



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

LARIMER COUNTY

A group of five diverse children are running joyfully through a lush green field filled with yellow wildflowers. They are holding hands and smiling, conveying a sense of freedom and happiness. The background shows a clear blue sky and distant green hills. The children are dressed in casual summer clothing like t-shirts, shorts, and sandals.

**2022 IMPACT
REPORT**

Dear Friends,

CASA of Larimer County ensures that children who have experienced abuse and neglect have a voice, are connected to caring adults, and have hope for a brighter tomorrow. In 2022 our volunteers, donors, board of directors, and dedicated team:

- Appointed CASA Volunteers to 89% of eligible new cases in Dependency and Neglect Court, closing the gap on ensuring a voice for every child.
- Expanded Trust Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) with more TBRI® Practitioners to consistently deliver critical tools to support children who have experienced trauma.
- Advanced diversity, equity, and inclusion work with the board of directors, staff, and volunteers to support the best outcomes for each child and family.
- Connected 450 children and parents through parenting time and exchange services.

Recent data from the school district paints a troubling picture of the state of youth mental health in our community. Petitions filed in Dependency and Neglect cases show families in crisis. As a community we must do better.

In 2023, we commit to providing the highest quality programs, backed by evidence and research. We commit to honoring the unique experiences and history of each family so we can best empower them on their journey. We commit to building strong partnerships to create a community where each child belongs and has opportunity.

Thank you for your partnership on this journey. We are humbled by the heart, energy, and resilience that this community shares each day. Together, we will ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

**With sincere
gratitude
and hope,**



Jen Ryan
Executive Director



Wendy Banks
Board President

2022 IMPACT AT A GLANCE



506

Total Children
Served



203

CASA Volunteers
Appointed



1,629

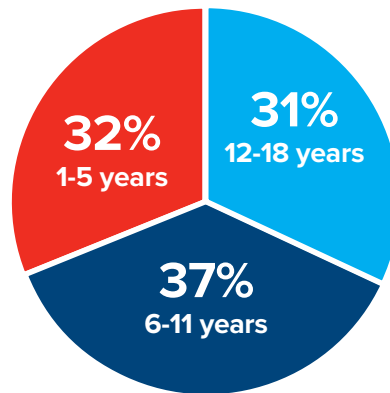
Supervised Visits and
Safe Exchanges



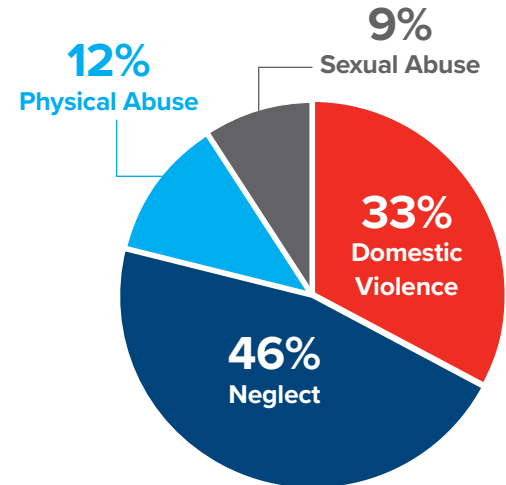
9,248

Hours Donated by
CASA Volunteers

Ages of Children



Concern



Cities Where Children Were Placed

Fort Collins • Loveland • Berthoud • Johnstown
• Wellington • Estes Park • Denver • Timnath •
Laporte • Greeley • Windsor • Aurora • Englewood
• Glen Haven • Eaton • Boulder • Canon City •
Evans • Cheyenne • Bellvue • Severence • Golden
• Centennial • Broomfield • Commerce City •
Fort Morgan • Westminster • Firestone • Milliken
• Northglenn • Lafayette • Littleton • Colorado
Springs • Longmont • Highlands Ranch • Pueblo •
Pine • Nunn • Pierce • Ault • Norman

COLORADO

FAMILY CONNECTIONS



100%
of families
accessed fee-free
services

Research shows that children with safe and secure attachments have better outcomes. Family Connections takes a holistic, family centered approach, and provides case management from the Strengthening Families framework. 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.

