

Featuring: Amazing growth!



FISCAL YEAR 2019

ANNUAL REPORT



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Dear CASA Family,

FY2019 was filled with growth and expansion including a 90% increase in new volunteers to our agency (118 new volunteer advocates)! This year was marked with successes including the hiring of two new Advocacy Supervision staff to continue building expansion support for our growing number of volunteers. The biggest thrill in FY2019 was the tremendous gift presented to CASA by Lori and Jeff Blumenthal of a new building space. Construction is underway and plans continue to take shape for our main office to move to 1608 NW Expressway by December 2019. This gift launches a new adventure for us at CASA to continue our volunteer and staff expansion towards service of 1,500 children in foster care by June 30, 2021.

Our agency is built on the prowess of our volunteers. Volunteers who selflessly push to facilitate sibling visits when siblings have not been able to see one another in months. Volunteers who take time off work to fly to Pennsylvania to check on their CASA kiddo and ensure their prospective new home is safe. Volunteers who locate step siblings to facilitate familial connections for a child. Volunteers who push to ensure the well being and best interest of every child served is secured. I am thrilled to report that 261 community members dedicated their time and talents to 670 Oklahoma County foster youth as CASA advocates last year. We reached a milestone of serving 31% of children in foster care in Oklahoma County. While we are excited about this success, we are squarely focused on increasing our services to 75% of children in foster care. We want more kiddos to experience the prowess of CASA advocates!

FY2019 was a year of growth in community volunteers, but also community involvement with CASA. We held the first "Game On with CASA" event to a roaring success – 300 community members helped us raise funds and awareness for our community's most vulnerable children. We can't wait to host Game On in March 2020 and I hope to see you there.

Thank you for supporting CASA through the donation of your time, treasure, and talents. We are built on the power of volunteers and without you, we would not be CASA.

Thank you again,



Jennie Hill, MSW
Executive Director

P.S. Be on the lookout for some exciting opportunities to join us at an upcoming Open House of our new facility!



The CASA Impact

Lisa McKinzie works as a paralegal with McAfee & Taft Law's Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Group, where she provides support to attorneys engaged in all aspects of employee benefits law, including qualified retirement plan consulting and design, health care reform consulting, health and wellness plan consulting and design, executive compensation, and ERISA litigation.



In addition to working full-time as a paralegal, Lisa volunteers her time and talents for CASA of Oklahoma County.

Lisa was sworn in as a CASA volunteer on September 9, 2015 and then was assigned to a case with two young sisters. On this case, Lisa has been the consistent voice for these special young women - who have experienced a lot of abandonment in their lives.

Kaitlyn and Olivia's Story

It was August of last year when Advocacy Supervisor Madison Ivy called Lisa to do a check-in and see if she was ready to take another case. Lisa indicated that yes, she was, but due to her busy schedule she would prefer a case with minimal travel involved. A few months later, a case came up in case staffing that somewhat fit the bill: two girls, one placed in an OKC shelter and the other placed in Lawton. While it would require that monthly trip to Lawton, Lisa felt it was a good compromise and would work with her scheduling needs. She has currently been serving these girls for eight months.



Her case involves two sisters: Kaitlyn and Olivia Miller. Kaitlyn and Olivia are 15 and 14 years old, respectively. They have faced many hardships in their lives. Their biological parents relinquished their parental rights to the girls. After some time in foster care, an adoptive home was found for them.

When the adoptive parents eventually decided it wasn't going to work out, they dropped the girls off at an inpatient facility and simply never returned to pick them up. So the girls re-entered foster care, crushed by the disappointment of being unwanted yet again.

Continued on page 4

Serving Oklahoma County's foster children in 2019

Kris Acree
Ashleigh Adams
Jenna Adkins
Bronwyn Agnew
Judy Akin
Tasha Alexander
Joseph Allen
Mike Altshuler
Liliana Alvizu
Ashtyn Anders
Stephanie Andres
Bridgette Arata
Amber Austin
Michael Banning
David Barnes
Heather Bartoli
Bill Bendau
Carol Berry
Barbara Bingham
Lori Blumenthal
Addi Book
Montana Borth
Candace Bradway
Katherine Bray
Carol Brogan
Jessi Brower
Billy Brown
Ashleigh Buchanan
Tamra Buchanan
Mary Buehler
Bob Burro
Diana Burton
Jana Busey
Emma Butler
Will Calvo
Megan Cannon
Cindy Cantrell
Donna Carpenter
Terree Cassens Connett
Megan Christensen
Leah Clark
Greg Clyde
Morgan Cobb
Ruth Cochrum
Travis Cochrum

