

NORTHEAST GEORGIA CASA

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES



ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2021 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

At the end of our 2022 fiscal year I am happy to report that Northeast Georgia CASA continues to be strong, respected and effective in our advocacy for the children who come into the foster care system in the eight counties we serve. However, we can, and will never stop striving, until we reach our goal of having every child in need represented by a CASA.

Our professional staff is dedicated, experienced and skilled in facilitating about 85 active trained and certified CASA volunteers. Their combined work is respected and appreciated by the courts, the families and especially the children. Also, our volunteer Board of Directors continues to provide diligent and effective fiscal oversight and financial viability. All of this is only possible due to an extensive network of supporters in our communities who give their time, talent and treasures. I want you all to know your support is important and appreciated.

Decades ago I was a regular whole blood donor and would often be called by the blood center since I had O-neg (universal donor) blood. I was often the first O-neg donor of the day and if so my blood would be put in a "quad bag". I would leave the center knowing that by the end of the day my blood could be beating in the hearts of 4 newborn babies. What a high! It is my hope that our staff, our CASAs, our Board members and our supporters know and feel that same warm rush when they realize that what they give to NEGA CASA is like lifeblood to these children.



Whitney Hutchinson

Board Chair, FY22

OUR VISION

It is the Vision of Northeast Georgia CASA, that every child in foster care in our eight county service area have the support of a compassionate and well trained volunteer to advocate for their best interest in the courtroom and the community.

NORTHEAST GEORGIA CASA STAFF



L-R: Chuck Taylor, Jessica Kole, Dana Weems,
Melissa Mitchell Barrett, Kim Bass, Stacie Johnson

OUR MISSION

The Mission of Northeast Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is to provide training, supervision and resources for volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children within our communities.

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Robert & Polly Dunn Foundation
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Sam Johnson
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Dean Henderson
Marty Family Charitable Fund



*Tributes and Contributions
In Honor and Memory of those that inspire and connect
others to the mission of CASA:*

In Memory of Dr. Linda Harrell- Lindy

Marjorie Mayfield
Wayne & Wanda Miller
B.Thomas Conger
Mary Burton
Betty Plagens
Mary Lou Lovelace, Delbert Fowler
& JoAnn Kawaguchi
David & Steffey Vines
Thomas & Linda Fowler
Claudia Boyd
Fields & Kathryn Varner



Dr. Linda "Lindy" Harrell
CASA of the Year 2021

In Memory of Rev. Dr. Martin Platzer
Laura Barnett
David & Jennifer Schroeder

In Honor of Alan White
Tom & Becky Callahan

In Honor of Ruth Daniel
James Daniel



Statement of Activities for Year Ended September 30 Unaudited
October 1, 2021- September 30, 2022

	<u>Lindy Harrell Fund</u>	<u>Unclassified</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Donations/Events	0.00	104,208.13	104,208.13
Georgia CASA Annual Grant	0.00	77,151.44	77,151.44
Grants-Federal	0.00	229,547.00	229,547.00
Interest/Other/Reserve Transfer	0.00	2,988.45	2,988.45
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	52.92	52.92
Special gifts and bequests	742,197.20	108.58	742,305.78
United Way	0.00	33,923.33	33,923.33
Victim Assistance	0.00	40,261.67	40,261.67
Volunteer Assistance	0.00	250.00	250.00
Total Income	<u>742,197.20</u>	<u>488,491.52</u>	<u>1,230,688.72</u>
Gross Profit	742,197.20	488,491.52	1,230,688.72
Expense			
Advertising	0.00	1,802.82	1,802.82
Children's Funds	0.00	310.00	310.00
Copier Maintenance	0.00	218.05	218.05
Credit Card Charges	0.00	239.47	239.47
Equipment	0.00	6,226.16	6,226.16
Fundraising	0.00	14,307.62	14,307.62
Insurance	0.00	5,795.00	5,795.00
Membership Fees	0.00	695.00	695.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	3.93	3.93
Occupancy	0.00	21,045.00	21,045.00
Office Supplies	0.00	2,278.31	2,278.31
Payroll Expenses	0.00	305,252.78	305,252.78
Phone/FAX/Internet	0.00	2,428.87	2,428.87
Postage	0.00	1,125.49	1,125.49
Printing/Copying	0.00	612.04	612.04
Professional Services	0.00	2,100.00	2,100.00
Registration Fees (Govt)	0.00	30.00	30.00
Staff Benefits	0.00	55,103.31	55,103.31
Staff Mileage Reimbursement	0.00	7,882.71	7,882.71
Training	0.00	9,915.63	9,915.63
Volunteer Recognition	0.00	10,167.67	10,167.67
Total Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>447,539.86</u>	<u>447,539.86</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>742,197.20</u>	<u>40,951.66</u>	<u>783,148.86</u>
Net Income	<u><u>742,197.20</u></u>	<u><u>40,951.66</u></u>	<u><u>783,148.86</u></u>



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Fiscal year 2022 flew by with many transitions! We began the year with a new full time Advocacy Coordinator, Dana Weems. Dana and Jessica Kole became our primary Mountain Circuit Advocacy Coordinators as Outreach Coordinator Chuck Taylor added pre-service training facilitating to his recruitment role. The shift in duties came very naturally and the good fit between recruitment and training is clear as we swore in 25 new CASA volunteers and finished the year with 87 active CASA volunteers—the most in our history! Kim Bass transitioned back to full time advocacy coordinating and she and Stacie Johnson worked hard to further enhance our presence in the Northern Circuit by coordinating a volunteer PR group who manned CASA booths at two fall festivals.

