



IMPACT REPORT



CASA
JEFFERSON

WHY IS CASA JEFFERSON SO IMPORTANT?



CASA Jefferson's mission centers around its Advocates, who play a critical role in bridging the gap between the court system and children who have suffered abuse or neglect. These trained and supervised Advocates serve as the eyes, ears, and most importantly, the voices for children in foster care, ensuring their unique needs are brought to light and prioritized. They collect vital information and make recommendations to the court, helping judges make informed decisions about the children's futures.

Every child deserves the opportunity to grow up in a safe, loving environment. Sadly, for thousands of children across the country, neglect, violence, and maltreatment define their lives. In 2024, Louisiana alone recorded **51,908** reports of child abuse, and of those, **7,167** children entered foster care.

For children who cannot return to their homes, foster care can be a confusing and overwhelming experience. That's where CASA Jefferson steps in. Court-Appointed Special Advocates are appointed by judges to stand up for the best interests of these children. By forming meaningful relationships with the children and those involved in their lives, Advocates provide a consistent, reliable adult presence. Their informed court recommendations help ensure that each child's needs are addressed and that no child falls through the cracks of an overloaded system.

Research has shown that children with a CASA Advocate are more likely to have positive outcomes. These children:

- **Are more likely to find a safe, permanent home**
- **Are more likely to succeed academically**
- **Are half as likely to re-enter the foster care system**

Through the commitment of CASA Jefferson's Advocates, children who have experienced abuse and neglect are not only heard but given a real chance at a safer, brighter future.

Research Shows

Having a stable relationship with a supportive adult can significantly improve outcomes for children, even when they have endured serious hardships. CASA volunteers play a crucial role in providing this stability by being specially trained to understand the effects of trauma on children.

- CASA volunteers are educated to recognize the profound impact trauma can have on a child's development and well-being.
- They spend time building meaningful connections with the children and those involved in their lives.
- Volunteers communicate with service providers, teachers, and social workers to gather comprehensive information that helps them make well-informed recommendations to the court.
- Based on their findings, they advocate for services that promote healing and help children build resilience without causing further harm.
- Additionally, they support services that strengthen the relationship between parents and their children, helping to create a path toward family reunification when it is safe and possible.

By providing this critical support, CASA volunteers ensure that children in foster care have a voice and the opportunity to heal and thrive.

OUR STORY

Our Vision

To break the cycle of child abuse and neglect through volunteers advocating for safe, nurturing, and permanent homes for foster children in our community.

Our Mission

Our mission is to have volunteers recruited, trained, and assigned to every child in the foster care system in Jefferson Parish.

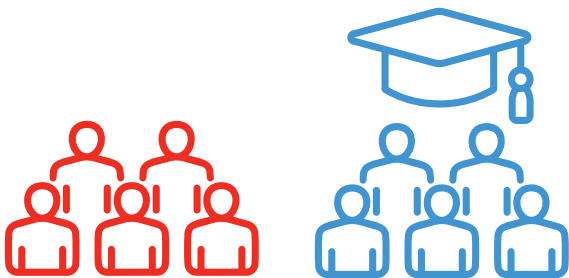
Our Purpose

Children who are removed from their homes because of reported abuse and/or neglect are placed in foster care situations. During a lengthy and complex process, a judge will determine where they may safely and permanently place. This is where an advocate steps in.

STATISTICS

50%

of youth in foster care don't graduate from high school.



90%

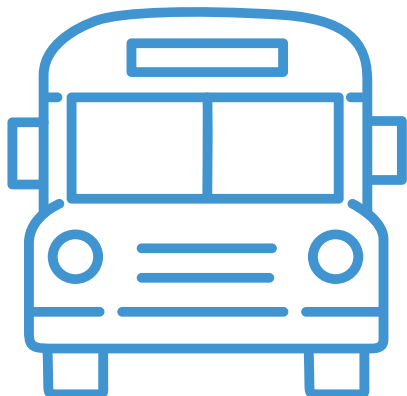
of youth previously in foster care did not obtain a college degree

6%
earned a
two-year
degree

4%
earned a
four-year
degree

34%

of youth in foster care experience five or more school changes.