Shandi Coker
Jesse Colbert
Penny Colton
Kistna Conely
Julia Converse
Kristie Cooper
Katherine Courtney
Kim Crain
Roger Crane Jr.
JoDahl Creech
Nicole Daniels
Celine Davis
Kim Dawson
Doye DeBolt
Roberta DeBolt
Hannah Dennis
Chris Dobie
Gina Dougherty
Jonette Dunlap
Merrick Eagleton
Beverly Egan
Clarice Elliott
Erin Enderson
Kimberly Ernst
Sarah Fayssoux
Mary Fitzpatrick
Ashley Fivekiller
Carol Fletcher
Gary Fletcher
Denise Flori
April Frazier
Laura Futrell
Ricky Galindo
Ivan Gentry
Connie Gibson
Michelle Gomez
Andrea Gonzalez
Becky Graninger
Stephanie Griffith
Allison Griffiths
Kristin Grimland
Eric Gunning
Richard Guyer
Nancy Gwin
Amy Gwyn

Chris Haile
Jeremy Hall-Weyrick
Dinky Hammam
Warren Hammer
Dana Hammett
Rebecca Hargrove-Santos
Monique Harmon
Melanie Harr-Hughes
Tanya Hartfield
Amy Heath
Wendy Henderson
Steve Herburger
Dana Hill
Amanda Hillyard
Kathleen Himmler
Braden Hisey
Jamie Holliman
Cindy Holman
Christina Horton
Wendy House
Elizabeth Houston
Gene Hughes
Brittany Hunt-Jassey
Charlotte Hunter
John Hurd
Jessica Hutchinson
Anita Ibison
Cathy Johnson
Karen Johnson
Angela Kanaly
Jenny Karn
Leslie Katwaru
Carol Kelly
Kristen Kendrick
Whitley Kendrick
Kim Kennedy
Rhonda Kerbo
Yolie Kernes
Joe Kopacz
Kristina Kopacz
Sharon Lair
Pam Lane
Erin Lemmerman
Miranda Lenocker
Cailynn Leone

Ava Linden
Donald Lindsay
Denise Lingo
Mark Livingston
Dena Lovett
Kristen Lowder
Tommye Lucy
Donna Maddox
Madison Malget
Andrea Malherbe
Rosana Marshall
Deborah Mash
Jesse Massie
Bob Maul
Katy Maxwell
Sara McAfee
Sharon McBride
Jennifer McCain
Celeata McCleary
Sue McCollom
Tina McCormack
Lesa McDonald
Stormi McKay
Lisa McKinzie
LeeAnna McNally
Gina Meadows
Nick Mesigh
Diane Mickelson
William Milam
Cathy Miller
Caroline Moore
Megan Mueggenborg
Paula Murphy
Julia Murphy
Brenda Nazari-Robati
Larry Newman
Victoria O'Kain
Jim Orsi
Raquel Pachicano
Becky Payton
Laila Pfau
Gary Pfeiffer
Laura Pfeiffer
Shanna Pope
Nancy Potter

Cristina Pozadas
Kay Pratt
Ted Prince II
John Rahhal
Nazim Rahim
Lovette Rausch
Mona Reed
Andrew Regan
Dana Reindl
Judy Reynolds
Sheila Rhoades
Bailee Richards
Tom Robertson
Ann Rooney
Robyn Rose
Katie Rountree
Cindi Sanchez
Ashley Schovanec
Pam Schriewer
Tammy Schuler
Steven Schwegal
Ben Scott
Mary Selid
Melody Senn
Dave Settles
Cathy Seward
Carenza Shields
Marilyn Shipman
Atticus Shires
Judy Shuart
Nora Sinkankas
Angie Smith
Celia Solomon
Heather Stack
Tracy Starks
Linda Steen
Teresa Stephenson
Valerie Stewart
Nancy Storey
Heather Stranger
Charlene Strong
Jennafyer Sullivan
Janie Sylvester
David Syring
Cecilia Taft

Stacy Tarpley
Mary Tidholm
Lisa Tierney
Pamela Tinsley
Bayleigh Triplett
Jodi Turek
George Turek
Noreen Valadez
Isaias Vega
Itzel Verduzco
Kathe Vernon
Kathryn Walker
Debbie Wallace
Ric Wallace
True Wallace
Nidia Warner
Shirley Williams
Aubree Williams
Barbara Williams
Grace Williams
Keith Willis
Kaye Wilson
Alecisia Windfield
Patti Wommer
Marize Wong
Will Xu
Alice Young
Mike Young
Lana Youngblood
Hayden Younger
Lauren Yslas

Advocacy - No Matter the Distance

At the beginning of the case, Kaitlyn was placed in OKC in a shelter while Olivia was placed in Lawton in a group home. Lisa's visits went as usual for a while, though Kaitlyn had a knack for occasionally running away from the shelter. Eventually, her runaway behavior became too much for the shelter to handle, so Kaitlyn would have to be moved to a new placement home – somewhere more accommodating of her individualized care needs. The parties on the case collaborated and found the perfect home for her...in Idabel Oklahoma, four hours away from Oklahoma City.

When Advocacy Supervisor Madison called Lisa to let her know of the change, Lisa didn't budge. She was the most consistent person in the girls' lives and wouldn't let an extra eight hours of travel each month get in the way of advocating for their best interests. She now drives 11 hours a month to visit the girls. She calls them nearly every day, even if only to leave a voicemail for them. Lisa has yet to miss a monthly visit since being appointed to this case.

