

2019

IMPACT

R E P O R T

30 YEARS
STRENGTHENING

THE VOICES OF

CASA

STATEWIDE



THE CASA WAY

We have an uncompromising belief that we will achieve what others think is impossible, and each of us is an essential part of the solution.

VISION

Texas CASA envisions a safe and positive future for all Texas children.

MISSION

The mission of Texas CASA is to support local CASA volunteer advocacy programs and to advocate for effective public policy for children in the child protection system.



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LETTER FROM **LEADERSHIP**



When I helped found Texas CASA 30 years ago, the original purpose was to assist in forming new CASA programs in Texas so that every child in the foster care system could have a CASA volunteer. At the time, there were people who thought the idea of having volunteers in the courtroom was ludicrous, at best! Well, now we have 72 CASA programs that served over 30,000 children last year. Something worked!

The passion and hard work of the CASA volunteers is what worked! I am so proud of all that we have achieved, and that through it all we have kept our focus on the heart of our organization: the volunteers. These dedicated members of the community are passionate and committed to the children they serve, and for that I am eternally proud.

I want to recognize the serious commitment that it takes to be a part of CASA, and the difference that quality advocacy makes for children and families. After 30 years, I can still see today the passion and dedication that I saw back then. Each one of us — volunteers, supervisors, trainers, directors, office managers — is making sacrifices to create a brighter future for children in care. For that I thank you — thank you for continuing the work to make my dream a reality.

Jane Quantan Piper
Texas CASA Founder

I started at Texas CASA in 2012, and it has been an honor to lead this organization first through our 25th anniversary and now our 30th anniversary. Together we are embodying the CASA Way: that we will achieve what others think is impossible, and each of us is an essential part of the solution.

This past year was filled with many highs and accomplishments thanks to you. In 1991, Texas CASA received our first state funding of \$200,000. Fast forward to this past legislative session — we were awarded \$14.95 million to continue to support and grow CASA advocacy! This is a true testament to CASA's reputation, as a partner and as advocates for children and families, that we have built in the last 30 years.

We have played an integral role in passing legislation that has made a monumental difference for children and families. With support from the legislature, the CASA network and our child welfare partners, we've addressed issues like the overmedication of youth, the need for normalcy, mental health, access to services, improving the system's response to allegations of abuse by children in care, using a trauma-informed approach and more.

I'm looking forward to what we can achieve together in the next 30 years. Now let's keep the momentum going to achieve our vision of a safe and positive future for all Texas children!

