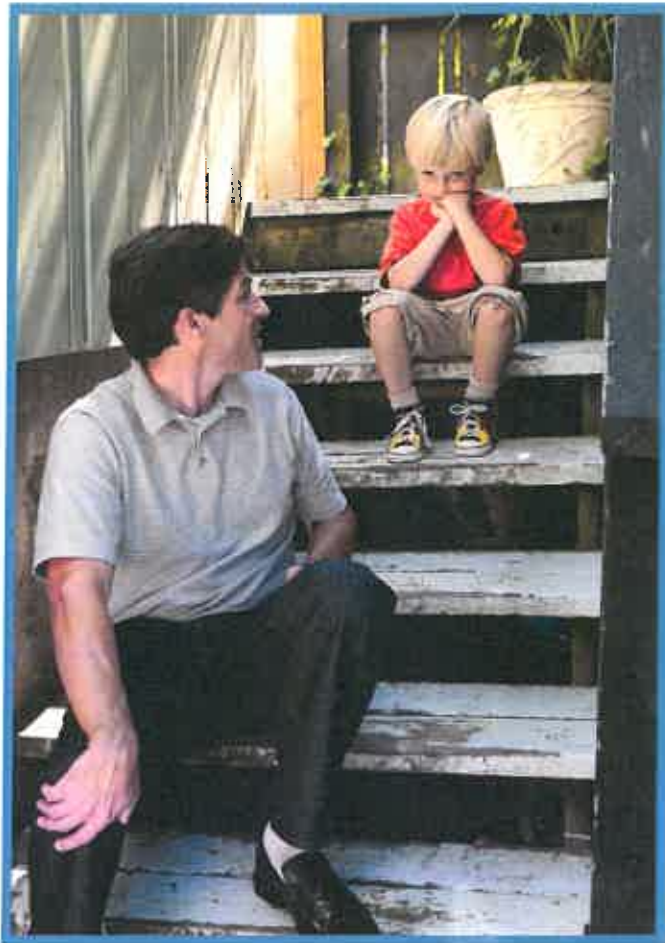


# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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# MISSION STATEMENT

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.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Friends:

It's hard to imagine anyone intentionally hurting an innocent child. But it happens all too often in communities all across Louisiana. Children are physically or emotionally abused, neglected or abandoned by those they trust the most—their parents or caregivers. When a child is removed from an unsafe home and enters the foster care system, the child's world turns upside down. But if they are lucky, a judge appoints a very special volunteer: a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

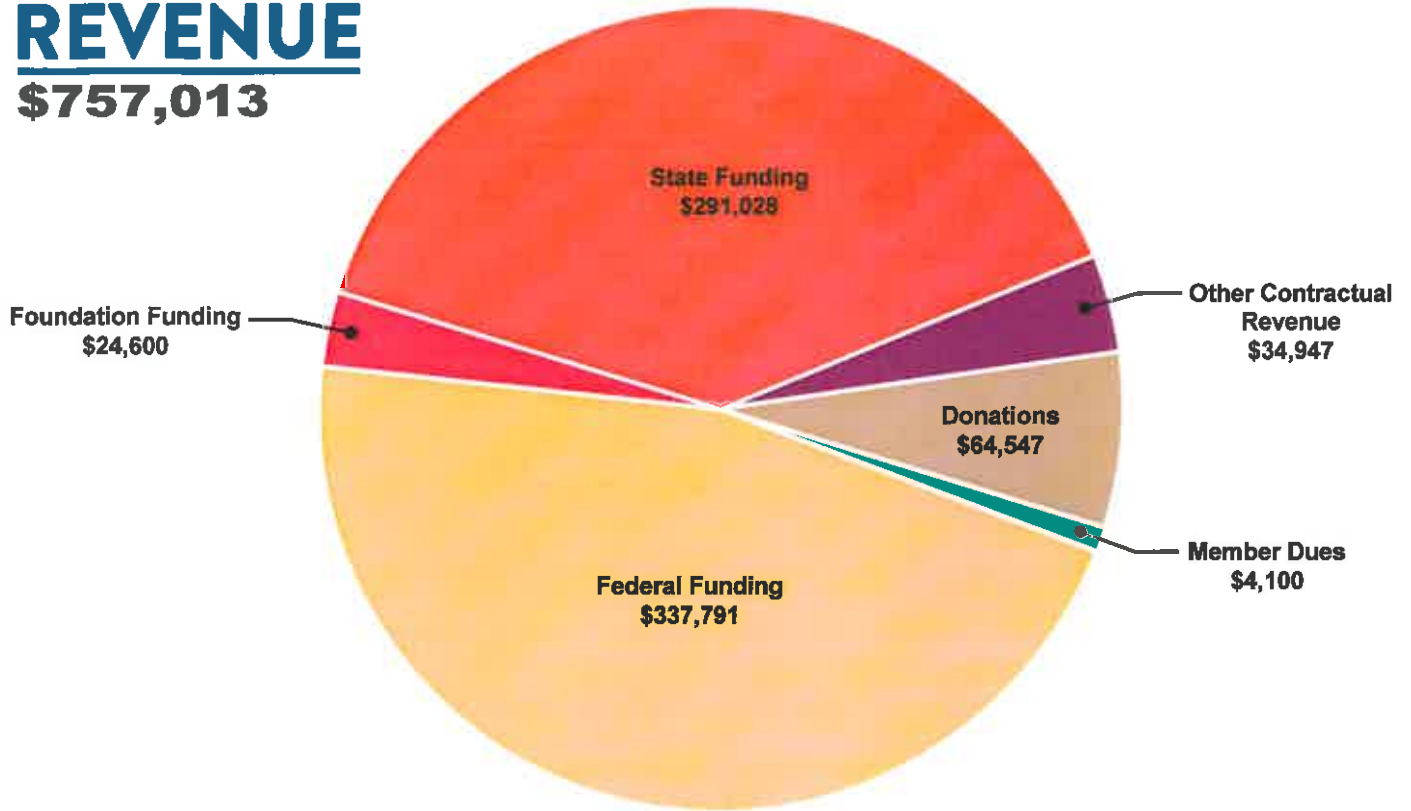
CASA volunteer advocates provide time, devotion, caring, trust and, most importantly, powerful advocacy that can profoundly change a child's story. CASA volunteers in Louisiana are ordinary men and women who do extraordinary work. They are recruited, screened, and highly trained by professionals at one of the 17 local CASA programs in our state network. They advocate for a child's best interests in court, in schools, and in the community. As sworn officers of the court, CASA volunteers are assigned to help one child or a sibling group at a time, focusing on the individualized advocacy and attention that is so desperately needed. CASAs are the "eyes and ears" for the judges, beacons of hope for children, and often the only stable, consistent presence in these children's lives.