Disciplinary actions are more common among youth in foster care.



3X

more likely to
get Expelled

2X

more likely to
get Suspended

GOALS



The following goals have been identified by our program as performance measurements to illustrate the impact of CASA Jefferson advocates who have been appointed by the Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court to a Child in Need of Care case. Our program's goal is to ensure that children are permanently and promptly placed, as well as to ensure that the children have their needs met while in foster care.

GOAL 1

In 2025-2026, the average time a CASA child spends in the Department of Children and Family Service's custody will be fewer than 730 days. *(As outlined in the Adoption and Safe Families Act, Public Law 105-89, of 1997)*

In 2025-2026, 165 CASA Jefferson children spent an average of 668 days in the Department of Children and Family Service's custody.

GOAL 3

In 2025-2026, 70% of CASA children will be placed with their siblings. *(To maintain family connection)*

In 2025-2026, 84% of CASA Jefferson children were placed with their siblings. Of the 137 children assigned an advocate this fiscal year, 115 were placed with their siblings and 22 were not.

GOAL 2

In 2025-2026, 80% of CASA children will achieve permanent placement. *(Through reunification, adoption, or transfer of custody).*

In 2025-2026, 95% of CASA Jefferson children whose cases were closed received a permanent placement. Of the 59 children whose cases closed this fiscal year (excluding 5 who aged out of the system and 1 death), 56 achieved a permanent placement through adoption, reunification, guardianship, or custody to a relative.

GOAL 4

In 2025-2026, 60% of recommendations made by CASA Advocates will become orders of the Court. *(Recommendations are made for services including but not limited to educational, medical, behavioral health services, family connections, and permanent placements.)*

In 2025-2026, 69% of the recommendations made by CASA Jefferson Advocates became orders of the Court. Our Advocates made 451 recommendations, 309 of which became orders of the Court.

OUR ADVOCATES

	Number	Percentage
Age Range		
21-29	7	7%
30-39	16	18%
40-49	22	25%
50-59	16	18%
60-over	26	30%
Gender		
Female	77	89%
Male	10	11%
Ethnicity		
African American	12	14%
Caucasian	64	74%
Hispanic/Latino	5	6%
Asian American	1	1%
Bi-Racial	5	6%
Employment		
Advocates who are employed full time	56	64%
Education		
Assigned advocates with at least a bachelor's degree level of education	59	68%

Total number of assigned advocates:

87

Total advocates discharged (resigned or terminated):

39

Total number of advocates (active and inactive):

112

Number of contacts with children:

1,029

Number of hours contributed by advocates:

3,623

Number of court reports advocates completed:

148

Advocates completed

725

hours of training.

RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

CASA conducted

17

community presentations

Prospective Advocates completed training:

38

Advocates sworn in this Fiscal Year:

29



OUR CHILDREN

Number of newly assigned children to an advocate:

43

Number of cases closed:

65

95%
of the children achieved a permanent home at case closure.

Number of appointed children this fiscal year:

165

Number of children assigned an advocate:

137

Number of children waiting for an advocate during this fiscal year:

28

Number of new children appointed:

52

	Number	Percentage
Age Range		
Children Under 1 Year of Age	4	3%
Children 1-12 Years of Age	112	82%
Children 13-15 Years of Age	14	10%
Children 16-18 Years of Age	7	5%
Gender		
Female	78	57%
Male	59	43%
Ethnicity		
African American	75	55%
Caucasian	39	28%
Bi-Racial	7	5%
Hispanic/Latino	16	12%
Asian American	0	0%