Vicki Spriggs
Texas CASA CEO



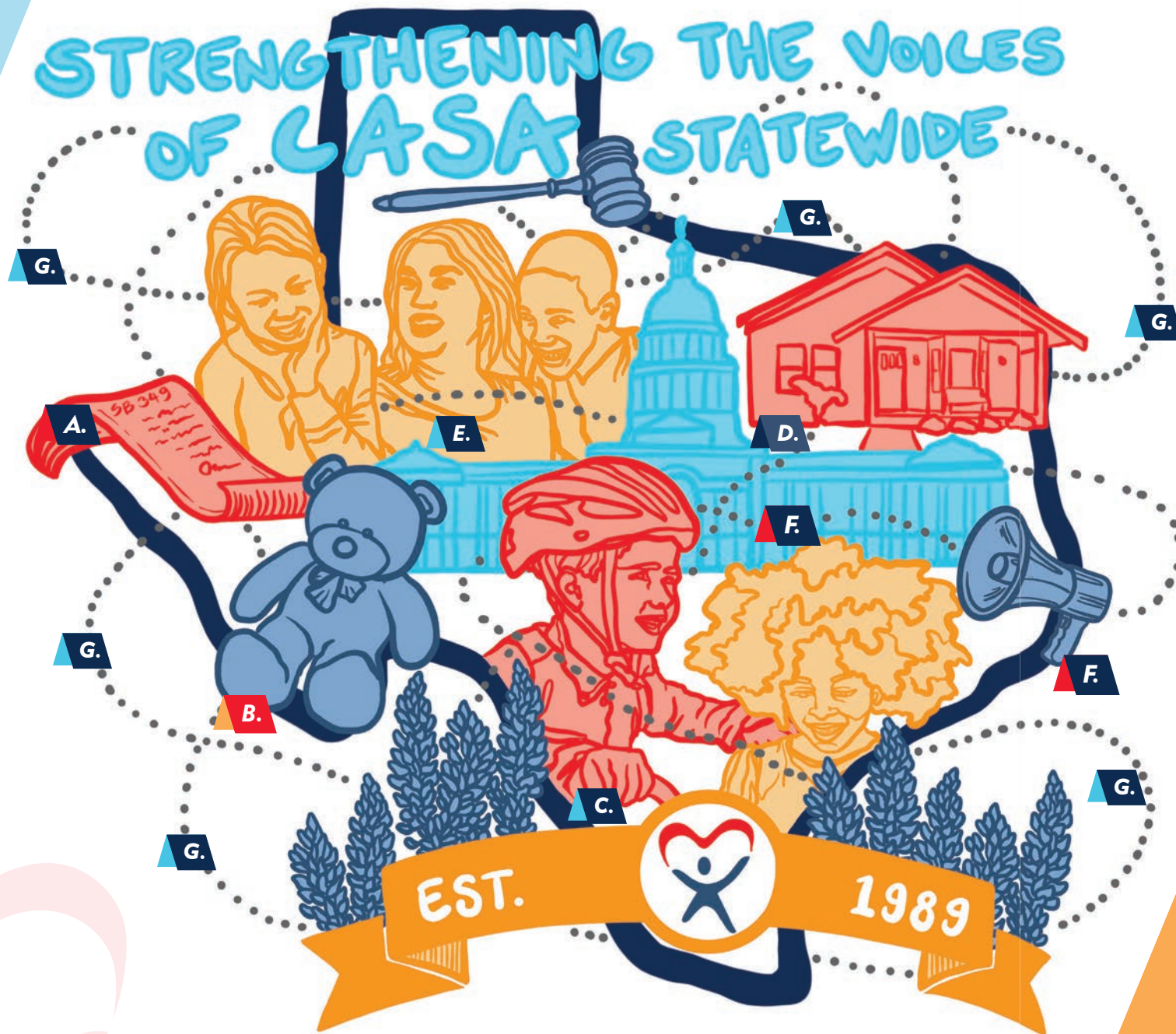
WHAT IS A CASA?

When a family is in crisis and involved in the child welfare system, a Court Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA volunteer, may be appointed by a judge to represent the best interest of the child. CASA volunteers get to know the child and gather information from everyone involved in their daily life, including parents and family members, foster parents, teachers, daycare providers, doctors, lawyers, social workers and other relevant persons. CASA volunteers use the information gathered to report to the judge, advocating first and foremost for keeping families together whenever safe and possible.

At the local level, the 72 CASA programs in Texas do the hands-on work of recruiting, training and supervising these dedicated volunteers.

Texas CASA partners with the programs to provide training, coaching and other resources. As the statewide membership organization, we work to connect each part of the CASA community and empower the local programs to perform at their highest level. With a solid foundation and a culture of collaboration, we strengthen the programs' ability to serve their volunteers — and ultimately, children and families across the state. Texas CASA works to improve the child protection system through legislation and other positive public policy changes. We speak up for children and families in the system by bringing their needs to lawmakers' attention and providing these decision makers with our experiences and perspective.





WATCH NOW

- A.** SB 349 was the bill that allowed CASA's appointment as Guardian Ad Litem in 1997.
- B.** A nod to the bears who starred in our Collaborative Family Engagement video.
- C.** The Normalcy Bill (SB 1407), passed in 2015, opens more possibilities for children in foster care to experience the same activities and opportunities as children who are not in care.
- D.** Research shows that it is in the best interests of children to remain with, and connected to, their families and communities.
- E.** CASA volunteers get to know the children they serve and provide a consistent adult presence during this difficult time.
- F.** Our Public Policy team and Legislative Advocacy Teams (LATs) are a strong voice at the Capitol and help ensure the needs of children and families stay at the forefront.
- G.** The CASA network is made up of 72 local CASA programs covering 219 of the 254 Texas counties.

