





GENERAL ADVOCAC



CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE

JUVENILE JUSTICE

2020 IMPACT REPORT

SUPPORT

CASA OF LOS ANGELES

DEAR FRIENDS,

The late Congressman John Lewis once said, "What I try to tell young people is that if you come together with a mission, and its grounded with love and a sense of community, you can make the impossible possible."

This year, those words have never been truer than for CASA of Los Angeles.
The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting closure of schools, courts, and service agencies this year has heightened the already critical need for CASA advocacy in the lives of children and youth in foster care. Not surprisingly, our volunteers and staff have risen to that challenge.

There is no doubt this period of time has been hard for all of us. But, when times are tough, they are toughest for our children, youth, and their families.

Our CASA volunteer advocates have been a lifeline for the children and youth in the child welfare system. They have located laptops for youth, helped them find safe living placements, ensured they have a safe place to receive therapy, printed out their homework for them, and kept their spirits up over Zoom and FaceTime, helping our children cope with fear and insecurity during these anxious times.

The CASA/LA recruitment team and our volunteer services team, that is responsible for interviews and training new volunteers, was able to quickly pivot to virtual strategies. Between March 15 and June 30, 2020, we trained and swore in 79 new CASA volunteers. In fact, over the last year, we've continued to see incredible results despite the pandemic:

- Unique children served: 1,294
- New CASA volunteers trained: 273
- Unique appointed CASA volunteers: 1,053

Our fundraising strategies have also had to adapt to virtual formats and we miss the ability to reach out to our to our stakeholders in person. However, we are proud of our efforts and are diligently working to keep operations strong.

This year CASA/LA was motivated to double down on our commitment to anti-racism and equity within the dependency system. At CASA/LA we are aware that the child welfare system has a long history of racism and racial disparities and we are dedicated to reimaging the child welfare system. Over 24% of children in LA County foster care are Black (and 37% of the kids served by CASA/LA), but Black children represent less than 8% of the county's population. The economic downturn caused by COVID-19 threatens to make these disparities even more pronounced.





Since 2017, CASA/LA has been actively implementing an anti-racism initiative aimed at identifying and implementing internal changes and pushing externally for racial equity in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

We know the road ahead of us is not easy. But, we know that we can make the impossible possible. We are committed to our vision and to the CASA community. It is why we (1,053 CASA volunteers and 52 CASA staff) come to work each day (even as we work from home) with a deep love for the children and youth our volunteers serve. Our goals are to support as many of the 20,000 children living in foster care in Los Angeles as possible.

We are grateful for your continuing support. We wish you and families good health as we work together to create a better, more just, and equitable world for all of us.

Warmly,

Wendelyn Julien

CEO

Harriet Zaretsky Chair, Board of Directors

H. garetsky



1,294
Children Supported with One-on-One Advocacy

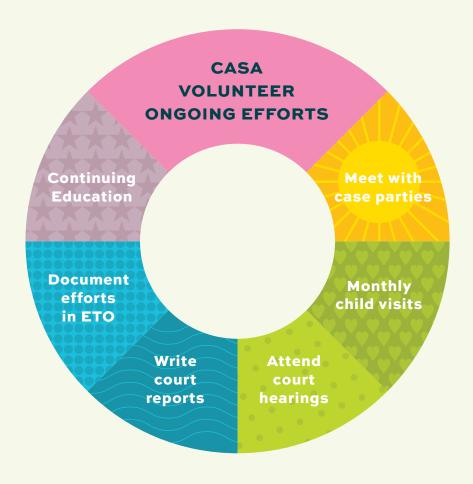
1,779
Children Assisted Through
Our Children's Court

767
Volunteer
Applications
Received





28,083
Hours of Advocacy



IN FY2020,

1,053 people volunteered their time as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) for children in LA County who have experienced abuse and neglect. They share a common belief: that every child deserves a chance to thrive in a permanent safe home and that CASA of Los Angeles can make a difference for the most vulnerable children in Los Angeles County.

