



2020+2021 Status 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:

I offer warm greetings from CASA of the Mid-Shore. The past year and a half have required a great deal from all of us. Common denominators included uncertainty, grief, and worry, while glimmers of better days ahead kept us hopeful.

I am pleased to report that our Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and our organization met challenges posed by COVID-19 with perseverance, commitment, and grit. A collective focus on *hope* helped us move forward to speak up for marginalized, maltreated, and vulnerable children.

We believe that CASA is *hope* in action, every day. During a period of uncertainty and isolation, our CASAs made it a priority to be a consistent presence, albeit virtual when necessary, for our appointed children. We provided recommendations to our judges about the needs and wishes of our appointed children and did not miss one court hearing during this difficult time. In embracing a theme of hope, our CASAs helped children look beyond the challenges of the day to believe in better days ahead. At a time when futures seemed uncertain and bleak, we saw firsthand that *hope* can mean the world to a child.

The pandemic didn't stop us from striving to serve every child who needs CASA by his or her side. Knowing there were new children coming under court

protection because of abuse and neglect, we stepped up to be ready for those kids. Using remote means, creative instructors, and good-natured prospective CASAs, we conducted two Pre-Service Training courses over the past year to graduate **16** new Court Appointed Special Advocates!

Yet, for the second year in a row, the pandemic prevented us from hosting an in-person fundraising event, which historically serves as a major and necessary revenue source. So we pivoted. We found another way to tell our story with the hope it would generate needed financial support. CASA volunteers, the judiciary, board members, staff, and stakeholders came together to share hopeful messages that we compiled into a heartwarming video, **HOPE MOVES US FORWARD**. You can view the video on our website: www.casamidshore.org/hope.

We hope you enjoy the video. We ask you to join us in believing in the power of hope to move us forward.

With gratitude,

Robin







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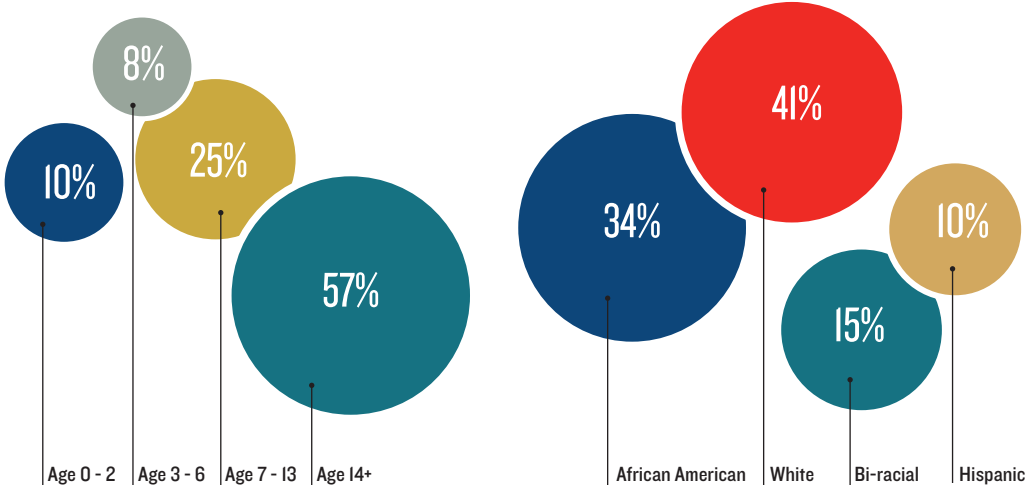
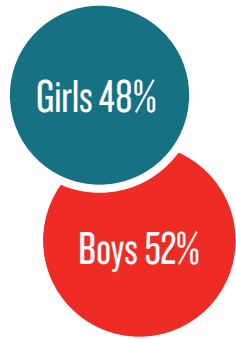
CASA makes a difference. Studies have shown that a child with a CASA volunteer:

- 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

THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

We continue to strive to serve 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 unable to show photographs or provide identifying information about

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 children served by Court Appointed Special Advocates between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2021.



2020-2021 Successes

16 new CASAs joined the team!

253 Court Reports were written.

1,323 recommendations were made advocating for the best interest of children.

94% of those recommendations were accepted by the Courts.

Of the children whose cases closed during the fiscal year:

- **3** were reunified with parents
- **8** are living independently
- **8** were adopted
- **6** are living with relatives

Too many to count:

texts, emails, phone calls, Zoom visits, virtual meetings, miles driven, and in-person visits facilitated positive outcomes for local 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**



The Local Judiciary Praises CASA of the Mid-Shore

"We write to express our deep support of the valuable services provided to vulnerable children by CASA of the Mid-Shore (CASA) and to state our appreciation to members of CASA for their continued dedication and mission-driven approach to serving children and assisting the court. We continue to see more positive outcomes for Talbot County's at-risk children when CASA is involved. In light of challenges posed by the pandemic, CASA's commitment to maintaining its mission is all the more appreciated."

