



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

DUPAGE COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

CHILD ADVOCACY

Court Appointed Special Advocates





WELCOME TO CASA OF DUPAGE COUNTY

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to share the impact made possible by our dedicated volunteers, staff, donors, and community partners. Together, we continued to stand beside children who have experienced abuse or neglect, ensuring their voices were heard and their best interests remained at the center of every decision. This year, we served children navigating complex and often heartbreaking circumstances, while strengthening our programs, expanding partnerships, and deepening our commitment to trauma-informed advocacy. Every child deserves safety, stability, and the opportunity to thrive—and that belief continues to guide our work.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering commitment of our volunteers, whose compassion and perseverance make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families. I am also deeply grateful to our board of directors, staff, and supporters for their leadership, generosity, and belief in our mission.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on building a future where every child has a consistent, caring adult advocating for them. Your ongoing support makes this possible.
With gratitude,

Suzanne Skala
Executive Director

VISION AND MISSION

MISSION

CASA of DuPage County advocates for children who are abused and neglected by recruiting, training and supporting volunteer advocates to represent each child's best interests in the court and in the community.

Every child deserves a safe and stable home.

GOALS

- To advocate for the child in the juvenile court system.
- To prevent abused and neglected children from becoming lost in the child welfare system.
- To provide vital information to judges making informed decisions about a child's future.
- To advocate for the child's physical and mental health and educational needs.



2025 GALA

Welcome to Casablanca, the 2025 CASA of DuPage County Gala, an evening inspired by classic Hollywood glamour and timeless elegance. Guests dressed to impress, embracing the sophistication and style of the era. Featuring guest speaker JJ Messier and welcoming more than 330 guests, including 82 first-time attendees, the Gala was the most successful in CASA's history and raised critical funds to support vulnerable children throughout DuPage County.





2025 GOLF CLASSIC

CASA of DuPage County's Golf Classic was held in May at White Eagle Golf Club. This was a transformational year for the outing, marked by a sold-out event and record-breaking engagement. The Golf Classic saw its highest number of golfers and dinner attendees to date, along with record sponsorship support, live auction revenue, and on-site donations. In total, the event raised more than \$190,000 to support children in DuPage County who have experienced abuse or neglect, helping advance safer, more stable outcomes.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



CASA welcomed 9 new volunteer advocates for our Spring 2025 training session who were sworn in by Judge Tank.

CASA event volunteers participated in multiple Downtown Wheaton Association events throughout the year, connecting with hundreds of community members and strengthening awareness of CASA's mission.



During the holiday season, community members and volunteer advocates came together to provide gifts for the children we serve, helping ensure children felt seen, valued, and cared for.

MEET OUR TEAM

STAFF

Suzanne Skala, Executive Director
Kathie Paravola, Program Director
Shea Pierce, Communications Strategist
Christin Wolf, Engagement & Events Manager
Stacie Coaker, Administrative Assistant
Tammy Cetina, Senior Advocate Supervisor
Jackie Rankin, Senior Advocate Supervisor
Alison Baughman, Advocate Supervisor
Jeanne Hendrie, Advocate Supervisor
Jamie Matalka, Guardianship Supervisor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Drumheller, President
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Ish Saran
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THANK YOU

Childhood trauma is a reality for every child removed from their unsafe home because of abuse and neglect. Experts say that healing from childhood trauma begins with having a stable adult in your life. A child's road to healing may begin with a CASA volunteer advocate who represents each child's best interest in the court and in the community. Thank you for supporting children during this unimaginable time in their lives and ensuring they have an advocate who will focus solely on their best interests.

CONTACT US :



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