

## **CASA Staff During the Fiscal Year**

Jennie Hill, Executive Director
Joy Short, Executive Assistant
Kimberly Vanbebber, Program Director
Ron Scharton, Director of Operations
BC Phillips, Director of Communications
Nichole Dewberry, Director of Training
Kathy North, Director of Recruitment
Charlie Ludden, Development Manager
Nikki Kinsler, Team Lead
Shamekka Marion-Johns, Team Lead
Camila Galeano, Recruitment Specialist
Ja'Kee Rivers, Training Specialist
Ross Martin, Program Assistant

## **Advocacy Supervisors**

Margaret Butler
Mickael Carslisle
Shannon Friedman
Madison Ivy
Michelle Johnson
Lauren Norcom
Marisa Quisenberry
Kerry Stark
Kathryn Toahty

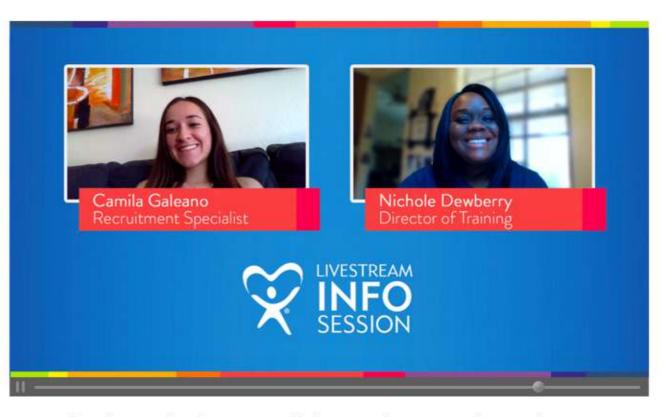
### **Board Of Directors**

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Despite the pandemic, CASA staff pioneered ways to adapt and overcome



## A YEAR NO ONE COULD EXPECT

If you had told me in July 2019, at the beginning of our Fiscal Year, that the world would be facing a pandemic just a few months later, I wouldn't believe you. If you told me that by the end of the Fiscal Year I would be stepping into the role of Interim Executive Director, that would come as a shock also! I would never believe that we would have months of adapting to work-from-home or that CASA volunteers, known for their consistent in-person visits, would be using teleconferencing software to see their kiddos. But despite the obstacles, the economic uncertainties, and tests of will: CASA's staff and volunteers persisted.

CASA of Oklahoma County had a lot to celebrate this year, though! Most notably, our organization moved into its own new building. For the first time since our program's inception, we are headquartered offsite the Juvenile Justice Center's premises. The building, graciously leased rent-free through the Blumenthal Foundation, provides for the growth and expansion of our program. We now have ample spaces for small or large meetings, a state-of-the-art training space, work and technology spaces for volunteers, dedicated storage rooms for confidential files, and perhaps most exciting of all – a break room! We're so thankful to the Blumenthals, Board Member James Bennett, and all the other donors who made this historic move possible.

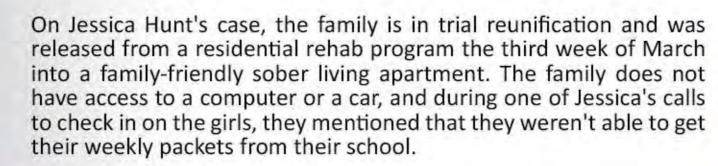
We've also continued to achieve great outcomes for the foster children in our community this year. Our 289 volunteers served 652 children on 300 cases. Recruitment and training have continued as well, though under a drastically different set of circumstances. I'm so proud of the whole CASAofOKCO team for their flexibility, adaptability, and growth during this time.

We have a lot of work ahead of us, though. Due to the pandemic and in the interest of public health, we were forced to cancel our two major fundraisers, Game On with CASA and Energy for Children. The funding impact of these cancellations will not go unnoticed. Like many nonprofits around the nation, we'll be rebuilding our operating funds due to the brunt of the pandemic's economic impact.

But we're committed and determined to continue advocating, breaking cycles, and changing lives across our county. With your support, we will grow to serve every child who needs a court appointed special advocate to speak up for their best interests. A child needs you! Contact me if you'd like to get involved!

