

2026FY Annual Report



**CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™**



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

ATLANTIC, CAPE MAY,
AND CAMDEN COUNTIES

Message from the ED

Dear Friends,

Each year, our annual report provides an opportunity to pause, reflect, and recognize the extraordinary impact of this community. Across Atlantic, Cape May, and Camden Counties, CASA continues to stand beside children who have experienced abuse or neglect and who are navigating the uncertainty of foster care. At the center of every court hearing, case plan, school meeting, and service referral is a child who deserves safety, stability, and the opportunity to thrive.



CASA volunteers provide a consistent, compassionate, and trusted presence during this difficult chapter in a child's life. They build meaningful relationships with the children they serve, listen to their needs, gather important information, and make thoughtful recommendations to the court. Through their advocacy, children have a voice and someone who remains focused on their best interests every step of the way.

Over the last 25 years, we have focused on increasing our impact and expanding our services to reach more children in need. Last year, we continued that growth by training 78 new volunteers and expanding service from 400 children in 2025 fiscal year to 453 children across our three-county region. Every new volunteer trained, every court report submitted, every court hearing attended, and every connection made on behalf of a child represents a meaningful step toward greater safety, permanency, and well-being. This growth reflects both the urgency of the need and the remarkable generosity of those who answer the call to serve.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding our reach, strengthening advocacy, and working toward the day when every child in foster care in Atlantic, Cape May, and Camden Counties has a CASA volunteer by their side.

To our volunteers, donors, community partners, and supporters who helped us start this grassroots effort 25 years ago to those who still stand by our mission today - thank you for your dedication and belief in the potential of every child. Together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate future - one child at a time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren Crenshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lauren Crenshaw

Executive Director

CASA for Children of Atlantic, Cape May, and Camden Counties

CASA Core Service Model

FROM COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER TO CONSISTENT ADVOCATE

A supported pathway that keeps children's needs and best interests at the center.

RECRUIT & SCREEN

Build a diverse volunteer pool and complete comprehensive screening for work with vulnerable children and families.

1

TRAIN & PREPARE

Develop trauma-informed, culturally responsive advocates grounded in child development, confidentiality, education, and court systems.

2

BUILD TRUST & LISTEN

Meet consistently with the child and gather perspectives from caregivers, teachers, therapists, caseworkers, and other partners.

3

INFORM THE COURT

Provide objective, verified reports that support timely decisions on permanency and wellbeing.

4

MOBILIZE RESOURCES

Identify unmet needs, pursue appropriate services, and collaborate across the child's multidisciplinary team.

5

SUPPORT & STRENGTHEN

Provide staff coaching, oversight, and continuing education to sustain ethical, high-quality advocacy.

6

CHILD-CENTERED ADVOCACY = HEALING AND HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE

Year in Review



453 children and youth in need were helped during a tremendously challenging life transition when they were removed from their family home



213 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers donated **7,587** hours advocating for children and families



CASA volunteers made **2,928** recommendations to the courts regarding the wellbeing of the children we serve - **99%** of those recommendations were implemented by the courts

68 children were reunited with parents, **22** were adopted, and **32** settled with relatives or friends