CASA/LA recruits, trains and supports volunteers to work with each child individually to ensure the child gets the support and services they need. CASA creates a crucial connection—one caring adult to one child in need—that can be the turning point in a life that has been disrupted. Our most significant accomplishments happen every day—when an overlooked opportunity is found, a service is secured or an adult connection is made that will help to keep a child safe and give them an opportunity to succeed in life.







ADVOCACY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 & BEYOND

None of us knew the impact this year would have. Through this crisis, we are continuing to provide life-changing advocacy and human connection to children in foster care.

We know that COVID-19 hits vulnerable populations harder than the rest and the foster care population is no different. COVID-19 has amplified the challenges we already saw for youth in the child welfare system - challenges with access to quality education, placement safety and ensuring that children in foster care have their basic needs met.

In the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic, safer-at-home-orders, calls for racial justice, high unemployment and isolation, placed CASA/LA and the youth we serve under more strain than ever. And while our incredible CASA volunteers rose to the occasion, school closures and reduced access to court and service agencies across the county stretched us thin.

Every day, our over 1,216 CASA volunteers and 52 staff members worked diligently to be there for the children we serve. We have helped keep them safe and healthy during the global pandemic, recognizing that children and youth in foster care need our advocacy, not only for their well-being and to help get them out of foster care, but also to ensure that they grow up in a world that is more equitable and just.

Our team employed new strategies to virtually recruit and train community volunteers, and to advocate for youth while they were out of sight of their teachers, therapists, and even the court. Amazingly, our team trained and swore in 79 new CASA volunteers between March 15th and June 30th and our active CASA volunteers have been crucial during this time.







They got our kids laptops for school, helped them find safe living placements, kept their spirits up over Zoom and FaceTime, and helped them cope with fear when staff and kids tested positive for COVID in the foster or group homes where they live.

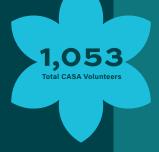
JUSTICE FOR OUR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

CASA/LA has been actively implementing an anti-racism initiative focused on identifying how we can change internally to be part of the larger solution and use our voices and resources to ensure greater racial equity in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. This is long-term work, and it requires dedication, humility, investment, and continual learning.



OUR CASA VOLUNTEERS

GENDER Female 79% Male 21% AGE **21 - 35** 27% **36 - 45** 18% **46 - 54** 17% **55 - 65** 18% **66+** 20% RACE/ETHNICITY ■ African-American 6% Asian 7% Caucasian 67%



Hispanic

■ Other

■ Multi-Racial

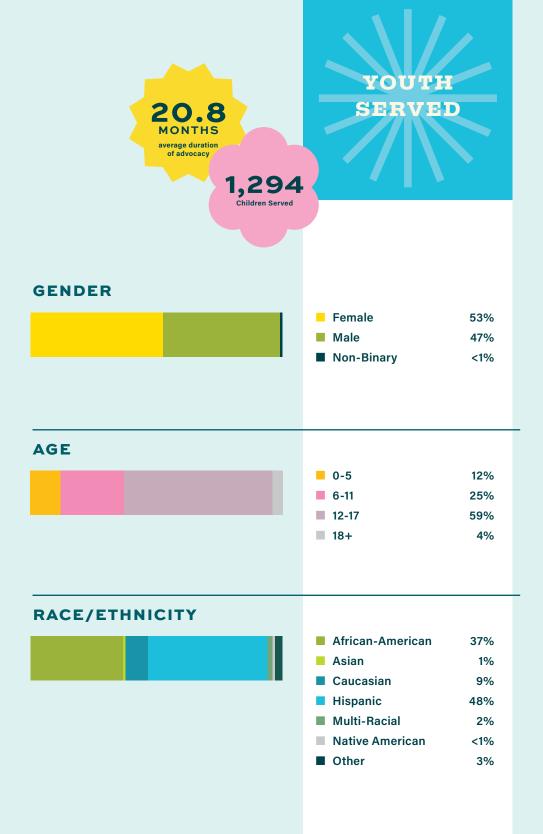
■ Native American

10%

5%

<1%

5%



ASH AND NATE

Ash became Nate's CASA volunteer three years ago when he was 8 months old. Nate was dealing with a lot — he had sleep apnea and was said to have displayed behavioral problems when he later started attending daycare. Notified by the daycare of behavioral issues, Ash worked with Nate's foster family to get occupational therapy for Nate. Before they knew it, they were seeing vast improvements in his behavior.

