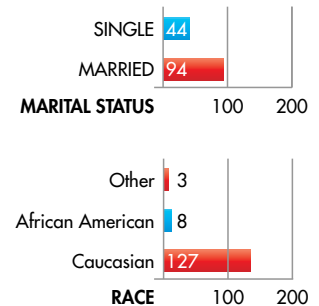
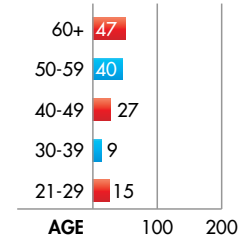
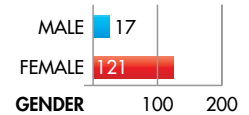
## VOLUNTEERS

- Average length of time advocates stay with CASA of Denton County is almost 3 years or 32 months.

485 CHILDREN ASSISTED IN 2014



138 VOLUNTEERS IN 2014





## **I** am for the child

I am for the child who sleeps on a temporary cot, the kind found in prisons. And where everything she owns is kept in a plastic garbage bag. I am for that child. So I am there for that child. To listen to her. To champion without compromise for what's in her best interest. That is the child I am for. I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

**I** am you!



# FY 2014 | Audited Financial Report

## WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM?

Contributions . . . . .	\$117,160
Fund Raising Events . . . . .	\$230,658
United Ways . . . . .	\$50,000
Federal Grants . . . . .	\$77,721
State Grants . . . . .	\$216,393
Local Government Grants. . . . .	\$88,373
Corporate/Foundation/Org. Grants. . . . .	\$39,309
Interest Income . . . . .	\$403
In-Kind Contributions . . . . .	\$10,565
<b>Total Revenue . . . . .</b>	<b>\$830,582</b>

## WHERE THE MONEY GOES?

Personnel Expenses . . . . .	\$579,887
Occupancy Related, Phones & Repairs. . . . .	\$33,700
Casework Travel & Conferences. . . . .	\$45,806
Supplies . . . . .	\$10,813
Printing, Postage & PR . . . . .	\$18,373
Insurance. . . . .	\$4,149
Contracts & Services. . . . .	\$19,421
Dues & Subscriptions. . . . .	\$2,755
Volunteer Related . . . . .	\$34,747
Fund Raising Expenses . . . . .	\$66,380
Miscellaneous. . . . .	\$11,302
Depreciation . . . . .	\$25,501
Care4Kids Expenditures . . . . .	\$6,253
<b>Total Expenses. . . . .</b>	<b>\$859,087</b>
<b>Net Income for 2014 . . . . .</b>	<b>-\$28,505</b>



The mission of CASA of Denton County, Inc. is to provide trained community volunteers, to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children, and to promote community awareness about child abuse issues.

– Adopted 08/22/2000



## **I** am for the child

I am for the child, barely 6, who is bounced not home to home, but house to house. Who, worse than no longer believing in others, no longer believes in herself. I am for that child. So I am there for that child. To speak for her. Because if I am there for her, I know she will be half as likely to languish in foster care, and that much more likely to find a safe, permanent home. That is the child I am for. I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