Since the girls are placed so far away from one another, they had not seen each other face to face in over a year. Lisa spoke to the girls about it often. They were each self-aware and honest enough to admit that living together, they would not get along. But they voiced that they both did want to see each other often. In court, Lisa advocated for visits between the girls – and the courts found a workable solution – for the girls to be present for court to see each other in person. At the May court hearing, with tears and hugs and celebration – the girls were able to see each other for the first time in over a year. The girls were elated to be able to reconnect after so much time.



Continued on page 8

Each year, CASA recognizes the hard work and dedication of our volunteers at our volunteer appreciation dinner. This evening offers laughs and tears and helps highlight the commitment of our volunteers, donors, staff, and all others impacted by the service of CASA of Oklahoma County. "Cheers to our Volunteers" was held at historic Harn Homestead in 2019.

cheers!

to our volunteers



Award recipients pictured (left to right): Braden Hisey, Cecilia Taft, James Bennett, Mickael Carlisle, Emma Butler, Tasha Alexander, Cindi Sanchez, Alice Young, Charlotte Hunter, Carol Fletcher, and Gary Fletcher.



Guests grab a delicious bite to eat at the food trucks.



Staff pose for a photo in front of the rustic Harn Homestead barn.



Executive Director Jennie Hill pictured with Volunteer of the Year Alice Young.

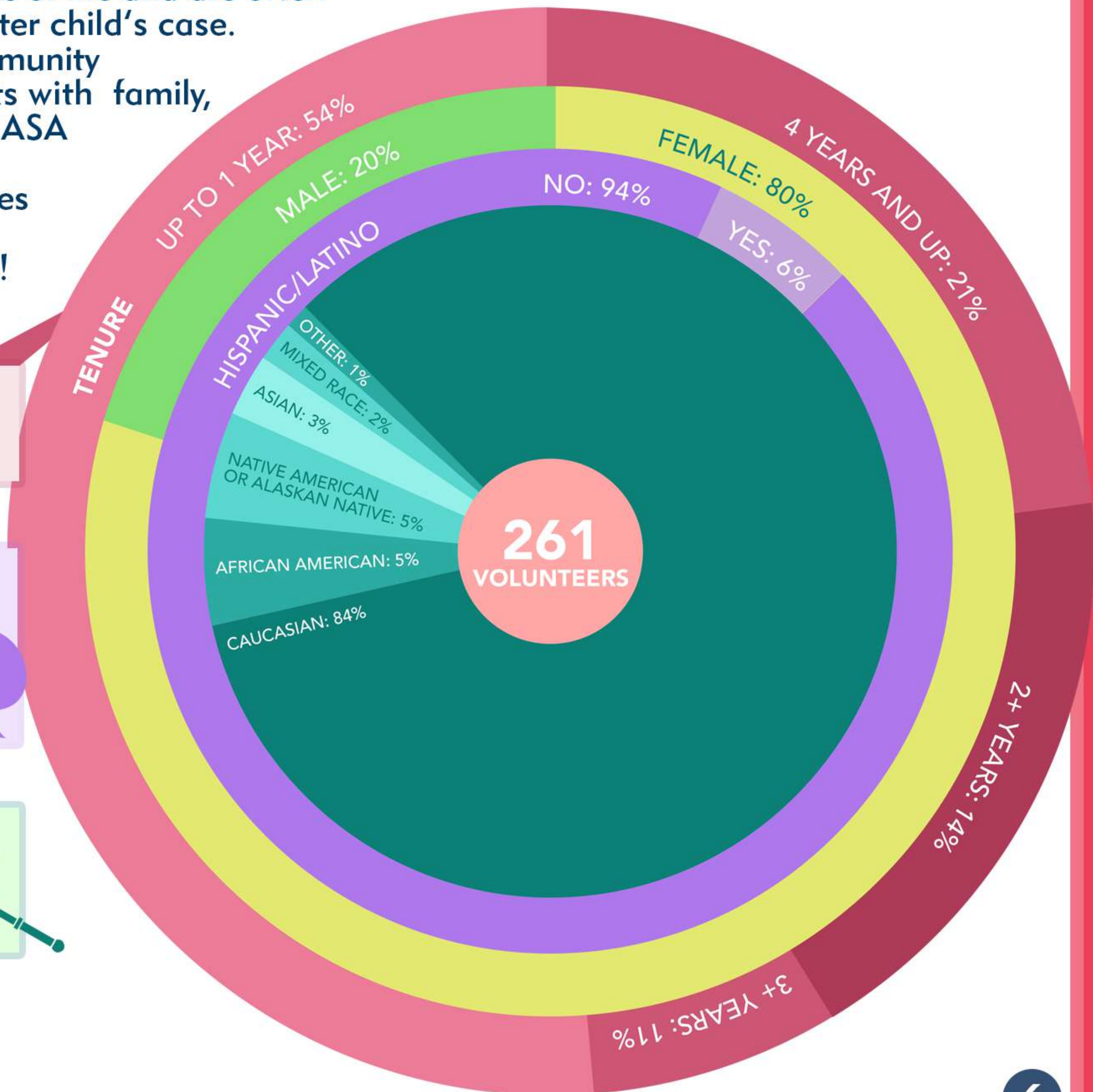
FY2019 CASA Volunteer Stats

CASA volunteers come from all walks of life and are often the most consistent person on a foster child's case. This fiscal year, these amazing community volunteers made over 7,600 contacts with family, doctors, DHS workers and others. CASA volunteers made nearly 5,000 recommendations for various services and educational needs as well as placements, permanency, and more!

