

2017: A RECORD YEAR OF SERVICE



Dear Friends,

2017 was a record year for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Franklin County. We served more children than ever before in our 26 year history. 243 CASA volunteers supported 869 abused and neglected children in 402 cases before the Franklin County Juvenile Court. Financial support from the community contributed to a banner year for helping children. For the first time in our history, revenues exceeded \$1,000,000.

CASA's success is the result of diligent dedicated work by many:

- Our outstanding guardian ad litem volunteers devote hundreds of hours every year ensuring that abused and neglected children in our community receive the advocacy and attention they deserve in the court system;
- Our dedicated staff are passionate about providing the highest level of quality training in support of our volunteers and the children they serve;
- Our volunteer Board of Trustees gives their time and expertise to guide and help grow CASA; and
- Our donors enable us to help victims by providing the support to recruit, train and support the men and women who are on the frontlines of our battle against abuse and neglect in this community.

2017 was a good year and builds momentum toward our 2018 goals:

- Recruit and train more volunteers;
- Develop and expand training to address new challenges facing children today;
- Educate more neighbors and friends on the signs of abuse and neglect;
- Continue to ensure a powerful and consistent voice for abused and neglected children before the Court and the skilled assistance to navigate an overwhelmed child welfare system.

Thank you for your generosity last year. You improved the lives of CASA kids. You provided the hope that abused and neglected children need during the most difficult moments of their young lives. There is still more to do. Working together, we can accomplish our goals and ensure advocacy for the best interests of the child in the judicial system.

Gratefully,

Kathy Kerr
Executive Director



As a boy, my three sisters and I suffered just about every form of abuse you can imagine. When I was 13 years old, we were all removed from our home. After that, I bounced around, from a children's emergency shelter to an aunt's house, then back to the shelter. Without knowledge or the power to speak up, I felt like a victim. A year and a half later, I met my CASA volunteer, Robert. And everything changed. - *Dashun*

My younger siblings and I were all exposed to prenatal drug and alcohol use at birth, and each of us suffered the long-term effects. My sister and I were born with severe cleft palates leading to speech disabilities, and my younger sister was born without arches on her feet and was in need of leg braces. For the first 12 years of my life, I was never allowed to be a child. I believe my focus and my worldview—that it is not the falling that matters, but the rising every time we fall—is in large part due to the attention that my siblings and I received from our CASA volunteer. I thank her for showing me that my biological mother may have taken away my childhood, but I was in control of what I would do with the rest of my life. -*Melissa*



In 2017
**CASA of
 Franklin County**
 was the voice in Court for
869
 Child Victims of
 Abuse and Neglect

Through the help of

243
 active volunteers

including

102
 new volunteer
 guardians ad litem.

2017 CASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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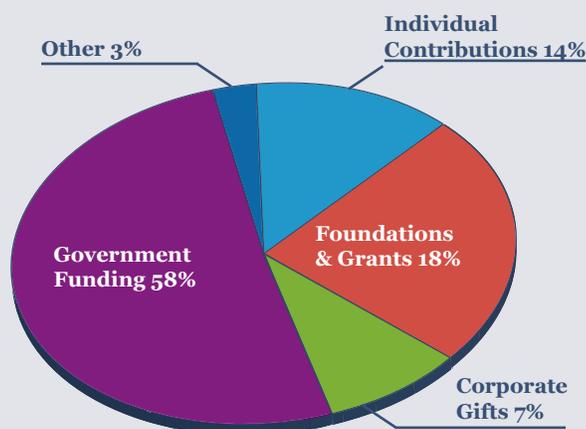
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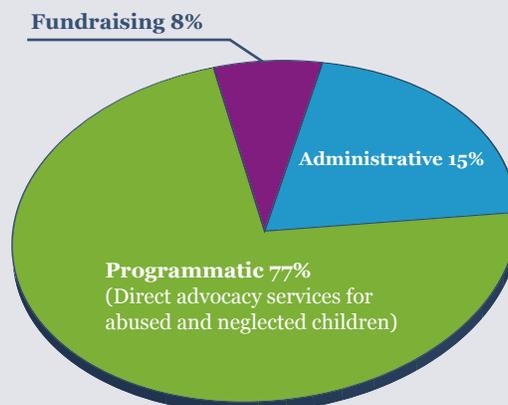
Courtney Sparks White
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REVENUE



2017 Revenue: \$1,082,157.42

EXPENSES



2017 Expenses: \$951,469.55
 End of the Year Net Assests: \$475,811