



2018 Annual Report

CASA of the Mid-Shore

Court Appointed Special Advocates of
Talbot, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Kent Counties

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From the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to present our Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2018, during which we celebrated our 28th anniversary serving vulnerable children. Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers, a talented Board of Directors, and a skilled team of staff members joined together with over 600 donors to support our advocacy for maltreated children in courtrooms and in communities throughout Talbot, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Kent Counties.

CASA of the Mid-Shore serves as a bridge in the child welfare system by providing screened and trained Court Appointed Special Advocates to advocate on behalf of children who have been mistreated or whose parents are unable to safely care for them. Each Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer, as an officer of the court, provides information and assessments that assist judges in making critical decisions about the future of these children. With such an important mission at our core, it is no surprise that our work directly impacts positive outcomes for children.

The unfortunate reality is that the maltreated children we serve frequently believe that they deserve the abuse, neglect, or indifference directed at them. A parent's unwillingness or inability to provide the care a child desperately needs is too often internalized by that child as rejection. It is not unusual for children who have been hurt or neglected by their parents to feel unloved and hopeless. At CASA we try to change that dynamic, so in addition to advocating for what is best for these children we do something more. We show up for each child, we are constants in an ever-changing sea of people, and we speak up for each child's needs.

Our CASA volunteers know firsthand what consistency means to children who have been neglected or abused. Our volunteers appreciate what it means to these children to have a relationship with an adult where each child's safety and well-being is the focal point. One of our



CASA volunteers was recently told by his assigned child: "I don't know where I'd be if it wasn't for you." While the volunteer thinks that this may be an overstatement, the sentiment provides insight into the overarching mission of CASA. Simply put, we are a consistent and supportive presence in the lives of precious children who may have no one else in their corner. We fiercely and competently advocate for their well-being in all facets of their lives.

The unarguable truth is that CASA's active involvement and advocacy in the lives of children makes a positive, meaningful difference. Scores of studies have provided empirical evidence of this benefit. As CASA volunteer Bob Cowin succinctly explains, "CASA makes a difference in the classroom; CASA makes a difference in the therapy room; CASA makes a difference in the courtroom; and CASA can make a difference in the room of life."

Our goals moving forward include our commitment to ensuring that all children who need us in Talbot, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Kent Counties continue to have CASA volunteers speaking up for them. To meet this goal, we need more CASA volunteers to join our ranks. Please consider becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate

or encourage someone you know to step up to this unique volunteer opportunity. We also hope to create a stronger presence throughout our region and are happy to speak to your business, club, civic group, or faith-based organization.

Last, but certainly not least, we need continued financial support throughout our four-county service region in order to provide a strong, steady presence for those children who need us. Your contributions play a vital role in the continued viability and success of CASA of the Mid-Shore and, by extension, the lives of these children.

If you are new to CASA of the Mid-Shore, please make our communities' vulnerable children a priority and consider us in your annual giving plans. To those who already support us, you have our heartfelt thanks. Quite simply, you help us make the future brighter for local children.

With gratitude,



Robin Davenport

“CASA MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE CLASSROOM; CASA MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE THERAPY ROOM; CASA MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE COURTROOM; AND CASA CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE ROOM OF LIFE.”

CASA Volunteer Bob Cowin





**OUR MISSION IS TO
ADVOCATE FOR THE BEST
INTEREST OF CHILDREN
WHO ARE UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF THE
CIRCUIT COURTS OF
TALBOT, DORCHESTER,
QUEEN ANNE'S, AND KENT
COUNTIES DUE TO ABUSE,
NEGLECT, ABANDONMENT,
OR THEIR PARENTS'
INABILITY TO SAFELY
CARE FOR THEM.**

CASA makes a difference. Studies have shown that a child with a CASA volunteer:

- Spends less time in foster care
- Is moved less frequently
- Is more likely to be placed with siblings
- Has his or her needs identified sooner, resulting in quicker service provision to meet those needs
- Performs better in school
- Has one steady, consistent person in his or her life

