



About Fairfax CASA

Every year, nearly 400 Fairfax children are victims of abuse and neglect at the hands of their parents or caregivers. These children need support from the child welfare system and our community to heal and thrive. CASA volunteers are part of the solution. Appointed by judges, these trained citizen volunteers look out for the children under the courts protection, advocating for their best interest in the courtroom and community. For many abused children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult presence in their lives.

Fairfax CASA is a 501 (c) 3 public charity, which recruits, trains and supervises on average 150 CASA volunteers each year as they help abused and neglected children find safe and loving homes.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends –

During FY15, our CASA Volunteers once again worked tirelessly to make sure that every child with an open abuse and neglect case before the Court had a voice and that the voice was heard. They ensured that the children remained the focus of these complicated and difficult cases, and that their best interests were represented. The staff of Fairfax CASA provided exceptional support, training and guidance to our volunteers, encouraging them and assisting them as they worked their cases. The Board of Directors went above and beyond this year, championing our organization in the community, securing collaborative partnerships and dedicating countless hours of their time to make sure Fairfax CASA can continue to provide a safety net to Fairfax's abused and neglected children. Our community partners—the judges, child welfare specialists, legal, school and mental health professionals—all worked collaboratively to widen the safety net for the children we serve.

In FY15, 145 volunteers advocated for 330 children from 189 families, and spent 16,453 hours diligently working on their cases. Most important of all, the volunteers contributed to the closing of 122 cases where children were achieved safety and permanency by returning to their home, being adopted or through custody by a family member.

The end of FY15 witnessed a 31% increase in the number of cases being referred by the Court, over last year. As we never want a child to sit on a waitlist for a CASA volunteer, we are adding an unscheduled training class to the immediate future, so that we can train

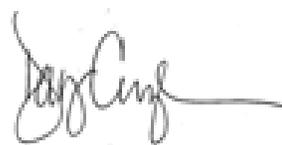
more qualified community members to be sworn in by the Court and provide a voice to every abused and neglected child.

Through the continued generosity of individual, corporate, and foundation supporters, we were financially able to provide each child with a highly trained and dedicated advocate. We thank them all for making our community better and being a partner in our mission. Without them, we would not be able to do this important work.

Fairfax CASA continued, in FY15, to advocate for the passage of the Fostering Futures legislation that would allow foster youth, ages 18-21, to continue to formally receive services. We know that this cohort of youth are incredibly vulnerable and achieve better outcomes when provided with the support they not only need, but deserve. We are confident that our dedication to and collaboration on this important issue will result in a positive change for our young adults in foster care, in the upcoming year.

We look forward to another year full of success as we and our community partners as we serve the children of Fairfax County.

Sincerely,



Darcy Cunningham,
Executive Director

BY THE NUMBERS

Numbers that Count

145

Volunteers Served

330

Children from

189

Families

**FAIRFAX CASA
VOLUNTEERS ARE AWARE
THAT THE JUDGES ARE
RELYING ON THEIR
REPORTS AND OBJECTIVE
ADVOCACY, AND TAKE
THAT RESPONSIBILITY
VERY SERIOUSLY.**

**-Darcy Cunningham, Executive
Director**

THE DETAILS

 **16,453** HOURS

Spent by volunteers advocating for the abused and neglected children they serve

 **75** PERCENT

Fairfax CASA's funding was directed to program services in 2014

 **3,678** VISITS

Made by volunteers to the children on their cases

 **219** COURT REPORTS

Submitted by volunteers to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

 **10,990** SESSIONS

Unique visits to our webpage, each session means another connection with the community.

 **122** CASES

Were closed by the courts

 **1,346** RECOMMENDATIONS

Were included by volunteers in court reports, 94% of which were adopted and ordered by judges

 **130,370** MILES

Volunteers drove in furtherance of their duties to protect the best interest of their children

VOLUNTEER SELECTION & TRAINING

Volunteer Training

On top of the rigorous 35 hours of pre-service training completed by Fairfax CASA volunteers, all volunteers must complete 12 hours of continuing education yearly to recertify as active volunteers.

Fairfax CASA hosts a robust continuing education program with several opportunities every month for volunteers to come together and share their experiences. Gatherings run the gamut from lectures and roundtable discussions, to book clubs and movie nights.

