



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

# CASA of the 7th Judicial District

*"Helping to break  
the cycle of abuse  
and neglect through  
advocacy and  
interaction."*

*Serving Delta, Gunnison,  
Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray,  
& San Miguel Counties*

[www.casa7jd.org](http://www.casa7jd.org)  
[info@casa7jd.org](mailto:info@casa7jd.org)

## ANNUAL REPORT FY 2018

**GIVING A CHILD**

*Hope*



"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."  
Fred Rogers

Mr Rogers said it well. Those who see the need and respond are my heroes. This past year CASA has been partnering with those who respond. Many of you may be reading this, thank you! We are incredibly grateful. While our efforts on behalf of children and youth suffering the effects of abuse and neglect have been strongly supported by community foundations, local governments, and private benefactors, we have also drawn the attention and support of state, national, and global philanthropists.

The CASA advocacy program, with 49 active Advocates, continues to provide a voice for children in the court through no fault of their own. This past year, CASA's Supervised Visitation Program, which is actively serving families in four counties, has seen a 15% growth in hours of visitation being provided. Fostering Futures, a program designed to meet the needs of youth and young adults coming out of foster care and transitioning to independence, is breaking new ground in innovative services and intervention. Over the past 12 months we have completed a \$1.2 million capital campaign to build eight homes that can be accessed regionally by 18 to 24 year olds that have come out of care and are at high risk for homelessness. Consultants have been brought in to identify potential outcomes and targeted benchmarks for ongoing assessments.

CASA of the 7th Judicial District is committed to our children. Their problems are our problems. Together we will respond and, perhaps, we can be their heroes.

I hope you enjoy looking through our annual report. If you have questions or would simply like to know more, Call me. Lets have a conversation.

*Carlton Mason*

Executive Director  
CASA of the 7th Judicial District  
970-249-0337

# Making a Difference

*Your generosity is making a difference!*

At CASA we believe:

- Every child deserves a safe, loving, permanent home;
- Every abused or neglected child has a voice that needs to be heard; and
- Every child deserves a stable adult presence.

In fiscal year 2018, 37 CASA Advocates invested more than 1400 hours, and logged nearly 15,000 miles, serving 134 children in 61 cases.

With your financial support, our volunteers, and a dedicated staff, CASA is impacting the lives of children and families across the six counties of Colorado's 7th Judicial District.

Thank you!

## Mission

*"Helping to break the cycle of abuse and neglect through advocacy and interaction."*

## Board of Directors

*James R Haugsness - Pres.*  
*Pat Blackwelder - V. Pres.*  
*Patricia Voorhis - Sec./Treas.*  
*Lance Daniel*  
*Warren Francis*  
*Noelle Hagan*  
*Valerie Hill*  
*Susan Welk de Valdez*

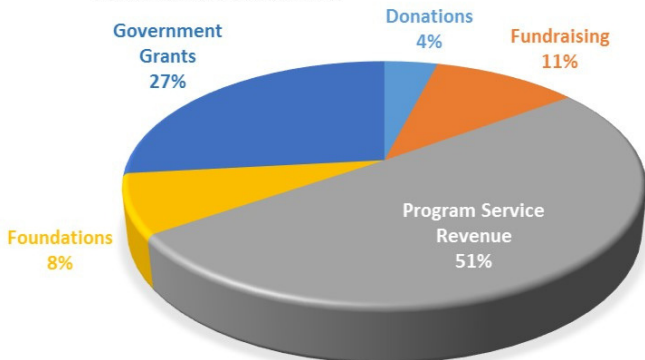
## Staff

*Jodie Chinn*  
*Lauren Cook*  
*Della Darnall*  
*Kathleen Felix*  
*Jane Hardman*  
*Natalie Jones*  
*Mary Jo Mills*  
*Dan Mohr*  
*Anna Rencoret*  
*Twyla Righter*  
*Glenda Ross*  
*Mercedes Wright*

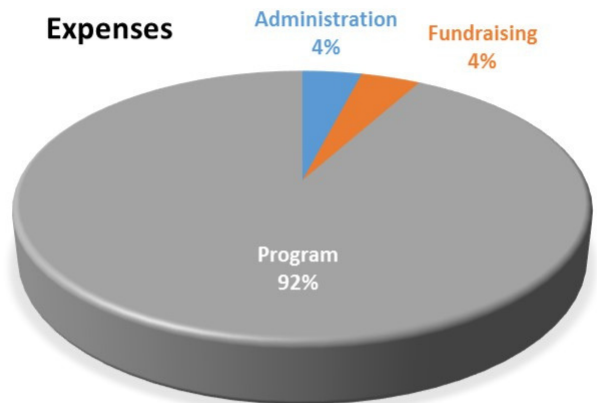
## Administration

*Carlton Mason*  
*Executive Director*  
  
*Twila Weiszbrod*  
*Assistant Director*  
  
*Karin Slater*  
*Business Manager*

## Sources of Revenue



## Expenses



## CASA of the 7th Judicial District Programs

- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Supervised Exchange & Parenting Time (SEPT)
- Fostering Futures - Preparing youth placed out-of-home for Independent Living
- Families in Transition - Colorado Parenting Seminar Provider