118 of CASA's FY2019 volunteers were new to the program.

Over 7% of CASA volunteers speak more than one language.
Más de 7% de nuestros voluntarios hablan más de un lenguaje.

Nearly 37% of allegations on CASA cases were related to domestic violence or substance abuse.

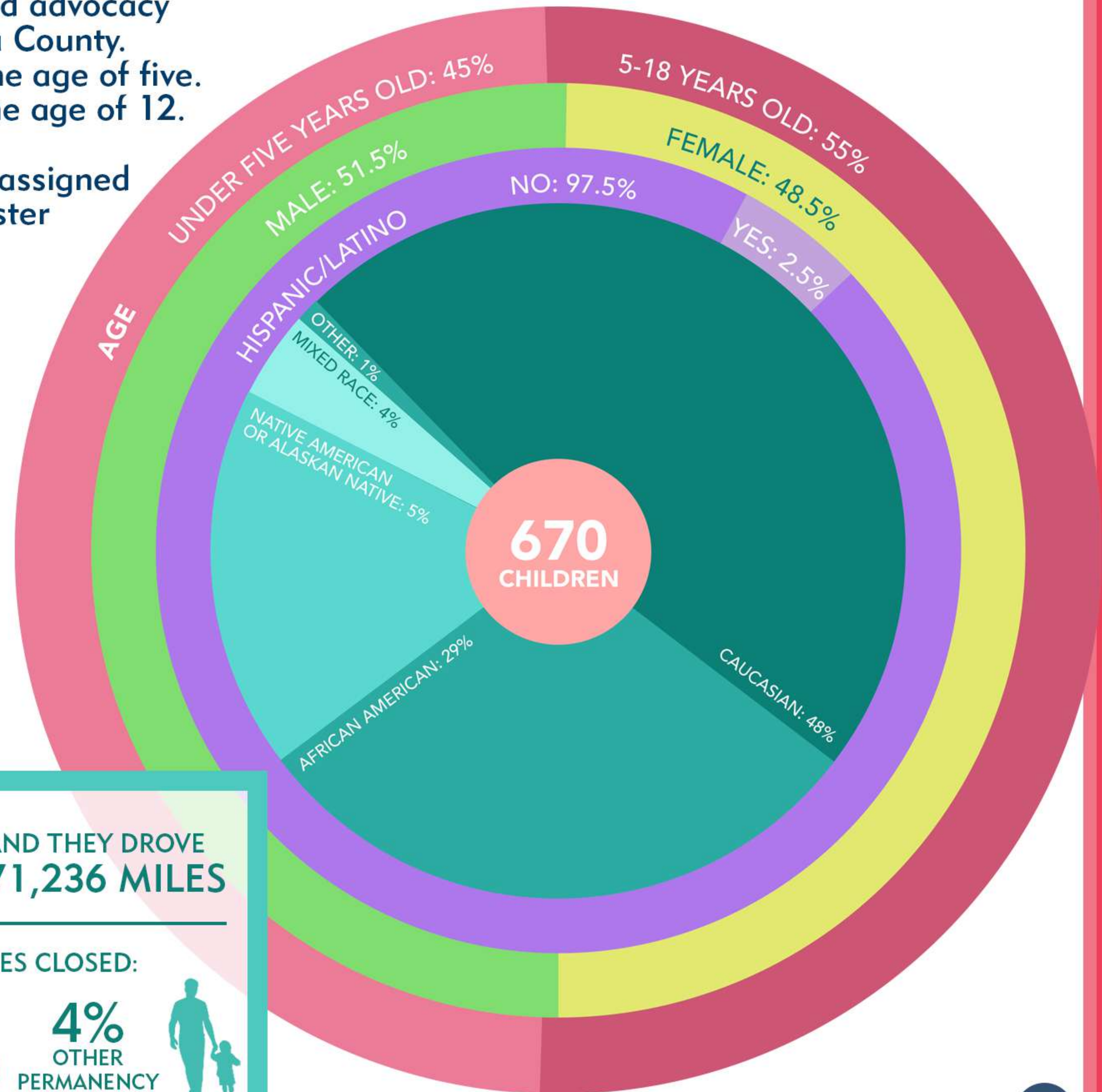


FY2019 CASA Child Stats

This Fiscal Year, our program provided advocacy services to 670 children in Oklahoma County. Of those children, 45% were under the age of five. 85% of children served were under the age of 12.

Our volunteers were overwhelmingly assigned to work with children who entered foster care due to domestic violence and substance abuse issues with their biological parents.

CASA volunteers assisted 38% of these children in finding safe, permanent homes during 2019. This accounts for a 6% increase over FY2018 outcomes.



