CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County provides and promotes Court-Appointed Volunteer Advocacy so that every abused and neglected child can have the opportunity to thrive in a safe, nurturing, and permanent home.

Read on to learn more about CASA and its impact.
Thank you for everything you’ve done for CASA KIDS this year!

You helped us make huge progress toward being able to provide an Advocate for every child in foster care in Montgomery County! And you helped us advocate better than ever for our kids.

We ended fiscal year 2014 with only 32 children still in the system without a CASA Advocate. We are getting close to being able to serve every child!

94% of our children were served by volunteers, not staff. This is an organization in which the real “mission work”—changing the lives of children—is done by volunteers!

This year we created an Educational Committee that consults directly with Advocates about their children’s specific educational needs, helping to increase each Advocate’s effectiveness. We’ve also adopted “Trust Based Relational Intervention” (TBRI), a philosophy of dealing with our kids based on an understanding that they’ve all experienced serious trauma—some more than we can imagine—and that effective advocacy or foster parenting means rebuilding their ability to trust, from the ground up.

We continued to collaborate with other organizations to provide experiences for the kids to help them feel “normal”, and at the same time, show them how special they are. At our annual “Always Pursue” event for graduating seniors, we were able to provide each senior with a suitcase and a laptop computer! Over 700 children attended our holiday party at WoodsEdge Church, and each child actually got to choose a gift—something they wanted! In addition, we have expanded our programming for older youth to include local college visits and other “life skills” learning opportunities. These events are possible because of our partnerships in the county.

Fiscal responsibility is always at the top of our minds. We ended the year with a cash reserve of 6 months of operating expenses. This is the goal set by the Board in order to ensure that our work with abused and neglected kids is sustainable. We appreciate your support.

We continue to need your help. These kids need your help. With your support of CASA, in dollars or time, or both, you’re making it possible for kids who’ve had the most rotten breaks to have a chance for a better life. We can’t thank you enough.

Ann McAlpin, Executive Director
STATEMENT of ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended October 31st, 2014

Unrestricted Revenue and Support
Special Events Gross Profit $439,940
Grant Revenue
Victims of Crime Act Grants (VOCA) $99,254
Crime Victims Compensation Grant (CVC) $221,718
Other Grants $95,850
Contributions $155,438
Investment Income $3,585
Other Income $4,236
Net Assets Released from Restrictions $45,710
Total Unrestricted Revenue, Support and Reclassifications $1,065,731

Expenses
Program Services $647,938
General and Administrative $108,822
Fundraising $170,362
Total Expenses $927,122

*Net of direct benefits to donors
Children die every day in the U.S. due to abuse and neglect. 70% of these fatalities are children under the age of four.

4.2 is what it costs Child Advocates of Montgomery County to serve one child for one year.

$12.4 billion is the direct-and indirect cost of child abuse annually in the U.S.

$1,500 is what it costs Child Advocates of Montgomery County to serve one child for one year.

5,000+ children have been served by Child Advocates of Montgomery County since 1992.

3.9 million children were reported as abused or neglected in the U.S. in 2014.

668 children in custody of DFPS in Montgomery County in 2014.

76 new court-appointed volunteer advocates were trained in Montgomery County in 2014.

567 children experienced abuse or neglect in Montgomery County in 2014.

606 children’s lives were changed.

5,000+ hours were served.

215 volunteers.

“I feel like Linda, my Advocate, helped me a lot because every time I felt like something wasn’t going right or I was upset about something, I was able to call her. I feel like she always knew what to say. I got a different perspective from her, so it really made things easier for me.”

-Serenity, Former Foster Youth

* Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2014 Data Book
** U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Child Maltreatment 2013
*** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Media Release, February 1, 2012
April’s mother was proud of the fact that five-year-old April slept in bed beside her every night, even as an array of strange men occupied the bed on the other side. A neighbor, concerned about April’s safety, contacted Child Protective Services, and April was removed from a dangerous situation.

Susanna was appointed to become April’s Advocate. She monitored April’s mother’s progress to provide a safe home environment. Then, as it became more apparent that April’s mother was not able to make the life changes needed, Susanna began searching for other relatives who would be willing to care for April, but to no avail.

Then the phone call came. Sarah, a relative in another state, called to say that she was interested in stepping in to take care of April. As a single woman in her early 20’s, Sarah may not have presented the ideal picture of a stable adult ready to care for a young child, but Susanna saw promise in Sarah’s intentions and in Sarah’s heart.

Susanna laid down the law. She told Sarah that if she truly wanted to raise April, she needed to get her GED, find better employment, and maintain stable housing. Sarah went above and beyond, earning her high school diploma, which qualified her for a much better job opportunity, and in-turn, an apartment.

Montgomery County CPS approved April’s placement with Sarah, however, Child Protective Services in the other state would not. With a heavy heart, Susanna called Sarah to relay the news that she would not receive any state assistance to help her raise April. To Susanna’s surprise and delight, Sarah’s response was, “I don’t care. I still want April!”

Plans were soon underway to make sure April was “home” with Sarah for the holidays. And Susanna wasn’t going to be left out. On her own dime, she booked her flight to travel with the CPS caseworker as they took April to her new family and promising future ahead.