## **I** am you!

# FY 2014 | CASA Volunteers

- Acee, Nancy
- Agee, Judy
- Aguilar, Fernando
- Alumbaugh, Angie
- Aleya, Sarah
- Ariali, Mellony
- Atkins, Leslie
- Aue, Rachel
- Bacchus, Steve
- Bailey, Jonathan
- Baker, Cassidy
- Barker, Sarah
- Barnes, Margaret
- Barnhart, Carol
- Bassinger, Carole
- Beaman, Karla
- Beamon, James
- Beavers, James
- Beavers, Lynnette
- Becker, Tish
- Bell, Brad
- Bell, Kenneth
- Bell, Kristi
- Berry, Dixie
- Berry, Mikayla
- Berry, Mike
- Berry, Scott
- Birdsong, Brooke
- Blount, Kirsten
- Boomer, Lydia
- Bowen, Chry-sandra
- Brock, Cynthia
- Brock, Melinda
- Brown, Christina
- Brown, Jennifer
- Brucia, Michael
- Burk, Jean
- Bushnell, Janette
- Byers, Angela
- Callahan, Molly
- Calloway, Andrea
- Cameron, Scott
- Campbell, Jean
- Carmack, Cynthia
- Carson, Andra
- Cartright, Virginia
- Castle, Shacarol
- Chacon, Samuel
- Challenger, Jane
- Clark, Teri
- Coaxum, Tony
- Cole, Carol
- Coleman, Jannibah
- Colgan-Nelson, Laura
- Conn, Susan
- Cooper, Melissa
- Covich, Darlene
- Crott, Ray
- Cutting, Rahna
- Dane, Allison
- Darnell, Clarice
- Davis, Gary
- Delbecq, Carol
- Denstedt, Rosanne
- Dillard, Korey
- Eads, Andy
- Eagleton, Walter
- Edwards, Susan
- Efthymiou, Sofia
- Ellis, Richard
- Evans, Colleen
- Faciane, Sandra
- Fahie, Shamaria
- Farnham, Marcus
- Faulkenberry, Larissa
- Fiorenza, Deb
- Flahaven, Kathi
- Fogarty, Judy
- Fogarty, Timothy
- Foster, Peggy
- Fox, Holly
- Francis, Sarah
- Friedland, Jean
- Fry, Eric
- Fry, Erica
- Fry, Levi
- Gabriel, Lee
- Garcia, David
- Garrett, Emily
- Geldert, Julie
- Germansen-Mc-Cord, Tracy
- Gibson, Julie
- Gideon, James
- Gideon, Wes
- Gleghorn, Susan
- Gordillo, Nicole
- Green, Gay
- Green, Kenneth
- Grigsby, Debby
- Grubbs, Stephanie
- Gutierrez, Crystal
- Harrison, Mary Ann
- Harwell, Jeri
- Haynie, Andy
- Haynie, Dana
- Hechinger, John
- Hechinger, Sue
- Hemming, Cody
- Hemming, Laurie
- Hiatt, Elvina
- Hicks, Dawn
- Hill, Brent
- Hill, Holly
- Hodges, David
- Hoenig, Jill
- Holloway, Alice
- Horn, Mary
- Hunter, Mary
- Hurst, Ronald
- Ingram, Becky
- Jensen, Brian
- Jensen, Hannah
- Jensen, Mika
- Jensen, Mikey
- Johnson, Bill
- Johnson, Paul
- Jones, Clarence
- Jones, Jaime
- Joseph, Jason
- Journagan, Philly
- Julian, Sheila
- Kalinowska, Diana
- Keith, Charlotte
- Kelly, Tom
- Kerbow, Russell
- Kilgore, Sean
- King, Nikki
- Klein, Aaron
- Klein, Hunter
- Klein, Jacob
- Klein, Katie
- Kleinberg, Allie
- Kneeling, Harolene
- Kooztz, Debra
- Krueger, Duane
- Krueger, Shelly
- Kunke, Laurie
- Kuzmich, Nick
- Kuzmich, Steve
- Langford, Carol
- Lasley, Joy
- Latham, Brenda
- Lawrence, Jeffrey
- Lee, Chris
- Leon, Vince
- Luttrell, Nicole
- Macfarlane, Heather
- Malik, Amina
- Mancino, Bob
- Mancino, Debbie
- Manning, David
- Marshall, Eileen
- Martin, Jerry
- Martino, Brandon
- Matos, Brandi
- McAnally, Connie
- McBride, Vera
- McCormick, Jamie
- McFarling, Bruce
- McLeod, Janie
- McReynolds, Paula
- Means, Lynna
- Medlock, Ashley
- Meilinger, Laura
- Mellick, Jennifer
- Melton, Karen
- Mielke, Vicki
- Miller, Kay
- Mires, Georgeanne
- Mitchell, Melisa
- Moore, Kay T.
- Moran, Michael
- Muench, Kimberly
- Mullins, Nancy
- Murrell, Karen
- Neal, Rebecca
- Nelson, Taylor
- Nicklas, BK
- Nixon, Stephanie
- Noel, Yvette
- North, Bonnie
- Novak, Eileen
- O'Connor, Kayla
- Odom, Ali
- Olsen, Bonnie
- O'Neil, Kristine
- Payton, Jeni
- Peak, Kara
- Peak, Pamela
- Pedigo, Pam
- Peggy, Foster
- Perry, Crystal
- Pettit, Cecilia
- Piper, Jamie
- Pittman, Floyd
- Pogue, Sarah
- Pomposelli, Jerry
- Quigley, Brian
- Rademacher, Joyce
- Raines, Marcia
- Rathbun, Nita
- Ratliff, Pam
- Ratliff, Shannon
- Ray, Grady
- Reddy, Nikeeta
- Redfearn, Chuck
- Redfearn, Megan
- Reese, Carolyn
- Reeves, Gayle
- Reiff, Julie
- Rice, Kathy
- Richards, Holland
- Richardson, Leah
- Richardson, Linda
- Ridgway, Scott
- Robb, Aaron
- Roberts, Denise
- Robertson, Tracee
- Robison, Bonnie
- Robison, Doug
- Roennau, Lindsey
- Rojas, Ileana
- Rosenbaum, Kathryn (Nicole)
- Rosenthal, Michelle
- Saldivar, Franki
- Schroeder, Kay
- Schwartz, Ken
- Schwartz, Lynn
- Senter, Meredith
- Sherbondy, Aubrey
- Shields, Gail
- Shipman, L. Dee
- Shipman, Sherry
- Simmons, Carrell Ann
- Simmons, Curtis
- Smith, Allyson
- Smith, Ethan
- Smith, Sue
- Sonnier, Corinne
- Spalding, Denise
- Sprabary, Louvenia
- St. Pierre, Mark
- Stephens, Donna
- Stone, Lelia
- Stuart, Sheri
- Studer, Gregory
- Sullivan, Ellen
- Suptin, Rena
- Sweeney, Patrick
- Sweeten, Brenda
- Talbot, Leslie
- Taylor, Pam
- Thompson, Traci
- Todd, Richard
- Trent, Mike
- Tucker, Stacey
- Ulrich, Vicki
- Vader, Angie
- Vahlenkamp, Virgil
- Vail-Goodnight, Melinda
- Valtierra, Marissa
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- Wagner, Paula
- Wallace, Amy
- Walsh, Peg
- Watts, Robin
- Weidner, Shirley
- Whelan, Andrea
- Whitten, Jose
- Willcox, Barbara
- Willner, Bill
- Willner, Isabel
- Willner, Matthew
- Wilson, Sheri
- Wing, Lazzetta
- Wood, Ellen
- Wood, Misty
- Wright, Larry
- Young, Robert
- Yuch, Wani
- Zitney, Madison



