



**CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™**



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**CASA OF LANCASTER
AND LEBANON COUNTIES**

2024 Annual Report

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Spring 2024 Lebanon Training Class
at their Swearing In Ceremony

"I have worked with several families with children with special needs. These parents were overwhelmed by these needs and needed help to obtain and navigate needed educational and behavioral health services for their children. Working together with caseworkers, we were able to secure these essential services and equip the parents with what was needed for their children. It was highly meaningful work to help these children that were in foster care return home to their parents with the resources needed for their future care. I cannot think of more meaningful volunteer work. Truly you can change the life of a vulnerable child. It is a compassionate outreach to families in crisis and at-risk children." – CASA Kathy N.



Golfers at Fidevia's Voices for Hope Golf Classic in May 2024

**CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™**

Letter from the Executive Director

Friends,

2024 is a year worthy of both reflection and celebration. CASA of Lancaster and Lebanon Counties' dedicated Board of Directors and staff worked to support the advocacy of 171 CASA volunteers.

A few highlights in 2024:

- CASA volunteers advocated for 219 children, 71 of whom were new - which is a 12% increase in new children served over last year.
- Our program benefitted from our most successful Heroes Gala and ExtraGive, bringing crucial funding to our mission.
- We were able to hire a full time staff member to supervise volunteers in Lebanon County and continue to grow in a capacity to serve children and increase community awareness
- CASA piloted new program initiatives, health focused advocacy and trauma focused advocacy, further exploring a CASA volunteer's impact on a child's story.
- We released our Older Youth Advocacy Manual and continue to explore training targeting the unique needs of this population.
- We trained and swore-in 23 new CASA volunteer advocates.
- We were honored to once again be the beneficiary of funds raised by the Lancaster County 8 Ball League's HHJB Memorial Tournament as well as Fidevia's Voices for Hope Golf Classic.

One of CASA's most significant gifts, the entire balance of our mortgage, was given to us in the last quarter of 2024. We are eternally grateful for the generosity shown to us and are excited to share more about the impact of this exceptional gift, the donors, and what our next steps through next year and the years to come.

We are deeply grateful for you. Through your time, your financial gifts, your advocacy, and your expertise, you have given of yourself to our mission and for those gifts, the most vulnerable children have had a compassionate consistent adult dedicated to each child's best interest.

Warmly,



Jessica L. Laspino
Executive Director

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Director of Operations and Marketing, TradeMark Lancaster

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Dave Walker, Esq.

Attorney, Stock and Leader

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D'Arcy Crocker

Program Director

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Laura Wilcox, MSW

Operations Director

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Senior Training Manager

Erin Small

Training and Recruitment Coordinator

Katelyn Maule

Senior Volunteer Manager

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Volunteer Manager

Kiran Siddiqui

Volunteer Manager

Shannon Coates

Volunteer Manager

Kristin Antrim

Lebanon Program Specialist

Marguerite Rohrbach

Office Assistant



CASA Staff 2024 Holiday Card Photo

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Yvonne Bernard
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Norma Snader
Heidi Stadel
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Keri Weaver
Peg Weik
Charity Welch
Margaret Williams
Bridget Willoughby
Gwenda Wright
Jennifer Young

Mission, Vision, and History



Spring 2024 Training Class at their Swearing In Ceremony



Fall 2024 Training Class at their Swearing In Ceremony



Mission

To provide a qualified and compassionate court-appointed volunteer advocate to every child who is abused and neglected, to ensure the fundamental human right of having a safe, nurturing, and permanent home is met.



Vision

Every child who is abused and neglected will have a safe, permanent home and the support to become a healthy, empowered adult, thereby breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect.



History

The concept for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) was developed in 1977 in Seattle, WA by Judge David Soukop. As a Dependency Judge, Judge Soukop felt he did not have enough child focused information to rule in their best interest. His solution was to empower concerned, educated, compassionate community members to advocate for children on his court docket by providing information regarding the child's day to day needs and experience. Their understanding of the children's social supports and relationships with relevant caregivers allowed them to provide otherwise unattainable information.

In 2005 CASA was founded in Lancaster County. President Judge Louis Farina appointed Judge Leslie Gorbey to spearhead a steering committee exploring the need for a CASA program to serve abused and neglected children. With over 700 children in foster care throughout a given year, Judge Gorbey found that vulnerable Lancaster youth needed a voice in court, and needed someone looking out for their best interests. The steering committee founded the first Board of Directors in 2007 and together they secured start-up funding to begin operations as a 501c3. In 2009, Jessica Laspino was hired as the Executive Director and first staff member. In the fall of 2009, CASA of Lancaster County swore in their very first class of volunteers consisting of 11 concerned and committed community members. In January 2010, the Lancaster County Dependency Court appointed CASA its first case.

