



2022

Annual Report

CASA of the Mid-Shore

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

Board of Directors 2022-2023

Mrs. Paula Statkiewicz, President
Mrs. Christie Grabis, Vice President
Mr. Robert M. Cattaneo, Secretary
Mr. Joseph Anthony, Treasurer

Ms. Childlene Brooks
Ms. Linda Chandlee
Mr. Robert Cowin
Mrs. Joan Crowley
Mrs. Sidney Davenport-Trond
Dr. Zuleika Ghodsi
Mrs. Mary Griffin
The Honorable Brett Wilson

Staff

Robin Davenport, Executive Director
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Director
Kay Lister, Executive Assistant
Karen Orem, Office Manager
Jane Crawford, Volunteer Coordinator
Stephanie Nagel, Outreach Coordinator
Belinda Frankel, Case Supervisor
Anna Krupka, Case Supervisor



From the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

I offer warm greetings from CASA of the Mid-Shore, along with the hope that you enjoy reading our Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022.

I am pleased to share my comments that were made at our Volunteer Appreciation Reception:

Our CASA volunteers, and our volunteer Board of Directors, do so much to embrace our mission and collectively carry it forward. It is a huge feat, yet together, side-by-side with our incredible staff members, it becomes absolutely do-able. Our work is carried out with the strong conviction that it helps children, empowers communities, and sets the stage for a healthier and better tomorrow.

For the past 32 years, getting together to celebrate the work of our volunteers has a sacred feeling to me. After several years of not being able to gather, it is lovely to stand together to visit, chat, reminisce, smile, laugh, and give thanks.

However sweet this event is, I would be remiss not to acknowledge the many tragic events impacting the children of the world and the

children of our nation. Events shattering the lives of children are occurring too frequently, when, in fact, horrible events should not be occurring at all.

Particularly when juxtaposed against senseless tragedies, the work of CASA volunteers becomes compellingly poignant and takes on added urgency. It is poignant because it would be so easy to give up, to say “it’s not worth it for this one child,” to lean into the negativity that surrounds us. It is urgent because our messages to today’s children will carry them into adulthood. Maybe, just maybe, telling these kiddos “We see you, we hear you, you matter, you can do this” will be the magic words that help them change the trajectory of our world.

Several weeks ago, I stumbled over a poignant story by author and poet Naomi Shihad Nye. It’s called **Gate 4-A**:

["Editor's note: Written in 2007, this story seems decidedly relevant today. May we all remember our common humanity and work towards a "shared world."]

Wandering around the Albuquerque Airport Terminal, after learning my flight had been detained four hours, I heard an announcement: “If anyone in the vicinity of Gate 4-A

understands any Arabic, please come to the gate immediately." Well – one pauses these days. Gate 4-A was my own gate. I went there. An older woman in full traditional Palestinian embroidered dress, just like my grandma wore, was crumpled to the floor, wailing loudly. "Help," said the Flight Service Person. "Talk to her. What is her problem? We told her the flight was going to be late and she did this."

I stooped to put my arm around the woman and spoke to her haltingly. "Shu dow-a, Shu-bid-uck Habibti? Stani schway, Min fadlick, Shu-bit-se-wee?" The minute she heard any words she knew, however poorly used, she stopped crying. She thought the flight had been cancelled entirely. She needed to be in El Paso for major medical treatment the next day. I said, "You're fine, you'll get there, who is picking you up? Let's call him." We called her son and I spoke with him in English. I told him I would stay with his mother till we got on the plane and would ride next to her on the plane.

She talked to her son. Then we called her other sons just for fun. Then we called my dad and he and she spoke for

a while in Arabic and found out, of course, they had ten shared friends. Then I thought, just for the heck of it, why not call some Palestinian poets I know and let them chat with her? This all took up about two hours.

She was laughing a lot by then. Telling about her life, patting my knee, answering questions. She had pulled a sack of homemade mamool cookies – little powdered sugar crumbly mounds stuffed with dates and nuts – out of her bag – and was offering them to all the women at the gate. To my amazement, not a single woman declined one.

It was like a sacrament. The traveler from Argentina, the mom from California, the lovely woman from Laredo – we were all covered with the same powdered sugar. And smiling. There is no better cookie.

And then the airline broke out the free beverages from huge coolers and two little girls from our flight ran around serving us all apple juice and they were covered with powdered sugar too.

And I noticed my new best friend – by now we were

holding hands – had a potted plant poking out of her bag, some medicinal thing, with green furry leaves. Such an old country traveling tradition. Always carry a plant. Always stay rooted to somewhere.

