



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**CASA OF SOUTH-CENTRAL
NEW JERSEY**

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2025

CASASNJ.ORG

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of CASA,

2025 was a significant year for us in many ways. It was our **25th** year providing vital support and advocacy services to local children in the foster care system. In that quarter century, we have served nearly 6,000 children.

And, I am excited to share that in September *CASA of Mercer and Burlington Counties* and *CASA of Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties* permanently joined forces to better serve children in our region. As a result, we are now known as *CASA of South-Central New Jersey*.

This expansion enables us to provide an even greater degree of consistent, quality support for children in foster care in our five counties, now the largest CASA region in the state.

Thank you for being part of our continuing work to support children in our local foster care system.



Laura Wall
Executive Director

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Our History, Mission and Vision

In 1977, a Seattle Superior Court Judge named David Soukup was concerned about trying to make decisions on behalf of abused and neglected children without enough information. He conceived the idea of appointing community volunteers to independently investigate the cases, make recommendations, and speak up in court about what was in the best interest of the child. He made a request for volunteers, 50 citizens responded, and that was the start of the CASA movement.

News of the success of Judge Soukup's experiment spread like wildfire and CASA programs sprang up all over the United States. Currently there are approximately 950 CASA programs throughout the United States and CASA volunteers have helped more than 2 million children find safe, permanent homes in which they can thrive.

CASA of Mercer County became a non-profit organization in 2001. In 2011, CASA of Burlington County merged with CASA of Mercer County. And in September 2025 we expanded our region to include the counties of Cumberland, Salem and Gloucester, becoming CASA of South-Central New Jersey.

CASA advocates for children and youth in the foster care system to have their needs met and their rights protected. Our dedicated staff and well-trained volunteers connect each child in our care to resources that support their healthy growth and development, and advocate for the child's well-being and best interests.

CASA's vision is to be a widely recognized, financially self-sustaining organization striving to improve the lives of all our region's children in out-of-home placement. We are committed to the highest quality of advocacy through trained community volunteers.

THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK

Every day, our CASA Advocates work to ensure that children in local foster care receive the support they need and deserve. The expertise and trusting relationships our volunteers provide, change the lives of vulnerable children in our region.

A TEENAGER'S JOURNEY

CASA was assigned to a teenage boy in foster care. We matched him with a male Advocate who worked hard to develop a trusting relationship with the teen. This is not an easy task under the best of circumstances, and these were not the best of circumstances. The teen ran away.

The Advocate worked hard to stay connected to the teen and when the young man was ready to come home -- it was his CASA Advocate that he called. And his Advocate was there for him. He facilitated the boy's return, and the teen is in a new foster home that supports his needs.

A LITTLE GIRL'S FUTURE

CASA was assigned to the case of a little four-year-old girl who had recently been placed in foster care. Once the Advocate became involved, the child began to receive the special education services, therapy and other vital supports that she needed. Those efforts to connect her with intervention services quickly are providing the little girl with a strong foundation for her future.



Strategic Plan 2025

In 2025 CASA underwent a new strategic planning process, which led to us identifying the following four goals:

Goal #1: Increase the size of our volunteer corps to provide skilled and trained advocates to more of the children in care who need one.

Goal #2: Enhance the efficiency and impact of our work through intentional collaboration with other programs in the CASA network.

Goal #3: Maintain CASA's organizational stability and success as it manages shifts in its external environment.

Goal #4: Strengthen CASA's program to position it as an essential resource to our partner organizations.



THE CASA MODEL



BECOME PART OF THE CASA FAMILY

To sign up for an information session or learn more about volunteering for CASA

Please visit: www.CASASNJ.org



Our Extraordinary Advocates

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Our Extraordinary Advocates

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Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds

Revenue

Corporate/Foundation: \$166,550

Government: \$770,462

Contribution: \$73,337

Contributed Services: \$233,262

Other: \$9,530

TOTAL \$1,253,141

Expenses

Program Services: \$1,039,342

Management: \$128,076

Development: \$66,920

TOTAL \$1,234,338

BY THE NUMBERS



1,283
HOURS OF TRAINING
PROVIDED TO NEW
VOLUNTEERS



356
CHILDREN SERVED CY25
IN **NEW** EXPANDED REGION



39,468
MILES TRAVELED
SERVING CHILDREN



98%
RECOMENDATIONS
ACCEPTED BY COURTS



6,300
HOURS OF VOLUNTEER
SERVICE TO OUR CHILDREN



219
VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES