



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

ATLANTIC, CAPE MAY,  
AND CAMDEN COUNTIES

# 2025FY Annual Report



# 30 Years Advocating for Children and Youth in southern New Jersey



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children of Atlantic, Cape May, and Camden Counties and its trained volunteers advocate for the best interests of children in the foster care system. Through collaborative efforts, CASA ensures children receive the individual attention and support they need to thrive.

## Best-Interest Advocacy



# Authentic Partnerships for Change

Impact100 South Jersey, a local women's collective giving initiative, awarded CASA a two-year \$100,000 Core Mission Grant at the group's Annual Meeting in 2024. The first year of this grant helped train an additional 40 new Camden County volunteers, paired 118 youth with a CASA volunteer, and broadened CASA awareness in the greater Camden County community through various marketing efforts. Additionally, the funding made possible the opening of a new 2,422 square foot office space in Westmont for volunteers, staff, and the public to work together and collaborate on projects that benefit children and their families.



"We are truly grateful for the trust that the Impact100 South Jersey members have placed in our organization. Increasing CASA's presence in Camden County and recruiting and training additional CASA volunteers will help us fulfill our mission to the children and youth of Camden County living in foster care," said CASA Executive Director Lauren Crenshaw.

"The women of Impact100 South Jersey were thrilled to award our 2024 Core Mission \$100,000 grant to CASA for Atlantic, Cape May and Camden Counties. To be able to help CASA serve more children in the foster care system who need a reliable, committed adult to advocate for them is the kind of impact we want to have with our grants," said Kate Williamson, President of the Impact100 South Jersey Chapter. "Seeing their new offices in Westmont and hearing about their wonderful efforts to recruit and train more volunteers is a joy, and we're so grateful to have been able to help make that happen." Since launching in 2017, Impact100 South Jersey has awarded more than \$1.4 million in grants. The South Jersey chapter is one of over 65 chapters in four countries that have awarded over \$123 million to nonprofits in their local communities since 2001.



# Our Values

## Volunteerism:

- We recognize that volunteers are the heart and soul of our mission
- We believe that volunteerism enriches not only our community but also the personal growth and development of those who contribute.
- We value the time, energy, and passion that volunteers contribute, understanding that their support is vital to our ability to make a lasting impact.
- Together with our volunteers, we strive to build a stronger, more connected community, and to create a culture where giving back is encouraged, supported, and celebrated.

## Equity and Respect:

- We foster an inclusive culture of belonging and acceptance.
- We confront, resist, and dismantle inequities within our organization and challenge inequities in the systems that impact the children we serve.
- We address both direct and implicit racism and support each other in unlearning our unconscious bias.
- We believe respect is the foundation of all successful relationships, both in our team and the communities we serve.
- We value open communication, active listening, and empathy, knowing that mutual respect strengthens collaboration and innovation.

## Community Support and Trust:

- We develop healthy and enduring relationships that build trust with children, families, volunteers, key partners, and donors to effectively carry out our mission.
- We prioritize building authentic connections and see each other as allies on whom we can rely for support.
- We are committed to adhering to professional standards, accountability, operating legally and ethically, and exercising a high level of transparency around the financial resources we have been entrusted to manage.
- We create innovative support and unique solutions for the children we serve.
- We ensure our volunteers are equipped to mobilize systems and people to act in the best interest of children and families and communities who support them.

## Quality:

- We pursue excellence in providing the best advocacy for children living in foster care.
- We continually strive to increase our individual and collective knowledge and skills to apply them to our work.
- We benchmark our work and adopt best practices across the network, using performance measurements that are in alignment with targeted outcomes.





**CASA volunteers donated  
5,821 hours advocating on  
their cases**



**400 children and youth were  
served by 193 CASA volunteers**



**CASA volunteers made 2,455  
recommendations to the courts regarding  
the overall well being of children – those  
recommendations were ordered 98% of the  
time by the family courts**



**128 children's cases closed, of those 51 children  
reunited with parents, 29 were adopted, 19  
settled with relatives or friends, and 29 were  
living independently or the case was dismissed**







*"People sometimes think that being a CASA requires a lot but it just requires that you are there for the child...that you are caring and committed to that role in the child's life. You learn that you can offer stability and perspective in the best interests of the child yet sometimes you can't solve every problem. That's ok, you can still be there for that child during a time of transition." - CASA Mark*

# 2025FY Wellbeing Results for Children with a CASA

*"I have seen first-hand the children in need and the efforts made to assist these children. No singular program does more in this regard than the CASA program." - Family Court Judge*



**98%** of the children (0-17) are current with medical well-visits or regular physicals



**83%** of children (5-17) with mental health needs, are currently receiving the necessary care



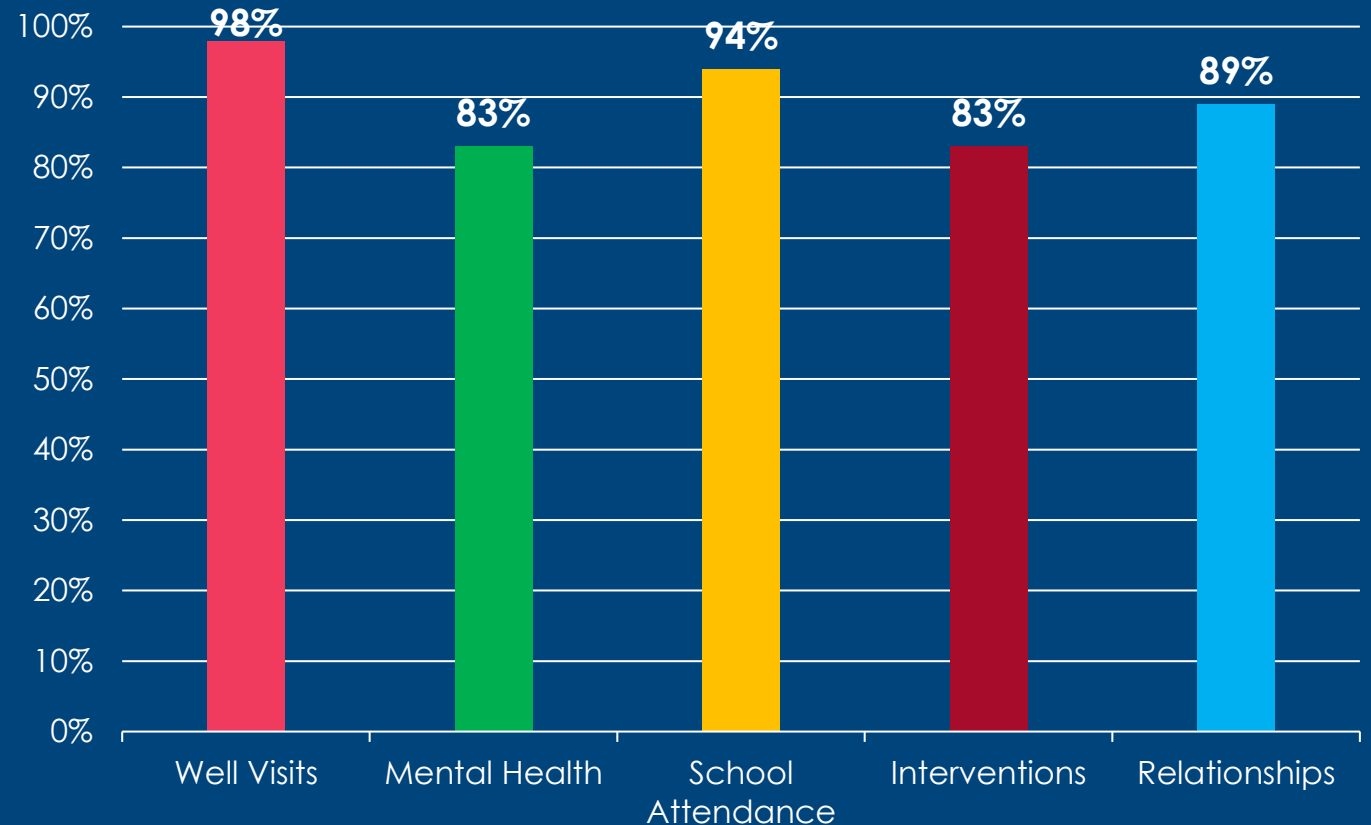
**94%** of children (5-17) had no reported school attendance problems