And I looked around that gate of late and weary ones and thought, this is the world I want to live in. The shared world. Not a single person in this gate – once the crying of confusion stopped – seemed apprehensive about any other person. They took the cookies. I wanted to hug all those other women too. This can still happen anywhere. Not everything is lost."

So, my friends, thank you for your hard work, for your dedication, for celebrating even the smallest of victories for our kids, and for believing that the shared world can still happen.

You are the living embodiment of Gate 4-A: Not everything is lost.

With gratitude,

Robin

CELEBRATING
32 X
YEARS





2021-2022 VOLUNTEERS

Eve Aistis
Thomas Arnold
Jessica Bartlett
Howard Berstein
Katharine Bonner
Deanna Boston
Norman "Tommy" Boston
Subhan Campos
Alice Carr
Jeannette Cassalia
Michele Cheyne
Patricia Cipriano
Susan Clifford
Robert Cowin
Forrest Daniels
Cherry Dearie
Gadis Effendi
Francis Feagins
Beverly Ferguson
Kim Finger
Peggy Ford
Susan Green
William Griffin, Jr.

Joan Groce
Brandy Guy
Janet Healy
Jason Howard
Alison Irvin
Corrie James
Rebecca Johnston
Mignonne LaChapelle
Christine LaMonica
Bonnette Macklin
Clare Maguire
Terrence Mangan
Cathleen Massey
Sarah McCoy
Karen McLaughlin
Julia Miller
Kathleen Miller
Thomas Murphy
Chancellor Pascale
Josefina Patterson
James Pinkett
Blair Burns Potter
Steve Rideout

Sharon Robinson
Beth Ruberry
Molly Sause
George Searle
Laurinda Serafin
Lisa Skibenes
Martha Slaughter
Jan Sondberg
Leslae Southard
Lisa Stone
Kathryn Swann
William Thomas
John Watters
Michele Williams
Dawn Wilson
Linda Wilson
Hanna Woicke
Sara Woodall

Graphic Design
Sherry McAllister

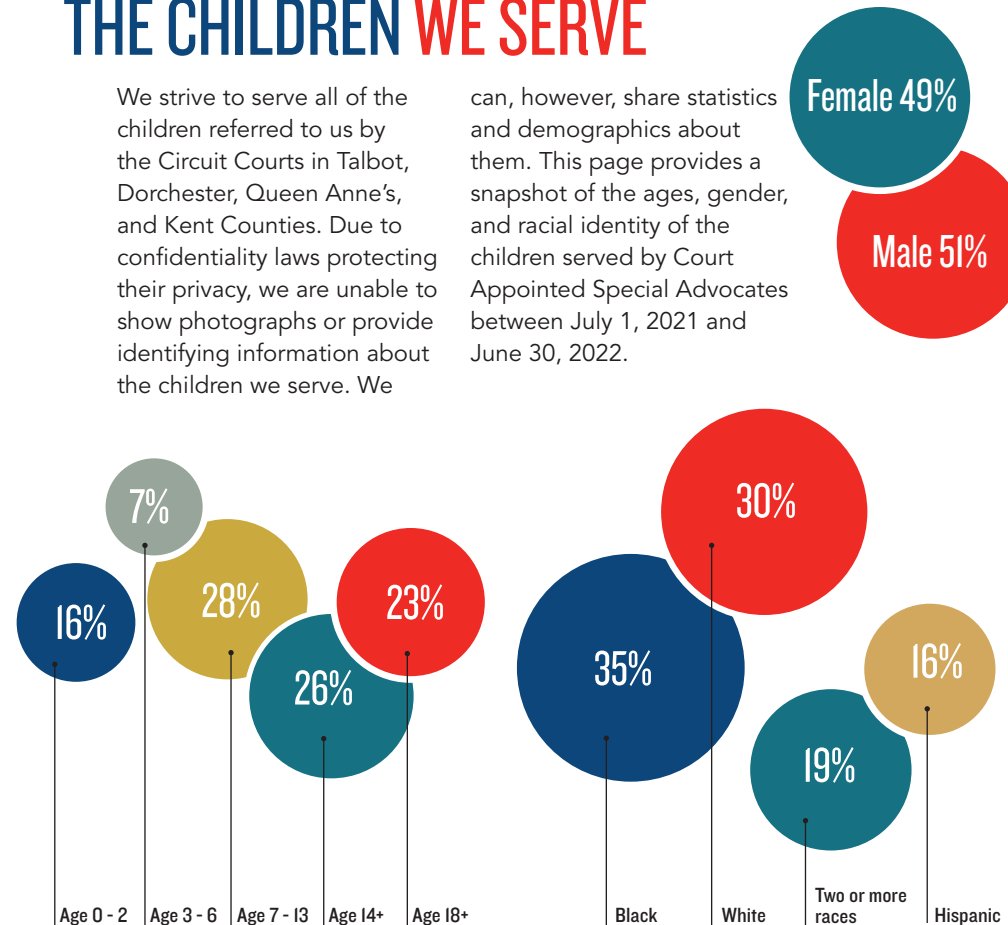
CASA makes a difference.
Studies have shown that a child
with a CASA volunteer:

- 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 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, 2021 and June 30, 2022.