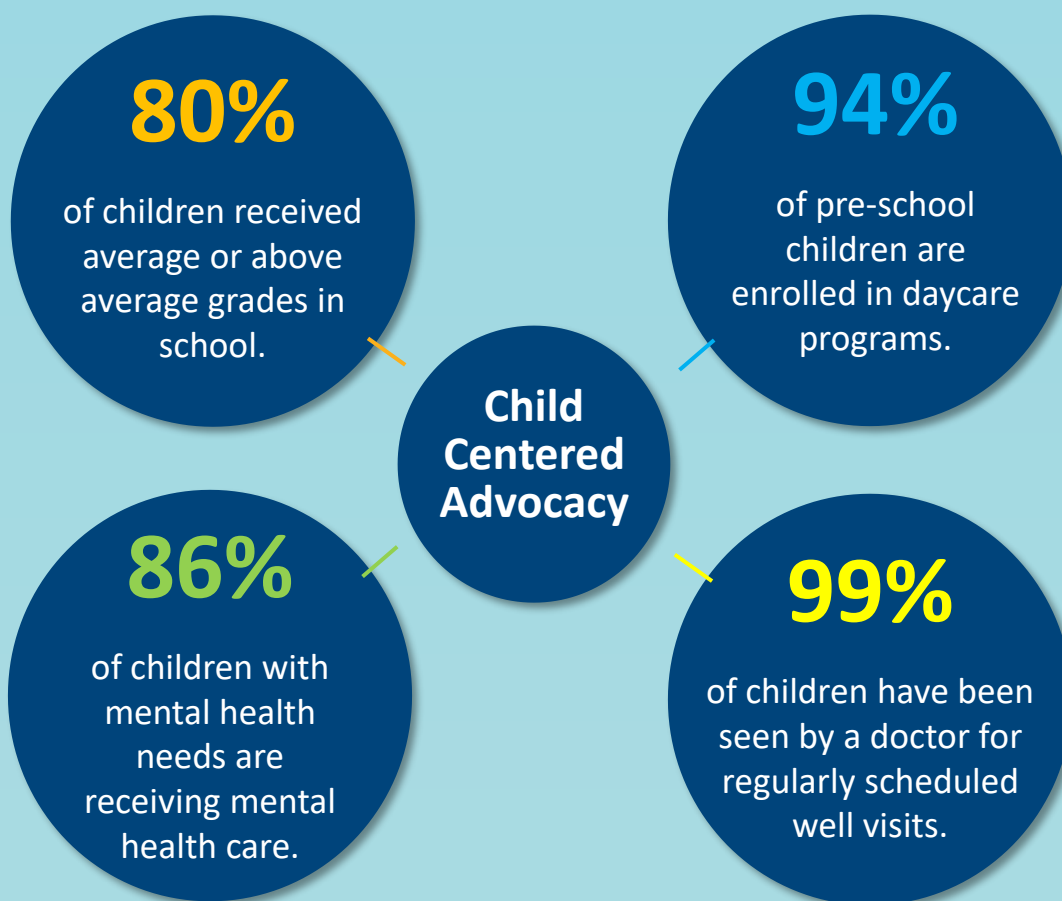


CASA staff trained **78 new CASA volunteers** during four different 30-hour training sessions

Child Wellbeing

Twice a year, CASA volunteers complete wellbeing assessments to understand each child's safety, health, education, family connections, placement stability, and service needs. The assessments document strengths, progress, and unmet needs, helping volunteers make focused, child-centered recommendations to the court and case team.

The findings also guide coordination with caregivers, caseworkers, schools, and service providers. By tracking concerns and following up on gaps, CASA can advocate more consistently for the support each child needs to achieve stability, permanency, and long-term wellbeing.



"I would like to say thank you for all the help CASA provides. It's like having an angel at the other end of the phone. It's like having hope when everything else you are trying is failing. CASA Colleen made sure Bianca had access to all the medical resources she needed." – Foster Caregiver

Reimagined Futures

“While in foster care, John was moved 15 times in two years. A youth used to being on his own moved to multiple houses, three hospitals, emergency care facilities, and residential treatment centers in five different cities. John carried my crumpled CASA business card in his back pocket. When I visited him, he would retrieve it and proudly tell me, “I still have your card.” I was the only continuity in his life as I consistently and adamantly advocated for him.” – CASA volunteer Cheryl. Today John is working and training to be a Line Cook!