Fascinating Facts

VOLUNTEERS SERVED
12,766 HOURS



AND THEY DROVE
171,236 MILES

270 CASA CHILDREN HAD THEIR CASES CLOSED:



41%
ADOPTED



30%
REUNIFIED



4%
OTHER
PERMANENCY



The Consistency to Change Lives

Kaitlyn has only tried to run away once in her new placement, but has settled in comfortably now with an incredible foster family who work hard to provide opportunity and engagement for the children placed in their home. Both girls are thriving. And Lisa is there: investigating, exploring, and advocating. Lisa has been a powerful voice for these children. She asks for no gas cards, no reimbursement of any kind.

Kaitlyn recently sent Lisa a text. It was a Saturday afternoon and she and her foster siblings were at the local library.



Hey it's Kaitlyn I'm at the library and I have the chance to text you now and I wanted to thank you so much for being there for me and always on my side no matter what. You are the best, I thank God everyday that you're in my life. And I love you so much!

Thank you for messaging me.



I'm the lucky one to have you in my life. I hope you have a great week. I wanted to tell you how proud I am of you. Thursday was 60 days of not going AWOL. And school starts Monday? I know you'll do awesome.



Imagine your parents abandoning you. Imagine your adoptive parents abandoning you. Imagine being placed a state away from your only sibling. Then imagine some stranger. Some kind, caring, and attentive stranger, who shows up just for you. Who fights for what's best for you.

Lisa did that. Lisa does that every day of every month for these incredible young women. Lisa is why CASA exists. Because foster children from Oklahoma County need a Lisa in their lives.

A Board Member and Advocate - Both Brought to CASA through GAME ON

The soaring floor-to-ceiling glass atrium overlooking the Oklahoma State Capital is the perfect backdrop for a black tie fundraising gala. But at Game On, the bright colors, flashing lights, and upbeat music made the experience feel more like a carnival than a fundraising event.

Guests eagerly challenged their friends in minute-to-win-it style games while a DJ kept the atmosphere fun and playful. With a build-your-own sundae centerpiece, cash bar, and fun giveaways - the evening was full of whimsical fun!



And while the event was packed with plenty of light-hearted action, there were some emotionally charged moments as well. The speakers at the event shared heartfelt testimonials of their experiences with CASA, either as volunteers, or, for some, their personal experience being in the foster care system. For Kale and Tammy Streeter, Game On was their introduction to CASA, and it made a lasting impression.

“What was different about Game On was the intimacy of it,” Kale said. “The real testimonials of the people that spoke were so impactful, they struck me as very sincere and real and I felt like becoming a CASA was something tangible I could do to help.”

The Streeters said they were motivated to get involved because the cause immediately spoke to their hearts.

“Up until then we had only heard bits and pieces about CASA,” Kale said. “But going to this event and hearing the stories made me realize there’s a lot more kids in the system, and a lot of young kids, and that really pulled at my heartstrings.”

“Everyone was engaged and asked questions and had real life experiences,” Tammy said. “Everyone seemed to care, instead of just ‘I’m filling a seat.’ It seemed more like a push to get people involved, instead of just asking for your money.”

Kale felt moved to become a CASA volunteer because of his own experience with the system.

“I was adopted at birth, and things worked out well for me,” Kale said. “But there’s a lot of kids that it doesn’t work out for, and they’re in the system for a long time, and that just kind of touched me enough to want to do something.”

As Kale spent more time with his CASA child, his relationship with him got stronger.

“He calls me pretty frequently, and I talk to him,” Kale said. “We have a good relationship. I call him out on things, and he respects me.”

For Tammy, joining the Board of Directors felt like a good fit due to her background in finance. James Bennett, who has been a board member for over 10 years, invited the Streeters to Game On. He subsequently encouraged Tammy to apply for board service after hearing how moved she was.

“James was essential in getting me in touch with Jennie Hill, the Executive Director of CASA,” Tammy said. “In meeting with Jennie, I was able to learn of the ways I could make a difference with CASA and thankfully, my professional schedule lined up very well with joining the board.”



Kale was sworn in by Presiding Judge Trevor Pemberton

Tammy knew her time spent on the Board of Directors would make an impact, and that's what motivated her to devote her time to the organization.

"When I dug into CASA, I felt there was a lot I could do from an operational standpoint, like fundraising and getting the word out," said Tammy. "I thought, man, I could matter here. I could really make a difference, instead of just writing another check. Every donation is ultimately going to help impact more kids." Her heart is focused on the mission's work.

Kale said one of the most rewarding things about being a CASA is knowing you're giving these kids a shot in the real world.

