



CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™



Impact Report

Fiscal Year

2022-2023

Introduction

Why is CASA so important?

An advocate is the heart of CASA Jefferson's mission. Advocates are the eyes, ears, and most importantly, the voices for abused and neglected children in the court. These Advocates are trained and supervised to gather information to make recommendations so that Judges decide the best possible outcome for the children in foster care.

Every child deserves to grow and learn in a safe and loving home. However, for thousands of children around the nation, violence, neglect, and maltreatment are all they know. Nationally, 686,000 children were found to be victims of maltreatment in 2012; 8,458 of these victims are from Louisiana.

Children whose homes are no longer safe for them to return to are placed in the confusing and oftentimes overwhelming world of foster care. That's where CASA Jefferson comes in.

Court-Appointed Special Advocates are appointed by judges to serve as the voice for children in foster care. By getting to know their assigned child and the people involved in the child's life, Advocates can fight for the best interest of the child and serve as a consistent, responsible, adult presence in their life. Through recommendations made in court, Advocates ensure that their CASA child's needs are being met and that they're not lost in our overburdened child welfare system.

Children who have experienced abuse or neglect fare better with a CASA volunteer by their side. Studies have shown:

- They are **more likely** to find a safe, permanent home.
- They are **more likely** to succeed in school.
- They are **half as likely** to re-enter the foster care system.

Research shows:

Having a stable relationship with a supportive adult can help children do well, even when they have faced significant hardships.

- CASA volunteers are trained to understand the impact of trauma on children.
- They spend time with children and the people in their lives.
- They talk to service providers, teachers, and social workers to gather information that will help them make informed recommendations to the court.
- Based on what they learn, our volunteers also advocate for services that promote healing, that help children develop resilience without causing additional trauma.
- They encourage services that strengthen parents' relationships with their children.

Our Story

Our Mission

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 Vision

Our vision 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 and 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.



Children Reached
Forever Homes

94%



Our 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 ultimate goal is to ensure that children are permanently and promptly placed, as well as ensuring the children have their needs met while in foster care.

GOAL 1

In 2022-2023 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 2022-2023, **220** CASA Jefferson children spent an average of **211 days** in Department of Children and Family Service's custody.

GOAL 2

In 2022-2023, 80% of CASA children will achieve a permanent placement. *(Through reunification, adoption, or transfer of custody).*

- In 2022-2023, **94% of CASA Jefferson children whose case were closed received a permanent placement.**

GOAL 3

In 2022-2023, 70% of CASA children will be placed with their siblings. *(To maintain family connection)*

- In 2022-2023, **76%** of CASA Jefferson children were placed with their siblings.

GOAL 4

In 2022-2023, 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 2022-2023, **65%** of the recommendations made by CASA Jefferson Advocates became orders of the Court. Our Advocates made **467** recommendations, **303** of which became orders of the Court.

OUR ADVOCATES

Advocate Demographics		
Age Range	Number	Percentage
21-29	4	4%
30-39	14	14%
40-49	30	31%
50-59	20	21%
60-over	29	30%
Gender	Number	Percentage
Female	81	84%
Male	16	16%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
African American	18	19%
Caucasian	63	65%
Hispanic/Latino	8	8%
Asian American	1	1%
Bi-Racial	7	7%
Employment	Number	Percentage
Advocates who are employed full time	78	80%
Education	Number	Percentage
Assigned advocates with at least a bachelor's degree level of education	30	31%

Total number of assigned advocates: **83**

Total advocates discharged (resigned or terminated): **19**

Total number of advocates (active and inactive): **97**

Number of contacts with children: **784**

Number of hours contributed by advocates: **3,011**

Number of court reports advocates completed: **127**

Advocates completed **557** hours of training.

RECRUITMENT EFFORTS:

CASA conducted **21** community presentations

Initial contact with potential advocates: **42**

Prospective advocates completed orientation: **19**

Prospective Advocates completed training: **17**

Advocates sworn in this Fiscal Year: **17**



OUR CHILDREN

Children's Demographics

Age	Number	Percentage
Children Under 1 Year of Age	14	6%
Children 1-12 Years of Age	153	70%
Children 13-15 Years of Age	28	13%
Children 16-18 Years of Age	26	11%
Gender	Number	Percentage
Female Children Served	112	51%
Male Children Served	108	49%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
African American	103	47%
Caucasian	82	37%
Bi-Racial	14	6%
Hispanic/Latino	20	9%
Asian American	1	1%

CHILD OUTCOMES:

Number of newly assigned children to an advocate: **67**

Number of cases closed: **40**

Of the cases closed, **94% of the children achieved a permanent home at case closure.**

Number of appointed children this fiscal year: **220**

Number of children assigned an advocate: **151**

Number of children waiting for an advocate during this fiscal year: **69**

Number of new children appointed: **121**



Fiscal Year 22-23 Financials

Programmatic Revenue

Local Government Support	\$60,000
Foundation Support	\$11,000
Individual support and other donations	\$11,969
Federal and state government support	\$497,075
Fundraising events	\$11,434
Children's Projects	\$3,500
In-kind goods and services *	\$113,462
TOTAL	\$708,440



*Calculated by the number of hours Advocates spent providing direct services to children and earned through training x \$31.80 (<https://independentsector.org/blog/independent-sector-releases-new-value-of-volunteer-time-of-31-80-per-hour/>)

