

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF ADAMS & BROOMFIELD COUNTIES

### Mission

Our mission is to provide specially selected and trained community volunteers, CASAs, to advocate for abused and neglected children in the pursuit of safe and permanent homes.



BROOMFIELD COUNTIES

#### FY18 Board Members

Kevin Kildow, Chairperson Bob Grant, Vice Chairperson Donna Alengi, Secretary Tanner Tweten, Treasurer Eric Mott, At-Large Bill Christopher Mark Condon Kelli Ehrhardt Jim Pauley Judge John Popovich Marty Sos Jhazmin Thomas Belva Wildman Dear CASA Friends,

We want to take this opportunity to reflect over the last year of changes, improvements, and successes for our CASA Program and to thank each and every one of you who support our efforts to increase our reach to children who are desperately in need of help and advocacy. It is the CASA mission to ensure that every child who enters into the Dependency and Neglect Court System is given the opportunity to find a safe and loving home.

This year, CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties supported 238 volunteers who were screened, trained, and appointed by a judge of the court to serve 527 abused or neglected children. A business case study conducted by Patricia Silverstein, President and Chief Economist of Development Research Partners, concluded that the advocacy and support of CASA Volunteers has the impact of reducing lifetime social costs and increasing lifetime earnings of the children served. This not only improves the lives of the children, it also has a positive impact on our community and the business environment.

We are honored to do this meaningful work alongside you every day and to reach for the common goal of serving every child who needs the compassion and commitment of a CASA Volunteer. Thank you for your tireless commitment – from volunteerism to funding our work – and all you do in support of building a brighter future for our community's abused and neglected children.



Kevin Kildow



Lindsay Lierman

CASA Board Chair

## A Judge's Sleepless Nights Sparked Creation of the First CASA Program

In 1977, Judge David Soukup, a Seattle juvenile court judge concerned about making drastic decisions with insufficient information, conceived the idea of citizen volunteers speaking up for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom. That first program spurred a movement that grew into a national network of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs that are recruiting, training and supporting volunteers.



# CASAs Make a Commitment to:

- Meet with their child regularly and monitor their home environment and relationships
- Represent the best interests of their child
- Report on their child's educational, developmental, health, therapeutic and basic needs
- Help find a safe and permanent home for their child



e as judges appreciate the special insight the CASA Volunteers give us in making our important decisions. I encourage adults to consider becoming a CASA Volunteer; it provides a unique opportunity to make a major impact on a child's life.<sup>**?**</sup>

> – Chief Judge Patrick Murphy

**\*\* B** eing a CASA shows that you CAN make a difference; that even the smallest acts of kindness can affect someone's life in the largest way. **\*\*** 

– Irene Randall



## Our Vision

A community where every abused and neglected child in Adams and Broomfield Counties is given the opportunity to thrive in a safe and loving home.

# State Highlights



3,645 Colorado children were served



There were **1,906** CASA Volunteers on cases



96,220 hours donated by CASA Volunteers

# Local Highlights



**527** abused and neglected children had a CASA Volunteer standing up for their best interests.



**238** CASA Volunteers served vulnerable children in Adams & Broomfield Counties.

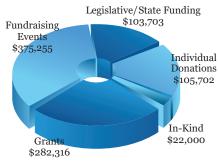


CASA Volunteers donated more than **22,200** volunteer hours.



**600** more children are in need of a CASA Volunteer to help ensure their placement in a safe and permanent home.

### Sources of Revenue



#### Total Revenue \$888,976

#### Use of Funds



Total Expenses \$861,348

# Success Story

#### The Worley Family's Story

Mike and Leesa Worley, parents of five, always wondered what they could do to make a further impact in their community. They decided to become foster parents. This decision would prove to change not only their own lives, but the lives of two wonderful children.

"Our vision at that time was one of providing a temporary home for children while their parents followed court orders to have their children returned to them," Leesa recalls. Soon after becoming certified foster parents, the Department of Human Services (DHS) called the Worleys asking if they could take a pair of siblings for "emergency placement." They agreed, and within minutes Angel, 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> and Kendall, 8 months arrived at their home. Kendall had been shaken severely by her father, leaving her permanently disabled.

"Our world was instantly turned upside down," Leesa said. "Both of them suffered from night terrors, fits of rage and confusion, and behaviors that are too horrible to describe. [But] we embraced them with love, kindness and peace."

Over the next two years, Mike and Leesa cared for the siblings, patiently watching their love and trust for them grow. Eventually, the Court decided that mom was complying with her treatment plan and Angel and Kendall were returned to her. Five months later, the Worleys got a call from DHS – Angel had been rushed to the ER for emergency brain trauma surgery. The mom's new boyfriend had thrown him against a sink and wall, with Kendall unfortunately bearing witness. Angel survived the trauma and the boyfriend was sent to prison. The Court decided that the mom could not keep the children safe, and they were sent to live with their grandfather. It was at this time when a CASA Volunteer was assigned.

"We always wondered if a CASA Volunteer would have been involved in [the case] early on, could we have prevented some of the dangerous situations that came about," said Mike. Almost immediately, CASA Harriett Bauer began to see something was not right. "The children did not seem to be thriving," says Leesa. "They were often unresponsive and did not make eye contact with her when she spoke to them." Harriett noticed that Kendall was losing hair by the clumps and she convinced the grandfather to take her to the doctor; she was found to be losing hair due to extreme anxiety and stress. Harriett increased her visitation schedule and relayed all her findings to the judge. Within months, the grandfather decided he could no longer care for the children and made the call to DHS to send them back to foster care. Mike and Leesa knew what a hard decision this must have been for the grandfather, however, they knew it was for the best for the children. When they received the call asking if they would take Kendall and Angel back into their homes, they answered with a resounding "YES!"

Harriett was one of their first visitors once they were back in the care of Mike and Leesa, and she continued to advise the judge on the case. "Harriett kept telling us that she could see a light in the children's eyes that was not there before," said Leesa. Before long, Angel told Harriett he and his sister wanted to stay with the Worleys forever. With



their CASA Volunteer, Harriett, by their side Angel and Kendall were permanently adopted as a part of the Worley family on June 18, 2014.

"I have new parents and I'm going to be loved. Thank you, Harriett."

– Angel Worley



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#### Ted Shipman's Powerful Voices

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**Peer Coordinators** – CASA Volunteers who are professionally trained to supervise other CASA Volunteers:

Barbara Bostwick **Emily Davis** Kathy Snyder Steve Strock

Fave Gillis Suzanne Swanson

Guiovanna Nance Candie Toller

Irene Randall Zoe Reese **Rachel Williams** Barbara Ziedman

#### CASA Volunteer Advocates FY 2018

Judy Ackley Afsheen Ahmad Donna Alengi Alvssa Alex Tianna Alstrup Sarah Andreano Violeta Apodaca Adriana Arambula Moreno Lillian Archuleta **Richard Argys** Heidi Armbruster Megan Arnold Mary Arrington Brittany Austin Jacob Bakke Cassandra Banks Alyssa Barkley Suzanne Barner Cynthia Bastian Natalie Beck Kimberley Beedle Linda Bennett Shannon Bentley Laura Bohlen Nancey Bookstein Barbara Bostwick Roberta Bourn Evajean Boyd Michelle Branigan Gail Breidenstein Nicole Breske Becky Brizzolara Truancy Broomfield David Brown Cindy Bruce Reanna Bryant Margaret Buck Melissa Cain Paige Calaway Tamara Camalick Patricia Cambridge Charlene Campbell Toni Carstensen Laila Chavez Lauren Chitwood Melinda Coburn Melissa Collison

Judy Connell Tamme Cooper Debra Cross Valerie Cruz Ashley Cunningham Jennifer Cushman Kevin Dahlstedt Emily Davis Christina DelFrari Alexander Del-Valle Annabelle Denmark Shervl Devereaux Dawn Dewey Alyson Dinkin John Doe Jenice Dove Sarah Downey Jennie Dreiling Bruce Drucker Matthew Duran Jessie Dussart Taylor Ehrhardt Deborah Eigenberg Chelsea Ellison Brian Engle Anthony Erickson Barbara Evans Gary Evans Katie Evans Dena Falbo Joni Fields Joelle File Karla Fitch Jeff Foreman Meagan Frank Sandra Frank Jean Franklin Brianna Gaines Lisa Gallegos Sierra Gallegos Robert Garrity Becca Giffin Joselle Gilbert-Veitel Fave Gillis Heather Giordano Deborah Givray Leticia Glueck

Judith Goater Denise Gondrez Alayna Grace-Flavin Raechel Greschler Sean Gross Elizabeth Gudenkauf Wesley Gullette DeAnna Hackenberg **Richard Hall** Cheri Hansen-Breuer Tonya Hanson Sharon Hardin James Hein Vicki Heino Ashley Henderson Randyl Henderson Charles Hensel Cora Hessel Maureen Hoff Terry Hoffman Leanne Holitza Debbie Holton Jennifer Honka Taeler Houlberg Robert Hoyle Kathleen Jackson Erin Kaminski Michelle Keller Anne Kerlin Kandy Kernes Keith Kernes Rebecca Kessler Katie Kethcart Kevin Kildow Twila Knaack David Knapp Joan Kniss Maile Kobayashi Cami Kostecki David Kusel Gwen Lamborn Chris Landes Sharon Laughlin Nathan Leaf William Leck Lindsay Lierman Ann Lindburg

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**Richard Smith** Kathryn Snyder Peter Snyder Yadira Solis Jamie Sommer-Connors Robin Sonntag Sherri Sos Kimberly Spikes Dominique Stasulli Steven Strock Crystal Stueve Suzanne Swanson Mary Sweeney Brandy Sylvester Kim Taylor Melvena Taylor Elizabeth Thompson Kelly Thornton Candice Toller Jose Torrens Xanadu Trevino Elva Trevino-Cruz Christine Tyler Emily Urbach Elizabeth Van Camp Georgia Viado Billie Vogt Tessa Walker Rebel Wallace Karin Warrner Nila Watterson Jillon Weaver Stacey Weber Michelle Webster Rebecca West Katie-Beth Whitcomb Candice Williams **Rachel Williams** Terry Woods Shannon Wooten Jenny Worster Jan Wuthrich Howard Yeoman Barbara Zeidman Therese Zuercher

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