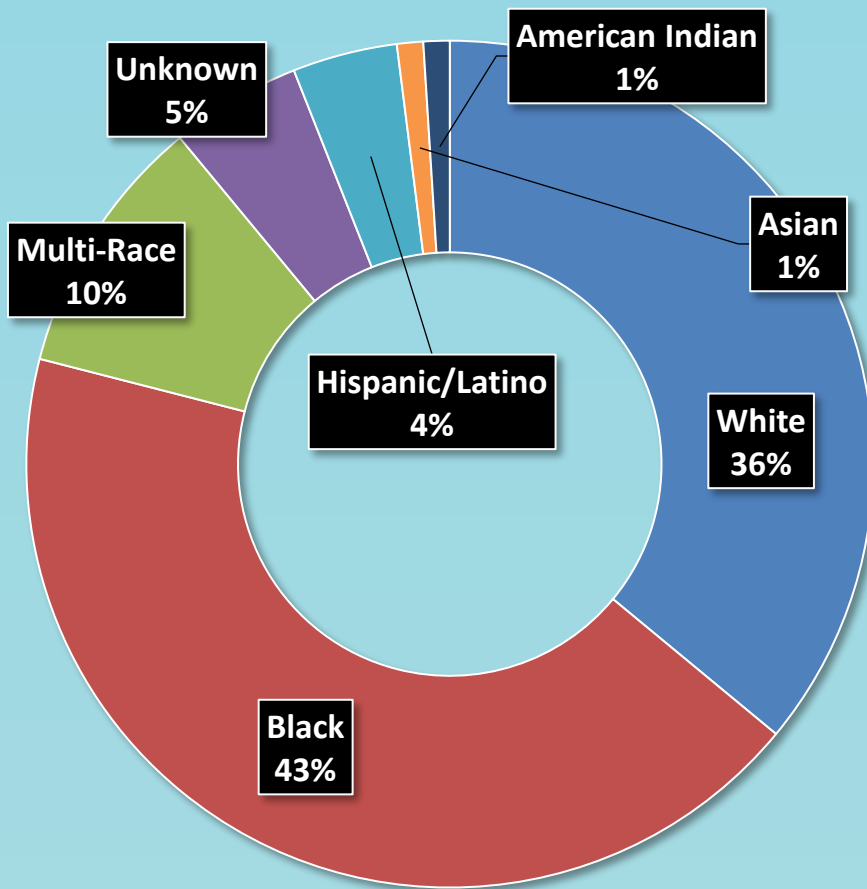


During one visit, Clara told CASA Anna that she really enjoyed dancing but could not attend due to the cost. CASA Anna could see how much this activity meant to Clara’s mental health, so she advocated for community donations to get her dance class covered. After this development, Clara was happier and more relaxed and was achieving in school and sports as well. CASA Anna not only advocated for dance classes, she advocated for more community services, an individualized education plan (IEP), and therapy for Clara to manage her mental health. Today Clara is an active, happy, dancing girl!

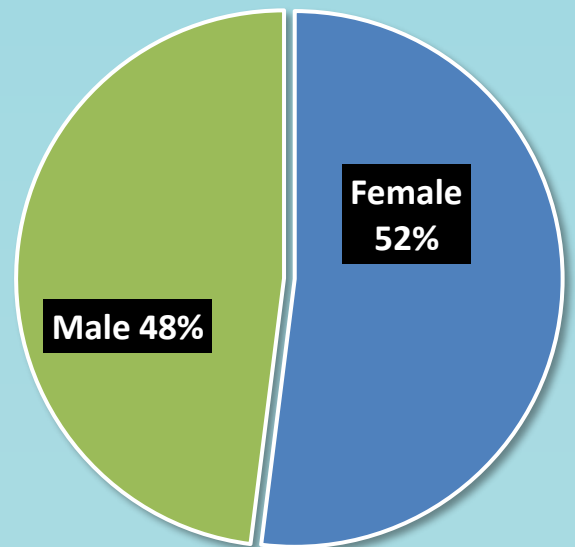
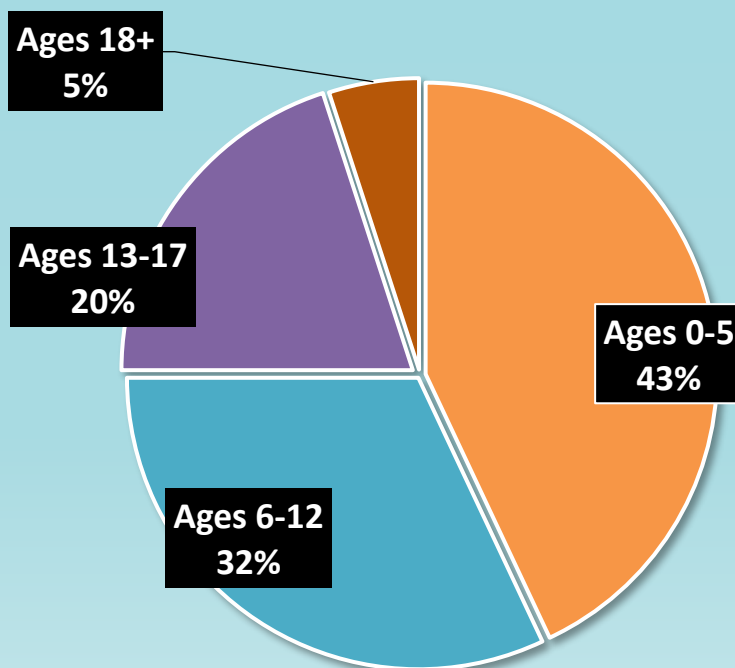
When Reggie entered foster care, his weight was in below benchmarks and he received an initial diagnosis of Failure to Thrive, but within two months of being in foster care, he was gaining weight and showed no signs of developmental delays. CASA Marci had consistent conversations with Dad who wanted to reunite with his son. Following all court-ordered services and working full-time, Dad still struggled with housing – which was needed for reunification. CASA Marci helped secure community resources for Dad including cell phones, Wi-Fi/cable aid, energy and food assistance. She also encouraged Dad to continue a relationship with the resource caregivers, even after reunification occurred, for Reggie’s benefit of consistency. Today Reggie thrives!