Nate's foster parents began the adoption process, but things took an unfortunate turn once the pandemic hit.

"The lockdown shouldn't affect the adoption process when the parents have been great, and the system was the only thing holding things up. I didn't let paperwork stop us. There are a lot of steps in the process of adoption and there are many places in this process where things can get lost."

Ash made sure to stay on top of every aspect of Nate's case. She consistently stayed in contact with Nate's case workers, social workers and the courts. The time final came for the family to pick an adoption attorney to complete what they were told would be a 9-month adoption process. Confused by the



initial time frame given for the case closure, Ash contacted the Director of The Children's Alliance who was representing the family in the adoption process. The Alliance assured Ash that the process wouldn't take 9 months and they would work hard to get Nate's adoption complete.

"Working with the Alliance was amazing, they helped us with everything we needed."

After 5 months, Nate's case was closed and his adoption was finalized. Ash and the family had a physically distanced and safe adoption celebration.

"I'm happy Nate can start the new year with the family he deserves, and he can grow up healthy and happy."

LUKE AND ELIZABETH

After leaving a full-time position and shifting to working remote, Luke had some extra time on his hands which led him to CASA of Los Angeles. "I was looking for an organization to volunteer for and stumbled across a Spectrum news report about the CASA/LA program. I immediately knew it was the right fit. My husband and I have been interested in possibly becoming a resource family or adopting in a few years, and I thought becoming a CASA volunteer would be a great way to gain insight into the dependency system. The one-on-one approach to advocacy ensured that I could make a real difference."

Luke met with 15 year old Elizabeth*
for the first time in December 2019.
Elizabeth was living in a short term
residential therapeutic program group
home. She had no contact with her
birth parents and wasn't interested in
adoption, so most of Luke's advocacy
work has centered around helping
Elizabeth with schooling and trying to
set her up for success since he also
holds educational rights for her.

"One of the toughest instances in my role as a CASA volunteer has been advocating for Elizabeth throughout her involvement with the juvenile justice system."

In her last group home, Elizabeth lost her temper and received a citation from the police department for damaging house property. Having a citation on her record could put her on probation, making it exceedingly difficult to get a job when she turns 16, so Luke worked to getting Elizabeth into a diversion program.

A diversion program helps divert a youth away from the juvenile justice system. Instead, they complete a program that helps them learn more about the behavior that initially caused them to come to the attention of law enforcement and then learn techniques on how to avoid it happening again. If a youth completes a diversion program, their record is wiped clean and sealed so they can get back on track without having any lingering consequences that would follow them into their adult lives.

"Most of my advocacy has been supporting Elizabeth and convincing her that the diversion program is a great opportunity. But as all us CASA volunteers know; it is not always possible to tell a teenager what to do! Elizabeth is incredibly independent and that's one of the things I admire the most about her, but that independence can also cause trouble."

With help from CASA/LA's Juvenile Justice Program Manager Ludy Vasquez Snow and Elizabeth's attorney, Luke successfully got her enrolled in a diversion program.



BETTY AND JACKIE



Shortly after becoming a CASA volunteer, Betty met then 15-year-old CASA youth Jackie*. Jackie and her sister were placed in the foster care system after their grandmother, their legal guardian, passed away. Upon meeting Jackie, it became clear to Betty that although Jackie was young, she was very independent and driven.

"All she talked about was how she couldn't wait to get her driver's license, get a car and work. It was important for her to get a job and be financially independent." Says Betty.

Unfortunately for Jackie, getting all the things she wanted would require something she didn't have, and that is a proper form of identification. During her time in the foster care system, Jackie had been in several group homes. Each home required a new request for assistance, and each new request was overlooked and ignored like the ones prior.

