

2017 | ANNUAL REPORT



EVERY CHILD HAS A CHANCE— IT'S YOU.



ALL IT TAKES IS **YOU** TO GIVE A **CHILD A CHANCE**

MYTH:

Only retired people can be
CASA volunteers.

FACT:

Most Denton County
Advocates work at least part
time and many work full time.

Dear CASA Family,

2017 was a record year for CASA of Denton County in many ways – in fund raising, in number of volunteers advocating for children, in numbers of children served and in other ways as well. There were new initiatives started and new people involved. And while all these things were taking place, the work of providing the highest quality court advocacy services to the most severely abused and neglected children in our community continued. You can be proud to invest in CASA of Denton County with your time and resources as nothing you do for children is wasted.

Just a few highlights – CASA raised over \$1 million in 2017 for the services provided to children. This was in part due to the tremendous efforts of the board of directors, staff and a host of volunteers in hosting record breaking fundraising events that brought in more than \$330,000 in operating funds. The agency was able to rebuild a shrinking reserve fund to almost 40 days of operating reserve, with a goal of 45 days. And, finally, several funders continued their legacy support for CASA, while new supporters stepped up and invested in the mission.

CASA trained 80 new volunteer child advocates in 2017 for a total of 226 community volunteers providing court advocacy for our community's children! These amazing and dedicated people served a record number of 604 children with not only court advocacy services but with love, commitment, professionalism and a caring heart. They truly are changing lives.

CASA provided a first specialized training for advocates to work with teenagers in foster care with a special emphasis on those who will emancipate from the foster care system without a permanent home. This was very successful and will be repeated in 2018.

CASA was honored in April 2017 to benefit from the generous and hard work of Pat Sherman and Donna Trammel and many other caring members of the community through the first ever "Take A Stand" campaign that highlighted the work of CASA and the Children's Advocacy Center in the community.

CASA was also blessed by those who signed up as charter members of the Champions for CASA group that started in March 2017 and worked throughout the year to provide "extras" for CASA including help with fund raising events, booths in the public and presentations, hospitality for trainings and assistance with the holiday gifts. In addition, the charter members helped recruit additional champions and at year-end, there were over 30 members of this group doing many different jobs that were all aimed at the same goal – supporting CASA's mission.

As you review the accomplishments achieved in 2017, remember to applaud yourselves for sharing your resources with CASA's kids and families. You not only make a difference – you are the difference!

With sincere thanks,

Debbie Jensen | Executive Director



IT ONLY TAKES ONE TO GIVE A **CHILD** A **CHANCE**

MYTH:

Child abuse is the main reason kids enter foster care.

FACT:

Neglect is more common and is associated with over 60% of removals.

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHANCE

In This Case – Bonnie Provided It

Delilah, Christopher, Emma, and Jaxson, the oldest child a second grader and the youngest child barely one, are part of a refugee family who fled to the US after being persecuted in their home country because of their faith, ethnicity, and political beliefs. The children were then removed from their parents by CPS due to excessive parental discipline, which left Delilah black and blue from head to toe.

Enter CASA Advocate, Bonnie, who not only got to work getting to know the children, but also learned about the practices of their culture to better understand how the family ended up in engaged with the child welfare system. A year later, those children are back with their parents, with much of the credit going to Bonnie.

At first, Bonnie's sympathies were all with the children, as they should be. She took a personal interest in each child and worked in every way to help them adjust to new schools, new family, new rules, and new food. They had never seen an American home and had very little contact with Americans at all. When Bonnie realized that this was as much a cultural issue as it was an abuse issue, she began to try to help the parents understand American discipline. Bonnie faced many barriers – the parents didn't speak English, they came from a culture where corporal punishment is the norm, there were no foster homes available that understood their customs, and so the children were placed in American homes, which didn't please the court or the parents. Resources so that the parents could meet the court's mandates were non-existent in the family's language, and most counseling and parenting classes didn't allow translators. It was a daunting task but Bonnie never gave up. She constantly worked with a local ministry, the parents, CPS, the foster

parents, the schools, the courts, and above all, showed such love towards Delilah, Christopher, Emma, and Jaxson. One of the most encouraging parts of this story is what the father wrote in his journal for his FOCUS Fatherhood class, "I never thought how important it is to tell my children that I love them. I expected them to know it. Our family is so much happier now that I understand how to talk to my children and tell them they do a good job."