Highlights in the FY15 included:

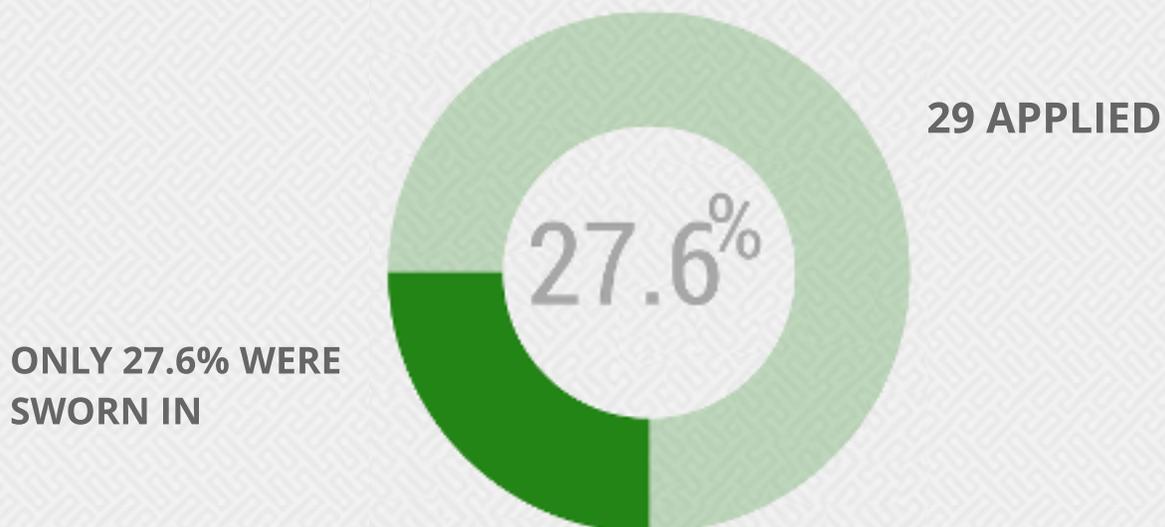
- An intensive special training developed by National CASA Association on Fostering Futures legislation, addressing policies for those who would otherwise "age out" of the foster care system.
- A speaker on best practices for reading an IEP report in order to ensure required services for the children are met.
- A total of 167 hours of Continuing Education Training during the year.

Volunteer Screening

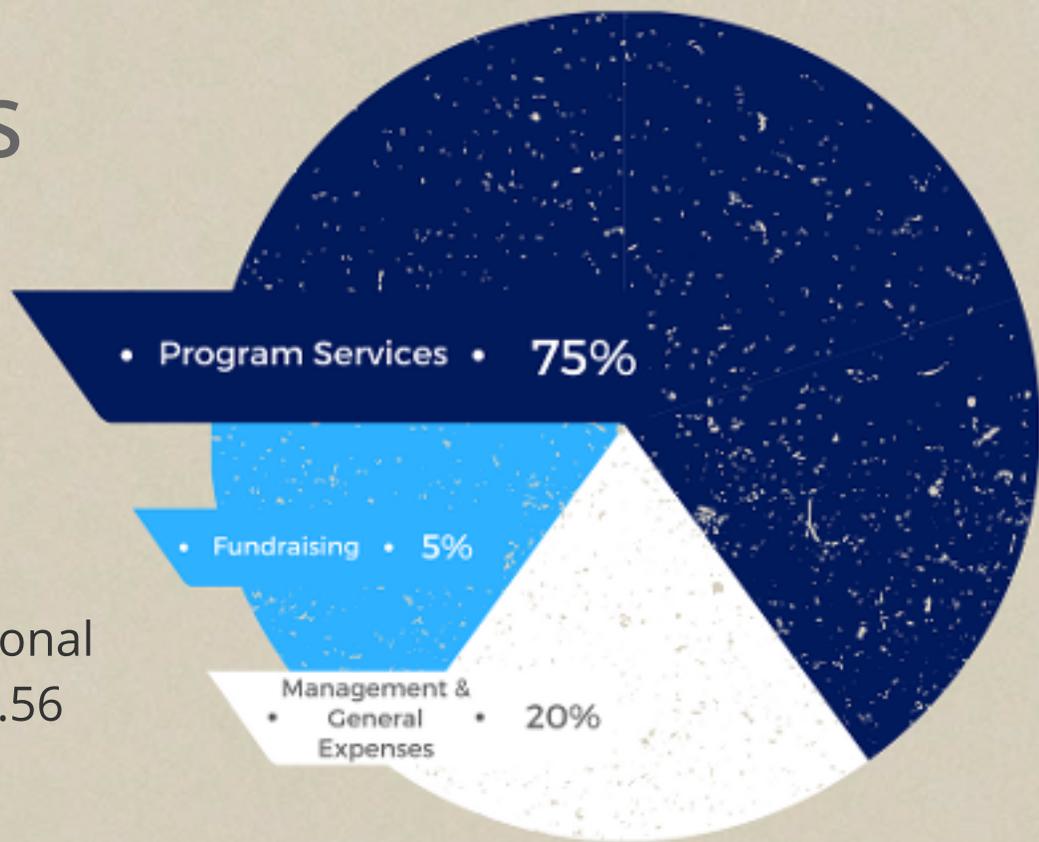
Fairfax CASA maintains an enduring commitment to bringing in only the most qualified volunteers. Applicants for pre-service training are carefully vetted to ensure they have the skills and dedication necessary to serve abused and neglected children for the lifetime of the court case: many cases last two years or longer.

