



2021 Impact Report

Our Mission

We advocate for safe, nurturing, and permanent connections to family and community so children who have experienced abuse and neglect have the opportunity to thrive.



Our Vision

We believe every child deserves a safe and nurturing permanent home.





Table of Contents

Letter3

2021 at a Glance4

The Why5

CASA..... 6-7

Family Connections 8-9

Finances & Other 10

Events 11

2021 Board Members

Wendy Banks
BOARD PRESIDENT
Community Foundation of Northern Colorado

Kim McDaniel
BOARD VICE PRESIDENT
Bohemian Companies

Heather Radtke Olsen
BOARD SECRETARY
Community and CASA Volunteer

Kayleen Fraley
BOARD TREASURER
Ridgeview Business Ventures

Pat Barlow
Blue Mesa Coaching

Allan Ewert
Alexander & Ewert, LLC

Jami Jonckowski-Wiens
Better Business Bureau

Hilary McCart
AssuredPartners

Janna West Kowalski
West Kowalski Consulting and Coaching

Josh Zorn
Otter Products

Dear Friends,

We talk about resilience often in our work at CASA of Larimer County (CLC). We are awed as we witness its abundance in the children we serve. Inspired by the families who use it to grow stronger together. Resilience is how we grow, how we rise to each challenge. We are humbled by the heart, energy, and resilience that you, our CASA Volunteers, Donors, Board of Directors, and CLC staff share each day. Through a year of growth and transition, our commitment to provide quality advocacy and consistent support for children in our community who have experienced abuse and neglect has only grown stronger. Together, we...

- Recruited, screened, and trained more CASA Volunteers than ever before
- Appointed CASA Volunteers to more than 70% of eligible new cases in Dependency and Neglect Court, working to close the gap on ensuring a voice for every child
- Developed our first annual Teen Challenge Event, an evolution of our Fostering Futures curriculum, focusing on improving outcomes for older youth
- Eliminated fees for services to 100% of our families
- Engaged with parents in 172 Nurturing Parenting lessons building skills and knowledge which reduce the risk of the recurrence of child abuse and neglect

We are so incredibly grateful to YOU for sharing your unique gifts to accomplish these goals, inspiring positive changes in the lives of children and families in our community.

2022 will bring fresh challenges and exciting opportunities. Together we will continue to ensure that children in our community who have experienced abuse and neglect have a voice, are connected to caring adults, and have hope for a brighter tomorrow. Together we will ensure that our programs and services continue to evolve to support the absolute best outcomes for ALL children and families.

We are committed to evaluating our practices to ensure that we create an environment where everyone involved with CLC has an equal opportunity to engage and to thrive. We commit to supporting each child and family, honoring their unique experiences, and recognizing trauma so we can best support them on their journey.

We value the people and the community who have been part of our journey. We will continue to strategically evaluate our options for space as we grow to meet this community's need. We realize how fortunate we are to have this beautiful farmhouse with its welcoming atmosphere, where children and families come together to build positive memories.

We understand there are many wonderful organizations helping to support children and families; and we are most grateful that you choose to support CASA of Larimer County. Thank you for your incredible gifts and sustaining partnership! We look forward to all the good we will continue to do together.

With sincere gratitude and hope,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jen Ryan".

Jen Ryan
Executive Director

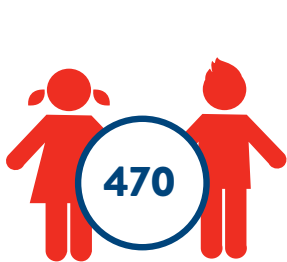


A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wendy Banks".