Kim Vanbebber Executive Director

# Consistency Throughout Crises



Jessica started picking up the packets each week and leaving them on the porch so the girls don't get behind in school. She's such a super hero for these kiddos and their family!



Volunteer Juan Jimenez is the CASA advocate for an 11-year-old boy. Juan finds creative ways to stay engaged with his youth through video chat. In April, Juan learned that his child was interested in magic tricks. Juan encouraged him to practice his skills. Juan then coordinated a time where the boy put on a full magic show during a video chat visit!



A health care professional during the day, and CASA volunteer in her spare time, volunteer Cristina Pozadas is on the front lines of our community's response to crises. Once visits had to go virtual, Cristina was quick to reach out to foster mom and set up a FaceTime schedule with the 3 little girls on her case. They love to FaceTime her and show them around the house and their new toys.

Cristina still does a great job at her CASA duties during this time, including working through the system to help achieve permanency for these girls. She and the DHS worker have a great relationship, too! Because of her advocacy, three little girls have a lot of hope for a bright future ahead!

# Volunteers serving Oklahoma County's foster youth this year

Kristina Acree Jenna Adkins Bronwyn Agnew Judith Akin Chance Alexander Tasha Alexander Joseph Allen Liliana Alvizu Ashtvn Anders Debbie Ashford Amber Austin David Barnes Amy Barnhill Heather Bartoli Cindy Becker Sandy Bement William Bendau Barbara Bingham Lori Blumenthal Alexander Bonano-Cruz Addison Book Montana Borth Candace Bradway Misty Breed Carol Brogan Karla Brooks Jessica Brower Pamela Brown William Brown Ashleigh Buchanan Andrea Buckley Mary Buehler Diana Burton Emma Butler Daniela Calderon Elizabeth Caldwell Will Calvo Rachael Campo Cynthia Cantrell Donna Carpenter Matthew Carroll Spence Carson Victoria Cash Tessa Clinton James Cobb Morgan Cobb Ruth Cochrum Travis Cochrum Shandi Coker

Jesse Colbert Kent Collins Penny Colton Kistna Conely Julia Converse Shelby Cooper **Brittany Copeland** Katherine Courtney Kimberly Crain JoDahl Creech Angela Daniel Nicole Daniels Kimberly Dawson Dove DeBolt Roberta DeBolt Hannah Dennis Chris Dobie Jeremy Dugas Lindsey Duncan Jonette Dunlap James Durocher Merrick Eggleton Beverly Egan Erin Enderson Kimberly Ernst Sarah Fayssoux Cloyd Fisher Ashlev Fivekiller Carol Fletcher Gary Fletcher Denise Flori April Frazier Elizabeth Freeman Allison Furlona Laura Futrell Ricardo Galindo Sabrina Garcia Naomi Gashu Ivan Gentry Connie Gibson Kristin Gilbert Andrea Gonzalez Rebecca Graninger Miranda Grant Yvonne Green Stephanie Griffith Eric Gunning Nancy Gwin Amy Gwyn

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Yolanda Kernes

John Knapp Joseph Kopacz Kristina Kopacz Monica Kraft Vickie Lacy Sharon Lair Pam Lane Johanna Lange Al Ledbetter Miranda Lenocker Cailynn Leone Keith Lindsay Denise Lingo Rosalia Lira Mark Livingston Jennifer Livingstone Tara Lona Ning Looper Dena Lovett Tommve Lucy Cassandra Ludens Donna Maddox Madison Malget Andrea Malherbe Rosana Marshall Deborah Mash Bob Maul Katy Maxwell Sara McAfee Sharon McBride Jackie McClure Sue McCollom Tina McCormack Lesa McDonald Stormi McKay Jennifer McKee Carolynn McKenny Lisa McKinzie Jeff McMillon Gina Meadows David Melton Nick Mesigh Diane Mickelson Tiffany Middleton Hailey Miles Cathy Miller Keith Mitchell Carrie Moore