Children Served

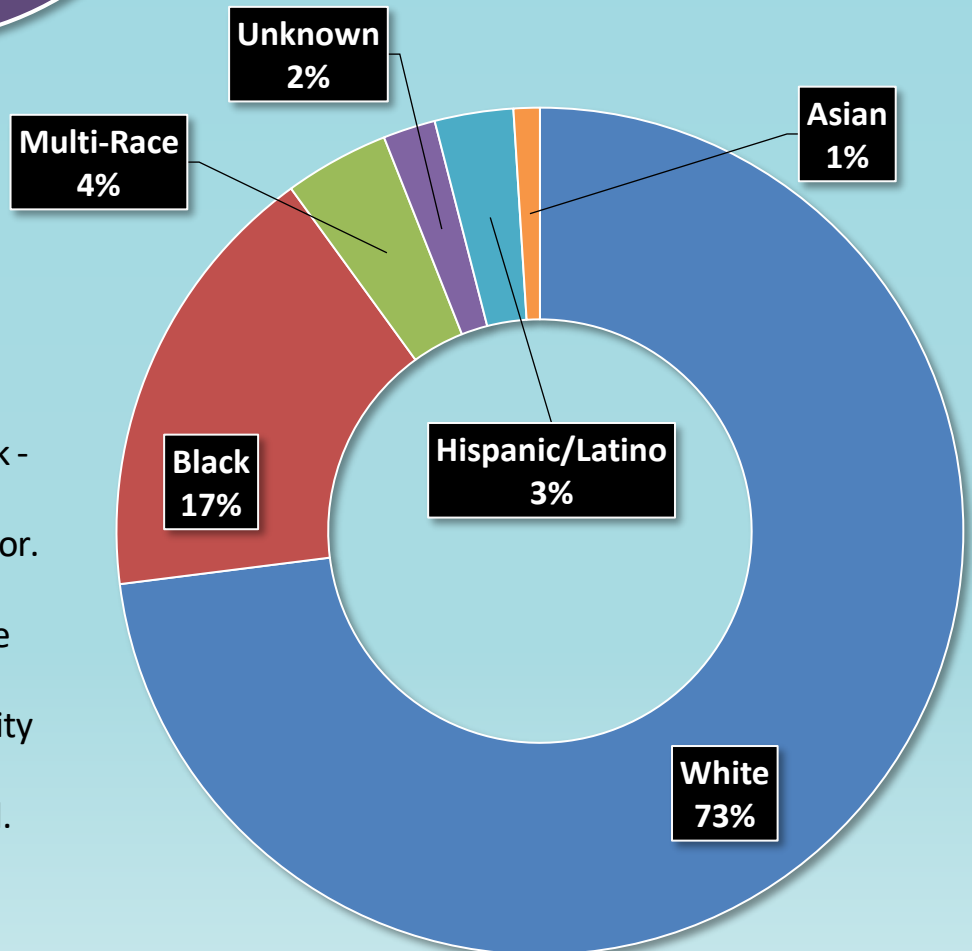
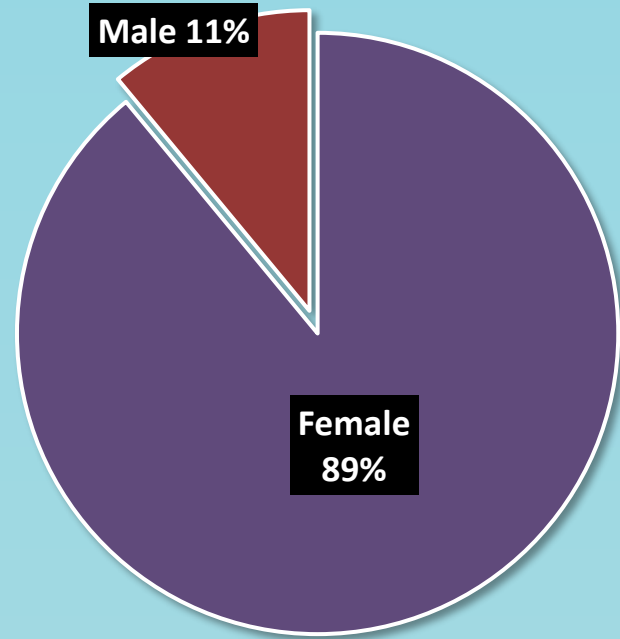
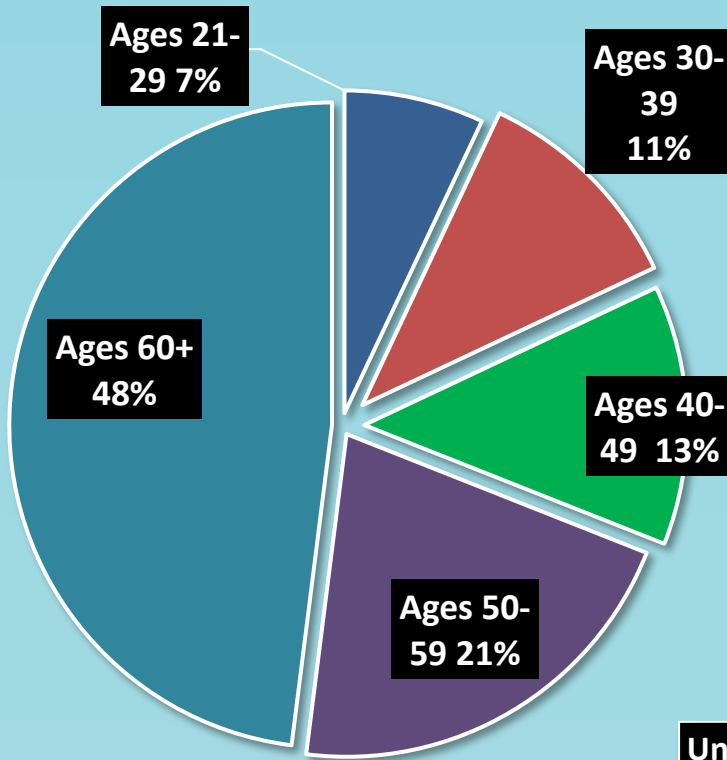