FY 2018 Volunteers

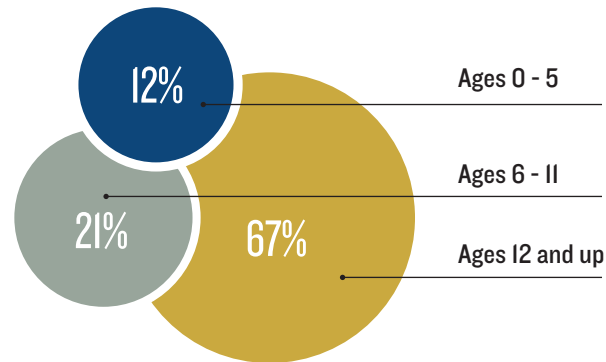
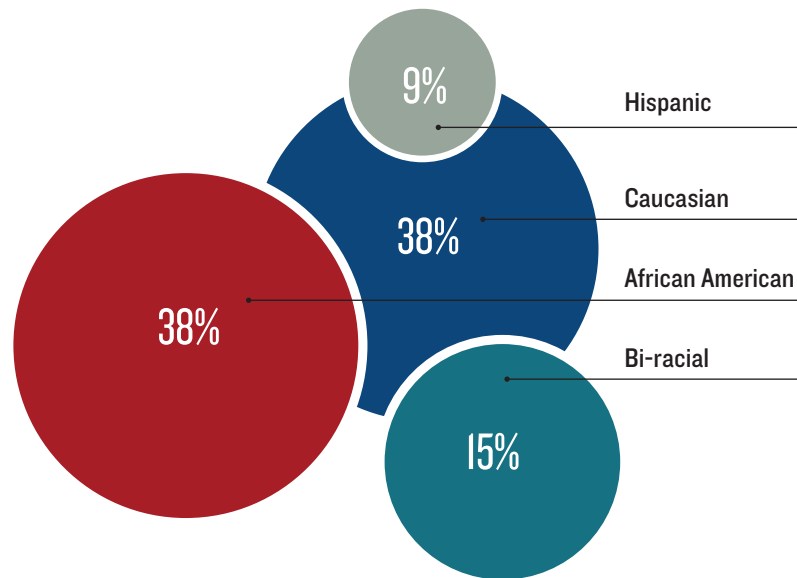
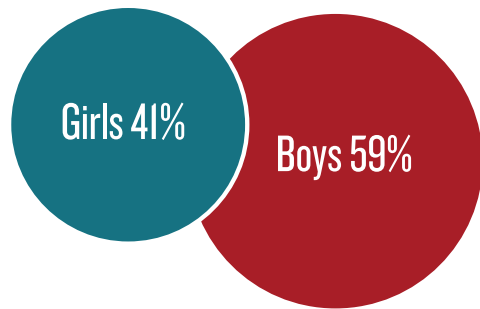
Elizabeth Bartlett
Jessica Bartlett
Howard Bernstein
Charles Bethel
Deanna Boston
Norman "Tommy" Boston
Subhan Campos
Jeannette Cassalia
Susan Clifford
Lynnell Collins
Gloria Cornish
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Sara Jane Davidson
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JoAnn Kowalski
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Hanna Woicke
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Jerry Friedman
Design
Sherry McAllister

The Children We Serve

We are pleased to report again this year that we succeeded in providing Court Appointed Special Advocates to all of the children referred to us by the Circuit Courts in Talbot, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Kent Counties! Due to confidentiality laws protecting their privacy, we are not able to show photographs of the children we serve. We can, however, share statistics and demographics about them. This page provides a snapshot of the ages, gender, and racial identity of the 66 children served by Court Appointed Special Advocates in FY 2018.



2018 Successes

100% of the children who were referred to us by the Talbot, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Kent County Circuit Courts had CASA volunteers appointed to their cases.

We welcomed **7** new CASA volunteers to the team.