2022 Successes

8 new CASAs joined the team!

Over 150 Court Reports provided to our judges and magistrates.

94% of CASA's recommendations about what children need were accepted by the Courts.

Hundreds of hours advocating for the best interest of children.

Of the children whose cases closed:

- **1** was reunified with a parent
- **2** are living independently
- **4** were adopted
- **2** cases transferred to another jurisdiction
- **1** is under the guardianship of a loving family

Too many to count: texts, emails, phone calls, Zoom visits, meetings attended, miles driven, time spent writing court reports, hours in courtrooms, continuing education hours, brainstorming with CASA Supervisors, and visits with kiddos 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

Our Circuit Courts offer accolades to CASA of the Mid-Shore

"Your organization's impact on the well-being of Talbot County's children is remarkable. CASA's insightful assessments and recommendations greatly enhance this Court's ability to make informed decisions about maltreated children during critical and stressful times in their lives. Your dedicated CASA volunteers receive excellent training, supervision, support, and guidance from your very skilled staff members."

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

"I know that the active participation of CASA routinely leads to more and greater positive outcomes for children. Your program has become an integral service to families in our region. I applaud your collaboration and cooperation with many agency partners, and I thank you for the time your staff dedicates to Dorchester County."

The Honorable William Jones, Dorchester 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 Circuit Court

"CASA operates from a very unique perspective and provides an otherwise unmet service to Queen Anne's County children and to this Court. The information provided to the Court from CASA is consistently thorough and represents the best interest of appointed children. I believe we will continue to see increased positive outcomes for local children when CASA is involved."

The Honorable Lynn Knight, Queen Anne's Circuit Court

"CASA's involvement is integral to this Court's goal of facilitating lasting permanency to children who have great need of stability, constancy, and advocacy. Your CASA volunteers have a unique and profound role. They present important information that helps this Court develop decisions about the best interest of local children, and they provide support to some of the most vulnerable members of Kent County's community. This Court appreciates the depth of knowledge that CASA volunteers have about their appointed children."

The Honorable Harris Murphy, Kent Circuit Court

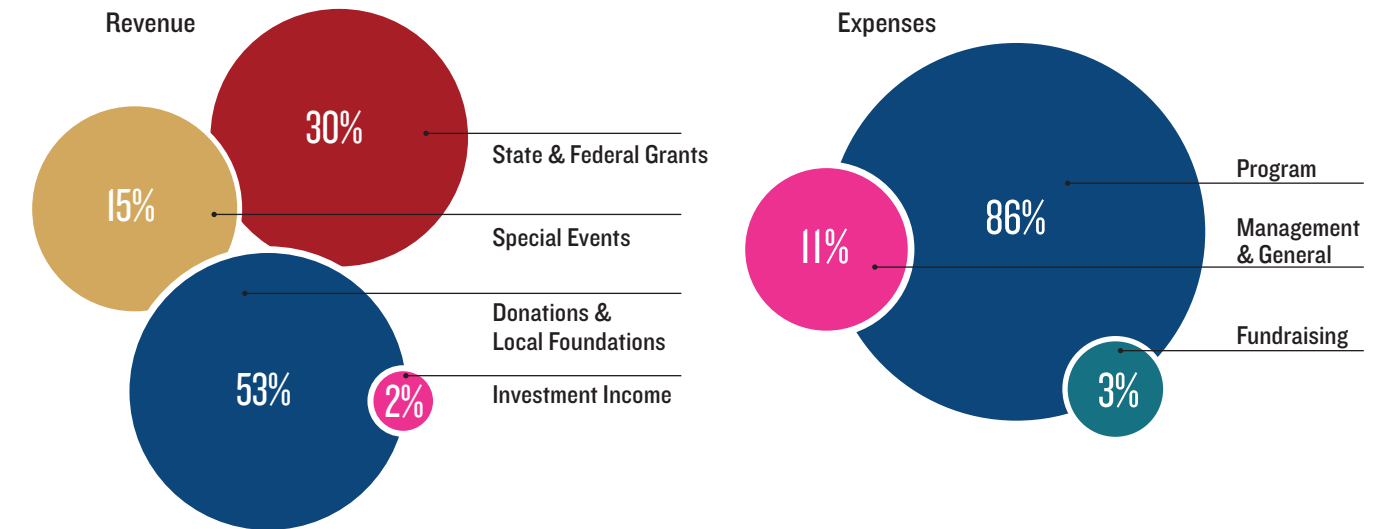
2022 FINANCIALS

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, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

OUR GENEROUS DONORS

REPORT OF FISCAL YEAR 2022
TO OUR DONORS AND FRIENDS

Leaders

\$20,000 & above

Dr. Fayette Engstrom and
Mr. Robert Engstrom
Sallie and Jim Griswold
Governor's Office of Crime Control
& Prevention
Maryland Judiciary, Department of
Family Administration
Mid-Shore Community Foundation, Inc.

