

My Experience as a CASA/GAL



CASA Volunteer Hilda Hutcherson knows the joy of helping an abused child.

I heard about CASA about three years before I was recruited by a friend to sign up with her for the next CASA training class. I wasn't sure I was equipped with the skills necessary to be a Guardian ad Litem, but because I have a passion to help children who are in situations that do not adequately support their needs, I signed up for the training. I still felt like I couldn't do this after completing the training, but on February 16, 2017, I was sworn in as a CASA Guardian ad Litem. Experience is a great teacher, and along with the information taught in the CASA Training Classes, and the support of the CASA staff (Attorneys, Case Managers) I learned to do the things that needed to be done, for the child's best interest.

I received my first (and only) case in July 2017. There were two children in the case I was assigned: a young girl, and her infant brother. The young girl lived with her father, and the infant was with a foster family. The case ended for the girl in March 2019, with placement with her parent. This left me with only the young boy in my case. A goal of CASA and Children Services is to reunite children with their biological parents, or kinship placements. However, our responsibility as GALs is to advocate FOR THE CHILD and provide information that will help Children's Services and the Courts place the child in the best home for him or her. Sometimes this does not end up with reunification with parents. During the time with his foster family, the young boy has evolved from dependency on oxygen 24/7, to rarely needing oxygen. He has made great progress, mentally and physically, with his foster parents. In May 2020, he was formally adopted by his foster parents. The young girl's placement did not end so well, so she is back in the system, with a different GAL. However, as long as we do what we believe is best for the child(ren), without prejudice or bias, we have done what we signed up for.

It's not always easy, but it is rewarding!
Hilda Hutcherson

CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY

VOLUNTEER

DONATE

SPREAD THE WORD



Court Appointed Special Advocates
of Franklin County
373 South High Street
15th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
614-525-7450
www.casacolumbus.org



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF FRANKLIN COUNTY



CASA of Franklin County 2019: Changing Children's Stories

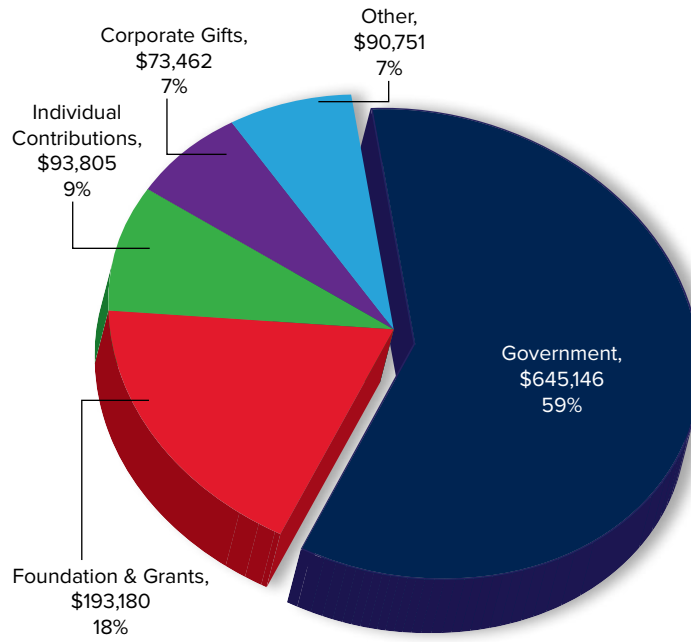
In 2019
CASA of Franklin County
 was the voice in Court for
882
 Child Victims of Abuse and Neglect

Through the help of
252
 active volunteers
 including
85
 new volunteers

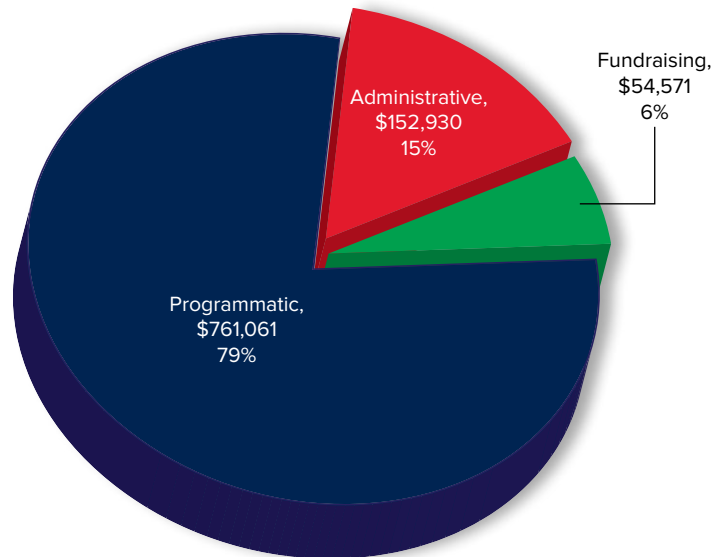


Thank You

for helping CASA Make a Difference



Income (as of 12/31/19) \$1,096,344.00
 End of 2019 Net Assets: \$567,609.00



Expenses (as of 12/31/19) \$968,562.00

2019 Court Appointed Special Advocates of Franklin County Board of Directors

Mallory Ashbrook (Board Treasurer)

Manager JD, CPA
 GBQ Partners, LLC

Suzanne Galyardt

Attorney
 Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP

Amy Harman

Director of Marketing and Communications
 One Columbus

Tracy James

VP, Business Transformation
 Grange Insurance

Beverlyn Johns

IT Consultant
 State of Ohio

Timothy A. Kelley

Associate
 Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter

Bessie Kitto (Board President)

Vice President
 CFO, P&C Personal Lines
 Nationwide

Nancy L. Koerner

Attorney (Retired)

Reuben Lo (Board Vice President)

VP Sales and Business Development
 Safelite Group

Brooke Niedecken

Shareholder
 Littler Mendelson, P. C.

Elizabeth Paczek

Director, Human Resources,
 Employment Compliance
 L Brands, Inc.

Judge Guy Reece

Presiding Judge (Retired)
 Franklin County Court of Common Pleas

Lauren Sabo-Crawford (Board Secretary)

Attorney
 Albeit Weiker, LLP

Kendra Singh

Sr. Marketing Manager/
 Customer Engagement
 Cardinal Health

Nicole Woods

Associate
 Ice Miller Legal Counsel