Rather than breathe a sigh of relief at the end of this complicated case, Bonnie went a step further to seek additional resources for the refugee community as a whole, in order to prevent other children from falling into the hands of CPS. Bonnie's dedication and commitment is endless and has ensured four very thankful children now lay their heads on their own pillows, in their own home, with their own parents.





YOU + CHILD EQUALS CHANCE

MYTH:

Babies are too young to suffer long-term effects of abuse or neglect.

FACT:

Abuse or neglect can change a baby's brain chemistry.

FY 2017 | Stats at a Glance

CHILDREN SERVED

Cases Worked	369
Children Served	604

PERMANENT PLANS ACHIEVED

Total Number of Children	279	Returned to Family (34%) . . .	96
Adopted into New Family (21%).	59	Aged Out/Emancipated (3%) . . .	7
Placed with Relative or Legal Guardian (22%)	62		
Other (20%) Runaway; CASA dismissed	55		

OUTCOMES

- 97% of CASA recommendations were accepted by Judges/Juries.
- 68% 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.

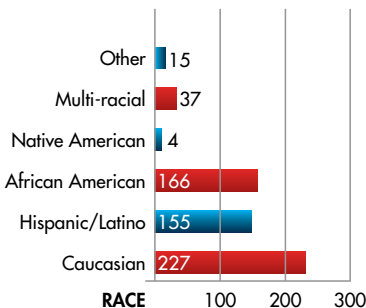
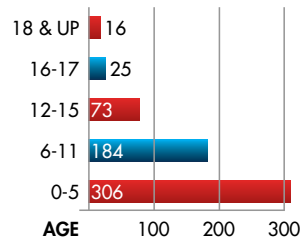
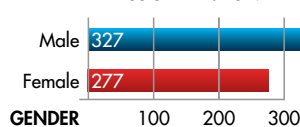
VOLUNTEERS

- A record 226 volunteer child advocates donated their time to children in Denton County in 2017.
- Average length of time advocates stay with CASA of Denton County is 37 months – just over three years.
- Volunteer child advocates contributed 26,275 hours of time to casework for children.

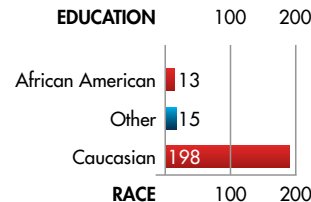
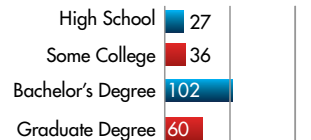
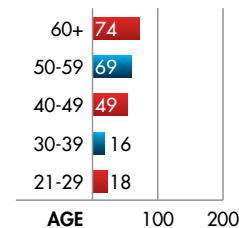
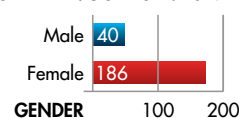
OTHER

- In FY 2017, CASA served 604 children, 89% of the 684 children in foster care from Denton County in that year.
- 93% of those children were served by volunteer child advocates. The other 7% were served by staff child advocates.

604 CHILDREN ASSISTED IN 2017



226 VOLUNTEER CHILD ADVOCATES IN 2017





BECAUSE OF
YOU
HE'LL HAVE A
CHANCE

MYTH:

Abuse is most often committed by strangers.

FACT:

Most abuse is committed by someone the victim/survivor knows and trusts.

FY 2017 | Audited Financial Report

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM?

Contributions	\$77,990
Fund Raising Events	\$339,965
United Ways.	\$111,566
Federal Grants	\$126,403
State Grants	\$220,908
Local Government Grants	\$165,532
Corporate/Foundation/Org. Grants	\$53,031
Interest Income	\$107
In-Kind Contributions.	\$1,160
Total Revenue.	\$1,096,662

WHERE THE MONEY GOES?

