



2015 Annual Report

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



CASA Celebrates 30 Years

Thirty years ago, a special group of volunteers came together in an effort to champion the interests of abused and neglected children. After launching CASA in Jackson County in 1983, the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women, brought the CASA model to Johnson County in 1985. Working closely with the Johnson County District Court, the National Council of Jewish Women carefully planned the program's beginning and an Advisory Board was formed.



A reunion photo of some of CASA's original Founding Members.

From its first class of 9 volunteer advocates, a total of 1,305 community volunteers have been trained as CASA advocates during this 30 year history. CASA also secured judicial support for expanded services in Wyandotte County in 2005. Today, 4,249 local abused and neglected children have received court advocacy and a volunteer voice in court.

According to one supporter, "CASA has certainly delivered on the promise of 30 years ago... Johnson and Wyandotte Counties are so much the better for the wrap around services volunteer CASAs have provided to our most vulnerable population."

2015 Highlights:

- 200 volunteers served 389 children.
- 100% of children were kept safe from additional abuse or neglect.
- 99% of children had stability in CASA advocate.
- 98% of court hearings addressed information from CASA reports.
- 95% of kids experienced permanency in placement.



A CASA Story: Fourteen year-old Ben and his eight year-old sister Sue came under the Court's protection when authorities received reports that the father had isolated Ben in a basement room for extended periods of time. The mother failed to protect Ben and both parents verbally abused the children. For their safety, Ben and Sue were placed in foster care.

Dennis was appointed the children's CASA volunteer and he spent many hours visiting with them, whether at school or in their foster placement. He encouraged Ben and Sue in their school work, and checked with school personnel to make sure they kept up with their assignments. Dennis also consistently reminded the social workers and the Judge about frequent nightmares both children experienced and made recommendations in court reports for their therapy. He also ensured Ben received medical treatment for a skin condition and laser treatments were soon initiated. Upon receiving the help and counseling they needed, nightmares decreased and both Ben and Sue became at ease in their new home environment. Thankfully, this was a home that was very committed to the children.

Eventually, the parents voluntarily relinquished parental rights and fortunately, the foster family adopted both siblings. Dennis attended the court ceremony that finalized the adoption and gave Ben and Sue their forever family.



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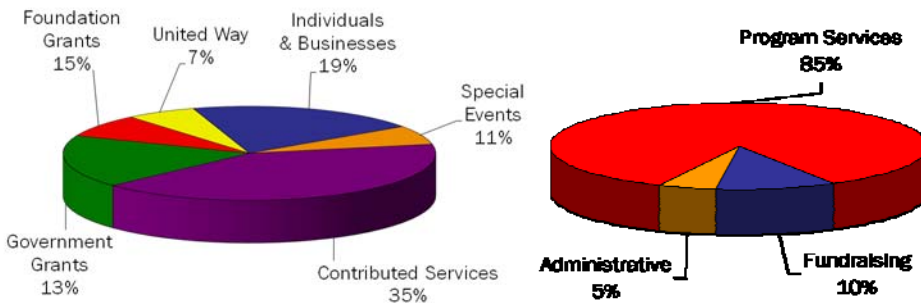
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Financial Statement Year-Ended 2015

Revenues: \$1,100,913 • Expenses: \$1,083,707



The average cost to provide a CASA advocate to one child is \$1,900 per year. This amount covers recruitment, screening, training, supervision and support, as well as other operating costs. We are pleased that \$.85 of every dollar contributed is dedicated to direct program services.

Program Statistics

	2015	2014
CHILDREN SERVED	389	409
FAMILIES SERVED	239	225
VOLUNTEERS TRAINED	67	55
COURT HEARINGS STAFFED	542	509
VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS	18,738	17,407

