

2023-2024
**IMPACT
REPORT**



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**VOICES FOR CHILDREN
OF BOULDER COUNTY**

OUR **VISION**

We believe that all children deserve to have a safe, nurturing environment where they can thrive.

OUR **MISSION**

To build a healthier community by delivering services, support, and advocacy to children who have experienced trauma.



DEI STATEMENT

Voices for Children, CASA of Boulder County (VFC) serves a diverse range of children and families from various backgrounds. We strive to embody the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in all aspects of our work to dismantle barriers and create opportunities for all youth to thrive. We acknowledge that children of color, children with disabilities, and children who identify as LGBTQ+ are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system.

We strive to recruit board members, staff, and volunteers who more closely represent the children and families we serve. We aim to foster a culture of equity through intentional language, clear expectations, and accountability, in hopes of creating a welcoming atmosphere for everyone interacting with our organization. We prioritize understanding individual identities and facilitating discussions on historically challenging oppressive systems and creating lasting change.

This inclusive approach ensures that our organization reflects the community's rich diversity and promotes a more equitable environment for all. Together, we endeavor to Change a Child's Story and build a future where every child, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

2024

BOARD MEMBERS

Susana Lopez-Baker, President
Member since 2019

Sarah Reynolds, Vice President
Member since 2022

Seth Hanau, Treasurer
Member since 2022

Sarah Sparks, Secretary
Member since 2019

Tom Briggs, Member since 2017

Kristi Celico, Member since 2017

Michael Dougherty, Member since 2018

Steve Welsh, Member since 2018

Marianne Balin, Member since 2019

Roxanne Bailin, Member since 2023

Haleigh Banks, Member since 2023

Ranelle Randles, Member since 2023

Evelyn Priola, Member since 2024

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, we are both humbled and inspired by the impact Voices for Children, CASA of Boulder County, has had on the lives of children in our community. This past year, we served 259 children, a 26% increase from the previous year, through the tireless efforts of our 151 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). Our work is as critical as ever, and it is only through the dedication of our volunteers, staff, community partners, and generous investors that we can fulfill our mission. Our CASAs stand as a constant, dependable presence in the lives of these vulnerable children, offering stability, advocacy, and compassion when their world has been turned upside down.

Stability is a cornerstone of our work, not only in the lives of the children we serve but also within our organization. We have made significant strides in ensuring that we remain a strong and resilient organization, capable of supporting the evolving needs of our community. We have focused on strengthening our internal operations, ensuring that our staff and volunteers are equipped with the resources and training they need to succeed. Our commitment to sustainability ensures that we will continue to be here for the children who need us most, now and in the future.

We have placed a renewed emphasis on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), within our CASA community. We believe that every child deserves to be seen, heard, and understood, and this requires a community of advocates who reflect the rich diversity of the children we serve. We are dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment where all voices are valued, and we are actively working to recruit and retain volunteers from diverse backgrounds. Our internal DEI practices and strategy aim to create an environment where differences are celebrated, ensuring that our advocacy is more empathetic and responsive to the needs of every child.

To our incredible staff and board of directors, whose expertise and passion drive our mission forward every day, and to our community partners and investors, we extend our deepest thanks. Your belief in our mission and your investment in our work allows us to continue serving the children who need us most and to expand our reach to serve even more youth in Boulder County.

Together, we are creating a brighter future for the children in Boulder County. Your partnership in this work is invaluable, and we look forward to continuing to make a profound difference in the lives of children and families in our community.

With gratitude,



Susana Lopez Baker

Susana Lopez Baker
Board President



Margaret Bachrach

Margaret Bachrach
CEO

OUR PURPOSE

Voices for Children, CASA of Boulder County (VFC) has been serving the community since 1985, providing Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers to youth who have experienced abuse and neglect. VFC is dedicated to advocating for the best interests of children involved in dependency, neglect, and truancy court systems, ensuring each child has a safe and permanent home.

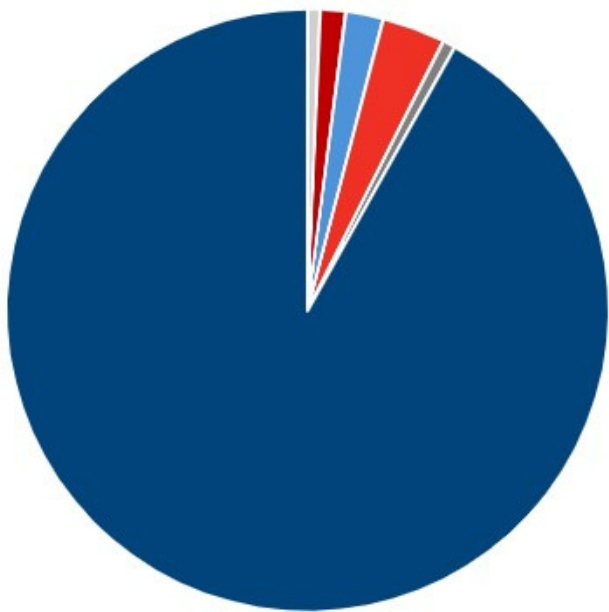
From July 2023 – June 2024, there were 5,729 reports of child abuse and neglect in Boulder County. Through thoughtful investigation by the county, cases that were identified as low-to-moderate risk became involved with Differential Response programs, and the remaining cases resulted in 259 children becoming involved in the child welfare system. The cases that are deemed higher risk are much more complex and severe and result in an open dependency and neglect case. Voices for Children, CASA of Boulder County has a responsibility to provide best-interest advocacy to every child involved in these open cases, as appointed by the Magistrate. CASA volunteers play a significant role in uplifting these children and ensuring their voices are heard.



