

# 2018 Impact Report



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF CENTRAL TEXAS, INC.

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# Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

In many ways FY 2018 – 2019 was a banner year for CASA of Central Texas. From implementing new groundbreaking initiatives to breaking ground on our Training & Support Center, what an exciting year it's been!

This year CASA of Central Texas participated in the launch of Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE), an initiative focused on finding and engaging committed adults who are willing to wholeheartedly support children long after CASA and CPS involvement ends. In addition, Community-Based Care was initiated in Comal and Guadalupe counties with the intention of meeting individual and unique needs of children, youth, and families from a community based-approach.

CASA of Central Texas also rolled out a new training curriculum this year. Developed by National CASA, the curriculum equips volunteers with relevant information and ultimately makes them better informed advocates. It was a robust year of Continuing Education training in which volunteers learned about a variety of topics such as preventing child sexual abuse, applying behavior analysis to children, preparing for mediation, and communicating as a CASA.

For the first time ever, tickets for CASA's annual dinner and auction sold out! CASAblanca was a tremendously fun-filled event that raised a generous amount for children, thanks to many gracious CASA supporters. With this fundraising success, CASA was able to train more volunteers who were then able to directly impact the trajectory of a child's journey through the foster care system. Children's stories have changed because they had a CASA voice speaking on their behalf.

Of course, another very notable event this year was the groundbreaking of the Training & Support Center in San Marcos! Though it was a dream for a very long time, CASA finally hosted a groundbreaking ceremony in January 2019. After serving the county for 30 years, CASA is now able to plant permanent roots. Not to mention, CASA will help a greater number of children once construction is completed next summer 2020.

Stay tuned for all of the exciting developments that will take place in the coming year. Please join us in celebrating 35 years of serving children! Let's change more children's stories!

*Norma Castilla-Blackwell*

## **Norma Castilla-Blackwell**

**Board of Directors 2018 - 2019:**  
JoAnne Germer, President  
David Pfeifer, Vice President  
Becky Lake, Secretary  
Frank Pereira, Treasurer  
Susie Russell  
Carol Gaultney  
Jeffrey Hargis  
Angela Panebianco  
Whitney Vaughn  
Seth Worley

**603**  
**children served by**  
**256**  
**volunteers**

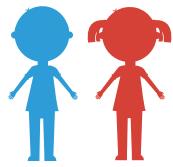
We envision a world where every child thrives in a safe, stable, and loving home.

CASA of Central Texas advocates for abused and neglected children in the courts, in schools, and in the child welfare system by training and supporting community volunteers.

# Children's stories were changed this year!

## Age of Children Served

0 - 5 = 31%  
6 - 12 = 43%  
13 - 17 = 22%  
18 + = 4%



48% 52%

## Race/Ethnicity

Hispanic = 54% 44%

Caucasian = 35%

African American = 3%

Biracial/Multi-Racial = 7%

Other/Not Specified = 1%

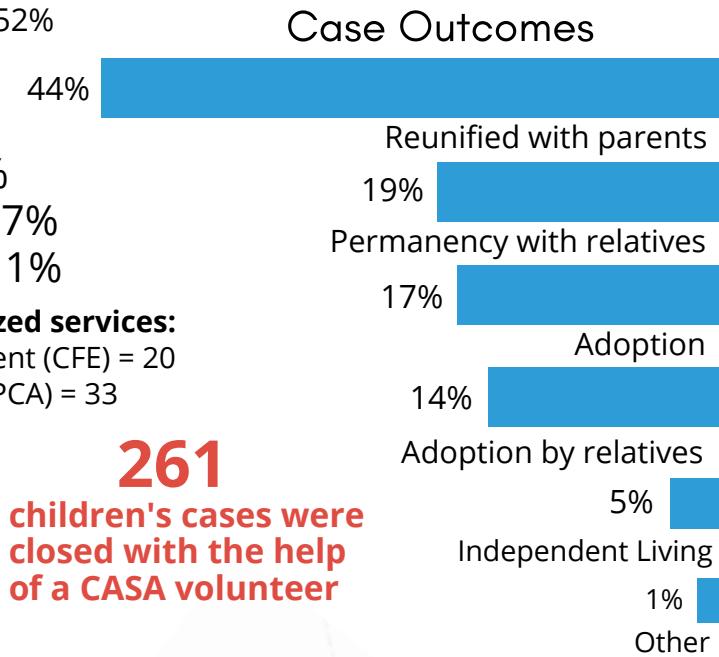
## 53 children received specialized services:

Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE) = 20

Permanency Care Assistance (PCA) = 33

**603 children**  
had a CASA volunteer

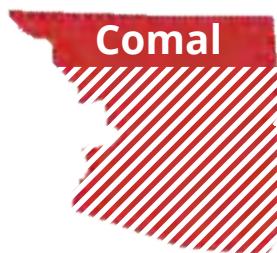
**613 children**  
still need a volunteer



**261**  
children's cases were closed with the help of a CASA volunteer



**410 children**  
in CPS care,  
**246 children**  
served by CASA



**414 children**  
in CPS care,  
**267 children**  
served by CASA



**241 children**  
in CPS care,  
**73 children**  
served by CASA



**151 children**  
in CPS care,  
**17 children**  
served by CASA

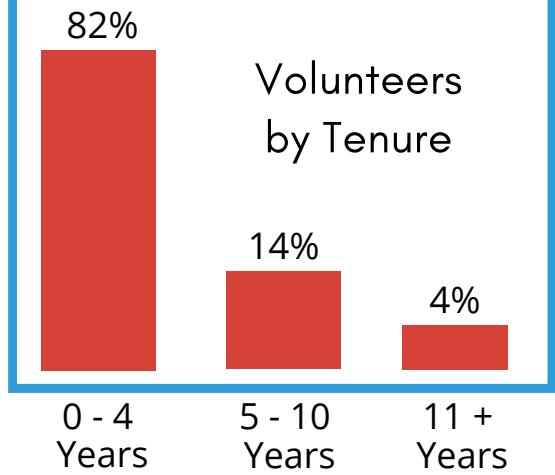
Eight-year-old Robin loves to draw. Kittens, rainbows, flowers – the brighter the colors, the better the picture. But mostly she draws pictures of her family, because all Robin wants is to go back home.

Robin's parents are struggling with addiction. After a few painful years of watching her parents spiral downward and lose the ability to care for her, Robin is spending the holidays in foster care.

But Robin has a CASA volunteer advocating for her best interests while her parents get the help they need so she can safely return home. A CASA volunteer takes the time to get to know Robin. To know her family. To identify what's possible and what she needs to heal.

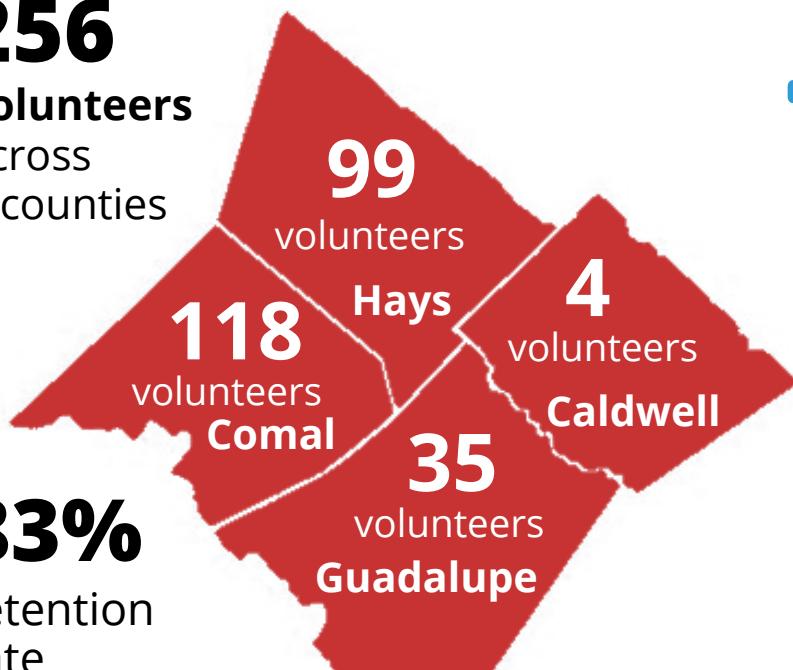


# In 2019 65 new advocates pledged to change a child's story!



**256**

**volunteers**  
across  
4 counties



**83%**  
retention  
rate



**Volunteer Miles**  
Reported: 96,861  
Estimated: 193,723  
Value: \$105,579  
Based upon IRS standard mileage  
rate of \$0.545 per mile.