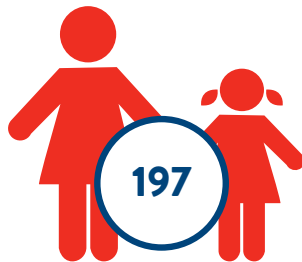
Wendy Banks
Board President

2021 Impact at a Glance

CASA OF LARIMER COUNTY STATISTICS



Children
were served



CASAs appointed to a child

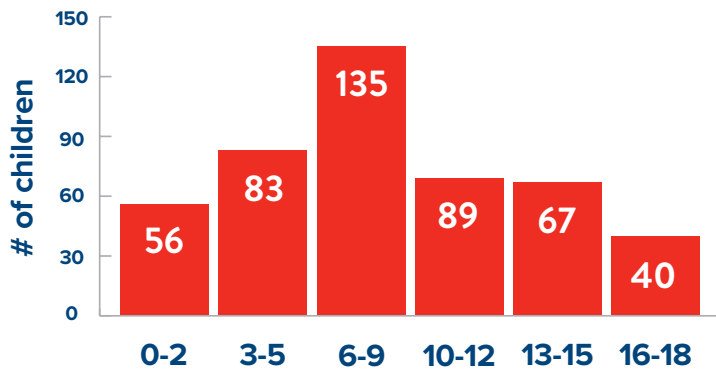


Supervised visits
and safe exchanges

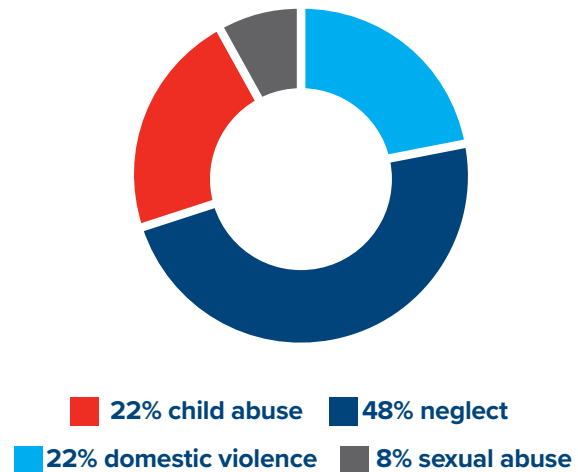


Hours donated by
CASA Volunteers

AGES OF CHILDREN SERVED



VICTIMIZATION



Why Our Programs Matter

- **Evidence links the prevalence** of childhood trauma to lasting negative impacts on physical and behavioral health, housing instability, low education, low career attainment, substance abuse, and the increased likelihood of the perpetration of violence or victimization¹
 - **One third** of children involved in the child welfare system have a chronic health problem, **up to 80%** have a mental health issue²
 - Youth in foster care have a **37.8% four-year high school completion rate**³
 - **20% of foster youth** will become homeless when they age out of care⁴
 - The predicted **lifetime social cost** of a child who ages out of foster care is **\$300,000**⁵
 - **Our programs** are trauma informed with evidence-based programming to **support the best outcomes** for our youth and families.
 - **CASA Volunteers provide consistent connection and advocacy** with focus on medical, mental health, and educational needs.
 - **Family Connections keeps families safely connected**, supporting access to resources, and building parenting skills.
-



¹ CDC, Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences
² American Public Health Association, 2016
³ Colorado Department of Education, 2018
⁴ National Foster Youth Institute 2017
⁵ Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, 2013

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)



94% of youth received identified medical care as needed



87% were doing well with school attendance



88% of CASAs were well-informed about the youth's educational needs and 100% of CASAs provided educational advocacy in at least one area when a need was identified



76% of children remained in a stable placement, and of those who moved homes, 83% changed placements to support their best interests

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program is vital to supporting children who have experienced abuse and neglect. The CASA program trains and supports volunteers to mentor and advocate for the needs of the children involved in Dependency and Neglect Court. CASA Volunteers are thoroughly screened and trained before being sworn in by the Court and appointed to a child or group of siblings. The Court appointment allows access for the CASA to gather information regarding the academic, medical, therapeutic, and basic needs of each child so that the Court has the information to determine services and placements. CASAs commit to 12-18 months with each child, providing consistency, and support during an critical time.

“Because of this CASA's advocacy, I was able to focus on other needs for the family. This child has not been able to open up with me throughout this case, so I have relied heavily on the CASA's connection with them and their advocacy for this child.”

— DHS Caseworker

Fostering Futures

CASA Volunteers support better outcomes for our older youth who are at greater risk of homelessness and future victimization. The Fostering Futures curriculum provides advanced training for CASAs enabling them to better support our older youth. Fostering Futures educates volunteers to walk alongside and empower youth with practical knowledge and vital connections to community resources so that youth can successfully transition into adulthood. CASA Volunteers are a critical link in helping youth toward independence by developing life skills, obtaining necessary documents, and connecting to community resources.

On September 11th, CLC hosted our inaugural Teen Challenge event. This event hosted local vendors, educational intuitions, and other community partners to provide resources, “shop talks,” and networking opportunities for the teens we serve. Teens were also given a Pre-Challenge, which provided an opportunity to earn prizes for completing various life skill tasks. This challenge will be a rolling activity for our teens to continue encouraging their growth and engagement throughout the year.



"My CASA taught me how to have my own voice and how to advocate for myself. She has made me feel empowered to make decisions to better my own future." – CASA Youth

Family Connections



93%

of families participating in service
maintained or improved their bonds



100%

of families received fee free services



95%

of families were connected to community
resources to support their individual needs

The Family Connections team supports families through supervised visits, and safe custody exchange services for children who may have experienced abuse or neglect. Family Case Managers work with children and their parents to ensure that visits are safe and documented for the Court, families, and other professionals. This documentation is used by the Court to aid in custody determinations.

Research shows that children with safe and secure attachments to have better outcomes.¹ Family Connections takes a holistic, family centered approach, and provides case management from the Strengthening Families framework. Case Managers work with each party individually to meet needs and create safe opportunities for families to keep connections. Family Case Managers work with children directly to ensure children know that they have a voice. Children are never made to visit and can pause or end a visit at any time.

