



2024 Impact Report

Dear **Friends,**

Every child who enters the court system faces a world of uncertainty. They move through hearings, meetings, and transitions—often without a steady hand to guide them. That's where CASA steps in. Our advocates are the one consistent presence in a child's life, the person who listens, speaks up, and ensures their best interests are never overlooked.

This year, CASA of the Fox Cities stood alongside 149 children, making sure each had a voice in the decisions that shaped their future. We saw families reunited, adoptions finalized, and young lives given the stability they deserve. Behind every number in this report is a child who needed someone to show up, and because of our volunteers, donors, and supporters—those 149 fiercely resilient children did not face those challenges alone.

Advocacy takes time, and resources. On average, a child waits 108 days for a CASA volunteer to step in, and once they do, they stay—through every court date, every home visit, every difficult conversation. It's the kind of dedication that changes lives (or, as reports will indicate 'outcomes').

As you read through this report, I hope you see what's possible when a community comes together for its most vulnerable members. **Thank you for believing in this work,** for standing with us, and for ensuring that every child has someone in their corner. We look forward to being able to do even more work in 2025.

With gratitude,

MARIA GUZMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - MARIA@CASAFC.ORG



Regardless of the Twists & Turns

A child's path through the legal system is rarely straightforward. It bends and shifts with every decision, every hearing, every uncertain moment. Yet, through it all, CASA volunteers are there—steadfast, committed, and dedicated to ensuring the child's voice is heard.

In 2024, CASA volunteers were by the side of children through complex journeys. For some, the twists and turns led them home. Fourteen children were reunited with their families, their homes restored and their futures brighter. Others found new, stable lives in adoptive homes or with legal guardians, finally settling into permanent, loving environments.

Advocacy doesn't stop at placement. CASA volunteers ensure that no child is overlooked or treated as just another file on a desk. They step in when children need a voice in the courtroom, when parents can't or won't advocate for them. **In 2024, CASA volunteers provided critical legal system support 3,606 times**—visiting children, updating families, and pushing for the right outcomes.

But it's in the moments that don't make the headlines where CASA volunteers truly make a difference. **They provided 1,230 instances of emotional support**, helping children feel safe, valued, and seen in a world that often feels chaotic and indifferent.

And in a case that spans *seven* years, Angel, a 14-year-old girl, has been through 18 different placements. But her CASA volunteer has remained her constant, becoming a source of stability and comfort in a life that has been anything but. This year, Angel received a sketchbook from her CASA volunteer for Christmas, a gift that made her eyes light up. It's these small, thoughtful moments that remind her she is not forgotten and not alone.

Then there's Kayleigh, who dreams of becoming a cosmetologist. Her CASA volunteer knew this and made sure it was shared in her court report. When the judge referred to her dream, Kayleigh smiled for the first time in a long while, realizing that her voice had been heard. The CASA volunteer's belief in her dreams gave Kayleigh hope for a future that once felt uncertain.

Through every case, no matter how unpredictable the journey, CASA volunteers are there. Whether comforting children like Brett, who was uncertain about trusting adults, or advocating for children like those in the 6-sibling group, CASA volunteers stand firm, offering their support when it matters most.

In 2024, our volunteers' dedication helped children rediscover joy, feel seen, and ensured that even in the most difficult of situations they knew they still have a voice.



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocate
FOR CHILDREN
CASA OF THE FOX CITIES

1,054
moments of
legal system
support

16 Children
secured guardianship
or remained safely
with their parents
throughout their case

8 Children
adopted
into **forever**
families





Meet the CASA Fox Cities Board

We are grateful for this very NOT boring boards dedication & support!

Dennis Bonn
Adam Figurin
Derek Fiestadt
Kathy Davis

Christopher Hoffman
Kevin Head
Jason Rottier
Lindsay Kehl

Kelly Leopold
Marissa Knuth
Stephanie Schott
Michael Shaw
Joel Stave

Support Services



CASA doesn't just advocate—we connect children to critical resources that help them thrive. In 2024, CASA made over **2,000 service recommendations** for children in need. And the most impressive impact hidden within these numbers is that we know every recommendation is a step toward healing, stability, and a brighter future.

388

Counseling Services
to help children process
trauma.

235

Educational Support Services
to ensure children don't fall
behind.

151

instances of medical care to
address their physical well-
being.

518

**Permanency
Services**

to secure safe,
stable homes, *along
with*

500

**Family
Visitations**

supported to
maintain important
relationships.