"Every time we would ask for her birth certificate so we could get her a State ID so that she could work, we would be told they're working on it, but nothing would ever get done." said Betty.

After two years of many phone calls and frustration, Betty discovered that no one knew where Jackie's birth certificate was. Betty made a few more calls and was not only able to get a copy of Jackie's birth certificate but helped her with getting her State ID too.

"Jackie is such an amazing girl. She has taught me so much and I will do everything I can to help." said Betty.

Jackie is now 19 years old, lives in independent housing, works as a security guard and is working on getting her high school diploma. After acquiring her high school diploma, Jackie wants to go to school to be a cosmetologist or nurse.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REVENUE Foundations 1,650,645 17.1% Special Event Revenue 960,459 10.0% Individuals 2,770,412 28.7% Government 342,020 3.5% Corporate 127,739 1.3% ■ Civic/Faith 25,620 0.3% Other 0.4% 38,170 ■ In-kind 3,721,387 38.6% 9,636,452 100.0%

EXPENSE			
	Advocacy	6,262,872	72.5%
	Volunteer Training and Services	655,416	7.6%
	Recruiting and Outreach	495,799	5.7%
	Management and General	370,126	4.3%
	■ Fundraising	856,664	9.9%
		8,640,877	100.0%



Frank Adams Gloria Adams Laura Adams Sheri Adams Derin Adesanya Chioma Agbara Vendela Aguayo Jill Aquilar Joseph Ahdoot Bruce Albert Marla Alders Farah Alibay Crystal Alkais Sara Allen Laith Alsarraf Christine Alvarez Kris Amon Melisande Amos René Amy Kate Andersen Cathy Anderson Jim Anderson Meredith Anderson Eyonna Andreatte Natalie Andres Lisset Angel Nannina Angioni Jessica Anguiano Marjorie Annapav* Haidar Anwar Wayne April May Arakaki Alyse Aratoon Anita Aratow Daniel Araujo Mary Arias Talia Arica Aura Armas Trudy Armer* Brannon Arms Christine Armstrong Terri Arnold Melissa Arnson Samia Arslane Katelyn Ascencio Erica Ash Paul Ashmore Kelly Attwood Jerry Auerbach Laura Aversano Bette Jo Babcock* Kaila Babnik Ann Bailey Courtney Baker Paul Baker Rachel Baker Bobak Bakhtiari Alisovn Ball David Ball Polly Bamberger Michael Banks Yas Baravarian Roswelle Barleta Iill Barrett Sadie Bascom Lisa Baskin

Matt Baucum Nicole Bautista Kate Bean Michael Bear Karen Bechler Patti Beck Cadena Bedney Catherine Behrens Garrett Bell Jane Belzberg Kristina Benane-Benno Rae'Mishka Benjamin Erin Berman Keith Bernstein Samuel Bernstein Melanie Berringer Laura Bess **Bud Betts** Gavatri Bhasin Aishwarya Bhave Michael Bierman Susie Bierman Liza Billington Renne Bilson Pamela Bingham* Elizabeth Birkenbeuel Pam Birmingham Daria Bisharah Jeremy Black Heather Blades Janet Blair Xena Blair Xaris Bloxham Christy Boardman* Meghan Boehman Ben Bolin Bruce Bolkin Andree Booker-Olivas Jolene Bowles Karen Bowles Pamela Bowman Catherine Boyd Madison Bradfield-Davis Sheri Brady Caren Bramhall Rebekah Brandes Jody Brandt Nancy Brashears Laurence Braude Susan Toby Brenner Claire Brian Claudia Bright Sarah Bromell Jacolyn Bron Dwana Broussard Jordan Brown Liese Brown Rhonda Brown* Timothy Brown Barbara Bruner Nicole Buckland Michelle Bulkley Lizzy Bultema Shelley Burkard