“Thank you so much! You have no idea how much this news helps. I am a single mom and didn’t know how I would be able to pay for visits to see my kids. I don’t know how you do this, but I am so grateful!” — a visiting mom in response to fee-free services

Nurturing Parenting Program

Family Connections uses the Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP), a research-informed approach aimed at increasing family strengths, enhancing understanding of child development, and reducing the likelihood of the recurrence of child maltreatment. Our delivery of NPP paired with supportive case management results in participating parents seeing impactful gains in parenting skills and knowledge. Visiting parents engage in lessons prior to visits, practice skills during their parenting time, and review progress and challenges afterward with their Case Manager.

Five Constructs of NPP

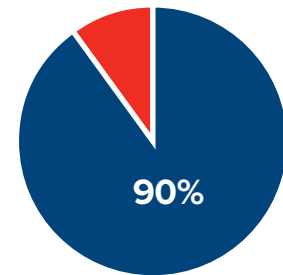
EMPATHY

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

DISCIPLINE

APPROPRIATE FAMILY ROLES

CHILD INDEPENDENCE



90% of parents completing NPP demonstrate improved scores in parenting skills and knowledge base on the Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI).

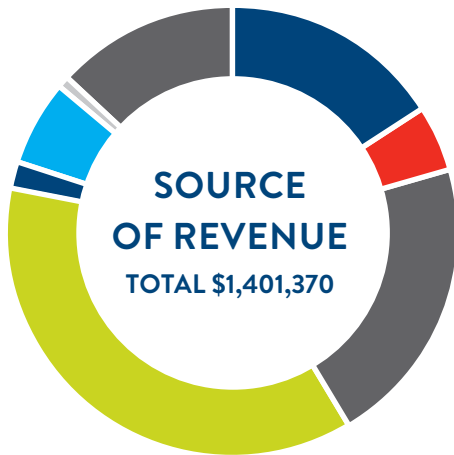
Financials

In Memoriam



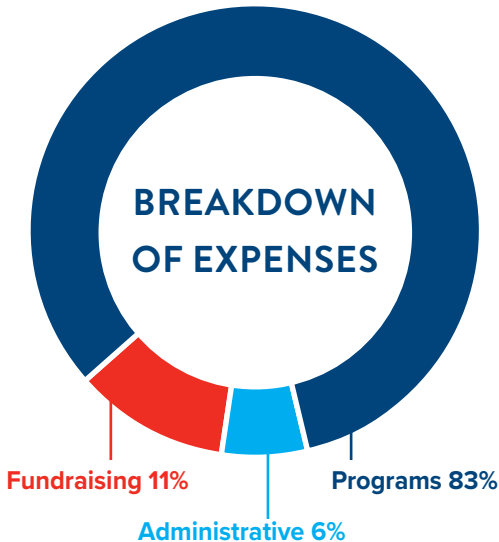
Judge John-David and Lisa Sullivan

Judge John-David Sullivan, “Sonny,” (1930-2021). Among many other accomplishments, Judge Sullivan was one of CASA of Larimer County’s founding judges. We are forever grateful for his vision and commitment to children and families in our community.



Philanthropy Grants	\$ 220,375
Corporations	\$ 66,098
Individuals	\$ 300,132
Government Grants	\$ 514,828
Interest Income	\$ 24,422
Legislative Funding	\$ 90,822
Other Revenue	\$ 4,693
Harmony House Upgrades*	\$ 180,000

** Noel Barrett Shuler Foundation awarded a matching grant to make security and accessibility upgrades to Harmony House.*



CASA of Larimer County Events

Light of Hope

This year's annual and virtual Light of Hope event presented by Conduct All Electric ran from March 19-29. The 10-day span of the event was a great success! We are most appreciative of our party hosts and our amazing community who value and support our critical services!



Chimney Park Dinner & Wine Pairing

A huge thank you to Jason and Joanna Shaeffer, owners of Chimney Park, their staff, and our supporters for an intimate fundraising dinner with wine pairing to support our mission. We are grateful to Rod and Jeff Clough for hosting the dinner at their gorgeous home. We are excited for next year's event!



Appreciation & Awareness Reception

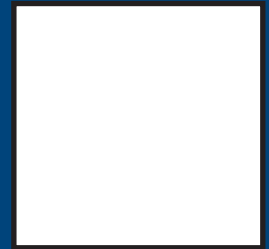
The Appreciation and Awareness Reception presented by UCHHealth and hosted in August was a wonderful event! While we couldn't gather as planned, we had the opportunity to thank our supporters for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to children who are vulnerable in our community! It was awesome to be able to thank so many of you in person for your support. For those of you who couldn't join us, please know how much we appreciate and value each of you!



Kappa Alpha Theta Poinsettia & Wreath Sale

For decades, the annual Poinsettia & Wreath Sale has helped CASA of Larimer County raise critical funding while getting ready for the holiday season. Big shout out to the local Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae chapter and Plantorium Greenhouse for hosting this annual event each year!!!





3105 E. Harmony Road
Fort Collins, CO 80528

970.488.1632 CASALarimer.com
Call 1-800-CO4KIDS to report child abuse or neglect.