I want to recognize the serious commitment that it takes to be a part of CASA, and the difference that quality advocacy makes for children and families. We are deeply grateful to every individual, foundation, corporation, and government agency whose generosity has helped us reach new heights over the past year. With your help, we know that our network will continue to grow until a CASA volunteer advocate is available for every child who needs one and that together we will improve the future for all of Louisiana's children.

Andrew C. Kolb, President  
Board of Directors  
Louisiana CASA Association

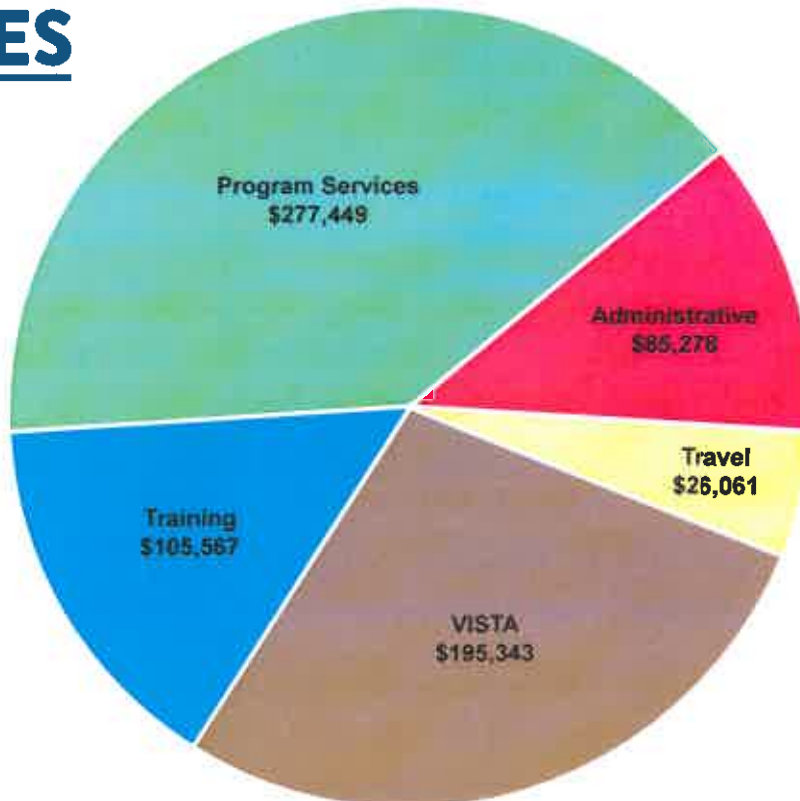
# REVENUE

**\$757,013**



# EXPENSES

**\$689,698**



“Aside from the immediate physical injuries children can experience through maltreatment, a child’s reactions to abuse or neglect can have lifelong and even intergenerational impacts. Childhood maltreatment can be linked to later physical, psychological, and behavioral consequences as well as costs to society as a whole.”

(Rosen, Handley, Cicchetti, & Rogosch, 2018).



“Due to the prevalence of child abuse and neglect and the array of potential lifelong health effects, the associated financial costs are high. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that the lifetime cost of child abuse and neglect is 124 billion dollars annually, and, according to a recent study, substantiated cases of child maltreatment in 2015 alone will cost the United States a total of 428 billion dollars.” (National Conference of State Legislatures 2018)





All children have the right to live in a home free from abuse and neglect. They need a family and a permanent place to call home. To thrive, they need consistency and connectedness in their lives. CASA volunteers are devoted to making those things possible for children in foster care. But CASA volunteers provide so much more. The fact that CASAs are volunteers has deep meaning for these children. In many cases, their CASA is the only adult in their lives who is not paid to take care of them. CASAs are there because they want to be, and children recognize that. Another powerful impact of CASAs is their consistency. When they say they will see the child next week, they always show up. It is hard for foster children to depend on adults—after all, it is adults who have let them down, repeatedly. But CASAs teach children to trust again, and in the process, they can help renew self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-efficacy in traumatized children. CASA volunteers are truly “Changing the Child’s Story”.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair - Andrew Kolb  
Vice Chair - Stephen Wright  
Treasurer - Benjamin Huxen  
Secretary - Sandra Adams  
Past Chair - Kelvin Dedner

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