



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

CHILD ADVOCACY

Court Appointed Special Advocates





WELCOME TO CASA OF DUPAGE COUNTY

This year, we saw more children who were urgently removed from their homes who did not have vital incidental items. This led DuPage CASA to focus on providing emergency funds to purchase essential items. Through this emergency fund we purchased shoes, backpacks, pajamas, and other small items that make a big difference to children.

As volunteer recruitment is down across the country, we need to improve our recruitment efforts, focusing on volunteers who represent the demographics of the children we serve. The CASA Board of Directors has recently approved the creation of a new position that will focus on volunteer recruitment as well as expanding community support. While DuPage CASA has had significant success engaging community members in Wheaton, Glen Ellyn and Naperville, the western strongholds of the county, we would benefit from focus on the central and eastern communities to engage and expand our reach throughout the county.

We thank you for your continued support and belief in our vision that all children deserve a safe and stable home.

Suzanne Skala

Executive Director

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.

CHILDREN SERVED



On average, children remain in foster care more than 2 years, before returning home, being adopted, or transitioning to permanent guardianship, often with a family member. The numbers above reflect children who entered foster care in previous years as well as children who have entered foster care during the last 12 months.

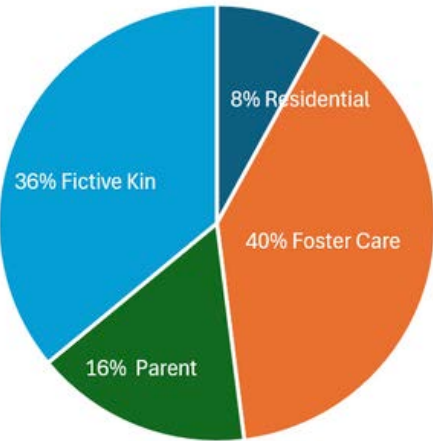




CHILD PLACEMENT

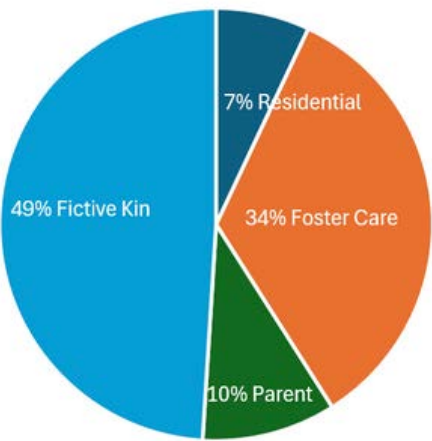
FY20

Placement of DuPage County
Children in Care



FY24

Placement of DuPage County
Children in Care



Trends in Child Placement

- Steadily moving from less Foster Care and more Fictive Kin
- Children housed with family or people they view as family is perceived better for children than traditional Foster Care
- Often Fictive Kin receive less resources than Foster Parents



2024 GALA

Welcome to the Speakeasy, at the CASA of DuPage County Gala, highlighting the milestones in child advocacy during the 1920s. Guests embraced the theme by representing the fashion of the times. Featuring guest speaker, Circuit Court Juvenile Court Judge Chantelle Porter and welcoming more than 230 guests, this event raised funds to support vulnerable children in DuPage County.





2024 GOLF CLASSIC

CASA of DuPage County's Golf Classic was held in May at Cantigny Golf. This was a transformational year for the outing, with a sold-out event! There was a record number of golfers, dinner attendees, sponsorship dollars, live auction revenue, and donations at the event. The Golf Classic raised over \$190,000 to help abused and neglected children removed from their unsafe homes in DuPage County.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



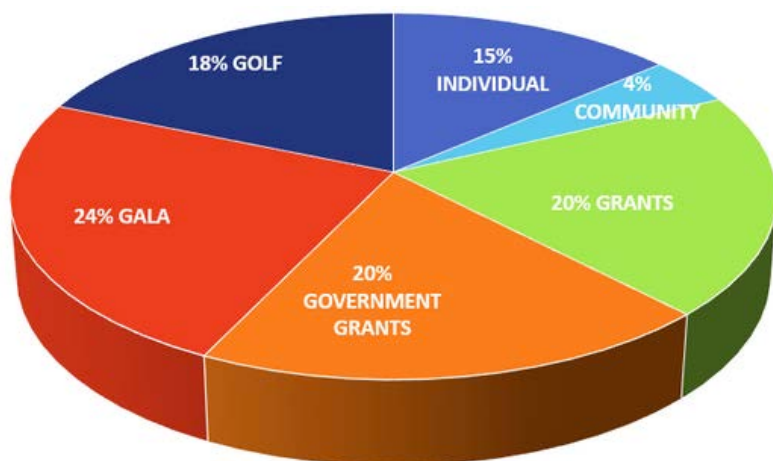
CASA welcomed 9 new volunteer advocates for our Spring 2024 training session who were sworn in by Judge Panoushis.

Wearing Blue for Child Abuse Prevention Month, CASA of DuPage County staff and DuPage County judges are pictured in the County Courthouse.

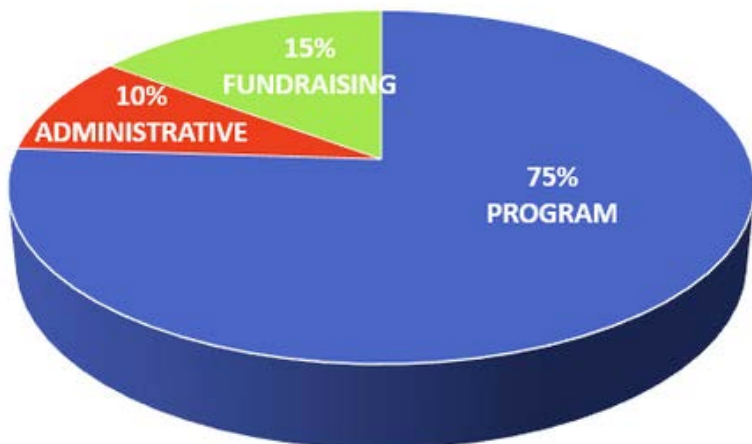


CASA's Senior Advocate Supervisor, Tammy Cetina was awarded the Liberty Bell Award from DuPage County Bar Association at the 2024 Law Day Luncheon. Pictured with DuPage County attorney, Angel Traub and Circuit Judge, Chantelle Porter.

FY24 FUNDING MIX



FY24 EXPENSES





BE A VOICE



Your experience as a **grandpa** is exactly what we need.

Be a voice.
Become an advocate.



Your ability to **speak Spanish** is exactly what we need.

Be a voice.
Become an advocate.



Your experience as an **older brother** is exactly what we need.

Be a voice.
Become an advocate.



Your ability to **speak Spanish** is exactly what we need.

Be a voice.
Become an advocate.



MEET OUR TEAM

STAFF

Suzanne Skala, Executive Director
Kathie Paravola, Program Director
Julie Walsh, Communications Manager
Christin Wolf, Development Associate
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

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Veronica Corirossi	Lee Roupas
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Greg Maksimuk	Sean Sullivan
Laura Miroballi	Luke Vanderbloemen
	Katie May Yoder



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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