D'Nisha Rush

Alexis Butler

John Butler

Mark Caffee Saul Cafruni Tania Calhoun Glen Callahan Joyce Campbell Lainnie Capouya Mariangela Caraballo Linda Caravana Amy Carbo Maria Carnock Teresa Caro Shemainee Carranza Rosemary Carr Kamille Carruthers Sandra Carter Elizabeth Carton Rita Carton Silvana Casalegno Julie Casey Kristen Cassity Melissa Castillo Andrea Cavanaugh Andrea Cervantes Adele Chadwick Connie Chae Bill Chais Wrenn Chais Aaron Chan Carol Chang Hana Chang Margaret Chevedden Victoria Childs Talia-Farrah Chism Daniel Choi Randy Christopher Yoonjin Cipta Angelica Clark Skyler Robert Clarke Jane Clausen **Edward Coe** Stacey Cohan Andy Cohen Julie Cohen Melody Cohen Tessa Cohen Julie Colbert Marie Cole Marie Connolly Deanna Cooke Gabriela Cook Kelly Cook Mary Cook Larry Coon Chelsea Cooper **Emily Cooper** Jean Cooper Foster Corwith Gayle Coyle-Ikemoto Amber Craig Dennis Crane Lauri Crane Oona Cremata Kierra Crisswell Brenda Crockett Tracy Crosthwait Jason Cruze

Joni Byun*

Julianne Cruz Condessa Curley Charles Currey Craig Curtis Krystine Curtis Lindsay Cutler Nathan Cyphert Matthew Daenzer Leana Denise Dallas Fricka Danko Bruce Danziger Cindy Dardon Heidi Darrah Inel Dauten Billy Davidson Heather Davis Vicki Davis Robin Dawe Mary Deagon Stephanie De Anda Simone Deblasio Debra DeBose Arienne DeChellis Cara Delcher Kristin Delgado Anna Delmage Michele Demsky Tessa Dent Renée Dernburg Marie De Varennes Andrea Devooght Sarah Diebel Ronald Dietel Marta Dimchenko Aaron Dinsdale Sonum Dixit Jesse Earl Dodge Nelson Seann Dougherty Susan Douglas Jan Drayer Caitlyn Driehorst Jessica Druker Karen Drummey Deloree Duenas Patricia Duff Debbie Dullabaun Cheryl Dunnett Cynthia Dunnett Kelton Durham Juliet Dutton Julie Dwyer Gillian Edel Don Eklund Elsa Elbert Gretchen Elg Dorothy Ellis Susie Elster Bebe Emerman Audrey Emerson Brieanne Emery Joseph Emmerling Aaron Ensweiler **Brook Epperson** Azize Erim Lindsey Esplin Daisy Esqueda Jessica Evans

Sharon Batiste

Karen Eyres
Kathryn Fagerquist
Cindy Fagin
Jessica Fagre
Sheila Fairley
Kimberly Farnham
Kenneth Feick
Andrea Fennewald
Tracy Fernandes
Barbara Field
Barbara Filichia
Joy Finch
Kirsten Finlayson

Kirsten Finlayson Charles Fisher Jay Fitzgerald Ginny Fitzgerald Linda Flloko Anita Flores

Abraham Flores-Rojo Jose Florido

Catherine Flournoy Luyani Fong Roberto Fonseca Bill Forman James Fossett Erin Foster

Catherine Foulkes-Sutton

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Ashley Garcia-Maynard

Michael Galper

Steven Garber

Claudia Garcia

Josue Garcia

Nadia Garcia
Gina Garcia
Ashley Gardner
Wendy Garibay
Louise Garland
Michele Garofalo
Daniel Garrett
Allyson Gartside

Allyson Gartside
Tracey Garvin
Nichole Garza
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Hannah Gaspar
Lisa Gaston
Penelope Gaston
Ava Gawronski
Emma Gerch
William Germani
Lisa Gerson

Melanie Gifford Kenia Gil-Estudillo

Aimee Gill
Janet Gleason
Christian Glick
William Godar
Christine Goddard
Beth Godfrey
Thomas Goff
Jared Goldin
Grace Goldman
Edward Goldstein
Marcy Goldstein
Carmen Gomez
Cortney Gomez
Dalia Gonzalez