**83%** of children (0-4) have been evaluated for or received any developmental interventions

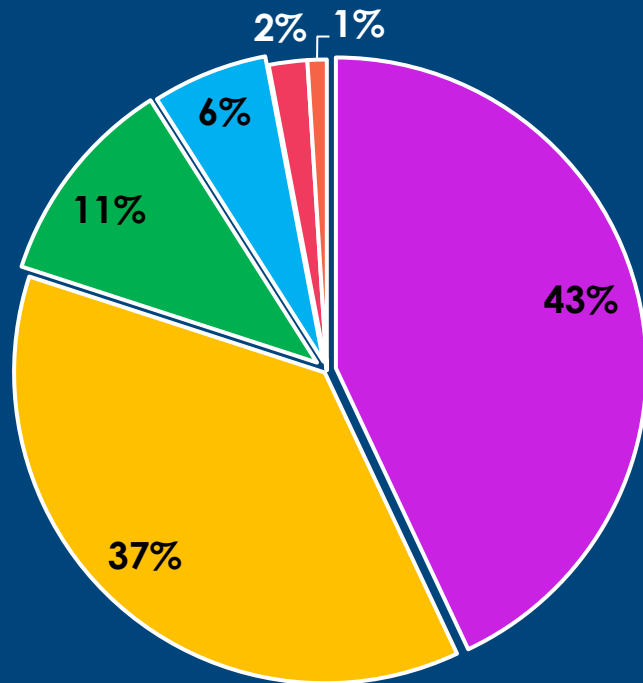


**89%** of youth (0-17) have a positive relationship with their current caregiver(s) and/or others in the home

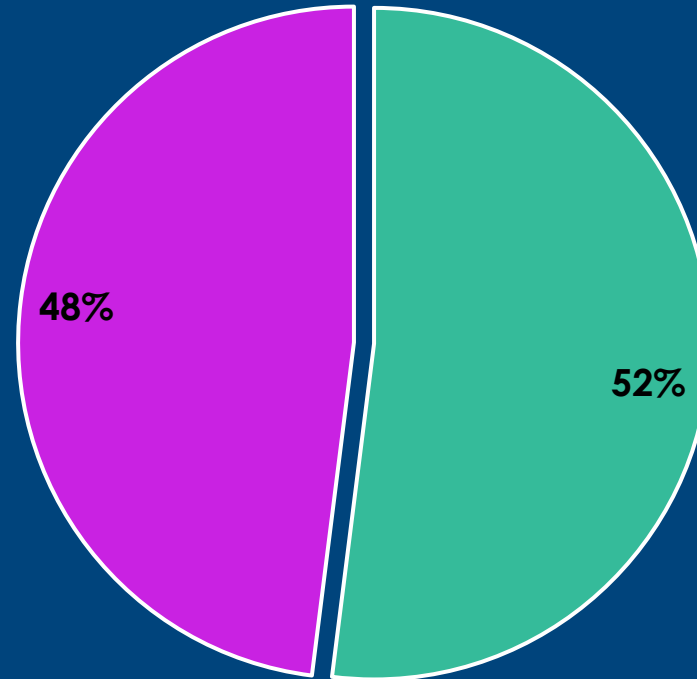


# The Children CASA Serves

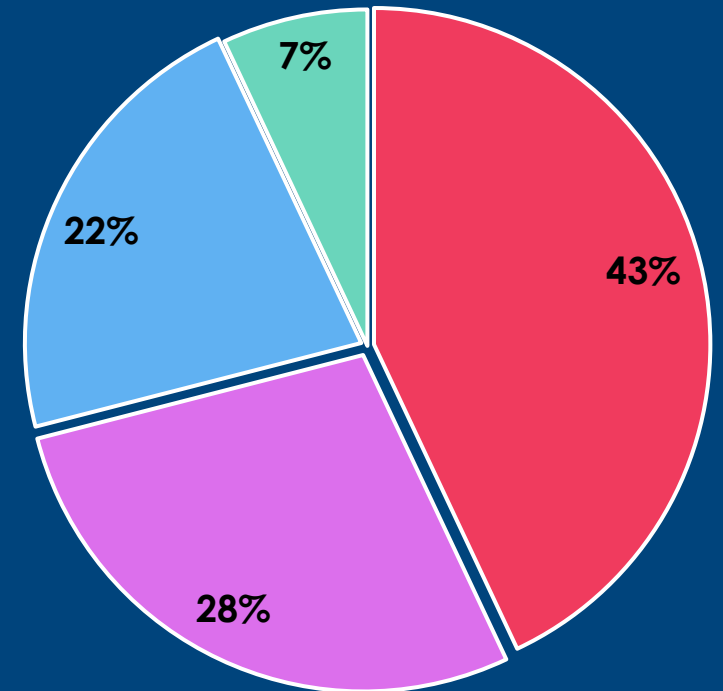
*"We all have a responsibility to ensure that every youth living in foster care receives quality advocacy, access to services, and the guidance of a trained CASA volunteer," - Lauren Crenshaw, Executive Director*



