

2018

Louisiana CASA Annual Report



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates

FOR CHILDREN

LOUISIANA CASA

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Louisiana CASA Association has been in a year of transition as we have retired the umbrella organization, LouisianaChildren.org and reestablished Louisiana CASA as a stand-alone state association of the local CASA Programs. In addition to the administrative and documentation changes, the Board of Directors has reviewed and revised organizational policies, personnel policies and fiscal policies. Most importantly, the Board engaged in comprehensive strategic planning culminating in the adoption of an ambitious but achievable three-year strategic plan.

In addition to the strategic planning process, the highlights of 2018 include:

Successful Legislative Advocacy

CASA Awards Luncheon

Training Events

Training of Facilitators

Talking with Children About Safety

CASA-Specific QPI Training

VOCA funding for seven local programs

2018 Child Well-Being Summit: Addressing Child And Adolescent Mental and Behavioral Health

Three Regional Roundtable Discussions

Participation in statewide child welfare policy initiatives and organizations:

1. DCFS Advisory Board
2. Children's Cabinet Advisory Board
3. Human Trafficking Prevention Commission Advisory Board
4. Safe Haven Consortium
5. Children's Justice Act Task Force
6. TWC Conference Planning Committee
7. Child Protection Act Commission
8. Transitioning Youth Task Force
9. Child Advocacy Resource Effort, Court Improvement Program
10. Pelican Center for Children and Families, Training and Education Committee
11. Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families
12. Council on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
13. Children's Law Committee, Louisiana State Bar Association

Coordinated "Make an Impact" public recruitment efforts with DCFS

Developed and disseminated volunteer recruitment materials, including television and radio public service announcements, social media ads, press releases and print materials

The 2018 year has been busy with rebuilding and planning for the future of the Louisiana CASA Association. Through all of our activities, we remain focused on serving and supporting the seventeen local CASA programs, and most importantly, the Louisiana children served by the dedicated CASA volunteers and staff statewide. We look forward to facing future challenges in collaboration with the programs and their committed staff and volunteers.

2018 MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The preparation of the Annual Report gives us a moment to pause and reflect on where we have been in the past year as an association, and more importantly, where we are headed. With the strong support and participation of our member programs, in the past year we were able to complete a thorough and exciting strategic plan for Louisiana CASA to take us through the next three years.

The 2019-2021 Strategic Plan includes 33 specific service and operational goals to strengthen our network, expand capacity, and improve our delivery of services and support to our members as they do the vitally important work of providing a voice for abused and neglected children in our state. While the hard work of our member programs, Board, and staff produced a Strategic Plan that we are very proud of, now the real work begins—implementation.

We look forward to working with all of the stakeholders in the CASA network in the coming year as we implement the Strategic Plan and continue to build a brighter future for the children of Louisiana.

Andrew C. Kolb, Chair

OUR MISSION:

The mission of Louisiana CASA Association is to build, support, and advocate for a statewide network of Court-Appointed Volunteers to speak for abused and neglected children.

OUR IMPACT:

CASA volunteers help to secure safe and permanent homes for abused and neglected children by investigating and monitoring cases involving children in foster care.

58

PARISHES
SERVED

1661

DEDICATED
VOLUNTEERS

4142

CHILDREN
SERVED

67,769

VOLUNTEER
HOURS HOURS
CHILDREN

\$1.67M

IN VOLUNTEER
SERVICES

CASA NEW ORLEANS

Number of Children Served: **71**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **55**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **1,379**
 Parishes Served: **Orleans, St. Bernard**

CASA JEFFERSON, INC

Number of Children Served: **240**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **138**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **4,973**
 Parishes Served: **Jefferson**

CASA OF LAFOURCHE, INC.

Number of Children Served: **149**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **66**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **5,457**
 Parishes Served: **Lafourche**

CASA OF PLAQUEMINES

Number of Children Served: **15**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **8**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **79**
 Parishes Served: **Plaquemines**

CASA OF SoLA

Number of Children Served: **161**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **71**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **2,328**
 Parishes Served: **Acadia, Lafayette, Vermillion**

CASA OF ST. LANDRY-EVANGELINE, INC.