## **I** am for the child

I am for the child who almost died. Who now sits, surrounded by strangers, in the back of yet another class. Failing. Because she is without glasses and nearly blind. I am for that child. So I am there for that child. To speak for her. Because if I am there for her, I know she will be half as likely to languish in foster care, and that much more likely to find a safe, permanent home. That is the child I am for. I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

**I** am you!

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# 2014 Outstanding Contributor Award

St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church

Women's Club – Lewisville, Texas







# Blessings from St. Philip's

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH WOMEN'S CLUB – LEWISVILLE, TEXAS

When a child's pair of shoes is worn, he needs someone who can replace them with a new pair. During the holiday season, he needs someone who not only remembers him but also includes him in the holidays with a gift especially for him. And—when that boy grows to a man, he needs someone to help him with

the transition by getting him settled in his new apartment or dorm room. For many children, this special person may be a parent or grandparent; for the children served by CASA, this "person" is actually several individuals and organizations, such as the Women's Club at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church.

When a child enters foster care, life is not on hold. One of the best interests CASA of Denton County advocates for in the case of abused and neglected children is the right to have "normalcy." Holiday gifts and teddy bears help to provide that. Rather than serving as one more way a child might feel isolated from his or her peers, these everyday items allow a child who has suffered abuse or neglect the opportunity to share a positive experience during a challenging time.

Since 2009, the Women's Club at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church has ensured the children served by CASA have received teddy bears to take to their new home on Adoption Day, holiday gifts and Easter baskets while in foster care, and life transition baskets for graduating seniors. It is hard to recognize the total impact the Women's Club has had in the lives of the abused and neglected children CASA serves. By the numbers alone, the women have delivered 839 Easter baskets to children in care and provided 17 independent living baskets for teens in transition since 2010, but CASA knows that for the children who have received such a basket, the Women's Club of St. Philip the Apostle has made a lasting difference that is immeasurable. This is why CASA honored the Women's Club with the 2014 Outstanding Contributor Award on April 7, 2015 at the Annual CASA Recognition Dinner.

Support comes in many ways at CASA of Denton County. From the tireless efforts of fierce advocates to monetary donations to in-kind gifts that help a child experience normalcy, it takes a community to make the life changing work at CASA a reality. The Women's Club at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church is one of many extraordinary organizations and members in the greater Denton County who have come together to support children in need.



## **I** am for the child

I am for the child who has been abused. Who doesn't want to go home. The child who no longer believes in herself. So I am there for that child. To speak for her. Because if I am there for her, I know she will be half as likely to languish in foster care, and that much more likely to find a safe, permanent home. That is the child I am for. I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

**I** am you!

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# **CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

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## **DENTON COUNTY**

CASA of Denton County, Inc.

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Website: [www.casadenton.org](http://www.casadenton.org)



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

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**DENTON COUNTY**

Thank **YOU** for  
listening to a child's voice.

Thank **YOU** for  
lifting up a child's life.

Thank **YOU.**