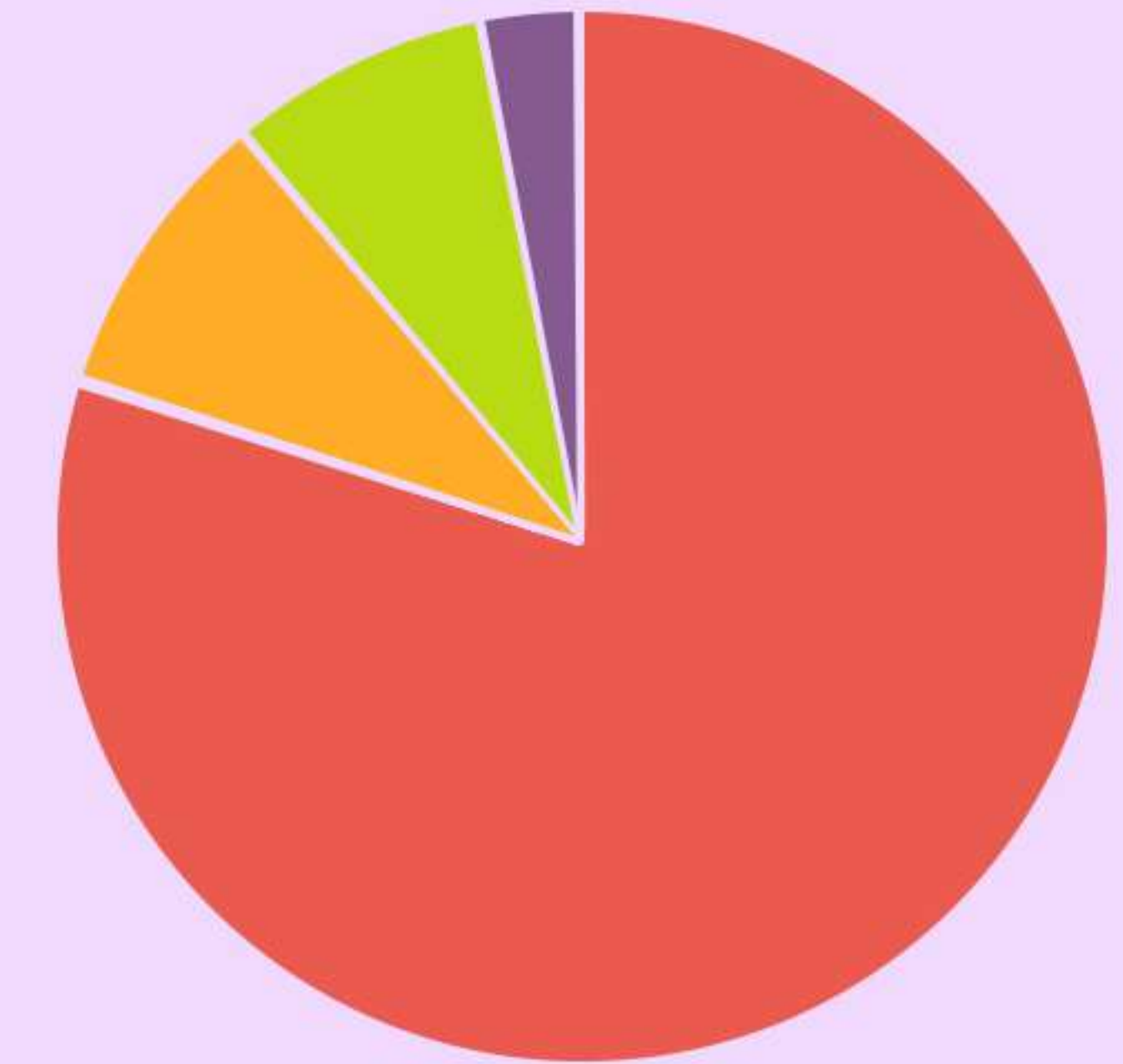
"The kid I have now," said Kale, "he's sixteen, and I think he can be totally turned around. I really do, and I think he still has a shot in life, and hopefully after working with him for a few more years, we'll get him there."

Kale said getting to know his CASA child is time well spent, because it's not only changing the child's life, but his own. Even Tammy commented on the positive impact it's had on Kale.