FISCAL YEAR

FINANCIALS

Programmatic Revenue

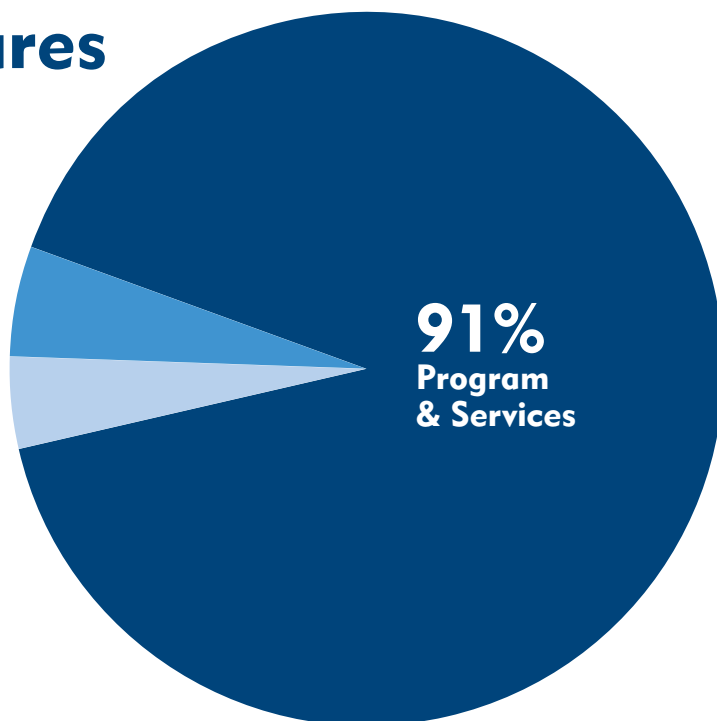
RESTRICTED FUNDS

CASA AP	\$454,597.73
(State DCFS)	
United Way	\$75,000.00
JPJC	\$60,000.00
(Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court)	
LCLE	\$39,577.00
Restricted Projects	\$14,672.57
Fore!Kids	\$10,000.00
General/Unrestricted	\$60,285.20
TOTAL	\$714,132.50

Expenditures

5%
Administrative
(Audit, Professional
Services, Insurance)

4%
Fundraising



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Michael J.
Laughlin, Jr.**

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Loan Officer,
*Hancock Whitney Bank***



**Victoria "Torie"
Kranze**

**Vice Chair, Chief Executive
Officer,
*National Kidney Foundation
of LA, Inc.***



**Christopher
Cazenave**

**Treasurer, Partner,
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Leah Oby

**Secretary, Manager,
Public Affairs,
*Atmos Energy***



**Warner M.
Williams**

**President and CEO,
*Warner Williams LLC***



Adonis C. Exposé

**External Affairs
Coordinator**



Edward Bonin

Nurse Practitioner



**Thomas C. Wicker, IV
(T.C.)**

**Attorney,
*Capitelli & Wicker***



SIP, SUPPORT, & SERVE

This year marked an inspiring milestone as CASA Jefferson hosted its inaugural mixer, Sip, Support and Serve. Set against the warm, intimate backdrop of The White House in Gretna, the evening brought our community together to raise a glass, lift a voice, and change a life for the children we serve.

Sip, Support and Serve was far more than a memorable night out. It provided a vital platform to raise both crucial funds and community awareness for children in foster care across Jefferson Parish. Equally important,

the mixer gave us a space to celebrate the incredible people who make this work possible: our dedicated CASA advocates, our board and staff, and the generous supporters whose presence fuels our mission every day.

We extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to everyone who came out, raised a glass, and helped make our very first mixer a resounding success. Your presence and generosity directly power a brighter future for every child we advocate for, and we are already looking forward to gathering together again soon!





PINCH FOR A PURPOSE

This year marked an inspiring milestone as CASA Jefferson and Winston Rhea Scholars joined forces for our inaugural joint crawfish boil fundraiser, Pinch for a Purpose. Set against the beautiful backdrop of The Batture, the afternoon brought our entire community together with extraordinary energy and a shared commitment to the abused and neglected children we serve.

Pinch for a Purpose was far more than a memorable spring gathering. It provided a vital platform to raise both crucial funds and community awareness for children in foster care across Jefferson Parish. Equally important,

Pinch for a Purpose gave us a space to celebrate the incredible people who make this work possible: our dedicated CASA advocates, our community partners at Winston Rhea, and the generous donors whose support fuels our mission every day.

We extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to everyone who came out, supported the cause, and helped make our very first joint venture a resounding success. Your presence and generosity directly power a brighter future for every child we advocate for, and we are already looking forward to gathering together again this upcoming school year!





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