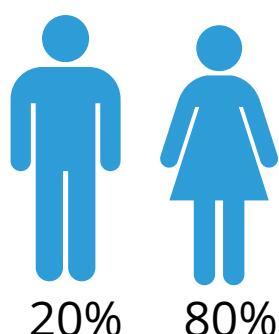
**Volunteer Hours:**  
Reported: 9,635  
Estimated: 19,270  
Value: \$483,677  
Based upon Independent Sector  
which values volunteer time at  
\$25.10 per hour for Texas

## Advocate Age

21 - 29 = 8%  
30 - 39 = 6%  
40 - 49 = 15%  
50 - 59 = 20%  
60 + = 50%

## Advocate Race/Ethnicity

Hispanic = 12%  
African American = 6%  
Caucasian = 78%  
Biracial/Multi-Racial = <1%  
Other/Not Specified = 4%



CASA provides a voice for Robin and other children like her. We believe every child facing an uncertain future deserves to heal and thrive.

You can make a meaningful and lasting impact with a gift to CASA of Central Texas. We are working to make sure every child in our community who has experienced abuse or neglect has a caring adult who will be there for them during this tough time, no matter what. Together, we can change a child's story.



## These extraordinary volunteers selflessly dedicated their time to changing children's stories!

### 5 Years

Kim Boland  
Doris Davila  
Sandy Durke-Brimhall  
Patti Ebrom  
Susan Hankins  
Ray Jacobson  
Taylor Jones  
Barbara Kovalski  
Michael Kovalski  
Ren Liner  
Samantha Mundine  
Rebecca Oekerman  
Kathie Patterson  
Larry Patterson  
Kristi Perkins  
Elizabeth Polk  
Bruce Quenstedt  
Yvonne Quenstedt  
Dana Ritchie  
Dorothea Walker  
Ken Ward  
Jeannie Williams

### 6 - 10 Years

Gary Aalen  
Theresa Aimone  
Elisabet Barker

John Barthel  
Kathryn Berck  
Jane Bowen  
Bob Caldwell  
Earl Dittman  
Sue Dittman  
Mary Eisenberg  
Elette Estrada  
Jane Freestone  
Tammy Gorman  
Robbie Hawkins  
Janice Hooper  
Peggy Jones  
Carolyn Liner  
Ruth Martin-Cain  
Angelica Martinez  
Sara McCaffrey  
Rita Morieras  
Jennifer Morrison  
Melissa Murphy  
Melanie Musgraves  
Songa Ploeger  
Diane Purdy  
Tom Purdy  
Melinda Rapp  
Calvin Rodriguez  
Sonya Rodriguez

Kathleen Schindler  
Tracy Simmons  
Sheila Sims  
Ray Spencer  
Mikki Tharp  
Joe Timmins  
Shay Timmins  
Ralph Townsend  
Bob Williams  
LaVonia Horne-Williams  
Wade Wilson  
Colette Wollenberg

Arthur Taylor  
Rose Tempfer

**16 - 20 Years**  
Charles Ellis  
Lynnette Lombardo  
Traudi McDonald  
Dale Stevens-Gandy

**21 + Years**  
Rosa Hernandez

**11 - 15 Years**  
Bruce Drobeck  
Gloria Harlin  
Tracy McGinty  
Sally McWithey  
Sharon Skrocki

This year CASA is spotlighting one special advocate, Paulina de la Fuente, for the unwavering commitment and dedication she's shown to the children on her first case. Like most new advocates, Paulina dove heart first into her volunteer role. Unlike most, she graciously accepted a case to single-handedly serve five children between the ages of seven and seventeen. The children were placed in CPS care after their mother made the older children accomplices in her drug use. She also medically neglected her child with severe physical disability. As their advocate, Paulina communicated with five different placements for all the children as well as therapists and teachers. She also was present and testified at a 4-day trial.

But her commitment to the children extended beyond the courtroom. She exposed the children to things they had never seen before – plays, books, honest conversations about future goals and planning, and sibling visits they wouldn't have had without her. Though the children changed placements multiple times, Paulina tried her hardest to keep all of the children present in each other's lives. She even drove over 500 miles to gather all of the children together for a special dinner.

She concedes, "as heavy as it felt for me in certain moments, the children were going through much more than I could imagine. To me, being a CASA is about being the consistent face, presence, and advocate that will stand by them through every change in placement, caseworker, and throughout each hearing. In order to do that well, I believe we have to deny ourselves and our own personal opinions and frustrations and hurt. Because all that matters is that we stay focused on the goal: advocating for the best interest of these foster children. So that being said, I would tell every person considering becoming a CASA that every drive, every email, and every phone call is worth the opportunity to make an actual difference in a child's life."