"I am at CASA doing an accounting internship. I'm pursuing a BS in Accounting at Colorado Mesa University, and aspire to become a CPA. I am very thankful to be working somewhere that has such a positive impact on the children and youth in our community."



**Anne Rencoret**  
 Business Office Assistant

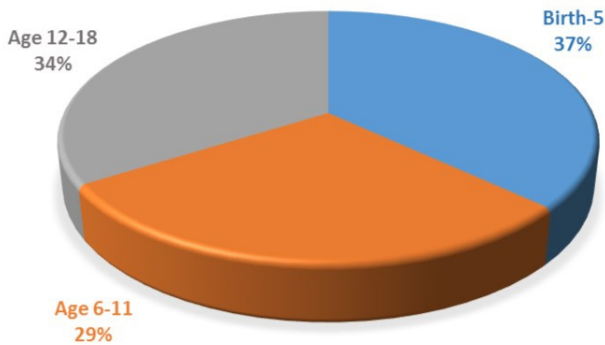


"Prior to joining CASA, I was a social worker for the Division of Family and Children Services in Georgia. I am so excited to be a part of this organization. I look forward to helping our volunteers make a world of difference in the life of a child."

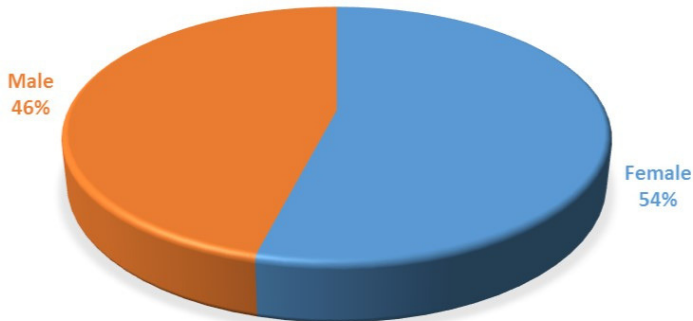
**Lauren Cook**  
CASA Program Manager

# Court Appointed Special Advocates

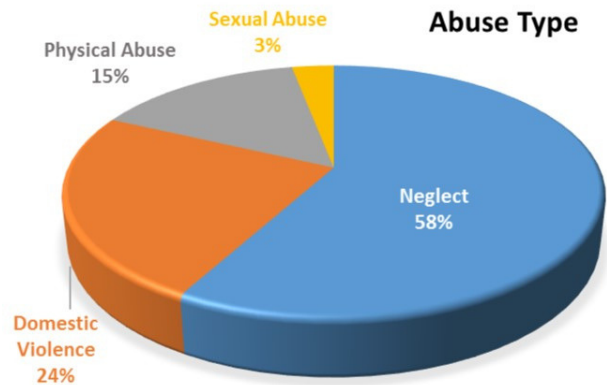
**Age of Children Served**



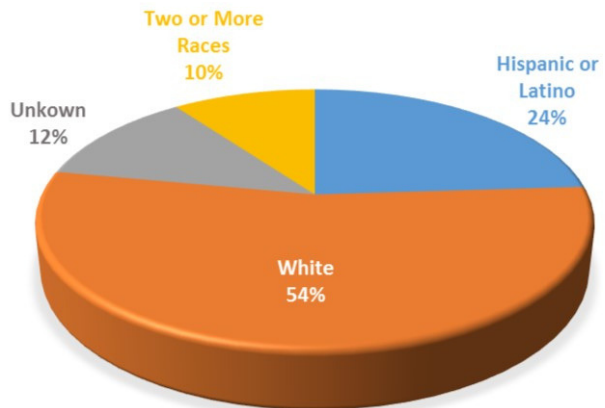
**Gender**



**Abuse Type**



**Race/Ethnicity**



Active  
CASA  
Advocates

**49**

Number of  
Cases  
Served

**61**

Number of  
Children  
Served

**134**

Number  
of Hours  
Volunteered

**1,422**

% of Children  
who Returned  
Home\*

**54%**

\*of cases closed and served by a CASA advocate

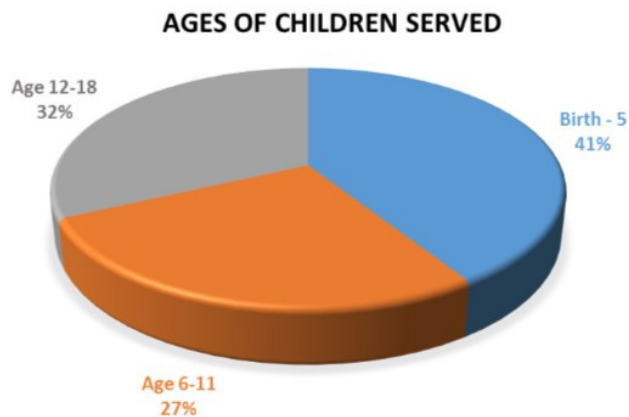
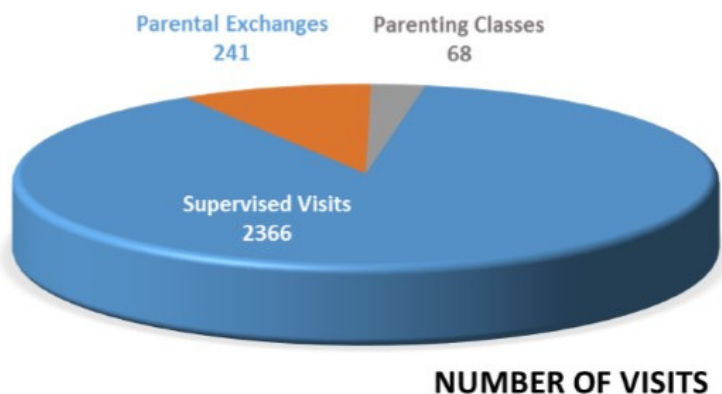
In fiscal year 2018, more than 270 children were out of their homes in the 6 counties of the 7th Judicial District. CASA Advocates are generally appointed to the more difficult cases adjudicated in court.