In FY15, the program received 29 applications. Due to highly selective screening practices, less than 28% of all applicants were sworn into service as Court Appointed Special Advocates.

Applications vs. Volunteers Sworn Into Service



FINANCIALS



FY15 Financials: Functional Expenses - \$730, 516.56

DONORS

Lifetime Major Donors

Individuals who have given \$25,000 or more since 2000

Betty & Wayne Angell	Patsy & Randy Norton
Sheila & Brian Bates	Ingrid & Scott Plein
W. Brad Clark	Barbara Kinosky & Kevin Riley
James W. Clauson Jr.	The Schluskel Family
Barbara & B. Mark Fried	Robert "Bob" Stewart
Barbara & Rick Froelich	Nancy & Robert Torray
Betty & Robert Gates	Beatriz & Jon Williams
Cecilia "Ceal" Hayes	Christine & Monte Zaben
Debra & Timothy Howard	
Riea & Steven Lainoff	
Elaine & Alan Montgomery	
Vicki & John Nelson	

Investors Circle

Individuals who renew an annual \$5,000 gift

Sheila & Brian Bates
Betty & Robert Gates
Cecilia "Ceal" Hayes
Debra & Timothy Howard
Elaine & Alan Montgomery
Sharon Nelson & John Simek
Vicki & John Nelson
Patsy & Randy Norton
Ingrid & Scott Plein
The Schluskel Family
Craig Staresinich
Robert "Bob" Stewart
Christine & Monte Zaben

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Community Volunteer

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Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, General
Corporate, Freddie Mac

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Mathematics Teacher, Cooper Middle School

Maura Burke Weiner

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Heather Williams

Senior Management, Marketing & Communications, CSC



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

During FY15, Fairfax CASA reduced expenses by 11%. The final quarter of FY14 saw a 31% increase in the number of children referred by the Court. Fairfax CASA volunteers stepped up to the challenge, taking on additional cases and at the end of the fiscal year, while 9 families were on our waitlist for an advocate, all were assigned within 30 days of the fiscal year ending.

In order to track our success, Fairfax CASA looks at the number of recommendations made to the Court, which are accepted. 94% of CASA volunteers' recommendations, when they were considered, were adopted and ordered by the Court. Of the cases closed with a permanent recommendation, the Court agreed with the CASA volunteer's final placement recommendation 100% of the time.

CASA is recognized by the community

Fairfax CASA was selected as a Catalogue for Philanthropy featured nonprofit for the upcoming year.

Fairfax CASA was also awarded a grant from the Meyer Foundation to hire a development consultant.

CASA is recognized by the community

88% Fairfax CASA Volunteers reported, in a January 2015 survey, that they will likely take another case in the future. And 85% reported that the reason they continued with their CASA service was due to making a difference in the life of a child. 0% of respondents reported being unsatisfied with CASA staff.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CASA collaborates

Throughout the year, our Executive Director served as a member of the Fairfax County Permanency Planning Forum with Fairfax County judges and officials from the Fairfax County Department of Family Services (DFS), legal, educational, and mental health community. The Executive Director also continued to participate with the Commission Youth Advisory Group, the Kinship Committee of Fairfax County and on the Advisory Board of Great Expectations, a nonprofit dedicated to helping foster youth attain a college education, as well as representing the CASA program on a statewide panel of stakeholders for the Vision 21 Linking Systems of Care Screening Tool Committee.

CASA 's Fairfax Run for the Children

On Saturday, May 2, Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) held its 5th annual Fairfax Run for the Children at the Fairfax County Courthouse. The race had over 500 participants and 150 volunteers to support Fairfax CASA's mission of advocating for abused and neglected children. In total the race raised over \$81,000.

After running and/or walking the course participants enjoyed a raffle, photo booth and food from various in-kind sponsors. Kids were entertained by Sparky the Fire dog, the Chick-fil-A cow and by a kids' corner sponsored by Joe's Crab Shack. Kids also received a medal and balloon for completing the course.