Personnel Expenses	\$664,646
Occupancy Related, Phones & Repairs	\$33,703
Casework Travel & Conferences	\$12,846
Supplies	\$10,663
Printing, Postage & PR	\$20,799
Insurance	\$5,558
Contracts & Services.	\$18,901
Dues & Subscriptions	\$3,583
Volunteer Related	\$37,440
Fund Raising Expenses	\$86,590
Miscellaneous.	\$1,172
Depreciation	\$19,578
Care4Kids Expenditures	\$7,833
Total Expenses	\$923,312
Net Income for 2017	\$173,350



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



CASA

ADVOCATES
DO GIVE
CHILDREN
CHANCES

MYTH:

The long-term effects of abuse or neglect are minimal.

FACT:

Children who experience abuse or neglect are nine times more likely to be involved in criminal activity later in life.

FY 2017 | CASA Volunteers

- Nancy Acee
- Dellandra Adams
- Ida Agosto
- Berenice Alcantar
- Katherine Anderson
- Stacey Anderson
- Carrell Ann Simmons
- Allie Arne
- Molly Arnold
- Linda Asseff
- Lindsay Baker
- Nancy Ball
- Shane Ball
- Olulana Bamiro
- Margaret Barnes
- Carole Bassinger
- Colten Baylus
- Ginger Bazaco
- Caitlin Beamon
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- Lynnette Beavers
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- Tracy Beck
- Kenneth Bell
- Marjorie Bell
- Samantha Belson
- Dixie Berry
- Mikayla Berry
- Jerry Betty
- LeAnn Birden
- Angie Bixler
- Christine Blythe
- Tammy Book-Holst
- Shari Borth
- Christina Brown
- Kit Brown
- Michael Brucia
- Beverly Buffin
- Maria Bundock
- Charlotte Burgess
- Angenette Burns
- Kristi Burnthorne
- Justin Bush
- Jack Bushnell
- Angela Byers
- Angelia Cagan
- Lisa Cain
- Rick Cain
- the late Scott Cameron
- Jean Campbell
- Renee Carlson
- Cynthia Carmack
- Bob Carmichael
- Annie Carter
- Kaitlyn Carty
- Jeanne Cassidy
- Jane Challenger
- Jill Chastain-Howley
- Allen Chick
- Rachel Christie Watts
- Amanda Cianfarani
- Teri Clark
- Alecia Cobb
- Sylvia Coffey
- Carol Cole
- Sienna Conner
- Christopher Cooley
- Stephen Cordova
- Kathy Costa
- Merissa Coulbourn
- Jill Coulter
- LeAnn Covich
- Kimberly Cox
- Ray Croff
- Clarice Darnell
- Terri Darr
- Susan Davenport
- Mark Davis
- Carol Delbecq
- Trish Dewbe
- Manoj Devdas
- Penny Dix
- Sharon Dolan
- Brenda Dulin
- Andy Eads
- Mitra Ejmali
- Vicki Elder
- Shelley Epley
- Amanda Espinoza
- Colleen Evans
- Meghan Evans
- Debra Excell
- Greg Exell
- Sandra Faciane
- Glen Farris
- Charlene Fausak
- Lisa Ferguson
- Dan Ferguson
- Judith Fertig
- Debby Fiorentino
- Michael Fitzsimmons
- Gary Flemmons
- Carla Flowers
- Judy Fogarty
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- JoAnn Fullerton
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- Michael Hewitt
- Dawn Hicks
- Brent Hill
- Deborah Hill
- Holly Hill
- Jill Hoernig
- Sherri Hogstad
- Wendy Hollandsworth
- Mary Horn
- Mary Howard
- Carolyn Hrcir
- Debbie Hugley
- Thomas Hull
- Mary Hunter
- Ronald Hurst
- Ramon Hurtado
- Eric Jackson
- Roger Janosek
- Brian Jensen
- Hannah Jensen
- Lisa Johnson
- Paul Johnson
- Amanda Jones
- Jaime Jones
- Leslie Jones
- Yolanda Joosten
- Diana Kelley
- Tom Kelly
- Russ Kerbow
- Larry Kestila
- Susan Kirch
- Debra Koontz
- Duane Krueger
- Shelly Krueger
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- Valerie Kysiak
- Joy Lasley
- Brenda Latham
- Michael Lawrence
- Ray Leake
- Cynthia Lemke
- Roger Lewis
- Yuheng Liang
- Pat Loffer
- Millie Love
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- Cynthia Williams
- Jeanne Williams
- Kimberly Williams
- Lazzeta Wing
- Delaney Winker
- Emma Winker
- Katie Winker
- Rebecca Winker
- Jenny Yates
- Nancy Young
- Wani Yuoh
- Julie Zamorano-Dean