# SUPERVISED EXCHANGE & PARENTING TIME

I joined CASA 7 years ago after being a volunteer visit facilitator and CASA advocate. Working with families and children who are in turmoil and in need of a safe neutral place to build and strengthen parent/child bonds has proved to be a very rewarding and challenging career. It is heart-warming to be part of a team of professionals who care about the children and families in our communities.



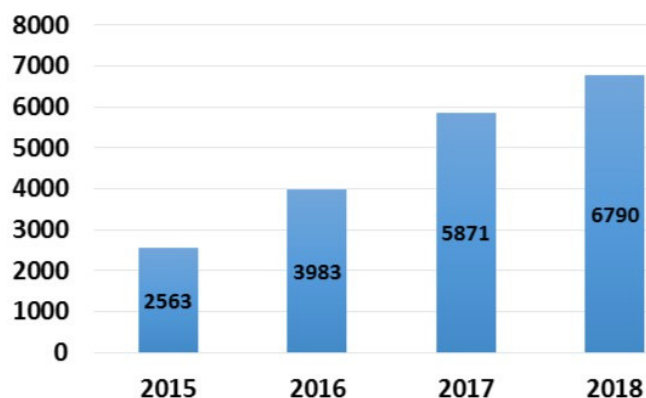
**Glenda Ross**  
SEPT Program Facilitator



## Visitation is essential for a child's well-being

The primary purpose of visitation is to maintain the parent-child attachment, reduce a child's sense of abandonment, and preserve their sense of belonging as part of a family and community. A child needs to see and have regular contact with their parent(s), as this relationship is the foundation of child development.

## Hours of Visitation Year-to-Year



Active SEPT Volunteers

20

Families Served

129

Children Involved

214

Number of Visits

2,366

Hours of Visitation

6,790

"I have been the AmeriCorps VISTA since August of 2017. I am excited to come back in January of 2019 as the "Good Neighbor" for 1st Place on 2nd Street. While I have always enjoyed a strong connection with youth while coaching, interacting with former foster youth in this capacity will be a new adventure for me."



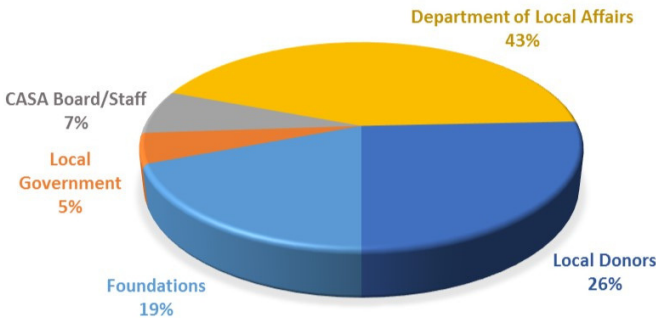
**Natalie Jones**  
*"The Good Neighbor"*  
 Housing Coordinator

# Fostering Futures

The Fostering Futures program focuses on adolescents age 15 to 22 who are soon to be discharged from the foster care system. With the help of community business partners, one-on-one mentoring, group sessions, and experiential learning activities, these youth prepare for independent living.