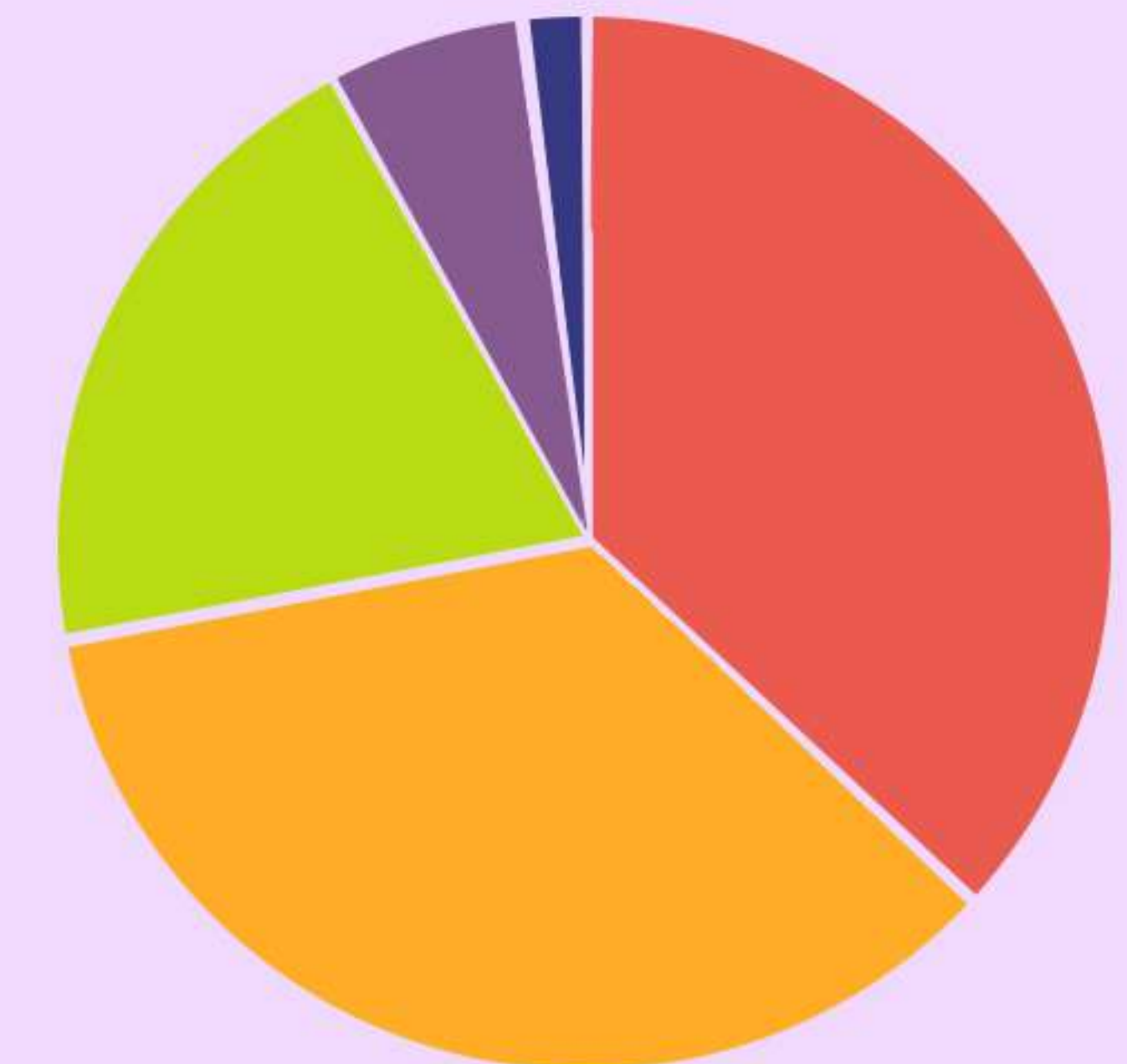
"It's been great to see the change in him," Tammy said. "When you know you're really impacting a person and making a difference in their life, I can't think of a more rewarding feeling."



Financials



Functionalized Expenses	\$1,718,100
Program Services	\$1,370,722
Fundraising	\$155,766
Management and General	\$144,044
Direct Benefits to Donors	\$47,567



Revenue	\$1,532,482
Contributions	\$565,500
Grants and Contracts	\$534,472
In-kind Donations	\$313,416
Special Events	\$97,568
Investment Income	\$21,526

FY2019 Donors

\$10,000+

American Fidelity Foundation
James Bennett
Lori and Jeff Blumenthal
First National Bank of Oklahoma
Inasmuch Foundation
Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae Oklahoma City Chapter
Kirkpatrick Family Fund
Saranne and Livingston Kosberg
Lisa Owens
SandRidge Operating Co.
Sarkeys Foundation
Katie and Tony Say
Simmons Charitable Foundation of Oklahoma
The McGee Foundation, Inc.
Wilshire Charitable Foundation

\$5,000-9,999

Albers Family Affiliated Fund
Jennifer and George Chrysant
Art and Sandy Cotton
Echo Energy
Pam and Richard Lane
Carrie and David Moore
Drs. Sumit and Sumeeta Nanda
Philip Boyle Foundation
Sharp Oilfield Services
Joni and Mike Stewart
Titan Lansing Transloading, LLC
XTO Energy

\$500-999

Stephanie W. Abrahamson
Sherri Jo Adams
Brian T. Alford
Anderson Family Revocable Trust
AT&T Employee Giving Campaign
Richard A. Beale
Samantha Bentson
Carrie and Joe Blakey
Linda and Morris Blumenthal
Boldt Construction
Julia Carrington Hall
Charles and Cassandra Bowen
Charitable Foundation
Traci Cook
Steffany A. Copeland

Debra Garcia
Ann Garrett
Ed Hamilton
Richard and Debe Hauschild
Heidi and Steve Herburger
Bette Jo and Frank Hill
Jimmie and Amy Hobbs
Devin Jackson
Carol and Mike Johnson
Dr. Kellie Jones and Eric Flaming
Paul Karnes
Robert Kelly
Keri Kornelson
Curtis Kupfersmith
Heather and Mark Livingston

