



2013 Annual Report

Empowering abused and neglected children with a volunteer's voice in court.

CASA gives focus to fostering futures —



The CASA program has always been uniquely positioned to be a critical factor in improving outcomes for foster youth. The 2013 implementation



of the Teen Advocacy Program broadened CASA's impact even further. Designed to improve services and support to youth ages 14 to 18 in foster care, the program administers additional training to CASA volunteers paired with teens. Anchored by the *Fostering Futures* curriculum created by National CASA, advocates help teens set goals.

This includes focusing on life skills, transition plans, and developing a positive network of adult connections.

Seed funding from National CASA and Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church allowed for program staff to be added to the agency. This professional facilitates the trainings, supervises volunteers enrolled, and serves as an in-house expert on older foster youth issues. In its first year, 24 volunteers completed the *Fostering Futures* training and went on to serve 24 teens.

CASA anticipates a quick growth to this program in the coming years and is excited to be collaborating with the Kansas Division of Children and Families, as well as other youth-focused agencies in the community. Through this cooperation, additional teens who could benefit from the presence and support of a CASA advocate will be identified.

2013 Highlights:

- 170 volunteers served 413 children.
- 99% of children were kept safe from additional abuse or neglect.
- 98% of children had stability in CASA advocate.
- 97% of court hearings addressed information from CASA reports.
- 91% of kids experienced permanency in placement.



A CASA Story: Two-year old Miguel was placed in care after his mother became homeless and abandoned him. His mother had a substance abuse problem and was facing charges in another state. For his safety, Miguel was placed in foster care and Linda was appointed his CASA advocate.

Linda was a natural in reaching out to Miguel. An affectionate child, the two bonded and always enjoyed their visits together. They read books, played with toy cars, or spent time outdoors hunting for special finds. Linda ensured Miguel's childhood was protected. She worked with the foster family and daycare to make certain Miguel's routine offered structure, nutrition and play. This was necessary as his early days had been inconsistent. This routine made Miguel feel safe and helped him thrive, even around excessive change while in the system. When Miguel showed delay, Linda reported this and made recommendations for a medical evaluation. This advocacy was honored by the Court and a hearing dysfunction was identified. With treatment and speech therapy, Miguel overcame his delay and now speaks in full sentences. Linda also reported to the Court the foster family's interest in adopting. Once decided that Miguel could not return home, he was adopted. Today, Miguel is very happy to have his family, most especially his two new siblings.



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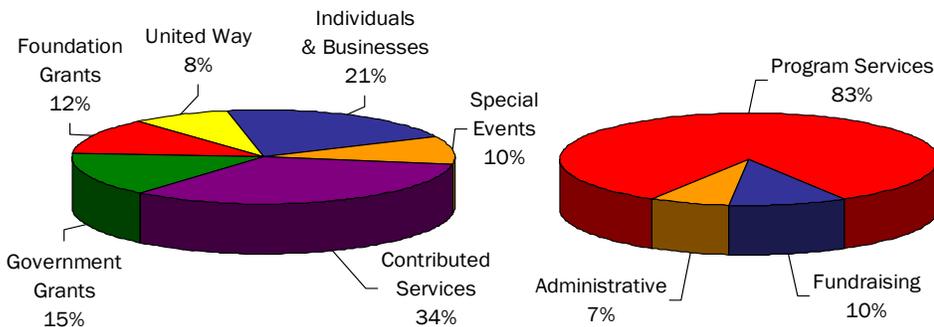
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Financial Statement Year-Ended 2013 (unaudited)

Revenues: \$868,054 • Expenses: \$888,738



The average cost to provide a CASA advocate to one child is \$1,500 per year. This amount covers recruitment, screening, training, supervision and support, as well as other operating costs. We are pleased that \$.83 of every dollar contributed is dedicated to direct program services.

Program Statistics

	2013	2012
CHILDREN SERVED	413	409
FAMILIES SERVED	207	203
VOLUNTEERS TRAINED	64	53
COURT REPORTS/HEARINGS	407/474	394/455
VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS	14,282	14,064