Marcella Moss Megan Mueggenborg Paula Murphy Tekoa Nantze Stephanie Neil Larry Newman Victoria O'Kain James Orsi Raquel Pachicano Michelle Parkhill Jennifer Paton Sammi Payne Steven Payne Becky Payton Laila Pfau Gary Pfeiffer Laura Pfeiffer Amber Pinnick Shanna Pope Cristina Pozadas Kay Pratt Ted Prince II Rachel Ragsdale John Rahhal Nazim Rahim Susan Raupe Lovette Rausch Rebecca Rechy Andrew Regan Sarah Reininger Beth Reser Judy Reynolds Bailee Richards Ann Rooney Robyn Rose Katie Rountree Candice Salazar Cindi Sanchez Shalonda Sanders Lauryn Schooler Ashley Schovanec Pam Schriewer Tammy Schuler Steven Schwegal Ben Scott Patrick Searcey Mary Selid David Settles

Carenza Shields Marilyn Shipman Atticus Shires Judy Shuart Alexa Smart Deloriane Smith Megan Snodgrass Celia Solomon Carrie Sowers Tracy Starks Teresa Stephenson Lee Anne Stone Heather Stranger Kale Streeter Charlene Strong Barbara Swisher Janie Sylvester David Syring Cecilia Taft Stacy Tarpley Carolyn Thompson Rachel Tibbetts Mary Tidholm Lisa Tierney Pamela Tinsley Jodi Turek Uwe Turek Noreen Valadez Isaias Vega Katherine Vernon Kathryn Walker Debbie Wallace Richard Wallace True Wallace Jonathan Washburn Robert Whittaker Aubree Williams Barbara Williams Shirley Williams Alecisia Windfield Patti Wommer Jane Woods Will Xu Michael Young Lana Youngblood Jennifer Younger Lauren Yslas

## Consistency is Crucial

Two years ago, we highlighted CASA volunteer Tasha Alexander in our Light of Hope winter fundraising appeal. Tasha is an example of the child advocate who never quits, no matter what has happened in the case. Three years ago, she accepted assignment to a case with two children – Andy and Cara. When we told you their story, the children were on their sixth placement and second DHS worker. Tasha has been consistent throughout – she has been a Light of Hope for two very special children.

Tasha had to advocate for the children to be moved from a foster home that was not caring for their hair and hygiene needs. When Cara wasn't getting the allergy shots she needed because her medical records hadn't been transferred in a move, Tasha made sure it was fixed. Tasha was there to talk Andy



through a tantrum that had him throwing chairs across a classroom. It turned out the school had not been providing him the accommodations required for his individualized needs. Once Tasha was able to navigate it, the school made the arrangements and Andy's behavioral outbursts went away.

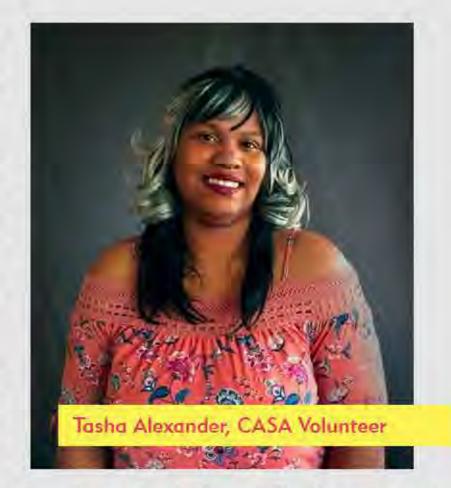
In telling the story of her volunteer journey, Tasha was hopeful:

"I know I've been the most consistent person on this case. And I've been the only person all along the way fighting specifically for these children's best interests. We're working toward a permanent family placement now, which will hopefully happen sometime in the spring. I'm committed to serving these kiddos – my little friends – and seeing their case through."

Unfortunately, that potential permanent family placement didn't work out. And neither did the next trial adoption placement. But Tasha stayed consistent on the case.