2020, CASA's leadership team began the process of expanding the current program to serve children in Lebanon County. Leveraging existing relationships with the Lancaster County Judiciary and Children and Youth Agency, CASA began to meet with stakeholders in Lebanon County. In January 2022, CASA was able to begin the formal process with the National CASA/GAL Association to rebrand as "CASA of Lancaster and Lebanon Counties" and officially begin training advocates for children in Lebanon County's foster care system. In August 2022, the Lebanon County Dependency Court appointed CASA its first case.

Program

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. It is both the name of our program and what we call our volunteers. CASA Volunteers are community members who stand up and speak out to help abused and neglected children.

Our CASA program belongs to a network of nearly 750 community-based programs that recruit, train, and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities.

Our Program Staff, led by our Program Director, supervises and supports our CASA Volunteers. Volunteer Managers work with our CASA Volunteers to provide oversight and guidance as they navigate the child welfare system and the court system. Volunteer Managers assist with reviewing court reports, accompany CASA Volunteers to court, and help CASA Volunteers with case planning.

CASA/GAL Best-Interest Advocacy



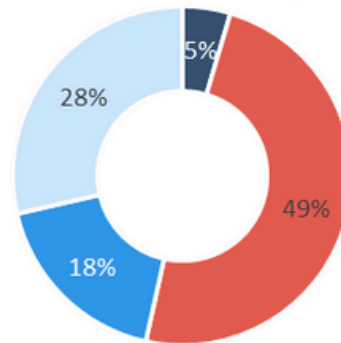


Development Director Margie Lamberson and Executive Director Jessica Laspino celebrating the Extra Give

We are so grateful to all of you who have supported CASA of Lancaster & Lebanon Counties. No matter the size of your gift or how you choose to give or volunteer, your support makes a difference as we collectively work to ensure that all children have the fundamental human right of having a safe, nurturing, and permanent home.

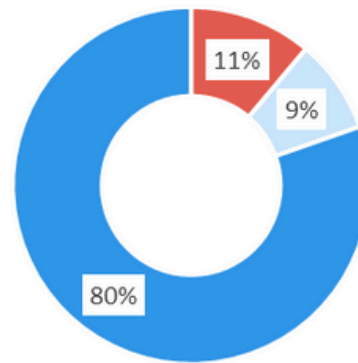
Financials

2024 Income - \$831,100



- Community Partnerships and Faith Based Giving
- Grants
- Individual Donations
- Special Events

2024 Expenses - \$903,640



- Administrative
- Fundraising
- Program Service

WE THANK YOU...

Last year, the Lancaster & Lebanon community of individuals, businesses, family foundations, organizations, and grantors graciously came together to uphold children in the child welfare system through their support of CASA of Lancaster & Lebanon Counties. Because of you, we can give a voice to children who have been abused, neglected, and possibly forgotten.

- Thank you to those who contributed to CASA for the first time in 2024. We welcomed 124 new donors to the CASA family!
- Thank you to 114 longstanding donors who have given to CASA consecutively over the last 5 years!
- Thank you to 105 volunteer CASAs whose advocacy services are valued at \$195,682!

*Financials represented are from internally prepared statements and have not yet been externally audited.



Clark Family Foundation Volunteer of the Year Award Recipient Jenny Habecker (second from left) and family at the Heroes Gala: A Storybook Soirée

\$10,000+

Anonymous
American Fundraising Foundation, Inc.
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Clark Family Foundation
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United Way of Lancaster County
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Vanguard Charitable

\$2,500-\$9,999

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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\$500-\$999

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 US Charitable Gift Trust
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 Donald Wert

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John Walton
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Lori Weiler
Michael and Lie Weiler
Diane Wenthe
Brooke Widener
Victoria Williams
Bridgid Wills
Linda Wilson
Carolyn Woods
Sandra Yeager
Alice Yerman
J B Yoder

Storytellers

A special thank you to our Storytellers! These individuals have committed to making a monthly contribution to CASA. Monthly donors are important to our financial health as it helps to ensure steady income for the organization. If you would like to become a Storyteller and participate in our monthly giving campaign you may sign up on our website or call (717) 286-1436

Amy Beasley
Michael & Christiane Bercik
David Dodson
Kimberly Ibarra
Jessica & Paul Laspino
Henry and Carol Mauermeyer
David & Kathy Noll
Brian & Penny Parker
Adrienne Squillace
Fei Steinbacher
William & Debra Stratton
Pauline Strausbaugh
Patricia Verdon
Sara Woodbury



Organization of the Year TriStarr and Executive Director Jessica Laspino at the Heroes Gala: A Storybook Soirée

Every attempt has been made to accurately reflect the generosity of our donors. If there is an error, we sincerely apologize and encourage you to contact our Development Director at Margie@casalancle.org or (717) 286-1436.