Patrons

\$10,000 to \$19,999

Dorchester Lodge #223 IBPOE of W
Kent County Commissioners
Mrs. Maxine Millar
Reynolds / Cristiano Fund of MSCF
St. John Foundation, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Statkiewicz
George B. Todd Fund of MSCF
Mr. and Mrs. George Torggler

Heroes

\$7,500 to \$9,999

Talbot Family Network
Waddell Foundation

Ambassadors

\$5,000 to \$7,499

Dr. and Mrs. Armeane Choksi
Reade W. and Mary P. Corr Fund of MSCF
Queen Anne's County Commissioners
Dr. and Mrs. Tucker Dalton
Mr. Edward Furman
Mr. and Mrs. William Griffin, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Jude Laspa
Ms. Christine McWilliams
The Neall Charitable Foundation Trust
Gwen and Carl Oppenheim
Dr. and Mrs. William Thomas
Mary Jean and Oliver Travers Foundation /
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Travers
Willow Construction, Inc. / Mr. Mike Hiner
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Woicke

Guardians

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Bradshaw
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey M. Dresher
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Granville
Llandaff Family Foundation /
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hill
Mr. Richard Marks and Ms. Amy Haines
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Pastrick
Mr. Bill Paterakis
Ms. Susan Rabenhorst

Pauline F. and W. David Robbins
Charitable Foundation Trust
Ms. Mary Ann Schindler
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Schulman
Drs. Ali Soulati and Zuleika Ghodsi
The Meoli Companies / Mr. Michael Meoli
Town & Country Liquors /
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mesko
Mr. James Trond and
Mrs. Sidney Davenport-Trond
Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Van Fossan

Benefactors

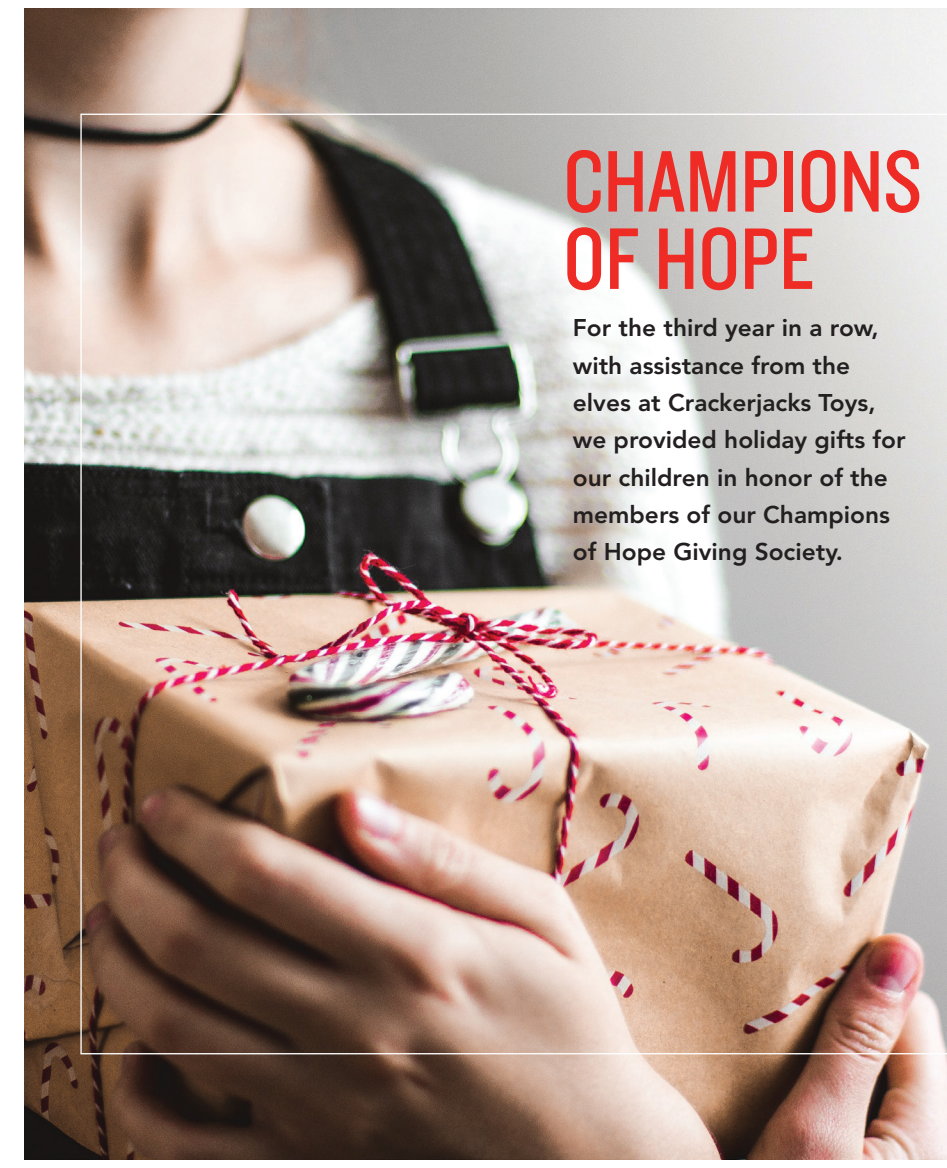
\$1,000 to \$2,499

Mr. and Mrs. John Akridge III
American Legion Kent Island Post 278
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Armistead
Avon-Dixon Agency, LLC / Mr. Rich Trippe
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Beane
Mrs. Mildred Bullock
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Cattaneo
Charities Aid Foundation America
Mrs. Nancy Cooper
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cowin
Mrs. Joan Crowley
Dean Speier Family Fund
Mr. Richard Dezelon
Dock Street Foundation
Dorchester Post 91

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. "Buck" Duncan
Eastpoint Church
Mr. and Mrs. George Eysymontt
Mrs. Linda Goss
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Groce, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Hershey
Mrs. Martha Horner
Mr. and Mrs. John Hunnicutt
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jump
Mr. and Mrs. Brendan Keegan
The Honorable Stephen H. Kehoe
Mrs. Bette Kenzie
Ms. Linda Laramy
Mrs. Mary Lou McAllister
Mr. and Mrs. George Merrill
Miles & Stockbridge Foundation
Monet Family Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Chad Nagel
The Honorable Scott Patterson and
Ms. Robin Davenport
Mr. and Mrs. JaMar Plater
Mr. Stefan Quandt and Ms. Susanne Klatten
Mr. Doug Rollow
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Doehler
Ms. Stephanie Saunders
Shore United Bank
Mr. W. Rembert Simpson
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Slack
Mr. and Mrs. Brett Summers

CHAMPIONS OF HOPE

For the third year in a row,
with assistance from the
elves at Crackerjacks Toys,
we provided holiday gifts for
our children in honor of the
members of our Champions
of Hope Giving Society.



FISCAL YEAR 2022 REPORT TO DONORS AND FRIENDS

Mr. and Mrs. Darian Sump
Mr. and Mrs. Butch Townsend
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Trippe
Mr. W. Moorhead Vermilye
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ward
Mr. and Mrs. John Watters
Ms. Barbara Welcher
Mr. and Mrs. C. Curry Wilford
Mr. and Mrs. P. Reed Wills II
The Wyman Family Foundation /
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Wyman

Advocates

\$500 to \$999

Benevity International Monetary Fund
Mr. Charles Bethel and Ms. Lori Weinstein
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cerutti
Charles T. Capute, LLC
Ms. Susan Clifford
Mr. David Cowin
Mr. George Dappert and Ms. Judy Wixted
Mr. Bruno De Schaetzen
E. E. Streets Memorial Post 5118
Mr. and Mrs. Chip Fichtner
Kent Island BPOE Lodge #2576
Mrs. Cathleen Massey
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Meyerhoff
Mr. and Mrs. William Munn
Ms. Nancy A. Reed
Mrs. Adrienne W. Rudge

Mr. and Mrs. Morrie Ruffin
Mrs. Molly Sause
Mr. David Schmickel and Ms. Amy Kimball
Ms. Sarah Schunick-Baney
Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Slaughter
Mrs. Betty Waetjen

Sponsors

\$100 to \$499

Mr. and Mrs. Lary Acker
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Adams, Jr.
Mr. Thomas Alspach, Esq.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Amdur
Mrs. Della Andrew
Dr. and Mrs. William Bair
Ms. Betty Bartlett
Mr. Robert Begley and
Ms. Belinda Frankel
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Behm
The Honorable Robert M. Bell
Mr. and Mrs. William Bishop
Mrs. Katharine Bonner
The Honorable and Mrs. Paul Bowman
Mr. Joseph Brannegan
Dr. Molly Brian
Mrs. Jessie Browne
Mr. Bill Burnette and Ms. Joy Staniforth
Mr. Kenneth Bush
Ms. Betsy Butler
Mrs. Kathy Canzoniero