In December, back to in-person gatherings, we conducted two holiday appreciation events, one in each circuit. Volunteers enjoyed a nice meal with fellowship and collected stockings for their children. The stockings were once again lovingly made and stuffed by the St. Mathias Episcopal Church Piece Makers! And at one of the events the Board awarded CASA and, former CASA Board Member, Tom Randle, the distinction of being an “Honorary Board Member for Life”, the second such designation bestowed in our program history!

The winter was busy with continued back-to-back pre-service trainings and regular in-service trainings and lunch-n-learns. Cuts from one of our major federal grants, VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) were looming and we were honored to be the recipient of new financial support from an informal Run event at the Currahee Club and from the Elks Lodge. We navigated, as best we could, the back and forth of caution and acceptance of virus variants. In the spring our program and community experienced a huge loss with the passing of Lindy Harrell, our 2021 CASA volunteer of the year. Lindy's legacy of giving to all those less fortunate lives on the memories of all those who knew her and in her generous bequests to CASA and other agencies in the community.

We ended our year very fiscally sound, exceeding our “Friends of CASA” and “Tee Off for CASA” golf event goal. Our Board began making plans to further expand our services by creating an endowment fund kickstarted by Lindy's bequest. We look forward to closing the gap to serve all the children in need in our community while also enhancing the services we provide to the children.

Melissa Mitchell Barrett



MARY WILSON

2022

CASA OF THE YEAR

Northeast Georgia CASA is proud to have Mary L. Wilson as our 2022 Jeff Sprinkle Volunteer of the Year Award winner. Mary was sworn in as a CASA in September 2018. Since then she has advocated for four families with a total of six children. As a direct result of her strong advocacy, five of these children have obtained permanency through reunification or family guardianship.

Mary consistently exemplifies high standards as a CASA volunteer. She makes an unwavering commitment to each child to help them have the opportunity to grow and thrive in a safe and nurturing home. She is objective, professional and relentless in her efforts to advocate for their best interests. She treats her children and their families with dignity and respect. Mary is a consummate collaborator with all of the child welfare professionals, continually refocusing everyone on the children and what is in their best interests.

Mary has many personal strengths and skills that make her an effective child advocate as well as an excellent communicator. She is very direct and speaks her truth, but always in a positive way that encourages others to listen and hear her. She weighs her words carefully before she speaks and she stays calm in emotionally charged situations. Mary excels at listening to all parties. She is able to perceive both sides of a situation, which allows her to be a good moderator when parties become emotional and the best interests of the children are threatened. Mary is very creative, and is always looking for opportunities to turn a negative situation into a positive one for the benefit of the children she serves.

Mary is an inspiration to other CASAs in our program. They see the results of her advocacy when her children finally obtain permanency, in spite of difficult circumstances, and are encouraged that it can happen for their children as well. She facilitated a National CASA workshop at the virtual conference two years ago. Mary is active in many organizations, and regularly promotes CASA as a volunteer opportunity and a charitable cause for donations. She also makes connections to facilitate others becoming involved with CASA.

VOLUNTEERS

Kay Argo
Vinettia Barnes
Lynn Betz
Diane Brown
Annette Bruce
Elizabeth Bryan
John Bryant
Pat Bryant
Brooke Buffington
Gail Bussard
Sue Callahan
Geraldine Chalk
Debi Childress
Doug Conkle
Karen Conkle
Jessica Cook
Hope Copelan
Kathy Cothran
Ellen Coulon
Caroline Cox
Teri Creighton
Nathan Cross
Kathy Crowe
Renee Cullar
Christopher Curran

Nannette Curran
Ruth Daniel
Betty Daniels
Renee Dann
Anthony DeFoor
Vickie Dockery
Dennis Dodge
Sara Dodge
Amanda Dunn
Deana Dunn
Linda Eberenz
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Christi Fordyce
Debra Furbish
Melodie Gentry
Pamela Gordon
Terry Griffin
Lindy Harrell
Cheryl Harris
Dana Hartley
Kristy Hattaway
June Hawkins
Kassie Hodges
Brooks Hogan
Sherrie Jeffers

