

FIVE-YEAR CASA PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

HISTORY

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are volunteers who advocate for the best interests of vulnerable children in court and the community. CASA is a national child welfare initiative that began in Seattle, WA, in the late 1970s and has grown to include more than 950 individual CASA programs across the nation. CFACC was formed in 2016 as a not-for-profit organization to join the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Project and Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court's newly established Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA) of Cuyahoga County. While CFACC currently only supports CASAs, they often work with GALs in certain types of cases. This dual representation model has been shown to enhance the quality of advocacy on behalf of the children.

Since 2016, more than 100 CASA volunteers have positively impacted the lives of over 500 children in Cuyahoga County. Local CASA volunteers conduct independent investigations into a child's welfare and strive to provide the highest advocacy levels to child victims of abuse, neglect, and dependency while furthering collaborations with the Juvenile Court, Department of Children and Family Services, and other local child welfare providers.

AGENCY MILESTONES

2015

CASA Steering Committee Formed

2016

CASA of Cuyahoga County/CFACC
Launched, given IRS & OH
nonprofit tax status

2017

Cleveland's CASA program grows to
encompass 50+ active volunteers

2018

Local CASA volunteers serve more
than 100 children for the first time

2019


A research study on the
effectiveness of CASA is published
by CWRU and CSU


2020

CFACC moves to new offices at
Fairhill Partners, exceeds 500 total
children served

2021

CASA Program expands into serving
children in Permanent Custody

 **Mission** To make a difference for every child served through advocacy, education, and collaborative alliances.

 **Vision** Every child is seen, heard, and engaged, leading to permanency and hope.

CASA OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of children at risk for abuse, neglect, and dependency. CFACC believes that every child deserves to be in a safe and stable home. These trained volunteers are the child's voice to ensure that their needs are identified and addressed.

Volunteers stay with children until they are placed in loving permanent homes. For many abused children, a CASA volunteer is the only constant adult presence in their lives.



New CASA
Pre-Service Trainings
since 2016



Average Hours of
Continued Education
Offered Annually



Since 2016

554

children have had a CASA
volunteer to advocate for
their best interest

86

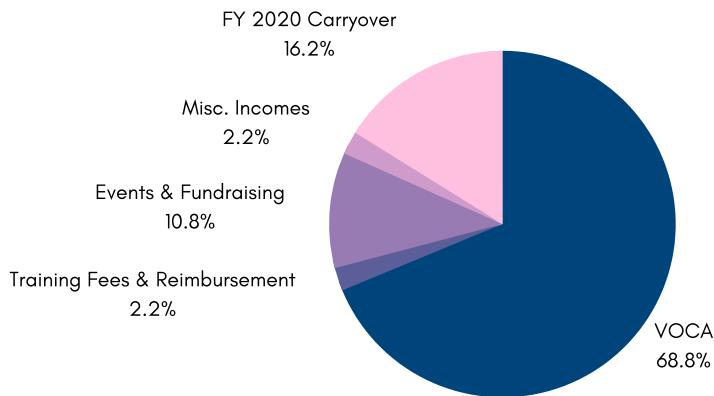
qualified CASA volunteers
in Cuyahoga County

16,985

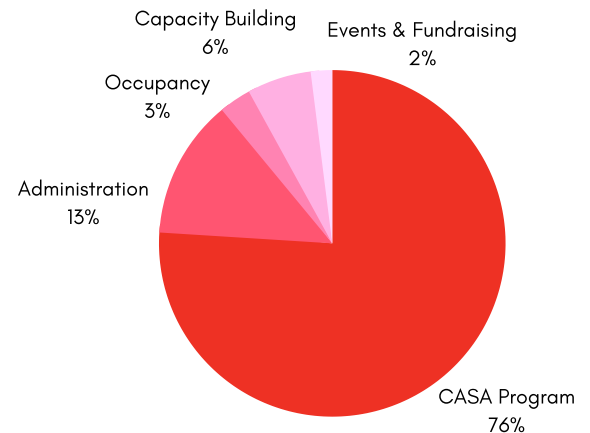
hours provided by CASA
volunteers serving children
who have experienced
abuse or neglect

2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE TOTAL: \$584K



EXPENSE TOTAL: \$584K



AFFILIATES



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



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**THE
GEORGE
GUND
FOUNDATION**



CUYAHOGA COUNTY, Ohio
Children and Family Services



Collaborative
TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING