



News from the Director's Desk

Like the rest of the planet, MTCASA has experienced challenges due to the pandemic. Navigating through this uncharted territory has provided obstacles to service but also provided opportunities to come together with programs and stakeholders. During this crisis, the networking and partnerships has built a more solid foundation to work from on behalf of the children. Not being able to see children was incredibly difficult and worrisome. However, due to some creativity and pulling together children were and are being seen and their voices continue to be heard.

Providing technology, personal protective equipment and creative ideas powered by the tenacity and determination of the volunteer advocates made seeing the children possible. Foster families, birth families and kin, courts, CASA programs, educators, social workers and funders continue to work together to provide CASA/GAL services to children in need.

Guidance and tools provided by MTCASA, state and local governments and community partners continue to be utilized. We are encouraged and inspired by Montana's ability to connect and work together in a time of crisis and we are confident these partnerships will continue beyond COVID.

We are grateful for the outpouring of support by funders and volunteers during this time. There is an expectation that the number of volunteer advocates needed to serve will increase in the coming months as children are being seen more by mandated reporters (back to school). Volunteer recruitment and fund development will continue to be program and state office priorities.

We hope that our communities and funding partners will be ready and willing to take on the challenges with us. Please reach out to MTCASA and/or local programs to find out how you can help. Visit our website at WWW.MONTANACASAGAL.ORG.

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April Sommers