30 YEARS STRENGTHENING THE VOICES OF CASA STATEWIDE

30TH ANNIVERSARY MURAL COMMEMORATES TEXAS CASA

Texas CASA's story began 30 years ago in 1989 when a passionate CASA volunteer from one of our state's then 13 local CASA programs had the vision of a statewide hub—an organization belonging to everyone in Texas working tirelessly in pursuit of the same mission. That individual was our founding CEO Jane Quantan Piper, and her idea was, and is, Texas CASA.

As part of our celebration, we commissioned a commemorative mural in honor of all that we have accomplished as a network over the last 30 years. Created by *Avery O Design*, the mural captures major milestones in Texas CASA's history.

IMPACT NUMBERS



CHILDREN SERVED

BY CASA WITH

CPS CASES CLOSED **FY19**

EXIT REASON	NUMBER	PERCENT
Returned Home	4,416	42.7
Custody to Relative	2,266	21.9
Custody to Non-relative	580	5.6
Adoption (Relative)	1,164	11.2
Adoption (Non-relative)	1,445	14.0
Emancipation, Age Out, or 18th Birthday	432	4.2
Other	47	.4

TOTAL → **10,350** **100**



Research shows that reunification with their family of origin, when safe and possible, is the best outcome for children. Families become involved with the child welfare system during a time of crisis and need support from everyone within the system and their community to heal. By helping to create connections and support systems around children and families, we work to ensure that they will have the opportunity to be happy and whole again.

Y E A R

1989 **2019***

LOCAL CASA PROGRAMS

13 **72**

COUNTIES SERVED

13 **219**

CHILDREN SERVED

LESS THAN
4,000 **30,432**

CASA VOLUNTEERS

LESS THAN
1,000 **10,874**

CHILDREN IN CARE

→ **52,397****

*September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019 • **September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018



SERVICES: **EMPOWERING LOCAL CASA PROGRAMS**

As the statewide membership organization, Texas CASA provides financial support and services to help ensure the local CASA programs operate effectively and can seek out the best possible volunteers who will advocate tirelessly and diligently for children and families.

The CASA community continues to lead the charge in recruiting and cultivating a strong base of advocates who will not rest until these children have the support, resources and connections they need to thrive.



AWARENESS

In order to help local CASA programs strengthen their ability to advocate and collaborate with their community, Texas CASA oversees a statewide marketing campaign to increase public awareness, recruit volunteers and reinforce local marketing efforts.



POLICY

Texas CASA collaborates with stakeholders, the state child welfare system and elected officials to assure public policies focus on issues affecting children in the child welfare system. Working with local CASA programs and volunteers, and other stakeholders, Texas CASA works to set a solid foundation for improving advocacy for children and families in our communities.



EDUCATION

Texas CASA brings the CASA network and the child welfare community together to educate and inform for a better understanding of the system and the existing needs of children in care, so that we can collaborate to generate change.

SUPPORT

Key initiatives powered by Texas CASA provide access to information, training and technical assistance so that local CASA programs may continue to enhance their efforts to ensure children and youth are safe and supported.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Texas CASA has established itself as a trusted partner in its role to identify, disperse, administer and manage federal, state and private funds to ensure the local CASA programs effectively utilize the funding to achieve our mission.



LEADERSHIP

Texas CASA provides innovative trainings, mentorship and resources that build strong local CASA program board members and executive directors so that they may better serve their programs, volunteers and ultimately, children and families.



SYSTEMIC CHANGE: **POLICY WINS**

Texas CASA works to make sure that the voices of children and families involved in the child welfare system are heard in the courts and at the Texas Capitol. By engaging with the Texas Legislature, we are helping to create systemic change that will improve the lives of children during and after their time in care.