Parent education is a critical change agent for families who have experienced relational trauma. The Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP) is a research-informed approach which builds understanding of child development, family roles, appropriate discipline, empathy, and child empowerment to reduce the likelihood of the recurrence of child maltreatment. This year we added Trust Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) as another meaningful tool to promote felt-safety, attachment, and healing for children.

The services you provide brought my son and I back together. Words would never be enough to say how grateful I am. – PARENT



TBRI®

Court Appointed Special Advocates

- Staff trained in TBRI® Caregiver Package
- CASA Volunteers trained in 6 hours of TBRI®
- CASAs model and support regulation in youth thru TBRI® tools and principles
- Bio-parent, Kinship, and placement training
- Principles built into supervision of volunteers and staff

Family Connections

- Staff trained in TBRI® Caregiver Package and as Coaches in Roadmap to Family Empowerment
- Staff model and support regulation thru TBRI® tools and principles
- Bio-parent training
- Principles built into supervision of services and staff



TRUST BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION® (TBRI®)

TBRI® Practitioners support the integration of TBRI® organizationally into programming and supervision and engage children, parents, and caregivers associated with CASA of Larimer County in TBRI® programming to strengthen families and empower youth.

TBRI® Caregiver Package

- 24-hours of group training
- For all caregivers (Parents, Kinship, CASA & Foster)
- Delivered by a TBRI® Practitioner
- Based on Connecting Principles, Empowering Principles, and Correcting Principles

Ongoing support through
peer groups, practice calls,
coaching, nurture groups, and
consultations with a TBRI®
Practitioner

TBRI® Roadmap to Family Empowerment

- 10 one-on-one lessons developed from TBRI® principles for individualized learning and transitional support
- For caregivers with children in the home
- Delivered by a TBRI® Coach, who is a trained Volunteer or staff member supervised by a TBRI® Practitioner

TBRI® is designed to meet the complex needs of children who have experienced adversity. Because of their histories, it is often difficult for these children to trust the loving adults in their lives, which often results in perplexing behaviors. TBRI® offers practical tools for parents, caregivers, teachers, or anyone who works with children.

— KARYN PURVIS INSTITUTE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT, TCU

CASA



In January 2022, the Magistrate on the Dependency & Neglect docket began referring **every** new case to the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program. The objective information and advocacy of a CASA Volunteer 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 Volunteer 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.

The Fostering Futures curriculum provides advanced training for CASA Volunteers enabling them to better support older youth. Fostering Futures and coordinated activities like Challenge Sheets and the *Teen Challenge Event* support better outcomes for older youth who are at greater risk for long-term challenges such as homelessness, unemployment, and future victimization. CASA Volunteers are a critical link in helping youth toward independence by developing life skills, obtaining necessary documents, and connecting to community resources.

My CASA is absolutely amazing!! I have a hard time expressing how thankful I am, but I want him to know that he is.

– CASA YOUTH



THANK YOU

A special thank you to the 203 CASA Volunteers who were court-appointed to advocate for the needs of **315 children** in our community. We are incredibly grateful for the dedication, heart, and energy you share each week to ensure that each child has the opportunity to thrive. **Thank you.**



When I was a teenager, my life was torn apart and I became involved in the foster system. Being a CASA gives me the ability to be the person I wish I'd had to guide, support, and inspire me to push on and help me keep a strong mindset. — CASA VOLUNTEER

It is clear this CASA really knows the youth they work with. They pay attention to important details, and seem to show great care and compassion towards the youth and family. I am so glad we live in a community that has CASA mentors like this. We know the more safe and supportive relationships a child has, the more resilient they become and I know CASAs are a huge part of that for our clients. — COMMUNITY PARTNER

Children lived



36% at home with parents
26% with relatives
32% in foster homes
6% other placements

315 


Children served

89% 

of new cases served by
CASA Volunteers

60 

New CASA Volunteers

A photograph of a two-story red brick house with a prominent front porch. The porch has a wooden roof and is supported by red brick columns. A set of concrete steps with wooden railings leads up to the porch. The house has several windows with white frames. In the foreground, there are some bare trees and a small garden area. A blue circular graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

**We are grateful to have this
unique and homelike space
for children and families
who need a safe place to
build connections.**



HARMONY HOUSE

As CASA of Larimer County grows, our staff uses more and more of Harmony House, repurposing some visit spaces for offices and encroaching on the comfort and privacy of our families. In 2021, we received a generous matching grant from the Noel B. Shuler Foundation to upgrade the security and accessibility of the Harmony House while improving the comfort and usability of the space.

