



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

GEORGIA

GEORGIA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

*"Children are the world's most
valuable resource and its best
hope for the future."*

- John Fitzgerald Kennedy






Dear Supporters,

Thank you for helping Georgia’s abused and neglected children! In fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011), over 2,100 CASA volunteers served over 8,600 children in Georgia. Today, 140 counties have CASA services and 47 of the 49 judicial circuits are served by a CASA program. CASA volunteers provide an in-valuable community service to the children, courts, case managers and others involved in the child welfare system. The high quality of advocacy provided by CASA volunteers for abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court proceedings has helped these children receive much needed services and quickened the process of finding them safe and permanent homes where they can thrive.

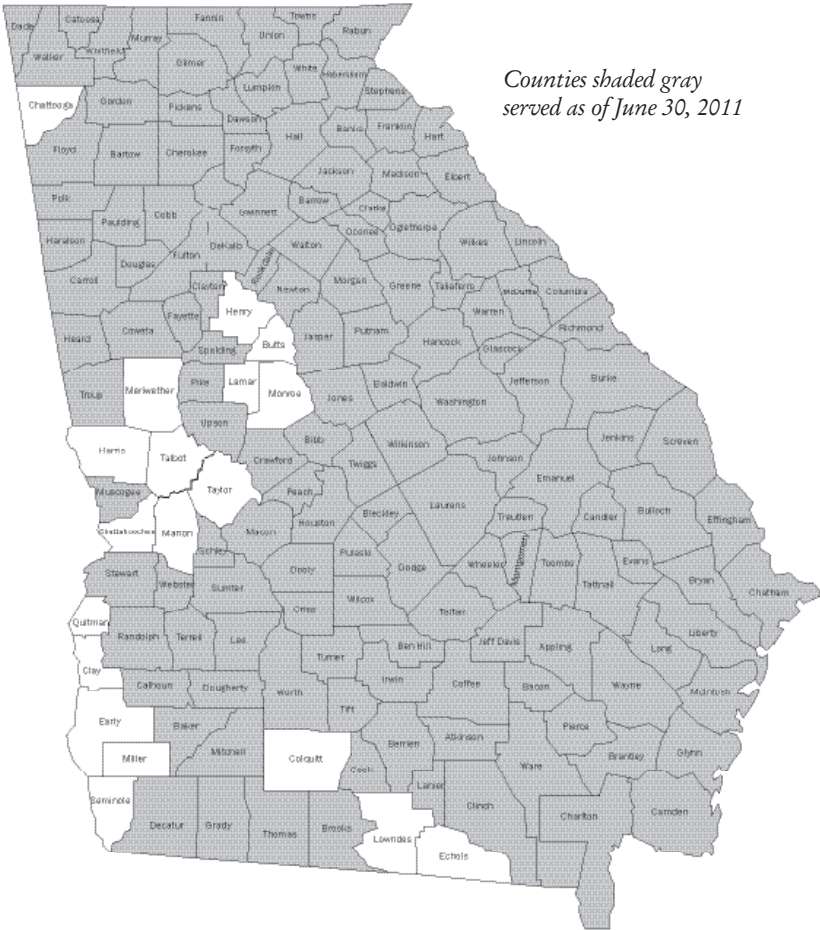
We have been busy during the fiscal year with several events, including our second CASA Awareness Day at the Atlanta Braves game, our first tennis tournament, JUSTGeorgia/CASA Day at the Capitol, our seventh annual Luncheon & Fashion Show and our State Conference. In the area of our comprehensive support services, we continue to offer a wide variety of relevant trainings for CASA staff, board members and volunteers. You can view photos and read more about the happenings of the year on pages six and seven.

We are pleased to report that our audit indicated that 92% of Georgia CASA’s expenses was for services to our affiliate programs. We continue to be committed to developing and supporting our affiliate programs as their CASA volunteers provide the highest quality of advocacy to the children they serve.