The Honorable Stephen Kehoe and The Honorable Jamie Adkins, Talbot County Circuit Court

"I cannot state it emphatically enough when I say that CASA's service to children continues to significantly impact positive outcomes for children in Dorchester County. I appreciate the diligence that CASA devotes to children and to meeting the Court's needs in very difficult cases."

The Honorable Brett Wilson, Dorchester County Circuit Court

"I recognize the value of CASA's advocacy for vulnerable children and greatly appreciate the Court Appointed Special Advocates who serve Queen Anne's County children. CASA operates from a very unique perspective and provides an otherwise unmet service to local children and to this Court. I anticipate we will continue to see increased positive outcomes for local children when CASA is involved."

The Honorable Lynn Knight, Queen Anne's County Circuit Court

"I continue to be pleased with the program's work with Kent County children, for whom positive outcomes are enhanced when CASA is involved. Particularly in light of challenges posed by the pandemic, I appreciate CASA's dedicated and creative approach to fulfilling its mission of service to children."

The Honorable Harris Murphy, Kent County Circuit Court

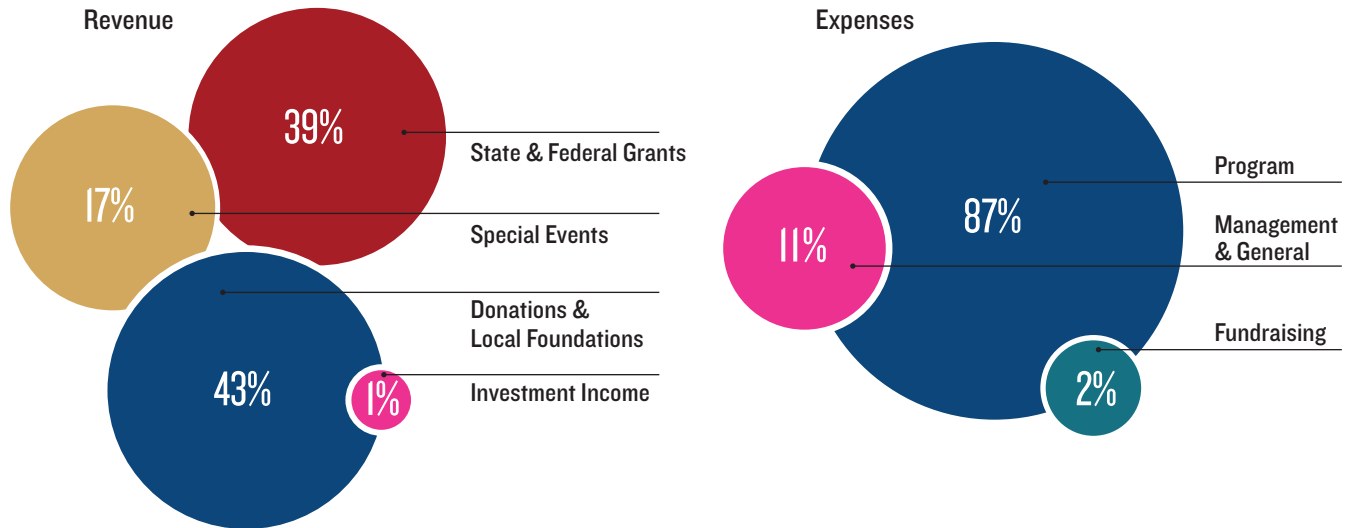
2020-2021 FINANCIALS

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. Along with the dedication of our CASA volunteers, staff, Board of Directors, and other stakeholders, 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 report is presented with profound gratitude for the financial and in-kind support that we received between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2021.