White  
Black  
Multi-race  
Unknown  
Hispanic  
Asian



Female Male

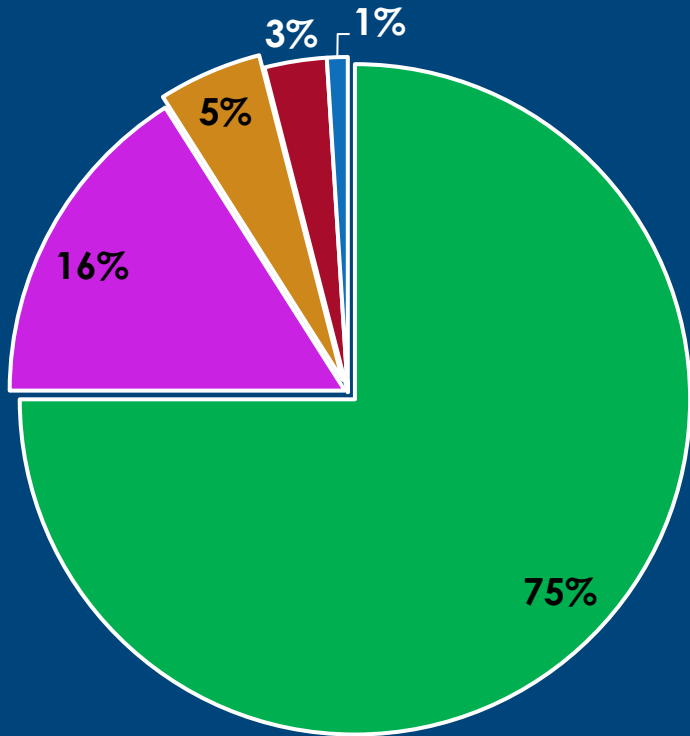


Ages 0-5  
Ages 6-12  
Ages 13-17  
Ages 18+

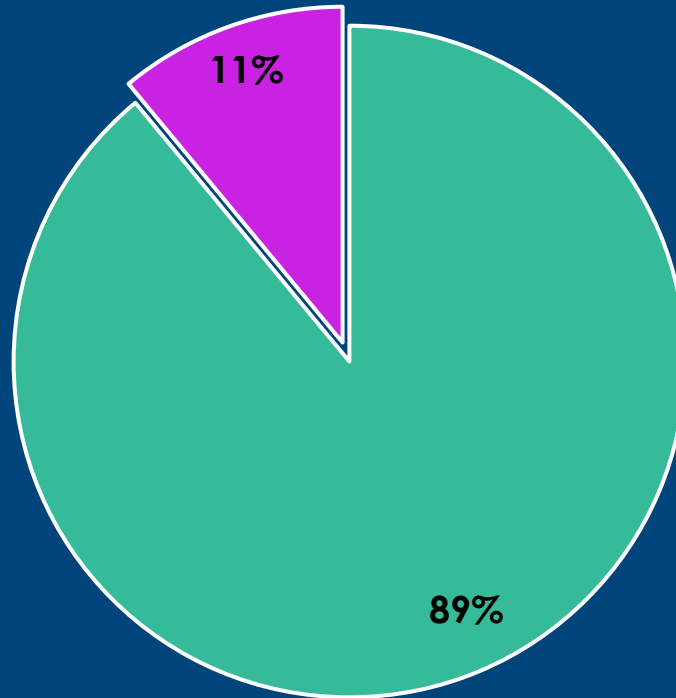


# The CASA Volunteer Portrait

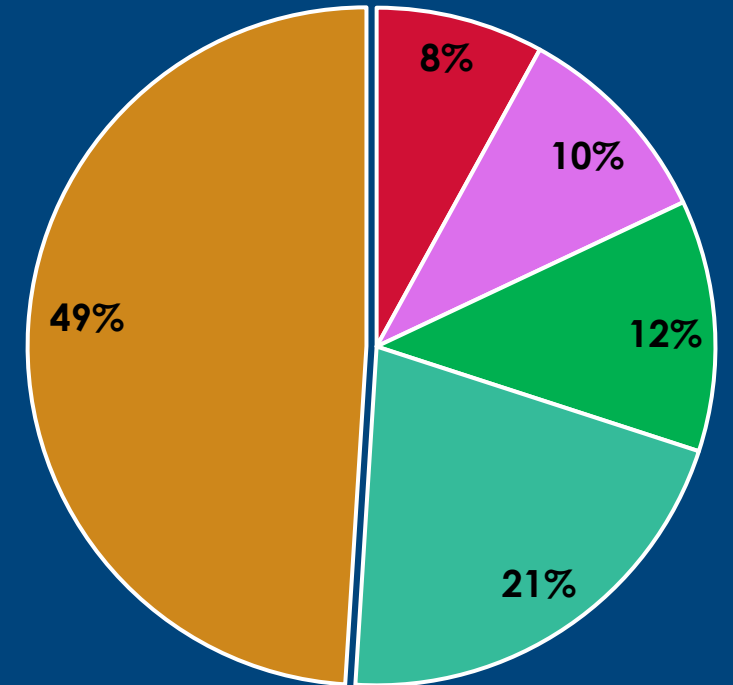
*"Volunteers are the heart and soul of our mission. Their dedication, hard work, and compassion exemplifies our