Please remember that you can continue to help in several ways: consider becoming a CASA volunteer or helping to recruit others; assist with fundraisings, trainings and/or special events; use your skills as a board or advisory board member; or give a charitable donation. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,

Quintus W. Sibley
Board Chair


Duaine Hathaway
Executive Director



Counties shaded gray
served as of June 30, 2011



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

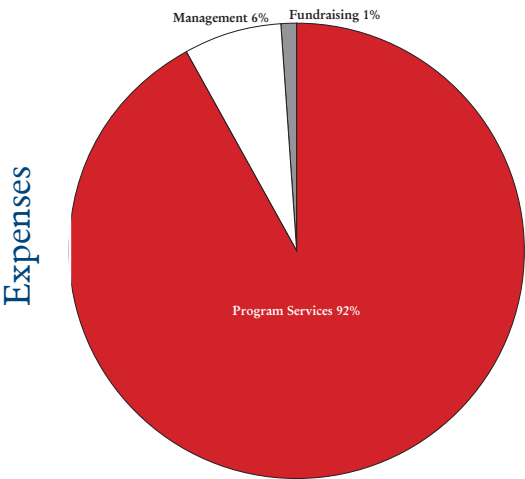
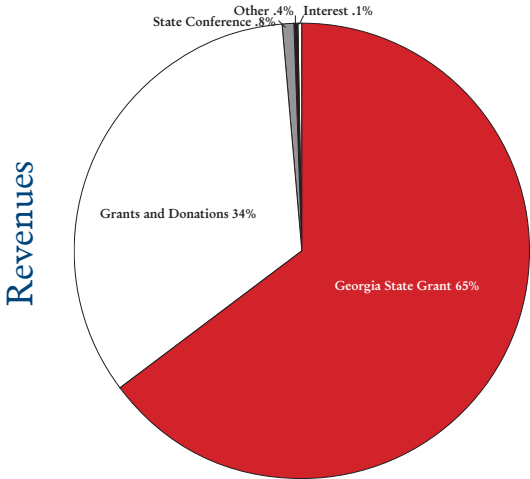
June 30, 2011 and 2010

ASSETS

	2011	2010
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,171,489	\$ 1,222,928
Receivables from grants and contracts	489,502	548,853
Promises to give	---	12,446
<i>Total current assets</i>	1,660,991	1,784,227
Long-term promises to give	---	4,687
Cash restricted for long-term purposes	---	---
Furniture and equipment	100,342	99,476
Less: accumulated depreciation	(83,683)	(77,061)
Net equipment	16,659	22,415
<i>Total assets</i>	\$ 1,677,650	\$ 1,811,329

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Accounts payable	\$ 446,468	\$ 413,461
Accrued expenses	12,563	11,731
Deferred rent, current	3,070	1,400
<i>Total current liabilities</i>	462,101	426,592
Long-term deferred rent	18,358	21,427
<i>Total liabilities</i>	480,459	448,019
<i>Net assets</i>		
Unrestricted	1,197,191	1,213,982
Temporarily restricted	---	149,328
<i>Total net assets</i>	1,197,191	1,363,310
<i>Total liabilities and net assets</i>	\$ 1,677,650	\$ 1,811,329





GEORGIA CASA

As community partners in the child welfare system, CASA volunteers increase abused and neglected children's access to services, promote safety, and advocate for timeliness and permanency for children involved in juvenile court proceedings. CASA volunteers are independent advocates and provide individualized attention for children in a massive state system. They truly can make a difference between children being well-adjusted and in a safe, permanent home or being without a permanent home and family.

Our Vision

Each abused or neglected child involved in juvenile court proceedings shall have a safe and permanent home.

Our Mission

Georgia CASA develops and supports court-sanctioned, community-based affiliate programs that provide trained and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court deprivation proceedings.

Our Purpose

Georgia CASA is committed to maintaining a network of well-administered, affiliate programs that operate independently with mutual accountability, resulting in the highest level of advocacy for all of Georgia's deprived children.

2010 CASA Volunteer of the Year

Antonia "Toni" Flowers, the 2010 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia, has been a dedicated CASA volunteer with CASA of Forsyth County since October of 2001 and has advocated for over 20 children. She is often assigned to extraordinarily challenging cases, particularly those that appear to require in-depth investigation and/or in which the children might require services beyond therapy and a stable placement. She is a fierce advocate who believes each child's needs rests on her shoulders. Toni is especially effective as she advocates for teenagers and has even created a website to help direct them to services as they age out of the foster care system.