<p><i>Contact Hours</i></p> <p><i>with Program Manager</i></p> <p><b>549</b></p>	<p><i>Youth Participants</i></p> <p><b>52</b></p>	<p><i># of Youth Emancipating from Program</i></p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p><i>Experiential Learning Activities</i></p> <p><i>Hiking, Whitewater Rafting, Camping, Colorado Rockies Game, Foster Youth Day at the Capital</i></p>	<p><i>Projects</i></p> <p><i>1st Place on 2nd St.</i></p> <p><i>\$1.2 Million raised to build 8 homes for youth emancipating from Foster Care</i></p>
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## FUNDING COMMITMENTS FOR 1ST PLACE ON 2ND STREET



### 1st Place on 2nd Street *A Fostering Futures Community*

At the age of 18, youth in foster care are free to leave the system and go out on their own. Although legally they are adults, few are prepared to transition into adulthood.

After watching many of these youth struggle with homelessness, human trafficking, and addictions, CASA of the 7th Judicial District moved forward to develop a community of homes with on-site support through a "good neighbor"; a mentor and a friend that would be available to assist with the challenges that arise when leaving a system of care and moving towards independence.

## D.J.'s Story

D.J. came in to our program through the "Tiny House Project" in the Fall of 2016. He was 15 years old and had been removed from both his biological parents and adoptive parents due to abuse. He really wasn't focused on much other than fun and friends. D.J. has now been in our program for nearly 2 years, learning the soft skills necessary to hold a job, succeed in school, and develop personal relationships. He has also developed permanent connections with several staff and volunteers, including his CASA advocate. D.J. is looking forward to college next year



*1st Place on 2nd Street*

# Our CASA Volunteers

We may struggle to be eloquent, or lack in financial means; however, we are all a book to be read in the lives that we live. It is our attitudes and values that will influence the lives of the children we engage.

At CASA, our volunteer advocates have an opportunity to help write a new chapter into the lives of some very special children.

An Advocate offers comfort and support; they elevate the child's interests in a world that often cannot see their struggle. A CASA can amplify the voice of a child that otherwise may go unheard.

It is the Advocate's example of a life lived differently that may prove to be the most powerful force for change. Through our volunteer advocates, these children are exposed to a constructive way of thinking about situations, of handling stress and frustration, and of relating to the world around them.

We thank all the Volunteers that step through our door and shine a light of hope on the children we serve.

- |                     |                   |                          |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Allison, Marcia     | Hill, Valerie     | Scott, Pat (E)           |
| Angehrn, Jorg       | Hodges, Rhonda    | Shier, Gary              |
| Antolovich, Carol   | Hogan, Jeff       | Slaven-Emond, AliceMarie |
| Bennett, Sharyn     | Holena, Betsy     | Sprenkel, Ruth           |
| Berg, Susan         | Hutchins, Anna    | Tolen, Stuart            |
| Bernal, Rebecca (E) | Johnson, Cathy    | Voglein, Terri           |
| Boyce, Christine    | Love, Terressa    | Weiszbrod, Gary          |
| Castle, Diana       | McCullam, Dana    | Welk-Valdez, Susan       |
| Clugg, Jo           | McElory, Nancy    | Williams, Laura          |
| Cox, Jill           | Moreno, Becky (E) | (E) Event Planning       |
| Curtis, Heather     | Murphy, Alice     | (S) Special Projects     |
| Danner, Sue         | Nelson, Wyndi     |                          |
| Freeman, Cari       | Noble, Pat        |                          |
| Godbey, Elizabeth   | Omvig, Betty      |                          |
| Gordon, Dawn (E)    | Pixler, Sue       |                          |
| Gray, Masandra      | Printz, Silke     |                          |
| Griepentrog, Nancy  | Prowant, Rita (S) |                          |
| Gurule, Morgan      | Salaz, Lisa       |                          |
| Hahn, Lorraine      | Scalf, Jo Anne    |                          |
| Hibl, Kay           | Schmerler, Babs   |                          |

*A heartfelt thanks to the Foundations & Communities supporting  
CASA of the 7th Judicial District:*

