

CASA Minnesota Annual Report

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017



Our mission

To support and promote court-appointed volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children in Minnesota, and to enrich the lives of children in foster care.



What is CASA Minnesota?

- CASA Minnesota (CASA MN) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in July, 1987 to support volunteer Guardians ad Litem in Minnesota's 2nd and 4th judicial districts.
- CASA MN focuses on the recruitment, training and support of volunteer Guardians ad Litem which are funded through grants, donations and other fundraising activities administered by the CASA MN Board of Directors.
- CASA MN also administers CASA Cares which is a grant program, formerly known as Friends of Children, dedicated to providing grants to benefit the growth, development and well-being of foster children in the Child Protection system. Grants provided by CASA Cares cover items such as summer camps, bicycles, music lessons, prom dresses, senior pictures which are not covered by county funds.

Guardians ad Litem are everyday citizens who advocate for the safety and well-being of children who are in the court system as a result of abuse and/or neglect.



Our volunteers make a difference

- Last year, volunteer Guardians ad Litem helped over 1000 abused and neglected children in Hennepin and Ramsey counties find their way to a safe, stable and permanent family.
- Independent research has shown that children with a Guardian ad Litem are substantially less likely to spend time in long-term foster care and less likely to re-enter care. The need for trained volunteers exceeds the supply, and there is a long and growing list of children waiting for Guardians to be assigned to their cases. CASA MN works to close this gap and provide recruitment assistance.

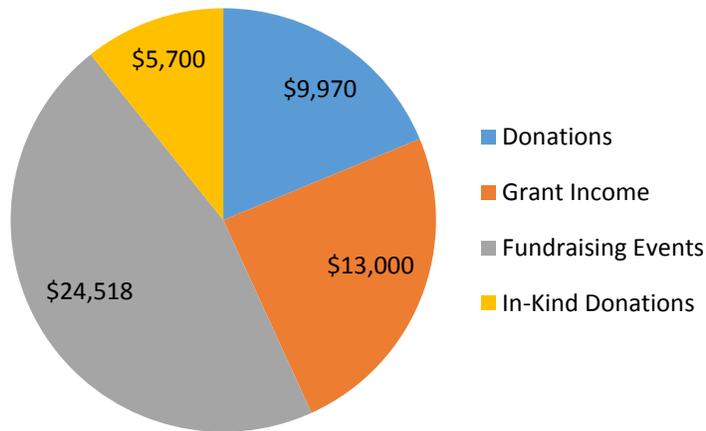
We support volunteers through

- ✓ Ongoing efforts to recruit additional volunteers through advertising and social media
- ✓ Hosting annual volunteer appreciation events
- ✓ Coordinating quarterly social hours



Financial Results

Income 2016-17



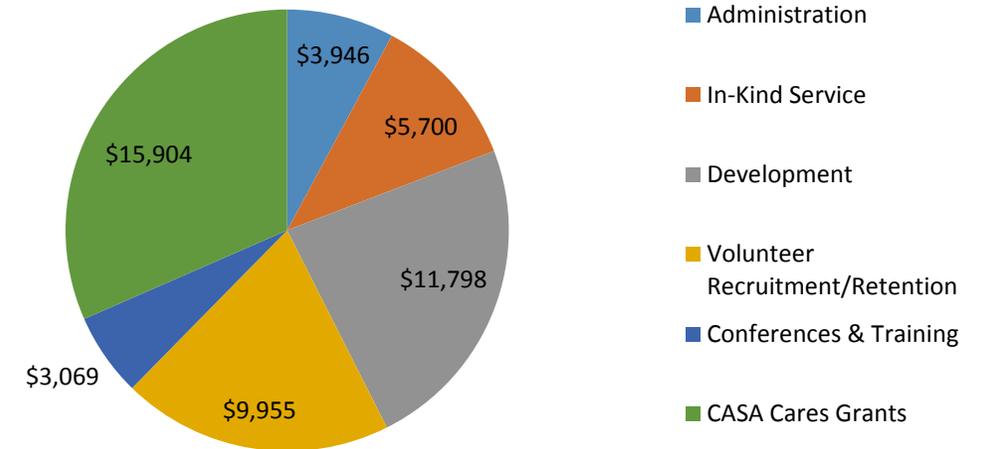
Fundraising events

- ✓ Speak up for a Child Event 2016
- ✓ Birdies, Bogies & Bratwurst Golf Tournament
- ✓ Give to the Max Day

Grants

- ✓ Mazda North America
- ✓ Albrecht Family Foundation
- ✓ Garrett Family Foundation

Expenses 2016-17



Note: Administration expenses include: accounting fees, insurance, web hosting, and general supplies.

2017-18 strategic initiatives

1. Volunteer acquisition and retention

- Increase public awareness about need for recruitment of volunteer Guardians ad Litem
- Amplify volunteer appreciation and retention efforts (recognition awards, volunteer luncheon, social hours)

2. Fundraising and corporate sponsorships

- Develop corporate partnerships and secure sponsorship funding
- Elevate annual Speak up for a Child fundraising event to include influential keynote speakers and high value, desirable auction items.

3. Leadership focus

- Expand CASA Minnesota Board to include additional assistance for grant writing, social media outreach, recruitment events, corporate sponsorship networking

4. Casa Cares awareness

- Increase awareness of enrichment grants for foster children



Board of Director Members

- Laurie Kusek, President
- Joe Winebrenner, Vice President
- Kelly Hudick, Secretary
- Megan Johnson, Treasurer
- Monica Bordonaro
- Mike Tikkanen
- Maurice Harris
- Andy Valles
- Christopher Leckrone
- Laura Miles
- Stacey Drentlaw
- Sara Pearson
- Heather Edelson
- Steve Betchwars

For more information about volunteering or donating to CASA MN, please visit our website at www.casamn.org