During the 86th Legislative Session, we worked hand in hand with the local CASA programs and community partners to pass important legislation, including:



BILL HB 72:

Allows adoptive parents to opt into STAR Health or STAR Kids for their adopted child if the youth has a chronic health condition. This protects the continuity of medical care for children as they transition out of foster care.

Having consistency in post-adoption healthcare enables qualified health providers to continue building on the service plan for the child with the help and input of adoptive parents. Providers in the STAR Health network are trauma-informed and certified to meet the specialized needs of children in foster care. This is especially important for children with mental illness who have been receiving treatment from STAR Health network providers.

BILL HB 123:

Allows for children and youth who are in foster care or experiencing homelessness to receive a copy of their birth certificate without requiring parental consent or any fee. Also grants fee waivers when applying for a driver's license or ID, and allows youth in foster care to use the local CPS offices as their permanent mailing address.

Many youth in foster care age out of the system without these important documents or any idea how to get them. Without a birth certificate or ID, the chances of having a successful future decrease, as youth can't rent an apartment or even get a job. By reducing barriers, we hope to improve outcomes for youth.

BILL HB 3390:

Requires GALs, AALs and CPS caseworkers to ask children, in a developmentally appropriate way, about any adult who could be a caregiver for them. Also requires judges to ensure that children are being asked about the relationships in their lives at every permanency hearing.

HB 3390 helps ensure that all parties talk to children and incorporate their voice more often in decision-making, leading to more connected, happy and healthy youth.

- Increased legislative funding by **\$1.75** million annually, bringing annual funding to **\$14.95** million
- Over **260** CASA advocates visited **110** legislative offices during CASA Day at the Capitol
- **36** Legislative Advocacy Teams were engaged in **18** separate Action Alerts
- Child Welfare Primer trained over **200** attendees on important issues related to the challenge of parental substance use and opportunities for providing normalcy for children in foster care

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION



WATCH NOW



COLLABORATIVE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

COLLABORATE, CULTIVATE,
CONVENE, CONNECT

To increase and further support family engagement, Texas CASA and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) developed the Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE) process in 2015 with funding from the 84th Texas Legislature.

CFE is a team-based approach between CASA and CPS to engage, find and work with family members and fictive kin in the creation and development of a lifetime network for young people in the foster care system.

Texas CASA and DFPS have continued to roll out CFE across Texas since 2015. Currently CFE is expanding to 10 more sites, which will bring our total to 41 CASA programs, 90 counties and 10 DFPS regions — more than 50 percent of the statewide network. With your support, we are on track to take CFE statewide by 2023.

CFE IMPACT 2019

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
PROGRAMS	3	9	20	31
COUNTIES	3	12	28	48
CHILDREN SERVED	48	234	470	1414
FAMILIES SERVED	20	124	240	795
DFPS REGIONS	2	3	7	9

FROM FY18 TO FY19

200%
INCREASE IN CHILDREN SERVED

231%
INCREASE IN FAMILIES SERVED



FY19 FINANCIALS



REVENUE	FY19
STATE FUNDING	\$13,564,746
FEDERAL FUNDING	\$18,992,857
PRIVATE FUNDING	\$978,534
TOTAL REVENUE	\$33,536,136

EXPENSES	FY19
LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES AND TRAINING	\$29,144,320
VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND AWARENESS	\$2,156,001
GRANTS MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT	\$516,618
ADMINISTRATION	\$1,789,130
PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY	\$273,462
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$33,879,530
*ENDING NET ASSETS	\$8,870,468

*NET ASSETS EQUALS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES. REVENUES LESS EXPENSES RESULTS IN THE CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WHICH, IF ADDED TO BEGINNING NET ASSETS RESULTS IN ENDING NET ASSETS.

****PASS THRU
AMOUNT**

**86% or
\$27,959,237.61**

of government funding that Texas CASA receives is awarded to local CASA programs for recruitment, training and volunteer support.