Paulina's supervisor at CASA upholds that her activism truly made a difference in the lives of these five children. Her supervisor said it was "refreshing" to watch Paulina in action. "She brings to the role a great degree of professionalism, patience, and ability to problem solve. She was a calming influence on the children and parents of her case... She thoughtfully expressed her opinions and position." Not to mention, her supervisor believes Paulina has a genuine heart for being an advocate and understands that along with her advocacy come legal requirements and policies to follow. By doing so, she ensures other CASAs can be recruited which means more children can be assigned a CASA.

Since she was sworn in, Paulina has acted as a bit of a recruiter of CASA volunteers. Thus far, she's managed to successfully recruit two of her friends and she is working on more. While she is to be commended for surpassing all expectations, Paulina commends the children she has served for the resilience they exhibited throughout impossible circumstances. Her selfless activism undoubtedly changed their stories, but they changed hers as well.

## Paulina is changing children's stories!!



# 2018 Fiscal Report

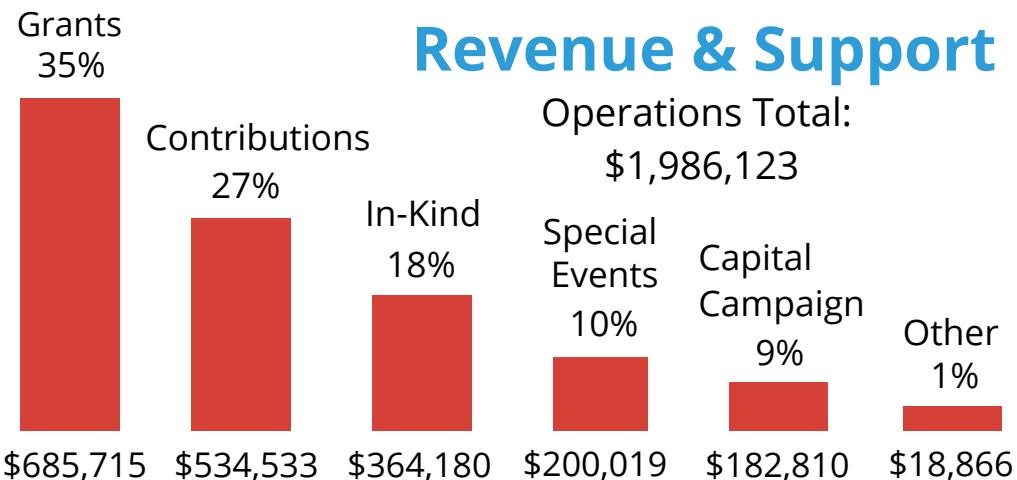
(year ending 6.30.19)

We'd like to extend a kind  
thank you to all of our supporters.  
CASA's work is possible  
because of people like you!

Unrestricted/Operations \$1,643,505 (65%)  
Temporarily Restricted/Capital Campaign \$904,592 (35%)  
Permanently Restricted/Endowment \$0  
Current Liabilities \$100  
Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$2,548,197



CASA OF CENTRAL TEXAS, INC.



Program  
Services  
83%

### Expenses

Expenses Total:  
\$1,585,366

Administration  
11%

\$1,319,847

Fundraising  
6%

\$166,351

\$99,168



# 2018 - 2019 Donors

(7.1.18 - 6.30.19)

**Our donors made it possible  
to advocate for:**

## 50 + Children

Kronkosky Charitable Foundation

## 25 - 49 Children for a Year

The Meadows Foundation

## 13 - 24 Children for a Year

Christus Health

McKenna Foundation

Dennis Metzler & Suzanne Holloway

Najim Family Foundation

United Way of Comal County

## 5 - 12 Children for a Year

Capital Area Housing Finance Corp.

Carl C Anderson Sr. & Marie Jo Anderson

GVTC Foundation, Inc.

In-N-Out Burger Foundation

Lola Wright Foundation

San Marcos Lions Club

Texas Pioneer Foundation

Tomblin Family Foundation

Valero Energy Foundation

## 2 - 4 Children for a Year

Mary Bethancourt

CEMEX

Corridor Title

Downtown Rotary Club of New Braunfels

Exelon

Belinda & Ron Frisk

Guadalupe County United Way

Hill Country Tech Guys

Jill & Jack Kean

Tracy & Frank Lent

New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung

Robin & David Pfeifer

St. Luke's Lutheran Health Ministries

Texas Bar Foundation

Topfer Family Foundation

Union Pacific Foundation

Patty A Walker  
Walmart Stores, Inc.