\$2,500-4,999

Christie and Tim Baker
Barbara & Stanton Young Foundation
Randy Brown
Covia Corporation
Crawley Petroleum Corporation
Jennifer and Kevin Dunn
Edmond Women's Club
Sammy Graham
The Harris Foundation
Jake Huchton
Jim Johnson
M2W Energy Services
MHC
OKCMAR Foundation
Steven L. Payne
Remington Park
River Bend Industries
Stacy Scheffler and Sharon Smeltzer
Jared Tumilson
US Synthetic
Janie Widman
TJ Woodruff



\$1,000-2,499

Kevin Aldridge
Jeff Allison
Steve Austin
Ascent Resources Management Services, LLC
Ashley Baldwin
Belle Ballard
Cindy Batt
Phillip Boren
Chad Brenneis
Warren Cat
Centek Group
Chemoil
Completion Science, LLC
Core Professional Services, LLC
Amy and David Cottrell
Amy Davis
Toby Dixon
William H. Dyke
David Edwards
Fairmont Santrol
Michael Faulkner
Luke Fenley
First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City
Jeff Frederick
Mike Garza
Randy Goben
Goodin Family Foundation
Russell Goss
Lance Green
Matthew Grubb
Hogan Taylor
Kelli Howard
Brad Humphries
Jolene Ingram
James Baker Group, Inc.
Ivan Jones
The Joullian Foundation, Inc.
JP Morgan Chase Bank
Ed and Gay Kirby
Koch Communications, LLC
Jeff Lenocker
Manley Brothers of Indiana Inc.

Coree Stevenson
Ms. Rhonda D. Strider
Jim and Cathie Trepagnier
University Silkscreen
Jazmin Velazquez
Samuel Williams
Wilmes Superstore

Carl Martincich
Kym Mason
Oklahoma County Bar Foundation
David Ooten
Leigh Parks
Krisan Patterson
Penner Foundation
Tara DeAnne Price
Jonathan Rule
Tara Russell
Ed and Jody Sanchez
Sonny and Cindi Sanchez
Kristie Sandy
The Small Group, LLC

Shari Martin
Jean and Dave McLaughlin
Laura McNew
Rayne F. Meade-Kaul
David and Vicki Mobley
Craig Northcutt
O'Connor Family Foundation
Stephanie O'Gara
Oil States Elastomer Technology Center
Oilfield Technical Services
Oklahoma County Bar Auxiliary
Oklahoma Temporary Service Inc.
Melinda Olbert
OnCue Marketing, LLC
Allen Owen
David Payne and Vicki Weaver-Payne
Jessica Ramirez
Rockwater Energy Solutions
Ronna and Lawrence Davis Family Foundation
Kelly and Andy Sachs
Sandford Oil Company
Claude Seaman
Robert Dale Shaffer Jr.
Ryan Sicking
Ivy and Stephen Snider
St. Monica Catholic Church
Brian Stewart
Lani Stone
Tamera and Kale Streeter
Allen Strider
Swaggin Wagon Inc
Tenax Energy Solutions
John and Mary Tidholm
Paul Tilley
Tinker Federal Credit Union
Vince Tizzone
Tres Management Inc.
Tri-Lift Services
Tim Clark Tucker
James Turner
West Family Foundation
Kellie and Scott Witt



CASA Staff

Jennie Hill, Executive Director

Joy Short, Executive Assistant

Kim Vanbebber, Program Director

Ron Scharton, Director of Operations

Charlie Ludden, Development Manager

BC Phillips, Director of Communications

Kathy North, Director of Recruitment

Nichole Dewberry, Director of Training

Camila Galeano, Recruitment Specialist

Ja'Kee Rivers, Training Specialist

Ross Martin, Program Assistant

Advocacy Team Leaders

Shamekka Marion-Johns

Nikki Kinsler

Advocacy Supervisors

Margaret Butler

Shanon Friedman

Michelle Johnson

Kerry Stark

Mickael Carlisle

Madison Ivy

Lauren Norcom

2018-2019 Board of Directors

Joni Stewart, President

Stacy Scheffler, Treasurer

Katie Say, Governance Chair

Jessica Ramirez, Vice President

Jennifer Dunn, Secretary

Miguel Baez

Lori Blumenthal

Heidi Herburger

Lisa Owens

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Tim Baker

Jennifer Chrysant

Jack Morgan

Krisan Patterson

Coree Stevenson

James Bennett

Raymond Dallas

Sumeeta Nanda, M.D.

Becky Roten



Court Appointed Special Advocates of Oklahoma County provides trained volunteers to be champions for the individualized best interests of children in foster care.

VISION

We envision a future where every child thrives in a safe and loving forever home.

VALUES

Dependable: To be reliable, trustworthy and capable

Excellence: To set and exceed high standards

Integrity: To be honest, ethical and transparent

Partnership: To build and maintain productive relationships and ensure effective communication

Respect: To act with dignity, be courteous and promote cultural competency



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates

FOR CHILDREN

**CASA OF OKLAHOMA
COUNTY, INC.**

CASA of Oklahoma County, Inc. is a member of both the National CASA Association and Oklahoma State CASA Association.

United Way
Partner Agency