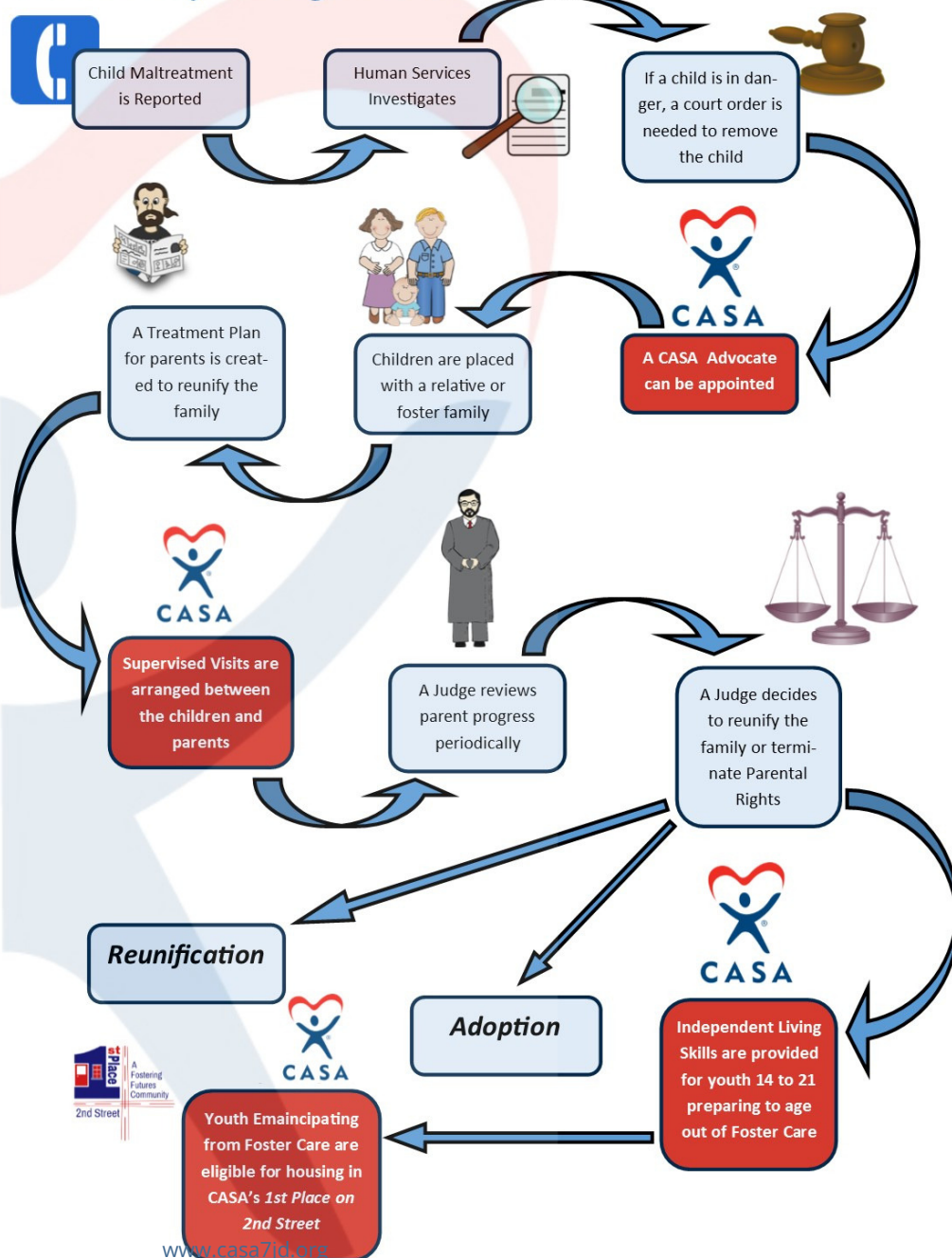




CASA of the 7th Judicial District  
 301 N. Cascade Ave.  
 PO Box 1708  
 Montrose, CO 81403  
 Ph: 970-249-0337  
 www.casa7jd.org

# Yes. I want to help CASA of the 7th Judicial District

## The Journey through Foster Care



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer  
 I would like information about volunteering for one of CASA's programs.  
 I would like information about joining CASA's Board of Directors.

I would like to donate  
 I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month as a recurring donation.  
 I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a one-time donation.  
 I would like more information about becoming an annual event sponsor.

To donate by check, please mail your check to the address above or drop by our office, we would love to meet you!

To make a recurring payment you may donate online at [CASA7JD.ORG](http://CASA7JD.ORG) or call the office and speak with our Executive Director, Carlton Mason, or our Operations Manager, Karin Slater.