Special Thanks to the 381 Volunteers Who Gave Chances to Children in 2017:



GIVE ONE CHILD A CHANCE VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

MYTH:

Most people don't have the kind of background that would make them a good CASA.

FACT:

CASAs come from all backgrounds, and training is provided.

FY 2017 | CASA Donors

- Daniel Abasolo
- Access Bank Texas
- Shane Acklie
- Lauren Adams
- Aaron Addison
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- Scott Alagood
- Don Albrecht
- Kevin Albrecht
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- Rick Allen
- Altrusa International Inc of Denton
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- Denton Benefit League
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- Court
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- Denton Police Department
- Denton Record-Chronicle
- Denton Rotary Club
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- Melissa DeWitt
- Penny Dix
- Ben Dobson
- Tom Donovan
- Kaye Dotson
- Rebecca Dotson
- Edna Douglas
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- Charles Drapo
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- First Seventh Day Adventist
- First State Bank
- First United Bank
- First United Methodist Church
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- Richard Fisher
- Fisher59 - Denton
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- Carla Flowers
- Flowers Bakery
- Deborah Foster
- Keith Francis
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- Lisa Franks
- Brad Freeman
- Chelsea Frisby
- Jonas Fruge
- Cheri Fry
- Jack Fry
- Eric Fuentes
- Full Throttle Athletics, LLC
- Scott Funderburg
- Debra Furst
- Jeremy Fykes
- Melinda Galler
- Game Changers
- Tony Gamron

FY 2017 | CASA Donors

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- Rachel Gasser
- Nancy Gaudette
- Susan Gehrlein
- Tracy Germansen-McCord
- Eva Germany
- Jason Giachetti
- Cassandra Gibson
- Wes Gideon
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- James Johnson
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EVERY CHILD
DESERVES A
CHANCE—
TO LAUGH
TO LOVE
TO DREAM

MYTH:

Abused and neglected children almost always come from poor, minority or inner-city families.

FACT:

There is no evidence that links socioeconomic status, race, or educational levels to abuse or neglect.

Rhonda Cain | **CASA Supporter**

giving the smallest Texans a big voice in court

Rhonda Cain, Executive Vice President of Ciera Bank, has been a long-time supporter of CASA of Denton County. She was introduced to CASA after attending the Annual Pulling for Kids Sporting Clay Tournament that takes place each year in May. There, Rhonda learned the impact that CASA has on the lives of children who have been abused or neglected and soon became a personal supporter of the cause.

Rhonda believes that every child truly does have a chance and with the power of a CASA advocate at their side, our smallest

Texans can have a big voice in court. Rhonda gives to her local CASA program with confidence in how the funds are managed and, in the services, provided to children navigating the child welfare system. For over eight years Rhonda has invested generously in the CASA mission and continues to support CASA's growth to meet the ever-increasing needs of our community. We are grateful for the continued generosity of Rhonda and all those who share their resources to further the CASA mission and stand with children in care.

"If we don't stand up for these kids, who is going to?"



GIVING A
CHILD
A CHANCE
ONE
ADVOCATE
AT A TIME

MYTH:

It's only abuse if it's physical.

FACT:

Abuse can be emotional, too.

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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

DENTON COUNTY

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*CASA of Denton County is a member agency of
Texas CASA, Inc., the National CASA Association,
and the United Ways of Denton County and
Metropolitan Dallas.*



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

DENTON COUNTY

**THANK YOU
FOR GIVING A
CHILD
A CHANCE**