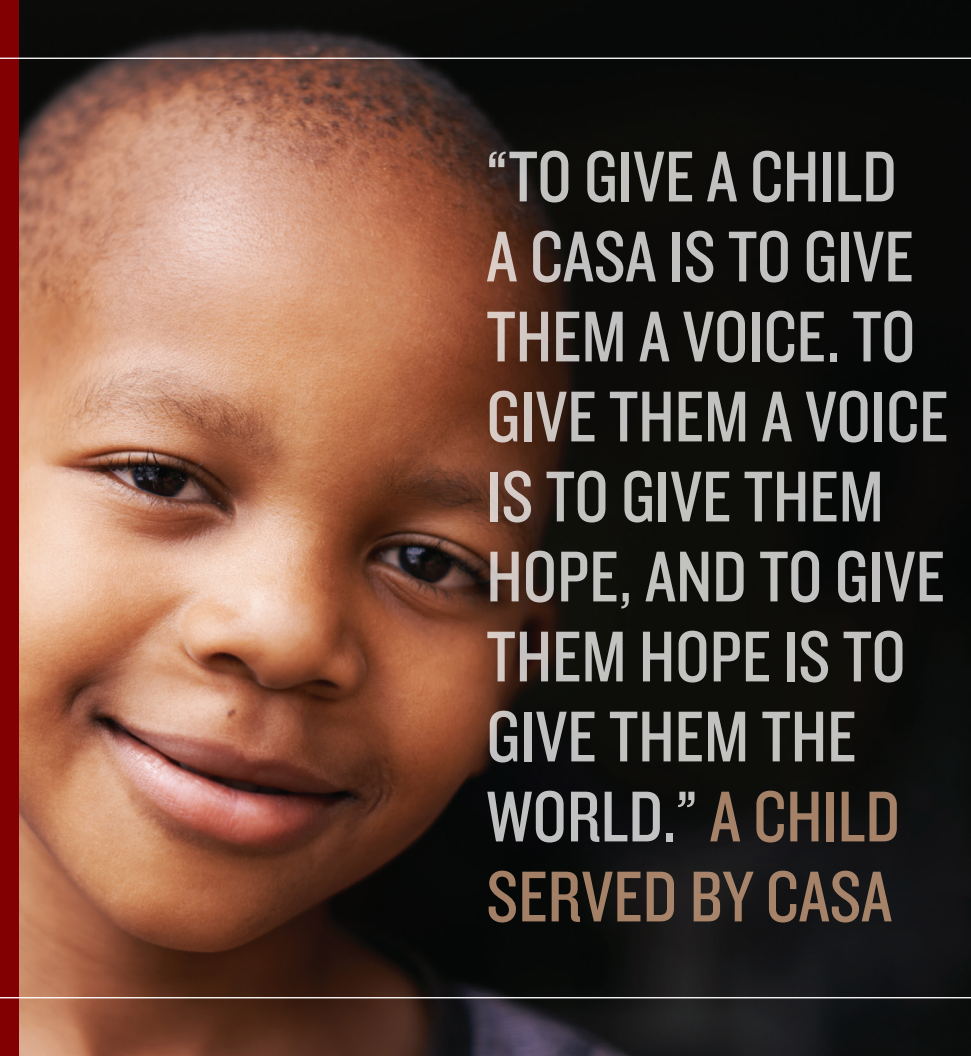
66 local children knew that they had CASA volunteers in their corner.

95.5% of our recommendations regarding the best interest of these children were accepted by the courts.

Of the **14** children whose cases closed during the fiscal year:

- **2** were reunified with a parent
- **6** were adopted
- **3** were living with a relative
- **3** turned 21 years of age and were living independently

Countless hours resulted in a myriad of positive outcomes for children.



“TO GIVE A CHILD A CASA IS TO GIVE THEM A VOICE. TO GIVE THEM A VOICE IS TO GIVE THEM HOPE, AND TO GIVE THEM HOPE IS TO GIVE THEM THE WORLD.” A CHILD SERVED BY CASA

Circuit Court Judges Praise CASA of the Mid-Shore

"CASA provides a critical, necessary service to the court system and to our community's children. CASA is to be commended for its consistent high caliber of work, and praised for responding to the need of maltreated children in our region. The valuable, insightful assessments and recommendations provided to the court by CASA volunteers greatly enhance the court's ability to make important decisions in these complex cases."

The Honorable Stephen Kehoe, Talbot County Circuit Court

"I commend this CASA program for its ongoing valuable work in Dorchester County, where positive outcomes for children have significantly increased since CASA's expansion into our county in 2009. I applaud the diligence that CASA devotes to children and to meeting the Court's needs in these challenging cases. I also commend CASA for holding its program to the highest standards, which is no easy feat when managing service provision to four distinctly different and challenging jurisdictions."

The Honorable Brett Wilson, Dorchester County Circuit Court

"CASA's efforts to enhance child safety and improve access and utilization of service to children of abuse have greatly benefitted many children over the past twenty eight years. CASA's involvement with Queen Anne's County children has absolutely helped to facilitate positive outcomes for these children."