"I saw firsthand the children in need...No singular program did more in this regard than the CASA program. Staffed by dedicated volunteers who devote extraordinary time on behalf of the children, the volunteers afforded me an unbiased perspective into the family and needs of the children" - Former Family Court Judge



"It is difficult to imagine a child protection system without CASA." – DCP&P case worker

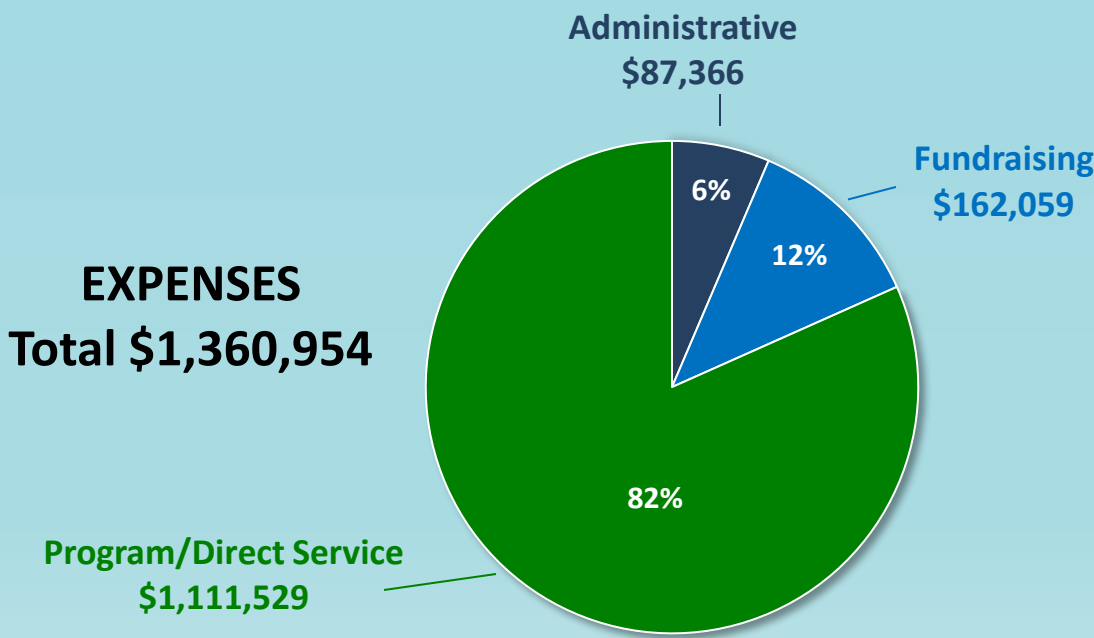
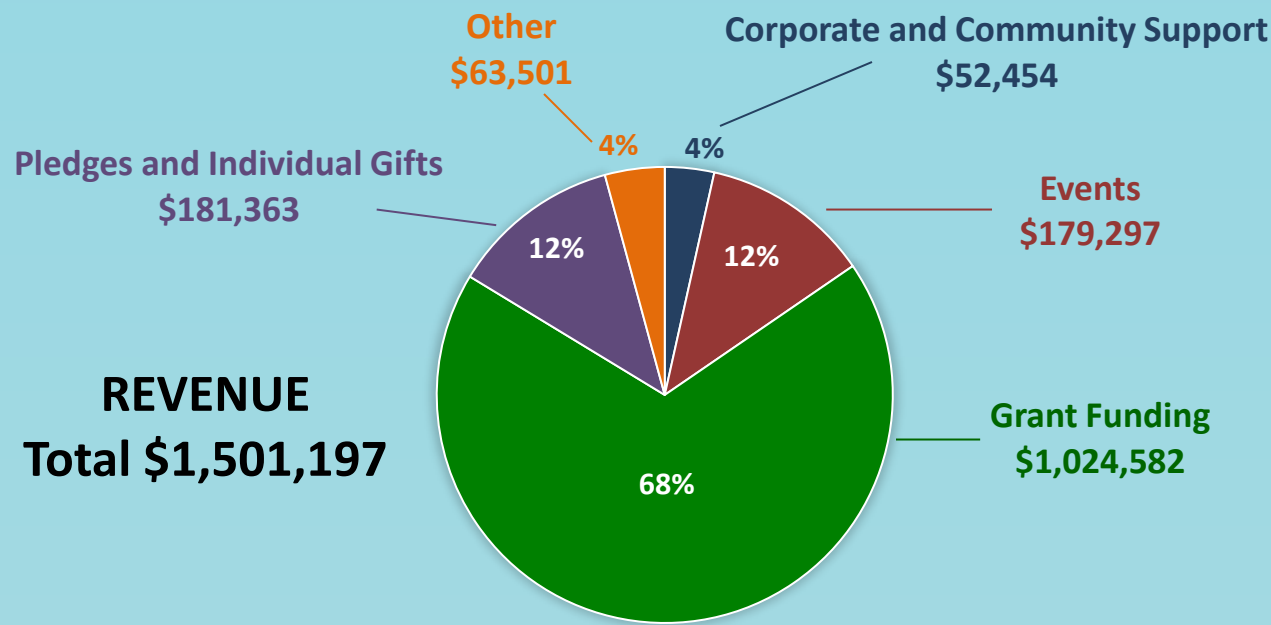
Active Volunteers



Children of color represent 59% of children served - including 43% who are Black - yet only 25% of active CASA volunteers are people of color. Recruiting volunteers who reflect the children we serve strengthens trust, cultural understanding, and our ability to ensure every child feels seen, heard, and supported.