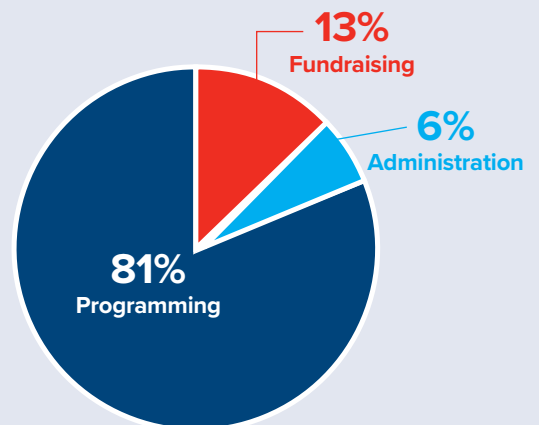
Thanks to the generosity of this community, we secured funding and are beginning next steps to ensure that the house is safe and accessible while remaining a welcoming space for children to build connections with family, just as it was originally intended by the generous donation over thirty years ago. The project will include construction of additional space with a secure entrance and waiting room, accessible bathrooms, offices, and a training room.

FINANCIALS

REVENUE

Philanthropy Grants	\$ 198,330
Corporations	\$ 139,946
Individuals ¹	\$ 231,655
Government Grants	\$ 598,005
Legislative Funding	\$ 100,785
Other Revenue	\$ 19,130
TOTAL	\$ 1,287,851
Harmony House Project	\$ 405,000

EXPENSES



¹ Investment account losses were deducted from this line

CASA OF LARIMER COUNTY EVENTS

Light of Hope Luncheon

Alpine Bank was the presenting sponsor for our largest event which brought together community partners, business leaders, and volunteers. This event has three goals: raising awareness of our programs and the community need, recruiting volunteers, and securing funding for our programs.

Appreciation and Awareness Reception

The annual Appreciation and Awareness Reception, hosted by UCHHealth, was a wonderful opportunity to gather together all of those who support CASA of Larimer County with their time, talent, and treasure.

CASA Classic Golf Tournament

This inaugural event was hosted at the Harmony Club. Attendees spent the day on a beautiful course supporting CASA of Larimer County. A huge thank you to Alpine Bank who was the presenting sponsor for this inaugural event and our Light of Hope Luncheon.

Chimney Park Dinner and Wine Pairing

A special thanks to Jason and Joanna Shaeffer, owners of Chimney Park, for hosting our third annual dinner supporting CASA of Larimer County. Guests enjoyed an incredible dinner, great wine, and learned about how our programs positively impact youth in the community.



2023 BOARD MEMBERS

Wendy Banks

BOARD PRESIDENT
Bohemian Foundation

Pat Barlow

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT
Blue Mesa Coaching

Kayleen Fraley

BOARD TREASURER
Ridgeview Business Ventures

Emily Narvaes Wilmsen

BOARD SECRETARY
Colorado State University

Allan Ewert

Alexander & Ewert, LLC

Janna West Kowalski

West Kowalski Consulting and Coaching

Ben Van Hoose

Alpine Bank

Kay Miller

*Retired Chief Nursing Officer
UCHealth*

Jason Valderrama

Sunrise Community Health

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.

EXECUTIVE:

Jen Ryan

OPERATIONS:

Leslie Piper
Alice Stopher
Jennifer Entner

DEVELOPMENT:

Cristi Meyer
Wendi Horvat

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Dakota Montez

FAMILY CONNECTIONS:

Lani Berry
Steve Diaz
Rachel Wise
Ashton Rooks

CASA:

DeAnn Zamora-Schroeder
Nina Hamilton
Holly Cable
Joe Clifton
Riana Lee

TBRI:

Valeria Silva-Woodruff





3105 E. Harmony Road
Fort Collins, CO 80528

970.488.1630 CASALarimer.com
Call 1-844-CO4KIDS to report child abuse or neglect.