In-Kind Donations

Aaron's Books
Adventure Sports in Hershey
Amish Farm & House Museum
Ann Ratcliffe
Appalachian Brewing Company
Barrie Gregory
Bent Creek Country Club
Board & Brush Creative Studio
Bounce House Rentals of Lancaster
Brent L. Miller Jewelers & Goldsmiths
Carriage House Collective
Chipotle
Ciro's Italian Bistro
Claudia K. Kirk
Clementines
Cocina Mexicana
Cooper Spa
Cork Factory Hotel
Cracked Pepper Catering
Debra Stratton
Decades
Detailed 2 Perfection
Eden Resort & Suites
Entrepreneurial Leadership Associates, LLC
Ephrata Performing Arts Center
Fox Meadows Creamery
Fulton Theatre
Go'N Bananas Family Fun Center
Gracie's on West Main
Guy & Julie Pedelini
Harvest Seasonal Grill and Wine Bar
Heather Colosi
Hershey Gardens
Holly Love
Horse Inn
Howard & Evelyn Eckstein
Interior Fancies
Judy Palfrey
Julie Berkow
Kathy Flores
Keith & Linda Shollenberger
KLYR Rum
Koser Jewelers
Lancaster Country Club
Lancaster Family YMCA
Lancaster Science Factory
Laserdome
Laura Rozetar
Lawn Equipment Parts Company
Leigh Trayer
Longwood Gardens
LUCA Restaurant
Mainstream Boutique
Mark Golomb
Mark & Deb Sanderson
Michael Quear
Mister Car Wash
Anonymous
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Olio Olive Oils & Balsamics

Orthopedic Associates of Lancaster
Packaging Corporation of America
Palmyra Bowling & Sinkhole Saloon
Peluso Glass
Perfect Pots
Pittsburgh Steelers
Pizzeria LUCA
PJW Restaurant Group
Quentin Tavern
Rachel's Cafe & Creperie
Racquet Club West Athletic Club
Ream Jewelers
Refreshing Mountain Retreat & Adventure Center
Robert & Bridget Willoughby
Robert & Lori Good
Ron Howe
Rosa Rosa Pizzeria
Royer's Flowers
Sarah Hodge
Shenk's Greenhouse
Sickman's Mill
SkyZone Trampoline Park
Snyder Funeral Home & Crematory
Stubby's Bar & Grille
Susan Burlingame
TFB Hospitality
The Hershey Story Museum
Tiger's Eye
Tiny Town
Tranquil Therapy
Troegs Independent Brewing
Truly You Events
Trump Tschudy Design
Veska Jewelers
Ville Painters
Vincent & Company Fine Jewelers
Waltz Vineyards
Wegmans
Weis Markets
Whole Foods

Have you considered making a gift in your will?

It costs you nothing today and will make a huge impact on our organization's future! Contact our Development Director at Margie@casalancle.org or (717) 286-1436 for more information.

If you have designated a gift through your Donor Advised Funds (DAF), we thank you and remind you that your name may not be listed above since your gift was originally made to a DAF.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

216 

Children served, of those
69 were new to CASA

5,843 

Advocacy hours provided
by 125 CASAs

48 

Children are now in their
safe and permanent homes

6,322 

CASA visits to children,
family members, and providers

51,172 

Miles driven by
volunteers

73% 

Volunteer
retention rate

**Volunteer services are valued at \$195,682,
translating into savings for our community**



Development Director Margie Lamberson
and Executive Director Jessica Laspino
at the HHJB Charity 8 Ball Tournament



HHJB Charity 8 Ball Tournament Winners

- Thank you to Riverside Camping Association, who has graciously hosted the annual Harry Hutchinson – Jack Byerly Charity 8 Ball Tournament. Collectively, this event has raised over \$169,000 supporting CASA yearly since 2013.
- Thank you to Fidevia Construction, which held its 8th annual Golf Classic Tournament. The tournament has raised over \$85,000 in support of CASA Lancaster & Lebanon Counties.
- Every year, our gala committee creates a unique themed event, and 2024 was no different. 300 guests attended our annual Heroes Gala & Benefit Auction: “A Storybook Soiree.” The event raised a record-breaking \$230,000! Our 2024 Heroes Gala will be held September 13, 2025, with a fun-filled event honoring our 15th Anniversary with the theme “Crystals & Cowboys!”
- The end of November marks the time of year for the Lancaster County Community Foundation’s “Extra-Give” event. This past year, a record-breaking \$115,500 was raised in this one-day community fundraising extravaganza. Special thanks to those who supported us in this one-day giving event.