Additionally, Toni helps in mentoring new CASA volunteers and speaks at pre-service CASA volunteer trainings, in particular on helping siblings to stay bonded.



Toni Flowers with Janet Walden, CASA of Forsyth County Executive Director and Duaine Hathaway, Georgia CASA Executive Director

Congratulations, Toni!



MAKING A DIFFERENCE... IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN

Every day in our state, over 2,100 CASA volunteers are making a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children, helping them to find safe, permanent homes where they can thrive. Last year, over 8,600 children were served by CASA volunteers in Georgia.

There are many success stories in Georgia about how the lives of children have been forever changed - often due to the work of their CASA volunteers. Here is one such story...

In the summer of 2008, Dillion, his older brother, and his three younger sisters were removed from their family due to abuse and neglect. His three sisters were adopted within the year after his parents voluntarily surrendered their rights. His brother remains in foster care. This is the story of Dillion...

Dillion's path to a forever home was a rough one, being in four foster homes and three therapeutic residential facilities (one of which included three internal moves) – all in all, 10 moves before finally being able to rest his head in his own bed three years later. During his stay in his last therapeutic home, Dillion told his CASA volunteer that he decided he “was tired of being lied to by my mother, so I want to find a family to love me!”

After being on numerous psychotropic medications, Dillion worked with his psychiatrist, and all of his medicines were withdrawn by the time he was adopted. The only ‘medicines’ he needed were 80 acres of land to explore and 29 horses to help care for. In March of 2010, Dillion was moved into a foster-to-adopt home about 80 miles from his original home. He was with a family who operates an equine therapy program in the rolling hills of Western Georgia. Dillion was a ‘born’ cowboy, looking somewhat like Woody in *Toy Story*. Tall and lanky, with a calm smile and the desire to be of help, he transformed into a wonderful young man. He is now helping with the therapy program, to the amazement of some of the boys with whom he used to live. On August 1, 2011, Dillion proudly walked out of the courthouse to begin his life. His family will soon welcome another teenager (17 years) and a five-year-old sister-to-be.

Dillion's CASA volunteer observed that the transition into ‘family’ was not always easy. Most often, children in foster care are completely unaware of family dynamics. Love and concern are often seen as intrusiveness and distrust. Dillion was reluctant to open his heart completely, but when he did, his future began to unfold. There are still minor transgressions, something he and his family work through daily, but with his compassionate heart, nothing is beyond his grasp!



Picture not actual child and volunteer

We can all contribute to stopping the cycle of abuse and neglect, help our communities to be better places to live and invest in the lives of our children - and truly make a difference.

Thank you for helping to make a difference!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

Communications, General Awareness, and Volunteer Recruitment



Georgia CASA's [Facebook page](#) has over 1,000 followers to date.



Georgia CASA started a [Twitter page](#) as it continued to branch out into social media.

The [Metro Atlanta CASA Collaborative](#) held two highly successful volunteer training sessions in the fall of 2010 and the winter of 2011, training 152 new CASA volunteers to serve children in the metro Atlanta area.

[CASA Day at the Atlanta Braves game](#) on August 14, 2010, included over 500 CASA volunteers, staff and board members.

- Pre-game patio reception with player Michael Dunn
- Parade around the field
- State Farm community award presented by player Mike Minor
- Exhibit booth
- 50/50 raffle (with 25% of proceeds to Georgia CASA)
- Public service announcement featuring starting pitcher Tim Hudson on the big screen



An [e-newsletter specifically for the CASA network in Georgia](#) debuted in March of 2011 and is published four times each year, in between issues of the regular Georgia CASA *Connector* e-newsletter.