commitment to the children and families in our communities and our vision to provide a safe, positive, equitable future for children living in foster care in Atlantic, Cape May, and Camden Counties." - Terri Schieder, CASA Board President*



■ White ■ Black ■ Multi-race ■ Hispanic  
■ Asian



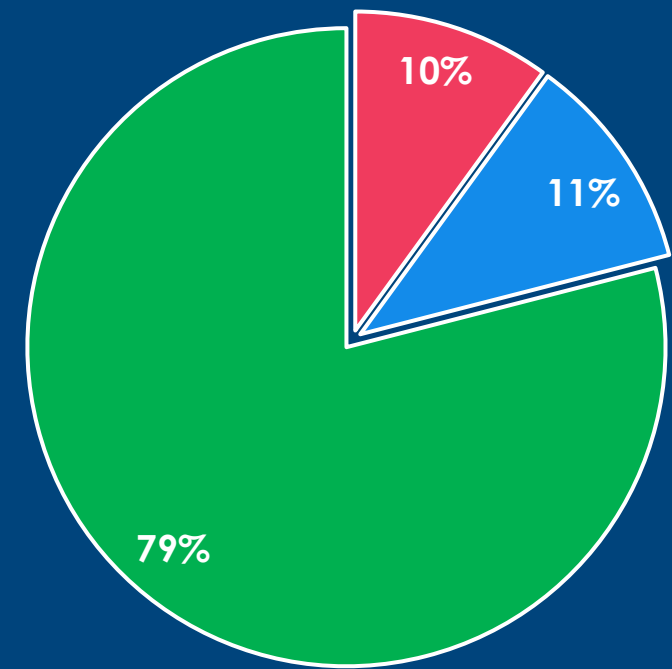
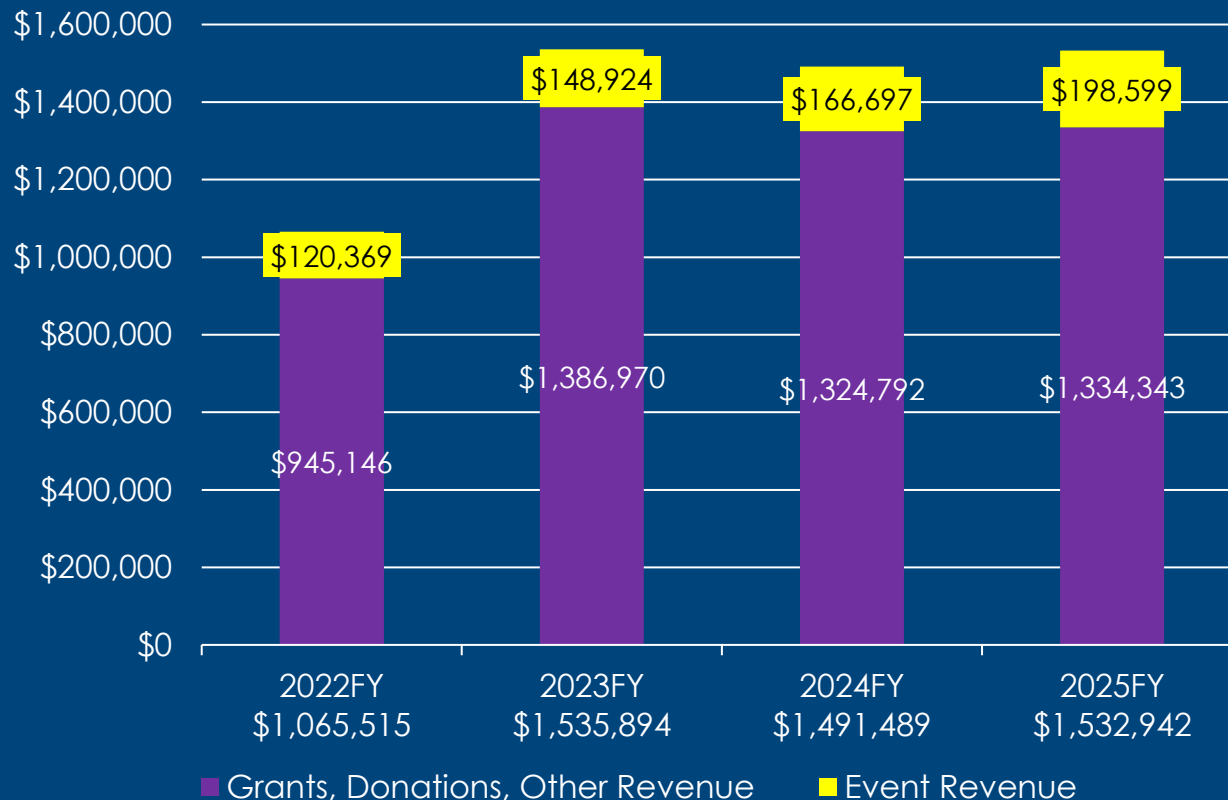
■ Female ■ Male