Seven years later, April is a happy and healthy 12 year old, and she and Sarah have a normal day-to-day routine together. Susanna doesn’t want praise for her efforts to look out for April’s best interests. Seeing April’s smile and knowing that she lives each day in a happy, nurturing, and safe home is all the thanks Susanna needs.
2014 CASA Speaks for Kids SuperHero Run

Steering Committee

Gus Nodwell - Race Director
Ellen Nodwell - Assistant Race Director

Kellie Armstrong - TWCA Communications
Christy Brummett - Activities Chair
Tom Earle - TWCA Race Coordinator
Nancy Harris - Volunteer Chair
Randy Hollas - TWCA Athletic Director
Shari Joyce - Sponsorships/Assistant Volunteer Coordinator
Whitney Montgomery - Hospitality Chair
Alli Stephens - Registration & Communications
Richard Taylor - Sponsorships
Gary and Denise VanKuiken - Race Course Coordinators
John Warner - Texas A&M Forest Service

EVENT PARTNERS
The Woodlands Christian Academy
Texas A&M Forest Service

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Mike Seder, Re/Max The Woodlands & Spring

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Frost Bank

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Humana

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Kroger
KVST 99.7 FM
Lone Star Animal Rescue League
Memorial Hermann
Sam’s Club
Signs Now
Waste Management
Wonder Wild
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Deanne Biles - Vice Chair

Auction
Melissa Coleman - Chair
Annabelle Carrillo
Stephanie Peterson
Sherry Mayhill
Whitney Montgomery

Games
Colleen Waymel - Chair
Pat Fain
Jennifer McKeough
Cheryl Neil
Dora Nuerminger
Sabina Rahman-Garcia

Decorations
Joni Barker - Chair
Denise DeBold
Mary Lou Fitch
Tracy Holder

Entertainment
Cheryl Sellers - Chair
Amy Lampman

Logistics
Cindy Pullin - Chair

Printing/Invitations
Joni Barker - Chair
Shannon Bump

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Nikki Adams
Chris Vintzel

Volunteers
Tina Farley - Chair
Deanne Biles

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Vicki McWillian
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Legacy Underwriter
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Audrey Dry
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The Club at Carlton Woods
Disneyland
Gary and Melissa Coleman
Golf Club of Houston
Jim Funke
Joni B’s Event and Décor Specialist
Judi Slater
Kroger
The Association for the Advancement of Floral Design
Patrick and Donna Cahill
CASA brings an outside perspective into a very closed process. Someone has to speak for the children. Someone needs to be consistently available to these children through all of their placements to ensure the best interests of the child. CASA fulfills this role. Advocates are volunteers and are not paid for their services, leaving no inclination to make decisions based on anything other than the best interest of the child. CASA volunteers and staff members GO A LONG WAY to providing a SENSE of SECURITY these children have yet to experience in their lives. So is CASA needed? The simple answer is yes!

-Leahia Fisher, CPS Program Administrator:

CASA IS NEEDED ON EVERY CASE.

THANK YOU to all of our volUnTeer Advocates

Joanne Arnold
Shana Arthur
Tim Arthur
Tamara Armstrong
Brittany Atkinson
Kim Ayars
Melissa Black
Cheryl Baehr
Susan Balette
Paula Blake
Tom Barnes
Judi Barr
Dave Bartlow
Judith Bartok
Faye Bart
Muray Barr
Bobbie Beal
Lon Beige
Nancy Bentz
Kay Bly-Nunkley
Dale Bible
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Arturo Castro
Lisa Chagnon
Elizabeth Chapman
Linda Chikos
Danzel Chin
Lynda Cimara
Blake Coldwell
Katherine Cooper
Gary Connell
Morris Davidson
Nila Dixon
Carolyn Edwards
Susan Edwards
Kimberly Elch
Stephanie Encinia
Pat Evans
Robert G. Evans
Ashley Fahse
Pat Hanna
Jacquelyn Haville
Joseph Hass
Rabyn Hass
Pamela Hendryx
Rebecca Hernandez
Susan Hill
Julie Hichield
Holly Hochhauser
Rhonda Howell
Sharon Howerton
Virginia Huss
Mary Ruth Hughes
Bob Hurt
Denise Irwin
Linda Iwina
Debbie Jager
Matt Iordan
Lisa Joasen
Joanna Kaffen
Deborah Kelley
Dorothy Kennedy
Julia Morton
Susan Muriekes
Ashley Musil
Julie Nairnes
Leslie Nadeltik
Alaina Bark
Sautee Nielsen
Pat Nestor
Susan Oliver
Eugenia Ollerman
Elisa Opal
Wesley Padgett
Ashley Payne
Cathi Randallgraft
Ivez Perez
Silouting Perry
Donna Pedhall
Kerith
Monica Piccardo
Karen Portman
Joyce Pence
Angela Pung

Deesee Blache
Mary Lou Blessing
Ian Blythe
Kelley Bird
Francis Bourgeois
Gwen Boz
Garrett Broder
Carol Brooks
Julie Brown
Kristin Buck
Kathy Bulard
Mary Lou Musca
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Casey Callaham
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Timmie Susan
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Robe Toms
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Angela Torn
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Roberta Walters
Sandra West
Roby West
Sandra Wiatr
Anita Wilicic
Linda Wilkin
Rachael Williams
Che Williams
John Whalen
Sharlynn Wood
Wanda Woodworth
Kathrin Wyant

"I may not always agree with the decisions that Advocates make, but I do feel very strongly that..."
In 2013, CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County introduced The Blue Ribbon Society. This designation celebrates individuals, companies, and organizations that make an annual cash gift of $1,000 OR MORE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK with ABUSED and NEGLECTED children.
"I admire the love and care you show the children we (Advocates) serve. The job you hold as a CASA Case Supervisor will not make you rich, nor will it make you famous, but know this – it is one of the most important jobs in the world."

- Debbie Stuard, Volunteer Advocate
We want to thank Theresa, the Advocate who worked with our family. She started as a stranger who didn’t know us, but she soon became an angel in our eyes. She guided us in all the necessary steps and beyond. She was extremely caring in every way. Thank you, CASA Advocates, for caring for children.

-The Perry Family
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