## 1 - 2 Children for a Year

J.L. Barlow

Gail Bayeta

Norma & Chris Blackwell

The Honorable & Mrs. Bruce Boyer

Broadway Bank - New Braunfels

Jennifer and Jared Broderick

Buda United Methodist Church

Buda/Kyle Real Estate, LLC

Kristi & Barry Bynum

Sylvia & Robert Camareno

Ruth Chambers

The Honorable & Mrs. Albert Cobb

Cynthia & George Collie

Community Bible Church Bulverde

Nancy Deckard

Kathleen Dial

Dripping Springs Community Foundation

EOG Resources, Inc.

Nancy Estrada

Farmer's Insurance

Freiheit

Gennaro's Trattoria

JoAnne Germer

Grande Community Chest

Greater Texas Federal Credit Union

Guadalupe Brewing Company

Randall Hansen

Michelle & Jeff Hargis

Hays County Sheriff's Office

Hill Country Rally for Kids

Laura Infante

KGMS Golf LLC

Kyle United Methodist Church

Becky & Gene Lake

Mariposa Apartment Homes

Kate & Ken Marx

McCraw Oil/Kwik Chek Company Inc.

Millennium Medi Spa

Moeller & Associates

Jennifer Moore

Mary & John Owen

P.E.C. United Charities, Inc.

Sharon & Frank Pereira

Kristi Perkins

Perry Homes

Kathy Bearden-Porter & Campbell Porter

Prosperity Bank  
Melinda & Gene Rapp  
Rio Plaza  
Mayra Rivera  
Rotary Club of Seguin  
San Marcos Bluebonnet Lions Club  
Diane Sanders-Davis  
Nancy & Louis Scantland  
Jeannette and Bill Sheridan  
Stars & Stripes Drive-In Theatre  
Robert Sudela  
Sherwood Surveying  
United Way of Hays County  
Unlock the PPO  
Paula Vacek  
Robert Williams  
Wing Society  
Colette & Roger Wollenberg

## 1 - 2 Children for 3 - 6 Months

Airforce Turbine Service Ltd.  
Athlete Guild, LLC  
Brooke Barker  
Inger Barker  
Bear Creek Ranch of Comal County  
Bill Biggadike & Associates  
Michael Britt  
Mary & Frederick Budworth  
Eleanor B. Crook  
Canyon Lake Noon Lions  
Natalie & Steven Carnes  
Children's Dental Ark  
Jessica Clemons  
Jana Clift-Williams  
Custom Packaging Products  
Carola Davis  
Sue & Earl Dittman  
Bridget Dowd McPhillips  
Donna & Robert Eccleston  
Ernesto's Jewelry  
Fiesta Lanes  
First Christian Church  
First Lockhart National Bank  
First Presbyterian Church  
Judy & Brian Fleming  
Flintrock Falls at the Hills Country Club  
Fraternal Order of Eagles  
Fuse Architecture Studio  
Garden Ridge Lions Charities Inc.  
Garden Ridge Women's Club  
Guadalupe River Duplex

Beth & Karl Hittle  
Hochheim Prairie Insurance  
Horton Draperies of Texas, Inc.  
J&R Gymnastics  
Mary Gail & Ray Jacobson  
Felicia & Eric James  
Debbie Jenkins  
Jim's Formal Wear  
Karen & Grant John  
The Honorable & Mrs. David Junkin  
Justin Meadows State Farm Insurance  
Gretchen Kaufmann  
Mike Keyser  
Emily Hutchison & David Kneuper  
Jessica Limbo  
Lynnette Lombardo  
Barbara & John Manthey  
Helen McLaurin  
Miller & Miller Insurance Company  
Chloe & John Navarrette  
New Braunfels Breakfast Lions Club  
New Braunfels Presbyterian Church  
Mark Poag  
Property Professionals, Inc.  
Elaine & Jeff Quinn  
Robert Ragsdale  
Red Stag Home Mercantile  
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Susie & Eddie Russell  
Schertz Bank & Trust  
Tricia & Mike Schneider  
Texas Lehigh Cement Company  
The Kyle Law Firm  
Total Wine  
Unity Church of Wimberley  
UW - Greater Austin  
Vaaler Creek Golf Club  
Natalie & Steven Vanderbur  
Stephanie Wagers  
Denise Damron  
Patricia & Michael Wenk  
Claudia & Paul Mark Woods  
Joyce Yannuzzi

Thank you to all of our donors for supporting our mission and vision. Notify the CASA office at 830.626.2272 for misspelled names or missing names. Please accept our apologies in advance!