Legislative



[JUSTGeorgia/CASA Day at the Capitol](#) on February 8, 2011, with CASA staff, board members and volunteers joining with JUSTGeorgia for a legislative briefing and then meeting with state legislators about CASA and support for several bills, including the Child Protection & Public Safety Act and the monitoring of psychotropic medications for foster children. The event also included a CASA Proclamation and group photo with Governor Nathan Deal.

Affiliate Program Development

Advo-Kids CASA, Inc. expanded to [Pike and Upson counties](#).

TLC CASA, Inc. expanded to [Montgomery, Pulaski and Telfair counties](#).

South Central CASA moved under [Sowega CASA, Inc.](#)

47 affiliate programs present in 47 judicial circuits, serving 140 counties in the state



Affiliate Program Operations and Training

The 2011 Georgia CASA Leadership Academy was developed and delivered in partnership with Dale Carnegie Training with 21 affiliate program directors and 2 Georgia CASA staff graduating.



Site visits were made to an average of 12 affiliate programs to help ensure high quality advocacy for children.

Technical assistance was given on all aspects of affiliate program management and operations.

A variety of trainings were offered throughout the year to enhance staff skills and knowledge in managing a CASA program and in training and supervising volunteers.



Dougherty CASA - Innovative Program Award of Excellence

Dougherty CASA moved under Lily Pad in 2008 and implemented a new CASA volunteer recruitment, training and retention plan in July 2010. The program trained 28 new CASA volunteers, which was a 600% increase in less than one year. At the time of the award, 31 total CASA volunteers were serving 61% of the children in the custody of the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS).



Bartow County CASA - Established Program Award of Excellence

Led by Executive Director Ava Lipscomb, who started with Bartow County CASA at its inception in 2000, Bartow County CASA has a high retention rate of its CASA volunteers, in spite of economic downturns. Not only do the CASA volunteers realize their importance to the children they serve, but they also remain dedicated due to the professionalism and appreciation they receive from the program staff.

Events and Fundraising

- Tennis Tournament and Girl's Night Out
- Luncheon & Fashion Show and Preview Party
- 1st Franklin Financial \$50,000 donation
- Georgia CASA State Conference



Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director; Kathleen Carr, Board & Tennis Event Chair; Lisa Teer & Lee Hall, Piedmont Driving Club; Monica Herring, Tennis Event Committee



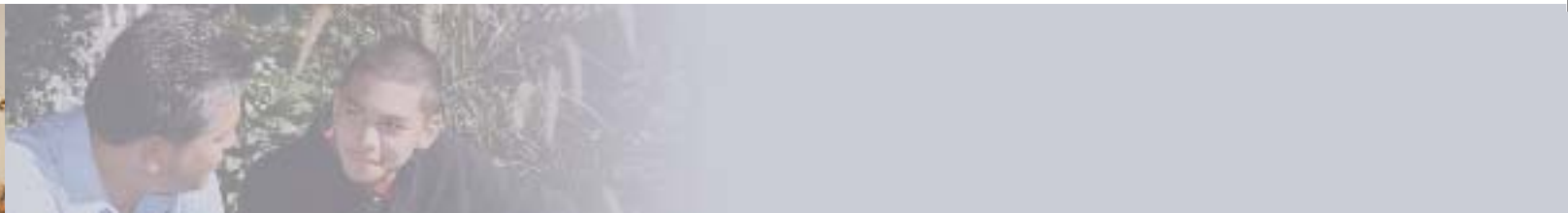
Ann Barrett, Board; Ronnie Morrow, 1st Franklin Financial; Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director; Mike Haynie, 1st Franklin Financial



Duaine & Diane Hathaway, Honorees; Marie Hannon, Vice Board Chair; Patton Fowler, Luncheon & Fashion Show Event Chair; Quintus Sibley, Board Chair



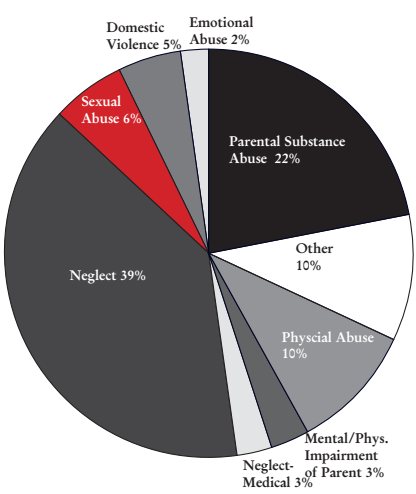
Alicia Darden, Staff; Ashley Rhodes-Courter, Conference Keynote Speaker