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cecil III
Ms. Linda Chandlee
Mr. Richard Colburn
Ms. Susan Courtney
Ms. Brenda L. Crabbs
Mr. Dorian Cummings
Ms. Claudia Cunningham
Mr. Richard Curd
Ms. Maureen Curry
Dr. David Danner and Ms. Frances Forster
Dark Horse Lacrosse
Ms. Sandy Davenport and Mr. James Martin
Mr. Stephen Dejter
Mr. and Mrs. Blaine duPont
Mrs. John Durocher
ECW of Wye Parish
Ms. Ronnie Edelman
Mr. and Mrs. John Egerson
Mrs. Effie Elzey
Mr. and Mrs. Wilson C. Everhart III
Mr. and Mrs. Roland Finger
Mrs. Peggy Ford
Ms. Lisa Foss
Mr. and Mrs. John W. S. Foster III
Mrs. Carol Friedel
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Friedman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gnospelius
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Grabis
Ms. Mary Green
Mrs. Susan Green

Ms. Kimberly Gscheidle
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Haddaway
Mrs. Theona Hall
Higgins & Spencer
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hill
Mr. Tim Holt
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Hopkinson, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. William Houck
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hynson, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Alden James
Kit & Kaboodle Productions / Mr. Neil Beller
Mrs. Judith Knight
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Kollmann
Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Krupka
Lane Engineering LLC / Mr. Tom Lane
Ms. Bonita Lankford
Mr. David Leavitt
Mr. Stuart Levine and Ms. Carol Smith
Ms. Maria Elena Lurie
Dr. and Mrs. Erney Maher
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Mangan
Mr. and Mrs. William McAllister, Jr.
Ms. Judy Moore
Reverend and Mrs. Steven Mosher
Mr. James Mourlas
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Neal
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Newnam III
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Noonan
Mr. Jeffery North
Old Trinity Church

Mrs. Linn Ong
Ms. Michelle Osborn
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Parker
Mrs. Lynn Freeburger Partridge
Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Passarella
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Peters
Mr. and Mrs. Reggie Phillips
The Poore House, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Potter
Queenstown Lions Club
Mrs. Ellen Rajacich
The Honorable Thomas G. Ross
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Sappington
Ms. Jean Schneebeil
Mr. George Searle
Mr. and Mrs. George Seger
Mrs. Renee Sheehy
Mr. and Mrs. David Sherrill
Mr. and Mrs. Langley Shook
Mr. John Smith and Ms. Cherry Dearie
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sondberg
Dr. Lisa Stone
Talbot Post 70
Mrs. Frances Thorington
Tidewater Inn
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Tilghman, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Luther Tucker
Dr. Dean Tyson and Mr. Michael Linardi
Mr. Thomas Urban
Mr. and Mrs. John K. Waters, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Weaver
Western Tire and Auto /
Mr. and Mrs. Doby Middleton
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Whitcomb
Ms. Carolyn Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott Wimbrow
Ms. Sara Woodall
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Wren

Friends

Up to \$99

Mr. Carl Anderson
Mrs. Carol W. Armstrong
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Baker
Mr. and Mrs. William Batson
Mrs. Louise Bishop
Mr. Daniel Bliss
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Blumberh
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Bollman
Mrs. Suzanne Brigham
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Bryan
Mr. and Mrs. James Campbell
Ms. Susan Campbell
Ms. Alexandra Chopin
Ms. Maryanne D'Andrea
Mr. Joseph Del Medico
Ms. Chamice Dill
Mr. Steven Dolbow
Dr. Lawrence Donehower and Ms. Michelle Smith



FISCAL YEAR 2022 REPORT TO DONORS AND FRIENDS

Mr. Robert Duval
Mr. and Mrs. Claude Edwards
Cecille's Beauty Salon, Inc. /
Ms. Beverly Fischer Shelly
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Fox
Dr. Roberta R. Gribbon
Mrs. Edith B. Hayman
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Heckathorn
Mr. Don Helgason
Col. and Mrs. Robert Holden
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Hunt
Mr. Juan B. Ianni
The Honorable and Mrs. Donald Johnson
Dr. Loralie Lawson
Dr. Laurie S. Reider Lewis and
Mr. John A. Lewis IV
Mr. Matthew Love
Ms. Leigh Marquess
Ms. Sue Morrow
Mrs. Fay Mauro
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Murphy
Mr. Mark Pellerin and Ms. H. Amanda Owen
Mr. Otis Sampson
Mrs. Susan Schumacher
Mr. and Mrs. James Scott
Secretary Town Commissioners
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Shearer
Mr. William Shertenlieb
Ms. Nicole Simek