The Honorable Thomas Ross, Queen Anne's County Circuit Court

"CASA volunteers have a unique and profound role. They present important information that assists this Court in making decisions about the best interest of local children, and they provide support to some of the most vulnerable members of Kent County's community. The active participation of CASA leads to more positive outcomes for children, and this Court appreciates the depth of knowledge that CASA volunteers have about their appointed children."

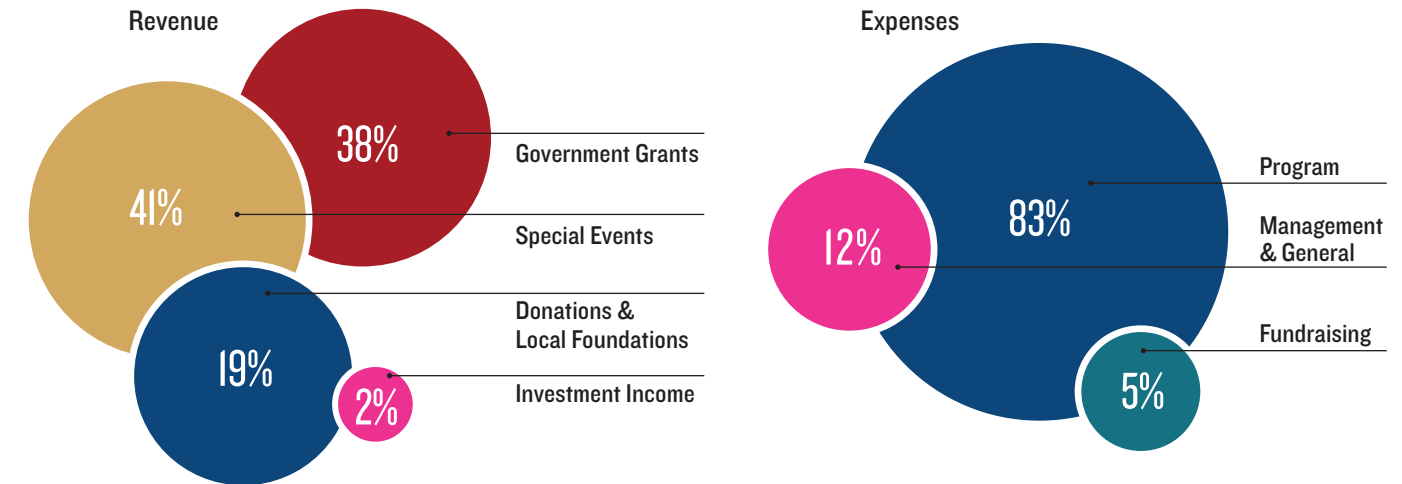
The Honorable Harris Murphy, Kent Circuit Court

FY 2018 Financials

Adjustments and modifications may be identified during the annual audit.

Since 1990 we have advocated on behalf of vulnerable children to improve their quality of life. In conjunction with the dedication of our CASA volunteers, staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers who help us in many ways, it is through the generous support of individuals,

businesses, civic and faith-based groups, and grantors that we are able to serve children who need CASA volunteers speaking up for them. CASA of the Mid-Shore is committed to managing our finances with integrity and maintaining high standards in all program areas.



This annual report is presented with profound gratitude for the financial and in-kind support that we received between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

Our Generous Donors

Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report to Donors and Friends

Leaders

\$20,000 & above

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and Prevention
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Donors giving \$1,000 or
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Waterfowl Chesapeake, Inc.
White Glove Rentals
Ms. Carolyn Williams *

** In-kind gifts of \$1,000.00 or more.*

In addition to acknowledging our CASA volunteers, we take this opportunity to thank the following for their help behind the scenes in FY 2018:

Mrs. Bobbie Ayers
Mr. Mike Clark
Mr. Robert Cowin
Mr. George Dappert
Mr. Rich Dezelon
Mrs. Susie Dillon
Easton Utilities
Mr. Tom Filbert and Ms. Karen Kaludis
Mr. and Mrs. John Ford
Mr. Jerry Friedman
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Ms. Kendall Patterson
The Honorable Scott Patterson
Mr. Vince Radosta
Miss Madison Riley
St. Mark's Village
Mr. Rick Schumacher
Ms. Nancy Snyder
Mrs. Mary Van Fossan

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of
our donor list. We apologize if there is an error and ask
that you let us know by contacting us at 410-822-2866.
Thank you!

Gifts were made in memory of the following individuals:

Jenny Cassalia
The Children of Sandy Hook
Mrs. Betty Kehoe
Mr. Wayne Lewis
Mr. Charlie Mufson
Mrs. Margo Plater
Mr. Richard M. Slaughter
Mrs. Margaret Van Sant
Mr. Richard K. White, Jr.

Gifts were made in honor of the following individuals:

Mr. Joseph Anthony
Ms. Jessica Bartlett
Ms. Robin Davenport
Ms. Karen Orem



CREATE A LEGACY

Please consider a planned gift to CASA of the Mid-Shore and leave a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable children in our communities.

DONATE

You can help our work with children who need CASA to speak up for them. Your support helps us provide unique and important assistance to improve outcomes for children whose parents are unable or unwilling to safely care for them. Please consider supporting us by sending a check in the enclosed remittance envelope or by donating online via our website: www.casamidshore.org.

Please consider joining our **Champions of Hope Giving Society** with your gift of \$1,000+.

In addition to making a general donation, there are numerous ways to give:

- A donation in memory of or honoring someone
- To our Endowment Fund at the Mid-Shore Community Foundation
- A bequest in your will
- Through your Retirement Account
- Life Insurance Policy
- Gift Annuities

Meet a few of our CASA Volunteers



Fay Mauro, Talbot County



Jeannette Cassalia, Dorchester County



Clare Maguire, Kent County



Rob Neumer, Dorchester County



Francis Feagins, Talbot County



Subhan Campos, Queen Anne's County

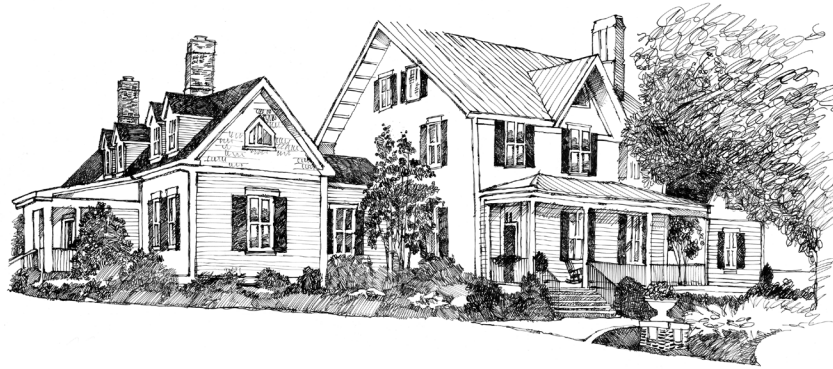


Joan Groce, Kent County



Janet Healy, Talbot County

Event Highlights FY 2018



- Champions of Hope Giving Society Members enjoyed a cocktail reception and house tour of the lovely Shipshead Farm Manor House in October of 2017.



- We welcomed our newest CASA volunteers at Swearing-in Ceremonies as they became sworn Officers of the Court.

- We said good-bye to Board members Joe Anthony and Herschel Johnson upon their retirement from the Board of Directors and welcomed new members Mary Griffin and Morgan Foster.



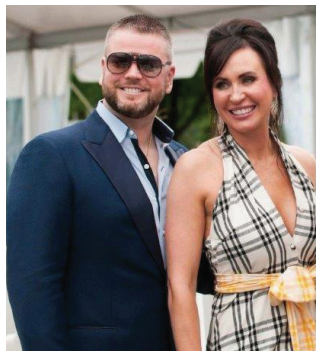
- National Volunteer Appreciation and Child Abuse Prevention Week were celebrated by CASA volunteers, Board Members, and staff at a joyous reception at Piazza, the Italian Market in April of 2018.

- Legacy, a life-sized carving of a family of ducks completed by Master Carver Glenn McMurdo in the style and design of the late W.G. Sutter was awarded to the highest auction bidder.



Spring Soiree

Our annual benefit in May succeeded in raising needed funds for our work with vulnerable children.



TO GIVE CHILDREN

Hope

IS TO GIVE THEM THE WORLD.



CASA OF THE MID-SHORE
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