**PASS THRU AMOUNT INCLUDES \$1.34M FOR THE STATEWIDE RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN



ABILENE

Big Country CASA
325.677.6448

ALPINE

Frontier CASA
432.837.7448

AMARILLO

Amarillo Area CASA, Inc.
806.373.2272

ATHENS

CASA of Trinity Valley
903.675.7070

AUSTIN

CASA of Travis County
512.459.2272

BASTROP

CASA of Bastrop,
Fayette & Lee Counties
512.303.2272

BAY CITY

Gulf Coast CASA
979.282.9223

BEAUMONT

CASA of Southeast Texas
409.832.2272

BEEVILLE

CASA of Bee,
Live Oak & McMullen
Counties
361.542.4407

BONHAM

Fannin County
Children's Center
903.583.4339

BRENHAM

CASA for Kids of
South Central Texas
979.277.0088

BROWNSVILLE

CASA of Cameron &
Willacy Counties
956.546.6545

BROWNWOOD

CASA in the Heart of Texas
325.643.2557

BRYAN

Voices for Children, Inc.
CASA of Brazos Valley
979.822.9700

CHILDRESS

CASA of the Rolling Plains
940.937.3180

CLEBURNE

CASA of Johnson County
817.558.6995

CONROE

CASA Child Advocates of
Montgomery County
936.441.5437

CORPUS CHRISTI

CASA of the Coastal Bend
361.884.2272

CORSICANA

CASA of Navarro County
903.872.3772

DALHART

CASA 69, Inc.
806.244.2684

DALLAS

Dallas CASA
214.827.8961

DECATUR

CASA of Wise &
Jack Counties
940.627.7535

DENTON

CASA of Denton County
940.243.2272

EDINBURG

CASA of Hidalgo County
956.381.0346

EL PASO

CASA of El Paso
915.225.5214

FORT WORTH

CASA of Tarrant County
817.877.5891

GAINESVILLE

CASA of North Texas
940.665.2244

GALVESTON

CASA of Galveston County
409.572.2552

GEORGETOWN

CASA of Williamson
County Texas
512.868.2822

GRAHAM

North Star CASA
940.549.9829

GRANBURY

CASA of Hood &
Somervell Counties
817.579.6866

GREENVILLE

CASA for Hunt County
903.450.4410

HEREFORD

Great Plains CASA for Kids
806.363.1211

HILLSBORO

CASA of Hill County Texas
254.283.5082

HOUSTON

Child Advocates, Inc.
713.529.1396

HUNTSVILLE

CASA of Walker,
San Jacinto &
Trinity Counties
936.291.2227

KERRVILLE

Hill Country CASA
830.896.2272

KINGSLAND

CASA for the
Highland Lakes Area
325.388.3440

KINGSVILLE

Brush Country CASA
361.595.7233

LAREDO

Voz de Niños
956.727.8691

LIBERTY

CASA of Liberty/
Chambers Counties
936.334.9000

LONGVIEW

East Texas CASA
903.753.8093

LUBBOCK

CASA of the South Plains
806.763.2272

LUFKIN

CASA of the Pines
936.634.6725

MARSHALL

CASA of Harrison County
903.923.9224

MASON

Bluebonnet CASA
325.347.6474

MCKINNEY

CASA of Collin County
972.529.2272

MIDLAND

CASA of West Texas
432.683.1114

MOUNT PLEASANT

CASA of Titus,
Camp & Morris Counties
903.717.8940

NACOGDOCHES

CASA of Deep East Texas
936.560.4711

NEW BRAUNFELS

CASA of Central Texas
830.626.2272

ODESSA

CASA of the
Permian Basin Area
432.498.4174

ORANGE

CASA of the
Sabine Neches Region
409.886.2272

PAMPA

CASA of the High Plains
806.669.7638

PARIS

CASA for KIDS
903.737.4346

PLEASANTON

CASA of South Texas
830.569.4696

ROCKWALL

Lone Star CASA
972.772.5858

ROSENBERG

Child Advocates of Fort Bend
281.344.5171

SAN ANGELO

Children's Advocacy Center
of Greater West Texas
325.653.4673

SAN ANTONIO

Child Advocates
San Antonio, Inc.
210.225.7070

SHERMAN

CASA of Grayson County
903.813.5400

STEPHENVILLE

CASA for the
Cross Timbers Area
254.965.6610

SULPHUR SPRINGS

Lake Country CASA
903.885.1173

TEMPLE

CASA of Bell &
Coryell Counties
254.774.1881

TEXARKANA

CASA of Northeast Texas
903.792.1030

TYLER

CASA for Kids of East Texas
903.597.7725

UVALDE

Tri-County CASA
830.426.8848

VICTORIA

Golden Crescent CASA, Inc.
361.573.3734

WACO