Ms. Beth Spencer
St. Luke's UM Church
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Swann
Rebecca Kelly Taylor, Esq.
Ms. Mamie Todd
United Way of Central MD
Mrs. Marie Uren
United Way of Central MD
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Van Gilder
Mr. and Mrs. B. Henry Ward
Ms. Sharon Warner
Ms. Christine Williams
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Wood, Jr.
Mrs. Sandra Wood

Gifts were made in memory of the following individuals:

Children of Sandy Hook
Stacey Dezelon
Margo Goggins
William S. Horne
F. Corbit Lurie
Alex Mandl

Gifts were made in honor of the following individuals:

Joan Crowley
Robin Davenport
Karen Orem
Darian and Holly Sump

Gifts in Kind

All of our Court Appointed Special Advocate Volunteers, Board of Directors, and Committee members
Attraction Magazine
Harold and Marla Baines
Susan Courtney
Crackerjacks
Dark Horse Lacrosse
Rich Dezelon
William Griffin
Imagination Library of Talbot County
Kit & Kaboodle Productions / Neil Beller
Kiln Born Creations
McAllister Design / Sherry McAllister*
Melissa Grimes-Guy Photography
Mid-Shore Community Foundation
Mrs. Sidney Davenport-Trond
Courtney Walsworth
The Honorable Brett Wilson /
The Honorable William H. Jones*

** In-kind gifts of \$1,000 or more*

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.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2022

SPOTLIGHT ON BOB COWIN

Incoming Board member Bob Cowin was a CASA Volunteer from 2014 to 2021. We asked him to share some thoughts about being a CASA Volunteer. His comments are below.

"My wife and I have always been passionate about CASA and the work they do for children. Our two sons had severe special needs stemming from a rare syndrome that significantly shortened their lives. And as their Dad, I believe that I developed a heightened level of empathy for children in need as a result of this experience. After our boys passed, I knew I wanted to serve children in some way that would, hopefully, make a difference in their lives. Being a CASA is just my way of giving back.

There were a number of memorable occasions that brought a smile to my face and reminded me that my involvement in a child's life was having an impact. The child I served was extremely insightful, making comments on things that I was often impressed he would even notice. These moments of connection made me realize that he was aware of my involvement and mindful of the ways in which I advocated for him.

Overall, there are definitely peaks and valleys for CASA Volunteers, and if you can ride out the valleys, the peaks are incredibly worthwhile. If you're interested in becoming a CASA (and I hope you are), I recommend that you clearly understand the role of an advocate, embrace it, and be prepared to listen and learn. These are real-time cases that can present very bleak circumstances. As an advocate, you must try to place yourself in that child's life to truly understand what they are going through. The payoff is looking into the eyes of these precious children and knowing you've made a difference."



Joe Anthony



Bob Cowin



The Honorable Brett Wilson

Farewell and Welcome!

With a nod to Greek philosophy in acknowledging the only constant to be change, we bid a poignant farewell to retiring Board members Moorhead Vermilye, Chrissy McWilliams, Stephanie Nagel, Bill Jones, and Brett Summers. We thank them for serving above and beyond the proverbial call of duty in the face of COVID-19.

In July, we welcomed **Joe Anthony**, **Bob Cowin**, and **Brett Wilson** to the Board of Directors. Collectively, they add to the diverse experience, insight, and wisdom among our stellar Board members.

We also welcomed recently retired Board member **Stephanie Nagel** to the staff! As our new, part-time Outreach Coordinator, Stephanie is helping to strengthen our outreach to local individuals and community groups. If you'd like to have someone from CASA of the Mid-Shore speak to your group, please contact Stephanie at sn@casamidshore.org.

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 receive special correspondence during the year as well as acknowledgement in our Annual Report. They welcome the fact that we provide holiday gifts to CASA children in their honor. The generosity of our Champions helps us bring joy and hope to children!

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 2022



Cultural Awareness Training

Financial support from the Talbot Family Network enabled many of our Board members, staff, and CASA volunteers to participate in a daylong virtual workshop entitled *Structural Competencies and Structural Humility to Address Disparities and Inequities*. We were fortunate for the opportunity to work with **Dr. Maria Mercedes Avila**, who is Associate Professor of Pediatrics, the Director of the Vermont Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Program, and the Health Equity and Inclusive Excellence Liaison at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine. Dr. Avila also assisted us in revising our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Plan.

Lights – Camera – Action!