Deisi Gonzalez

Rene Gonzalez

Rebecca Goodman Hovsepian

Kathy Gooze
Angela Gordon
Kelly Gordon
Maria Teresa Gordon
Peter Gordon
Linda Goss
Sean Grady
Sheila Grady
Polly Grant
Michael Grazer

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Ariel Greenspun-Gale
Sid Greenwald
Taylor Greenwood
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Gerry Grossman
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Audrey Handelman

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Samuel Herod Stangia Herod Lainie Herrera Susan Herron Myna Herscher Kimberly Hicks Anne Hieronymus Lynne Hill Bernstein Beverly Hill Katherine Hill LaTanya Hill

Maahra Hill

Candice Herman

Gloria Hernandez

Jim Hoffman Shannon Hoffmann Jessica Hogeveen Robin Hollis Mary Holmes Kaitlyn Holmlund Amanda Hootman

Laurel Hively-Washburn

Isa Hopkins
Mary Jane Horton
Mona Houghton
Kimberly Houk
Joel Howard
Sally Howell
Crystal Hsing
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Vasiliki Kampas

Wynn Kaneshiro

Susan Kandel

Amanda Keenan Lanfre Diana Keeney Cristina Keller Bob Kellogg Marcella Kelly Krystal Kennedy Erika Kercheval Barbara Kernochan

Denise Esquivel Khera

Angie Kim Jane Kim Javon Kim Jeffrey Kim Roy Kim Gale Kindberg Cameron King Maria Soledad King Karen Klein Kara Klenk Jodie Knittle Ashley Koester Jessie-Ann Kohlman Molly Kohrs Nathan Kohrs Drew Kolanz

Nancy Kolodny

Rebecca Kon

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Michelle Lin

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Marlene Rapkin

Douglas Rawson

Gina Pressman-Elardo

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Kimani Reynoso

16

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Lisa-Marie Silver
Marcy Silverman
Mary Simeone
Lisa Simmons
Cathy Simms
Lucy Simonet Sarkes
Michelle Sinness
Elmira Sipen
Adam Sjoberg

Alfred Sicard

Adam Sjoberg
Martha Sklar
Paul Slavner*
Gareth Smith
Kathleen Smith
Kathy Smith
Leigh Smith
Leigh Ann Smith
Leslie Smith

Neil Smith Sandy Smith Zohar Soffer Jerry Solomon Sharon Sonnett

Marlonzo Smith

Rick Son Patricia Soto Flournov

Patricia Soto Flournoy
Julie Spacht
Ron Sparks*
Samuel Spencer
Carol Spiegel
Marilyn Spiegel
Katherine Spiers
Linda Stagen
Doug Stanger
Sara Stapelbroek
Danette Starksen
Cameron Steele
Kees Steeneken
Lisa Steen Proctor
Lee Stein

Kees Steeneken
Lisa Steen Proctor
Lee Stein
David Stein
Jeannine Stepanian
Nicole Stephens
Ron Stewart*
Peter Stier
Kerry Stiles

Michelle Stilts-Skokan
Barbara Stimson
James Stoecker
Gregg Strouse
Caroline Su
Adina Sullivan
Jill Sullivan
Patricia Sullivan
Meredith Summers
Tabatha Sumner
Tanya Sussman
Nancy Swan
Elyse Swanson
Kathy Swanson
Cynthia Sward

Luke Swinney

Bathool Syed Courtney Tallman

Karen Tallman

Irma Tamavo

Kim Tashman

Stephanie Tassart Cindy Tat Jim Tauber Carl Taylor Guy Taylor Arnold Taylor Marie Lou Teferi Circe Tejada-Flores Itzayana Tello Gallegos

Vera Terrell
Chasen Thibeault
Mike Thomas
Miyoko Thompson
Simon Tikhman
Kaelyn Timmins
Maycie Timpone
Mary Anne Tippin
Addison Tippitt
Lois Todd
Cassandra Tomlin
Carolyn Torres
Mark Torres
Craig Torres-Ness
Erica Torres-Ness

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