Number of Children Served: **130**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **44**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **671**
 Parishes Served: **St. Landry, Evangeline**

CASA OF TERREBONNE, INC

Number of Children Served: **145**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **87**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **2,874**
 Parishes Served: **Terrebonne**

FAMILY & YOUTH COUNSELING AGENCY, INC

Number of Children Served: **233**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **68**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **2739**
 Parishes Served: **Allen, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis**

VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

Number of Children Served: **790**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **163**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **7,257**
 Parishes Served: **Bossier, Bienville, Caddo, Claiborne, Desoto, Jackson, Webster**

CASA OF CENTRAL LOUISIANA

Number of Children Served: **63**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **28**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **424**
 Parishes Served: **Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine**

CASA OF NELA (Northeast Louisiana)

Number of Children Served: **379**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **150**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **4,926**
 Parishes Served: **Caldwell, East Carroll, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll**

CASA OF THE 16TH

Number of Children Served: **30**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **17**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **864**
 Parishes Served: **Iberia, St. Mary, St. Martin**

CASA OF WEST CENLA, INC. (West Central Louisiana)

Number of Children Served: **89**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **53**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **1282**
 Parishes Served: **Beauregard, Vernon**

CHILD ADVOCACY SERVICES, INC.

Number of Children Served: **550**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **226**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **8,117**
 Parishes Served: **Ascension, Assumption, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, St. James, Tangipahoa, West Feliciana, St. Charles, St. John**

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY NETWORK

Number of Children Served: **481**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **210**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **5,233**
 Parishes Served: **Avoyelles, Grant, Rapides, Winn**

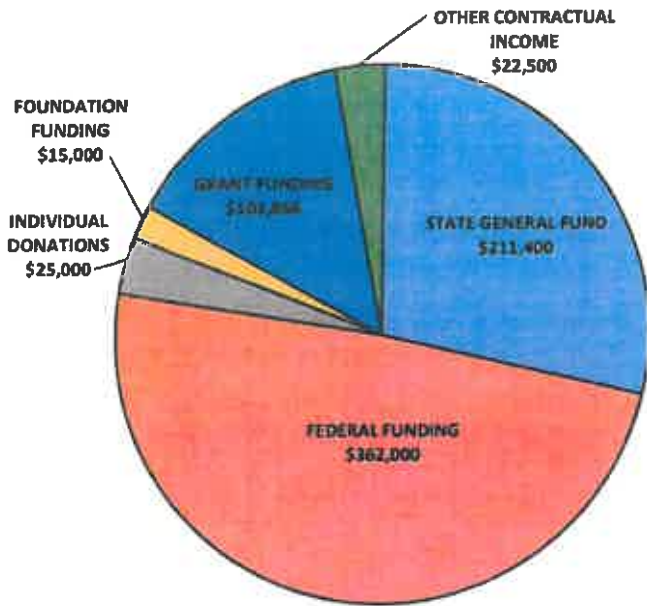
YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU OF ST. TAMMANY

Number of Children Served: **273**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **104**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **10,358**
 Parishes Served: **St. Tammany, Washington**

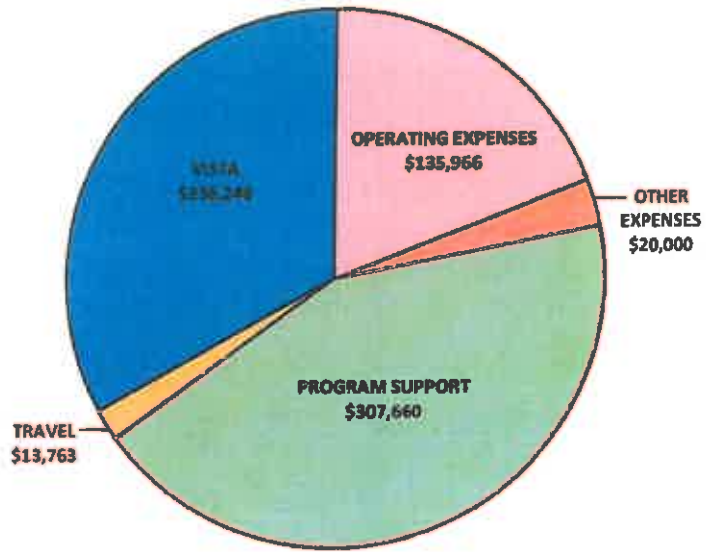
CAPITAL AREA CASA

Number of Children Served: **343**
 Number of Assigned Volunteers: **179**
 Number of Volunteer Hours Served for Children: **3,808**
 Parishes Served: **East Baton Rouge**