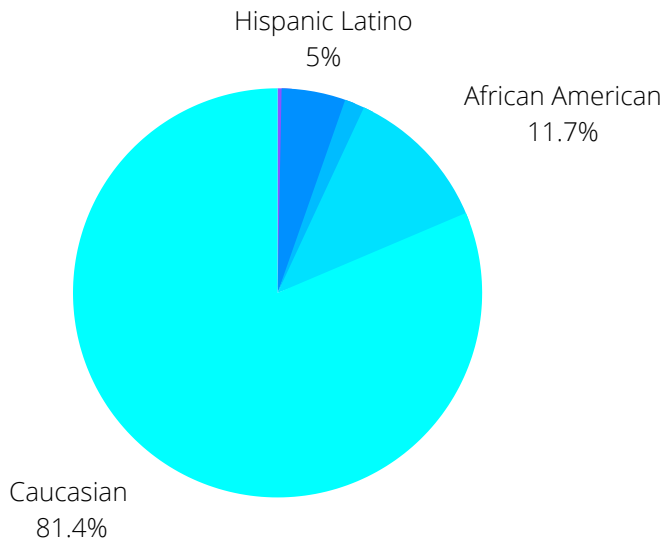
Suzanne Johnson
Kathy Keesee
Brenda Kelley
Donna Kelley
Sheila Kesler
Kate Kirby
Anne Kirslis
Gay Knight
Janice Knoerzer
Diane Lamb
John Lampe
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Ann Lumley
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Mary Day Widner
Julie Wilkinson
Mary Wilson
Ginger Wright

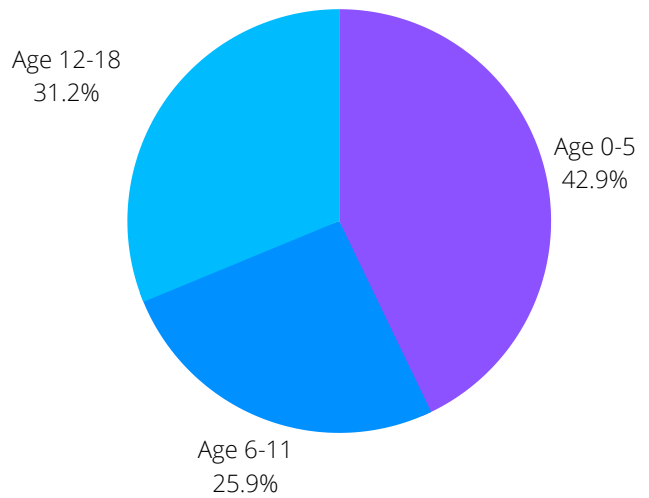


Child Demographics

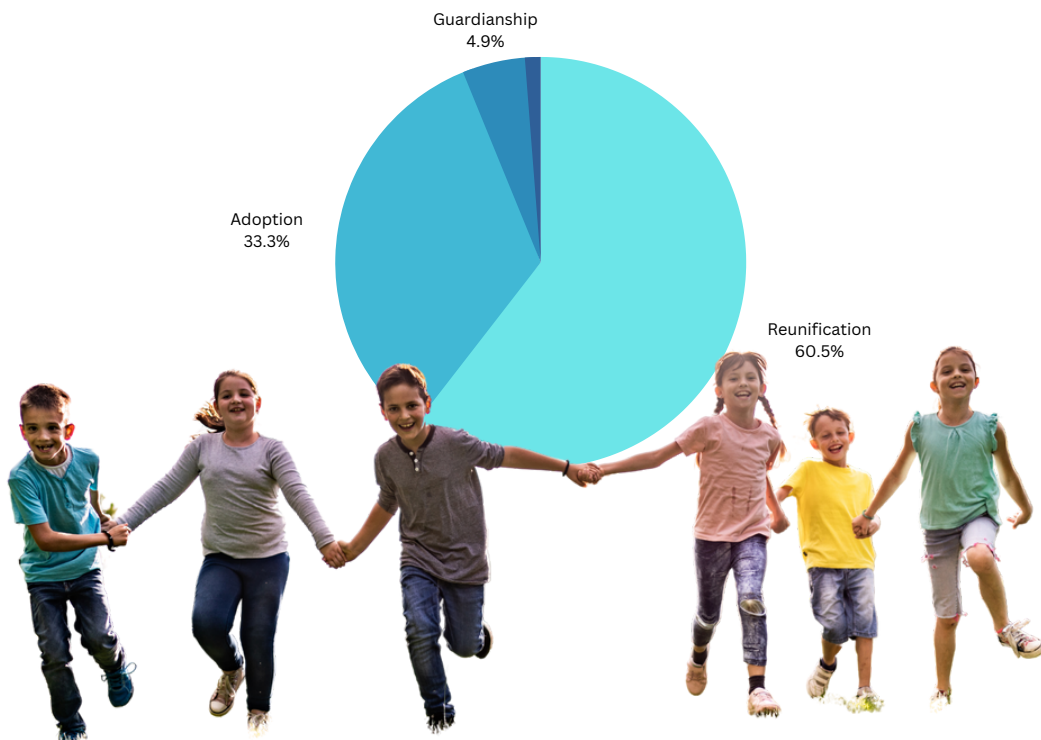
RACE



AGE



Outcomes for Children With CASAs



2021-2022 BOARD MEMBERS

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Meredith Puls
Christopher Sprowls
Dave Standard

Honorary Board Members for Life:
Bill Gaik
&
Tom Randle