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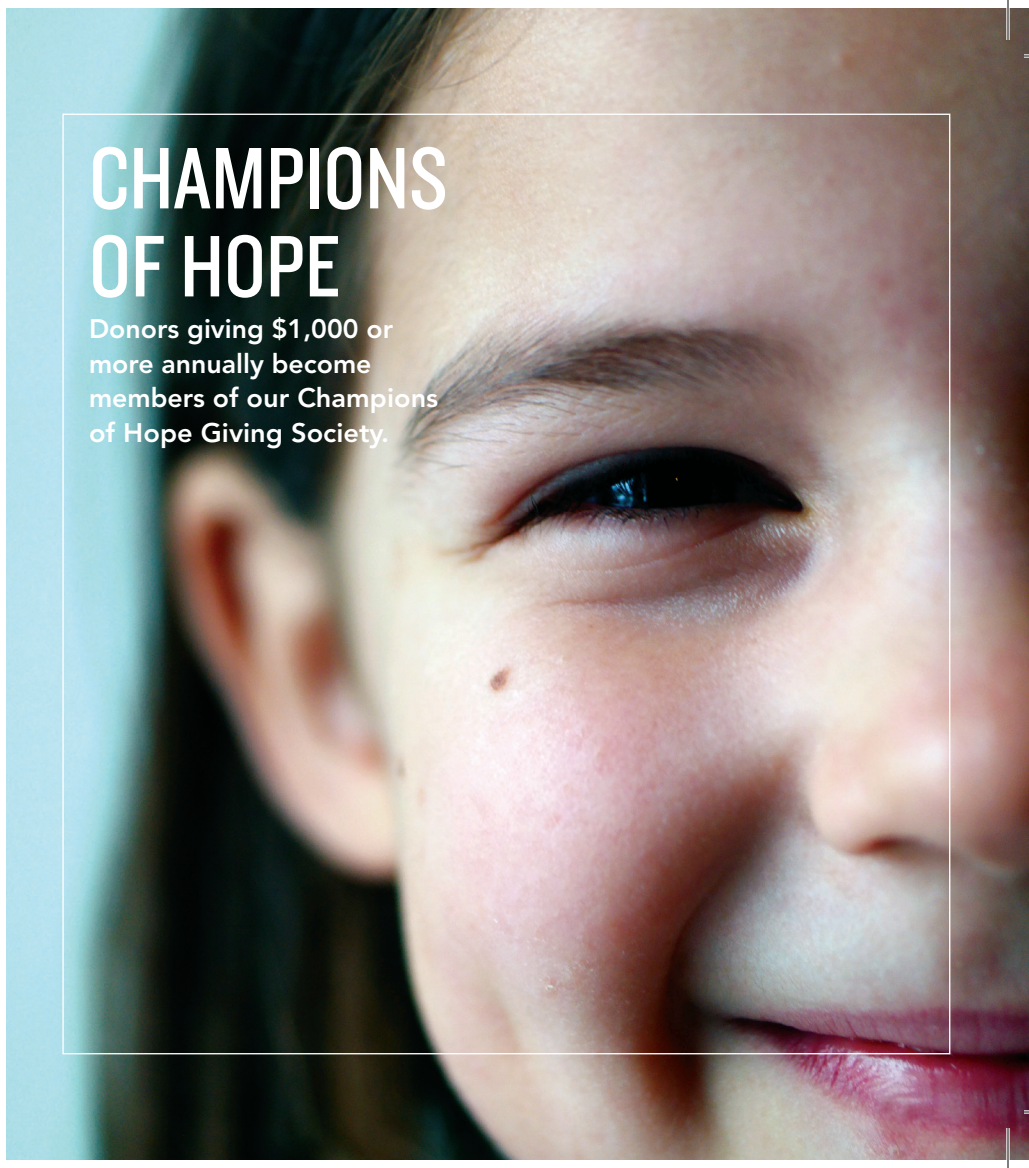
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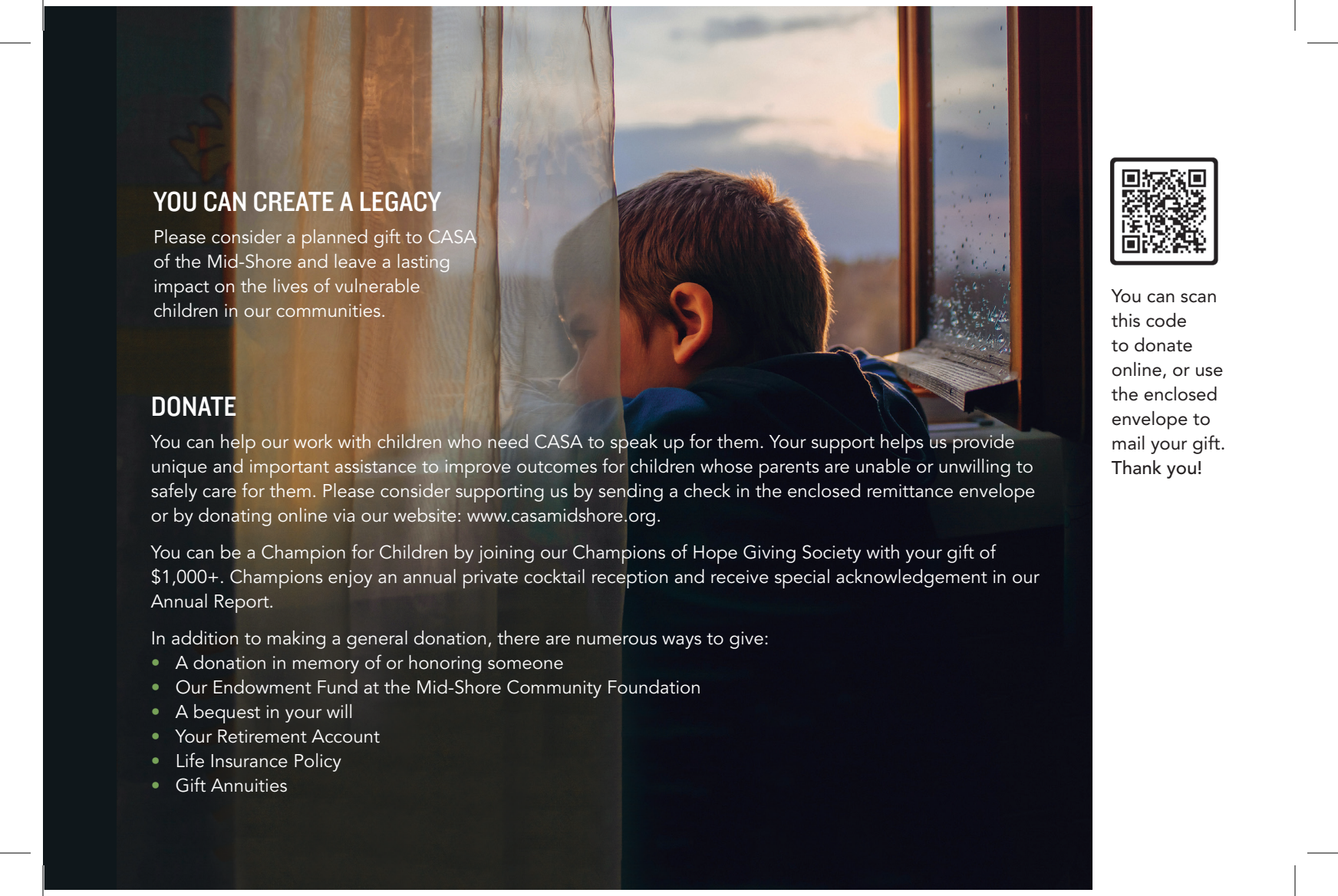
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our donor list. We apologize if there is an error and ask that you let us know by contacting us at 410-822-2866.