EXPENSE & REVENUE ALLOCATION



REVENUE



EXPENSES

0-1 years old	348
1-5 years old	1229
5-13 years old	1756
13-16 years old	631
16-18 years old	173
TOTAL	4173

White	49%
Black or African American	42%
Two or more races	8%
Unknown	1%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%
Asian	0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%

Adoption	26%
Death of the Child	0%
Emancipation	2%
Guardianship	8%
Living with Other Relatives	13%
Other	3%
Remained with Parent(s) Throughout the Life of Case	2%
Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker	43%
Runaway	0%
Transfer to Other Agency	0%
Unknown	2%

CASA HEROES OF 2018

CASA Volunteer Advocate of the Year

Cynthia Ann Beeson, CASA of Terrebonne

**CASA Judge of the Year
Honorable James Lamz
Youth Service Bureau**

**CASA Legislator of the Year
Malinda Brumfield
Youth Service Bureau**

**CASA Media Professional of the Year
Johnny Chauvin
Child Advocacy Services**

**CASA Program Director of the Year
Tommy Edwards
CASA West Central Louisiana**

**CASA Program Staff Member of the Year
Susan Murrell
Capital Area CASA**

**CASA Board Member of the Year
Craig C. LeBouef
CASA St. Landry - Evangeline**

ACTIVE CASA VOLUNTEERS BY AGE:	
21-29 years old	13.1%
30-39 years old	16.8%
40-49 years old	17.1%
50-59 years old	20.4%
60+ years old	31.1%
Unknown age	1.5%

ACTIVE CASA VOLUNTEERS BY RACE:	
African American or Black	22.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.6%
Asian	0.4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Two or More Races	1.2%
White	73.2%
Unknown or Other	1.9%

ACTIVE CASA VOLUNTEERS BY EDUCATION LEVEL COMPLETED:	
High School	12.9%
Some College	11.5%
College Graduate	39.9%
Post - Graduate	17.2%
Unknown or no data	18.5%

REASONS VOLUNTEERS LEFT CASA:	
Asked to Leave	10.2%
Moved from Area	8.7%
Family Needs	14.6%
Case Satisfactorily Completed	10.2%
Health Issues	8.4%
Employment Situation	9.4%
Burnout / Stress	3.8%
Other	14.0%
Reason Unknown	11.2%
Not a Good Volunteer Position Match	5.1%
Time Commitment Too Great	23.1%
Conflict of Interest (e.g. became a foster parent)	1.3%
Lost interest	80.0%

LOUISIANA ADVOCACY CORPS

The Louisiana Advocacy Corps, an initiative of Louisiana CASA, is an AmeriCorps VISTA member program with VISTA members serving in CASA programs and other child-serving agencies. VISTA members serve with a local CASA program, implementing programs and creating best practices to increase volunteer retention, raise awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention and education programs, and increase educational advocacy for children in care. In 2018 there were 36 dedicated VISTA members making up the Louisiana Advocacy Corps. In addition to their service with their assigned location, the Advocacy Corps meets bi-monthly to perform a community service project at various locations in Louisiana. In addition, the Louisiana Advocacy Corps hosted a summer associate program in 2018 with VISTA members providing direct service to clients.

OUR PARTNERS



**Pelican Center
for Children & Families**



LOUISIANA CASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President- Andrew Kolb
Treasurer - Benjamin Huxen
Secretary - Sandra Adams
Past President - Kelvin DedneR

David Benada
Robert Couvillon
Jessica Elliott
Walter Fahr
Latifey LaFleur
Jacqueline Nash-Grant
Tara Peltier
Cinnamon Salvador

LOUISIANA CASA TEAM

Kathleen Stewart Richey
Carla Burgos
Lynette Martin
Stacey Terrio
Wanda Joseph