CASA of McLennan County
254.304.7982

WAXAHACHIE

CASA of Ellis County
972.937.1455

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CASA - Hope for
Children, Inc.
817.599.6224

WICHITA FALLS

Child Advocates
CASA of Red River
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BRIDGET & ROBERT MCGOWEN
MILLION DOLLAR ROUND
TABLE FOUNDATION
ALISON MEANS
MUSE SEARCH+ INSPIRE
JESSE NAPUTI

BECKY & GENE
NEEDHAM
EDNA PEREZ-VEGA
JOHN PETROSKY
CORY REDDING
EDIE ROGAT
GEOFFREY SAPENTER
BRANDON SWALVE
MARY TEEPLE
PAUL & MICHELLE TOBIAS
UNITED WAY GREATER
PHILADELPHIA AND
SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY
DAVID WINN

* IF YOU'VE BEEN LEFT OFF THIS LIST OR YOUR NAME IS MISSPELLED, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES AND CONTACT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST, ANDREA ESCALANTE AT AESCALANTE@TEXASCASA.ORG SO WE CAN PROPERLY THANK YOU.

DONORS

DONORS

GET INVOLVED

Partnering with Texas CASA means making a difference in the lives of children and families in the foster care system. Our most impactful partners are actively involved in our mission in multiple ways. We have a variety of opportunities for individual and organizational engagement.



GIVE: Invest in our services for CASA statewide and advocacy for children.

- Sponsorships
- Matching Donations
- CaringCent
- Profit Shares
- Corporate Gifts
- Gifts in Kind



ENGAGE: Inspire your employees and clients, and spread the word about CASA.

- CASA Volunteerism
- Workplace Giving
- Office Fundraisers
- Client Fundraisers

SHARE: Amplify the CASA difference.

- Social Media
- Newsletter/Blog
- Host a Lunch & Learn



STATE OF WELL-BEING

The "State of Well-Being Collection" represents our vision of happy and healthy futures for all children. This custom design is a special tribute to the wonders of childhood.

"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future."
– John F. Kennedy



LESS ME, MORE WE

"Less Me, More We" encompasses our belief that we are at our best when we are working together as a community. When children and families are in crisis, it takes everyone doing their part to support and uplift them.

"It takes a village to raise a child."
– African Proverb



3 WAYS TO GIVE & SHOP OUR STORE

There are thousands of children in the child welfare system throughout Texas. You can be a part of the CASA movement in three different ways to help make sure children are safe and supported.

1. **VOLUNTEER.** Ready to speak up for a child who needs you? Visit [BecomeACASA.org](https://becomeacasa.org) to locate and contact your local CASA program and take the first step towards becoming a CASA volunteer.
2. **NOMINATE.** If you know someone who has what it takes to speak up for children, let them know by nominating them to become a CASA volunteer today at [NominateACASA.org](https://nominateacasa.org).
3. **DONATE.** A donation to Texas CASA is an investment in the power of the CASA community and the future of Texas. With your gift to Texas CASA, you can help CASA programs in your community AND across the state to provide the very best volunteer advocacy for children and families. Make your gift today at [TexasCASA.org/donate](https://texascasa.org/donate).

Shop our looks at Stand Up for Children in Style store:
<https://represent.com/store/texas-casa>



SCAN ME



TEXASCASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates

 **FOR CHILDREN**

BecomeACASA.org

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