HOPEFUL MESSAGES

FROM CASA VOLUNTEERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND FRIENDS

CASA volunteers,
Board members,
and Friends practice
social distancing
as they share
hopeful messages
in April during
National Volunteer
Appreciation Month



A young boy with short brown hair is seen from the side, looking out a window. He is wearing a dark blue jacket. The window has sheer white curtains, and the view outside shows a sunset or sunrise over a landscape. The lighting is warm and golden.

YOU CAN 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.

You can be a Champion for Children by joining our Champions of Hope Giving Society with your gift of \$1,000+. Champions enjoy an annual private cocktail reception and receive special acknowledgement in our Annual Report.

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

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



You can scan this code to donate online, or use the enclosed envelope to mail your gift. Thank you!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2020-2021



We celebrated our 30th Anniversary in April 2020!



Unable to host an in-person fundraiser due to the pandemic, we got creative and produced a video to tell our story. Working with the very talented Neil Beller of Kit + Kaboodle Productions, we love the final product!

Visit www.casamidshore.org/hope to view HOPE MOVES US FORWARD!

We welcomed two new Directors to the Board!



Linda Chandlee



Sidney Trond



We also welcomed to the staff Destiny Brown, new Program Assistant, and Belinda Frankel, new Case Supervisor.



IN MEMORY OF
Stacey Dezelon
1966-2021



THANKFUL FOR YOU!

YOU CAN HELP US
ON **GIVING TUESDAY!**

#GivingTuesday (November 30, 2021) is a global giving movement. It's a day to be thankful and pay it forward. On the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, millions of people use this day to support and champion the causes in their local communities they believe in. You can champion our cause with your support!

You can help by making a gift to CASA of the Mid-Shore on Giving Tuesday. We are full of thanks for you!



CASA OF THE MID-SHORE
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QUEEN ANNE'S • KENT

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