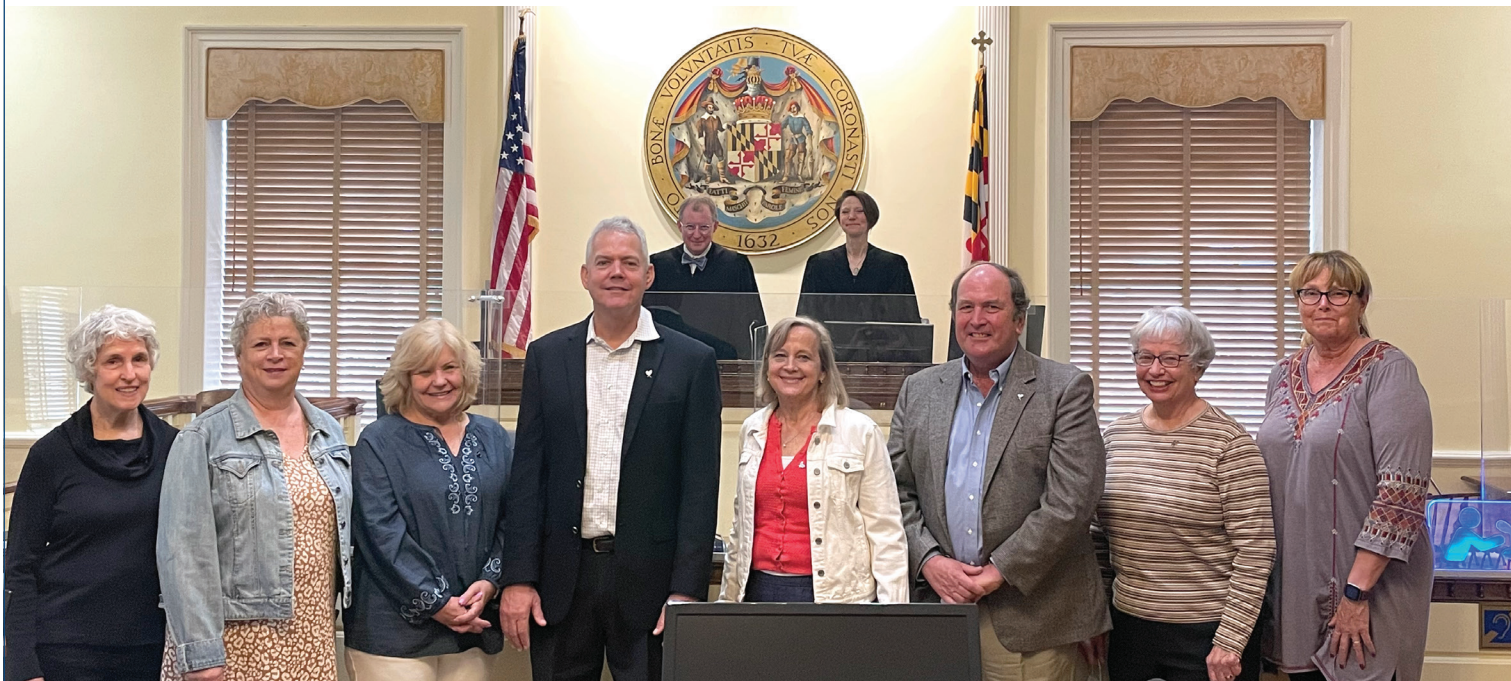
Unable to host an in-person fundraiser due to pandemic-related challenges for yet another year, we created a couple of videos to inspire hope and also celebrate local heroes. Neil Beller of Kit + Kaboodle Productions once again brought his creative touch to this project, assisting us in more ways than can be counted.

The first video, *There's No Place Like Hope*, traces the magically wonderful ways children hold tightly to our messages of hope. The second, *Hometown Heroes*, celebrates baseball Hall of Famer Harold Baines's connection to our community and is narrated by his daughter, Courtney. And the third video applauds Board member Sidney Davenport-Trond for the depth of her help in furthering our mission.


Visit www.casamidshore.org to enjoy the short videos.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2022



We welcomed our newest CASA volunteers at Swearing-in Ceremonies as they became sworn Officers of the Court. The above photo is from the Talbot County Ceremony, presided over by Judge Stephen Kehoe and Magistrate Jamie Adkins.



THANKFUL FOR YOU!

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

#GivingTuesday (November 29, 2022) is a day of global giving. You can celebrate this day by being thankful and paying it forward. On the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, please champion our mission because you believe in hope. Your support can give hope to a local child!

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
TALBOT • DORCHESTER
QUEEN ANNE'S • KENT

EASTON OFFICE
1 S. Washington Street
Suite 2
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-2866

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Easton, MD
Permit No. 28

Current Resident Or



info@casamidshore.org
www.casamidshore.org