

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

#### **OUR MISSION**

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



# **AGENCY**

**MILESTONES** 

#### 2015

CASA Steering Committee Formed

#### 2016

CASA of Cuyahoga County receives IRS and Ohio 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

#### 2022

CASA begins serving aging-out foster youth, implements community-based referrals

#### 2023

CASA expands into Emergency and Private Custody cases

#### 2024

CASA Assigned to Educational Neglect Cases, Juvenile Court Operations Resume



CASA OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
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 nationwide. 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 CASA volunteers, 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 nearly 800 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, Division of Children and Family Services, and other local child welfare providers.

#### **OUR VISION**

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

Child and Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

CASA of Cuyahoga County is funded in part by the Ohio AG Victims of Crime Program: Award 2024-VOCA-135500262.

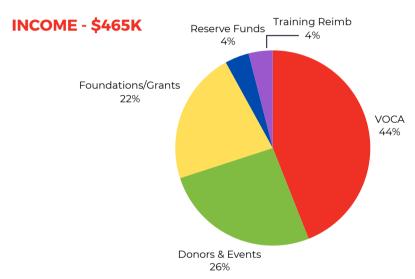
Child and Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County/CASA of Cuyahoga County is a member of the National CASA/GAL Association.

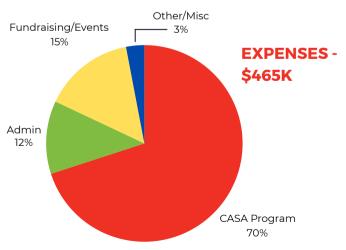
# **CASA VOLUNTEERS**

CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of children at risk for abuse, neglect, dependency, and aging out of the foster care system. CASA of Cuyahoga County believes that every child deserves to be in a safe and stable home and to achieve permanency, a loving family to call their own. A CASA volunteer is their most constant adult presence for many local foster youth at risk. These trained volunteers are the child's voice to identify and address their needs.

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

### **2024 FINANCIAL REPORT**







## IN 2023:



**3 Pre-Service Trainings** 



11 Continuing Education Workshops



154 Children Served with a **CASA Volunteer** 



3,643 Volunteer Advocacy **Hours Provided** 

### **AFFILIATES**



























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