In November of 2019, Andy and Cara moved to a temporary placement and were doing well in the home. When the foster parent had to leave the state for the Christmas holidays, she requested respite care, and the kids landed with a family for what was supposed to be a temporary stay. Tasha, consistent as always, watched as the family began to take shape:

"The foster family took them for respite, then was able to keep them. They bought them all kinds of stuff for Christmas, and set up rooms with new beds and furnishings just for them. They loved those kids instantly."



Everyone hit it off so well, they ended up requesting to be Andy and Cara's permanent placement. In February 2020, they told DHS they wished to adopt both siblings. The children were afraid to speak up about their wishes to most people on the case because they didn't want to hurt their biological family's feelings. However, the children confided in Tasha that they definitely wanted to be adopted by the foster parents!

The children needed a relationship with their older sister, but the sister was not prepared to parent her siblings effectively.

Tasha led the charge, insisting that Andy and Cara wanted to be adopted by their foster parents, but maintain a relationship with their biological sister. She pushed hard for her opinion that the foster parents be given more support and consideration than they had received. The permanency worker agreed and the children's therapist reported the same thing. Eventually, the adoption workers agreed to help facilitate the adoption.

On June 6th of 2020, Andy and Cara were adopted after 10 years, 5 months, and 22 days in DHS custody, with all of their workers and their biological sister there for the celebration!

# CAS

Our "Streetcar Tour" was a public awareness success



We ran into Civil Rights icon Ayanna Najuma at an Info Session



OnCue partnered with CASA for a refillable benefit cup

# Another year serving the community!



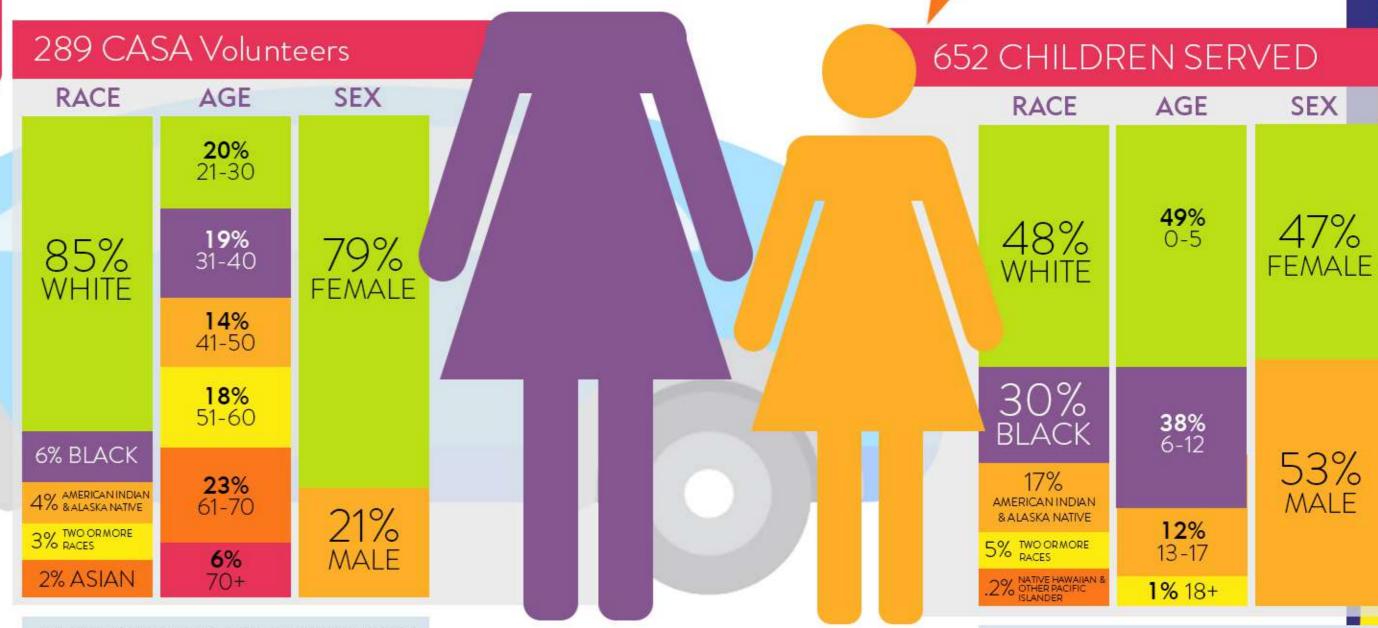


## Service Stats

CASAs made 34,427 total contacts on their cases - and 9% of volunteers speak more than one language!

CASA volunteers made 3,157 recommendations for children's best interests in FY2020!

Volunteers drove 136,620 miles and spent 11,266 hours serving on their cases.



**6%** OF VOLUNTEERS ARE HISPANIC/LATINO

Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

2% OF KIDS SERVED ARE HISPANIC/LATINO

# **Donor Spotlight**

For more than 25 years Thetas have stood with CASA to impact the lives of foster children. As an organization of women committed to spreading the widest influence for good, we have contributed millions of dollars over the years to local and National CASA programs as well as countless volunteer hours. It has been an amazing 25+ years, but our work is not done. Locally, our Oklahoma City Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae Chapter has donated over \$65,000 dollars since 2016.

At their Grand Convention 2016, Kappa Alpha Theta announced its commitment to giving National CASA \$1 million over the following three years. With these funds, CASA will be able to develop a performance measurement system and provide volunteers with resources on how to best support foster youth. Thetas can support this cause by making donations to Theta Foundation for this \$1 million initiative or by supporting college and alumnae chapter philanthropy events.

Theta is honored to partner with an incredible organization like CASA that is so necessary to our community. Children are the promise for our future. Every child deserves an advocate to make certain they are cared for and protected. We are grateful to CASA for providing this support to foster children.



Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae of OKC for presented CASA with a gift of \$15,000! Pictured in the photo, from the left: Amy Cottrell; Karen Raupe Hanstein; Charlie Knight, Oklahoma City Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae Chapter President; Kim Vanbebber, CASA Interim E.D.; LeAnn Lienhard, past president; Jayne Clarke; Charlie Ludden, CASA Development Manager

## FY 2020 Financials



## Our Generous Donors

#### \$10,000+

Albers Family Affiliated Fund **American Fidelity Foundation Arnall Family Foundation Cox Charities Foundation** E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation Gardner Tanenbaum Group James Bennett Kim and Suzette Hatfield Kirkpatrick Family Fund Lisa Owens Family Fund Lori and Jeff Blumenthal Oklahoma City Community Foundation Saranne and Livingston Kosberg Sarkeys Foundation The McGee Foundation, Inc. The Small Group, LLC Wells Fargo Foundation Wilshire Charitable Foundation

#### \$5,000-\$9,999

Jennifer and George Chrysant Communities Foundation Of Oklahoma Craia Northcutt **Cresap Family Foundation** Katie and Tony Say Pam and Richard Lane The Harris Foundation Wells Fargo Advisors

### \$2.500-4.999

Anonymous Barbara and Stanton Young Foundation Christie and Tim Baker Clearwater Enterprises **Crawley Petroleum Corporation** First National Bank Of Oklahoma Jed Clarke Joni and Mike Stewart Lee Anne Stone Michael Collins NALS of Oklahoma Oklahoma CASA Association, Inc. OnCue Marketing, LLC Pontotoc Sands Company, LLC Tammy and Kale Streeter Venessa and David Donchin XTO Energy

\$1.000-2.499 Amy and Jimmie Hobbs Amy Davis Anonymous Ashley Baldwin Austin Comer Barth and Linda Bracken Fund Belle Ballard Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Oklahoma **Brad Humphries Brian Stewart** Completion Science, LLC Derek Colton Fossil Creek Energy Corporation Gay and Ed Kirby Goodin Family Foundation lvy and Stephen Snider Jake Huchton Jeanne and Bob Stracke Jeff Allison Jennifer Dunn Jody and Ed Sanchez Jolene Ingram Judy Wolf Justin LeVasseur Kelly and Howard Hinton Kendall Pacey Knight Energy Services Koch Communications, LLC Kristen Rogstad Lani Stone LPL Financial

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Vicki Weaver-Payne and David Payne

**West Family Foundation** 

#### \$500-999

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