Financial Overview

The financial figures below are from Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026). CASA's Board and staff leadership expect that our positive financial condition will continue into the 2027 fiscal year.



2026FY Supporters - Thank you!

The I am for the Child Legacy Society

Leader Level - \$10,000 + /year for five years
CRA Financial

Hero Level - \$5,000 to \$9,999/year for five years
Avalon Lions Charitable Foundation, Inc.
ACE Hardware Home Services

Champion Level - \$1,000 to \$4,999/year for five years

1st Bank of Sea Isle City
Joe Artuso
Dr. and Mrs. John Baker
Louis Bongiovanni
Serena and Stephen Boyd
Rene Bunting
Dr. Karen Callaghan Holvick
Kara Cermanski
Lauren and Victor Crenshaw
Reverend Kathleen Crockford
Pamela and Gregory Cross
Susan Curcio, Esq.
Nadine and David Dempsey
Mary Fleming
Tracey Miller-Geary and Joe Geary
Angela Gerken
MaryAnn Ginn
Annmarie and Glenn Giveans
D'Ann Glenn and Ted Herzchel
Jennifer and John Grabbe
Greater Atlantic City Charities
Helen Hanniganan
Edwina and Roger Hansen
Heather and David Hieb
Barbara Jones
Kelly Shaw Kenney
Charles Kramer
Mark Kulkowitz
Joseph Maloney
Pat and Kevin McDonnell
Jim McDonald
Marlene McPherson
Betsy McShea
The Messner Foundation, Inc.
Tyler Miller
Honora Moore
Catherine Myers
Maria Negley
Trish Renz
David Rosner
Bob Rothhouse
Rose Rowan
Salartash Family Foundation
Marianne and Paul Tendler, Esq.
Lenny Varvaro
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Waldele
Tim Wilmott

Organization Donors

\$100,000 +
CASA of New Jersey
State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy

\$50,000 +
Impact100 South Jersey
United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey

\$25,000 +
Atlantic City Electric, an Exelon Company
National CASA/GAL Association
The Philadelphia Foundation

\$15,000 +
Avalon Lions Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Camden County Health and Human Services
Holman Foundation
Spectra at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall

\$10,000 +
Ocean Casino Resort
Odessa and Henry Kahrs Trust
James and Barbara Summers Foundation
NorthMarq Advisors
TJX Foundation

\$5,000 +
American Water Charitable Foundation
Camden County Community Development Block Grant
Fifth Generation, Inc. Love, Tito's
Atlantic City Community Development Block Grant
Community Foundation of South Jersey
Gadomski Foundation
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
Holman
OceanFirst Bank
Reuben and Mollie Gordon Foundation
Richard D. Donchian Foundation
The Wawa Foundation

These gifts were made during 2026FY (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026). We apologize for any omissions or errors.

Governance and Leadership

Board of Trustees

Terri Schieder, President
D'Ann Glenn, Vice President
Joe Artuso, Treasurer
Mike Piscopo, Secretary
Diana Castrillon
Kara Cermanski
Susan Curcio, Esq.
Henry Grabbe, Esq.
Jodina Hicks
E. David Hieb
Vashon Watson

Leadership Team

Lauren Crenshaw, Executive Director
Nick Orlando, Director of Finance
Shannon Casula, Director of Program Services
Norah Dixon, Director of Development

Board Advisory Council

D'Ann Glenn, *Co-Chair*
Beth Champion, *Co-Chair*
Charles Atkins
Stephanie Bair
Rene Bunting
Christine Eden
Melissa Goldstein
Janet Gravitz, Esq.
Mia Harris
Barbara Jones
Sarai Mendoza
Sean McGuigan
Gino Mevoli
Ronnie Morey
Christian Ragland
Jim Ridgway
Lynette Rodriguez
Mandanna Salartash
Barbara Schaaf
Queen Stewart, Esq.
Lenny Varvaro

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.

321 Shore Road, Somers Point, NJ 08244
(609) 601-7800

Sentry Office Plaza, 216 N. Haddon Avenue
Suite 607, Westmont, NJ 08108
(856) 361-7180

CASAacc.org
Staff@CASAacc.org



CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™