■ 21-29 year olds ■ 30-39 ■ 40-49 ■ 50-59 ■ 60+

# Long-Term Financial Stability

CASA's strong fundraising capacity provides the confidence and stability to sustain our program every year. Consistent donors, a balanced income stream, and proactive, strategic leadership ensure that the organization can weather the toughest funding years. CASA's Board and staff leadership expect that our positive financial condition will continue into the 2026 fiscal year and are confident that staff and Board will overcome any future, unforeseen funding challenges. For a more detailed financial picture please view our current 990 available at <https://CASAacc.org/who-we-are/financials.html>



■ Administration ■ Fundraising ■ Direct Service





# CASA Impacts Charlie's Story

Charlie was removed from his home and placed in the custody, care, and supervision of child welfare due to allegations of parental substance use. Unfortunately, Charlie spent most of his childhood in and out of foster care with neither parent able to overcome their challenges. The courts assigned CASA Kerry to help facilitate permanency.

Even after the termination of parental rights, Charlie moved at least six different times between resources homes and treatment facilities in six years, he even moved out of state at one point to reside with a relative. As can be expected, this continual change in home settings had an impact on Charlie's behavior, especially as he entered his teen years when small frustrations started to surface.

Luckily, CASA Kerry was a consistent member of his team and was extremely encouraging to Charlie and his resource parents. CASA Kerry also ensured that Charlie received counseling and other resources to help him overcome these challenges. Charlie experienced the typical growing pains of a 17-year-old, including testing boundaries on curfew, car usage, communication, and visits with friends. CASA Kerry was a support to Charlie and his resource family during these times, giving the resource parent a sounding board but most importantly making sure Charlie had a trusted support system and received any additional necessary therapeutic and mentorship services to help him.

Change came for Charlie at an annual adoption event, when a family met him and expressed interest in adoption. CASA Kerry supported Charlie through the entire pre-adoptive process by recommending that he remain in his current placement, that his educational needs continued uninterrupted, and that Charlie and the adoptive parent receive transitional counseling. Additionally, CASA Kerry recommended that a male mentor be assigned to begin before or concurrently with any move to the pre-adoptive home.

Thankfully, with the help of CASA Kerry and his entire team, Charlie was adopted in December at the age of 17, after more than a decade in foster care. This year, he starts his new chapter in college.

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**CHANGE A  
CHILD'S STORY.™**

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