CASA Volunteers Bring HOPE

CASA volunteers are exceptional. They are steady, committed, and unshaken by the complexities of the child welfare system. **They build trust in moments big and small**, whether in a courtroom, across a kitchen table, or at a new school where a child needs to see a familiar face.

These are the people who, again and again, show up, speak up, and stay put—no matter what. In 2024, **83 CASA volunteers gave 1,509 hours and traveled 23,751 miles to ensure children were seen, heard, and supported.** Their work isn't about grand gestures; it's about the steady, quiet presence of an adult who refuses to give up.

Our volunteers stood beside children in court, connected with teachers and families, and bridged critical gaps. They answered hard questions, listened when no one else would, and made sure that every child they supported knew they were not forgotten.

And growing this network is how we reach more children. Which is why this year we were thrilled to have 15 new volunteers step up, 13 begin training, 9 complete it, and 8 take on their first case. **Each of them stepped forward not just to help, but to become a child's steady, trusted advocate—the person who shows up and stays.**



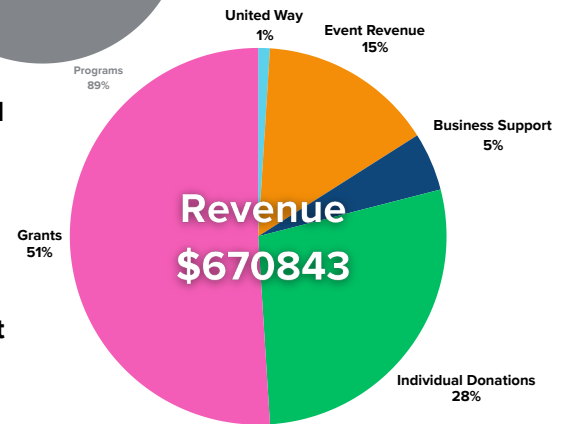
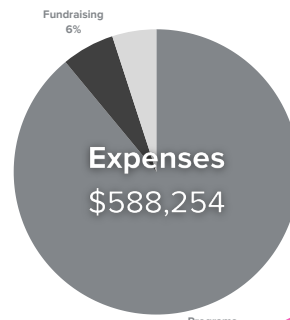
CASA OF THE FOX CITIES

Financial Insight\$

Our work is made possible by a community of generous donors, as well as state, private, and federal grants. Every dollar fuels advocacy, ensuring children in the foster care system have a trusted CASA volunteer to guide them through uncertainty.

Thanks to strong community support in 2024, we ended the year with a surplus, **allowing us to invest in our programs, make necessary wage adjustments to retain dedicated staff, and strengthen our financial reserves.** Our goal is to maintain at least 12 months of operating reserves, and we are currently on track with close to 5 months secured at current staffing levels.

As we look ahead to 2025, the need for CASA services continues to grow. **To meet this demand, we are increasing our fundraising efforts, expanding awareness, and building stronger partnerships to ensure that every child who needs a CASA has one.** Because no child should have to navigate this journey alone.



Especially Special Events

In 2024, our community came together through events like Voices of Change, CASAblanca, and more, raising vital funds and awareness for children in the child welfare system. The stories shared and the generosity shown made a lasting impact.

VOICES OF CHANGE April 10, 2025

A powerful evening at **Poplar Hall** of music and advocacy, featuring acclaimed artist Cory Chisel along with special guests and inspiring stories that highlight the impact of our work.

OUT OF THIS WORLD GALA October 3, 2025

Join us at the **Timber Rattlers** stadium for an evening of celebration, connection, and giving, featuring live entertainment, a thrilling auction, and a spectacular fireworks show!

Save the date & visit
casafc.org/events

for tickets & even
more events coming
in 2025!

We invite you to **join us in 2025 as a guest and encourage you and your business to consider partnering with us as sponsors** for these events and other community initiatives.

To learn more, contact Maria, at maria@casafc.org

Creating lasting change for children takes a community, and there's a place for you in this work. Whether you want to advocate for a child, assist in our office, support our events, or make a donation - every contribution helps us reach more children in need.

You can give online or scan the QR code to support CASA's mission. If you're looking for a deeper way to get involved through your own company or organization, we **ALWAYS** welcome conversations about partnerships and sponsorship opportunities! **Visit our website or contact our team to learn how you can be part of this work!**

1500 N Casaloma Dr. Suite 200 Appleton, WI 54913 **(920) 257-4733**

casafc.org/donate



CASA OF THE FOX CITIES
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