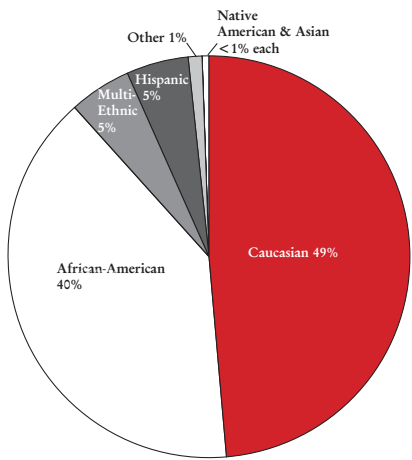
REPORT ON AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

	Children Served	New Children	Closed Children	Active Children	CASAs*
Advo-Kids	120	41	41	48	25
Alapaha	61	30	21	40	22
Alcovy	278	65	64	78	53
Appalachian	237	85	66	132	63
Athens-Oconee	155	75	55	100	47
Atlantic	154	99	47	105	37
Augusta	318	177	148	170	46
Bartow	302	98	100	194	71
Camden	81	28	37	36	25
Carroll	161	60	45	110	61
CASA for Children	254	90	122	127	75
Central Georgia	312	106	103	126	43
Chattahoochee	139	45	55	57	50
Children's Voice	158	74	37	115	44
Clayton	415	126	153	146	85
Coastal Plain	181	74	81	84	27
Cobb	350	95	101	140	71
Coweta	115	49	50	65	50
DeKalb	184	88	70	117	67
Dougherty	67	63	13	65	27
Enotah	161	89	51	104	43
Floyd	70	27	17	45	19
Forsyth	191	54	48	82	63
Fulton	459	104	147	212	109
Glynn	259	96	73	123	50
Gordon	32	11	8	11	5
Gwinnett	61	23	6	38	34
Hall-Dawson	435	98	68	153	197
Houston	99	37	28	62	34
Lookout Mountain	66	12	11	55	10
Murray/Whitfield	113	66	45	68	29
Northeast Georgia	226	107	85	113	58
Ocmulgee	192	77	39	146	57
Ogeechee	33	22	4	27	14
Paulding	206	50	31	89	53
Piedmont	158	70	49	109	60
Polk & Haralson	120	73	51	69	14
Rockdale	215	67	36	78	53
S.A.F.E.	26	3	---	---	---
Savannah/Chatham	468	145	161	234	55
Sowega	318	75	36	105	69
Southwest Georgia	91	45	48	38	9
TLC	301	89	74	134	35
Thomas	126	54	28	73	13
Toombs	27	17	2	19	4
Tri-County	121	39	41	76	26
Troup & Heard	94	36	48	46	23
	8,710**	3,154	2,644	4,364	2,125

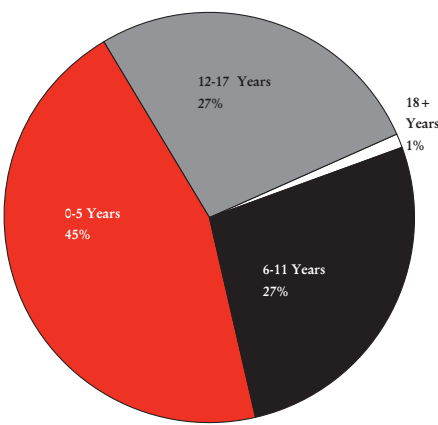
Types of Deprivation



Ethnic Background



Ages



*Not a cumulative total; reflects number of CASA volunteers assigned for the fourth quarter
**7,262 children were served who were in the legal custody of the state; pie charts include statistics for children in DFCS custody only



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By Carol and Bill Fox

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Mr. John A. Sibley, III
Mr. Quintus W. Sibley

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