CASA

VOLUNTEERS

CASA volunteers are highly trained community members who work tirelessly to support the children they work with. They build relationships with the youth, gather information from all relevant parties, and make informed recommendations to the court to ensure the children's needs are met. This personalized attention and advocacy are crucial in helping children navigate the complexities of the child welfare system and in achieving better long-term outcomes. In fact, 92.2% of judges report that CASA volunteers have the most significant impact on promoting long-term wellbeing.



White (92%) ■
Two or more races (3%) ■
Hispanic/Latino (2%) ■
Asian (1%) ■
American Indian (1%) ■
Other (1%) ■

VOLUNTEER DEMOGRAPHICS

151
CASA Volunteers

34
Male Volunteers

4,062
Hours Donated

116
Female Volunteers

1
Nonbinary Volunteer

A JOURNEY BEYOND FOSTER CARE

In the complex world of foster care, where uncertainty often clouds young lives, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) provide stability and support. For three years, one CASA guided a youth through the challenges of foster care. Even after the case closed with the youth returning home, their connection didn't end but transformed into a lasting mentorship.

As the youth approached college application season, the CASA once again stepped in, helping them through the process. With their support, the youth received full admission to the University of Colorado Boulder, benefiting from the state's tuition waiver for foster youth. Move-in day marked a new chapter of independence, and the CASA was proudly by their side as they settled into their dorm.

Now, as this young person walks the CU Boulder campus, they carry not only their dreams but the resilience cultivated through foster care. With the CASA's guidance still echoing in their heart, they stride forward, empowered to embrace the opportunities ahead. CASA volunteers embody hope, resilience, and the transformative power of dedicated support, helping shape brighter futures for children in foster care.



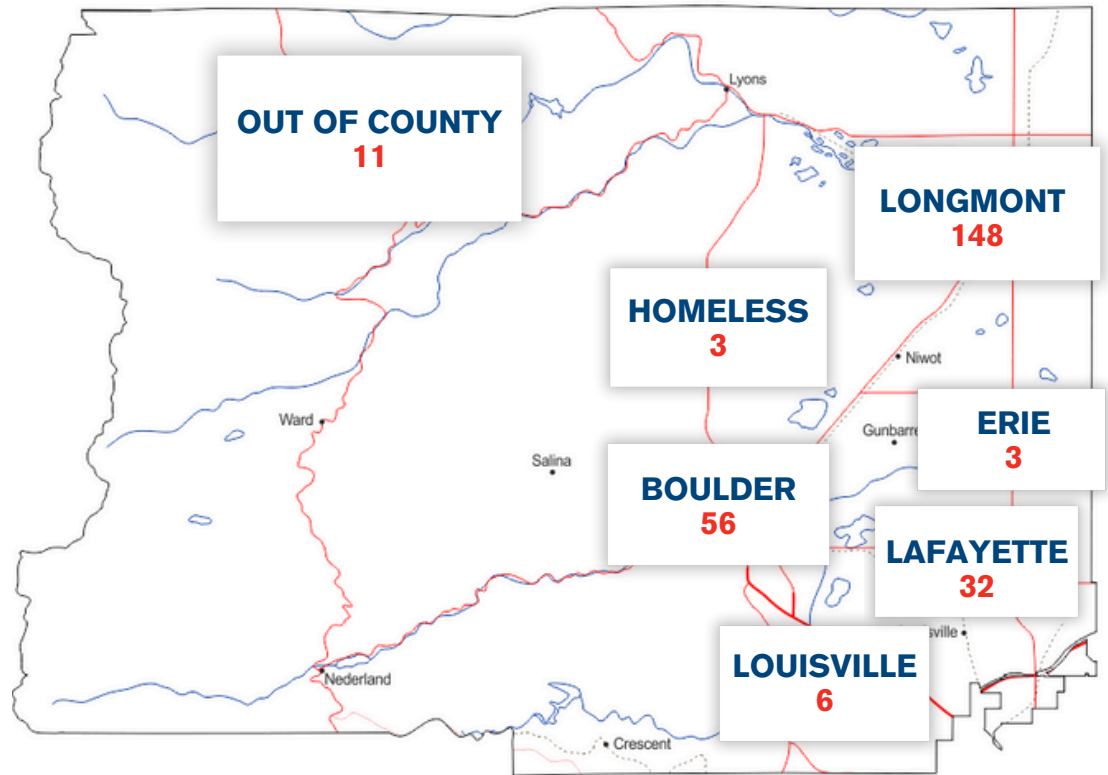
YEAR IN REVIEW

259
Children Served

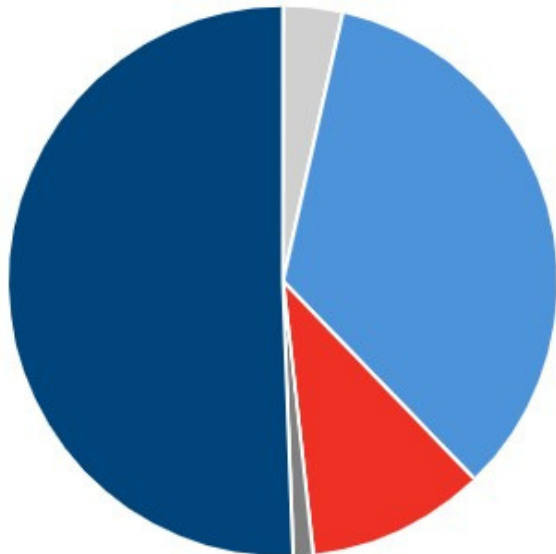
159
Total Cases

\$2,718.48
Cost per child

LOCATIONS OF CHILDREN SERVED

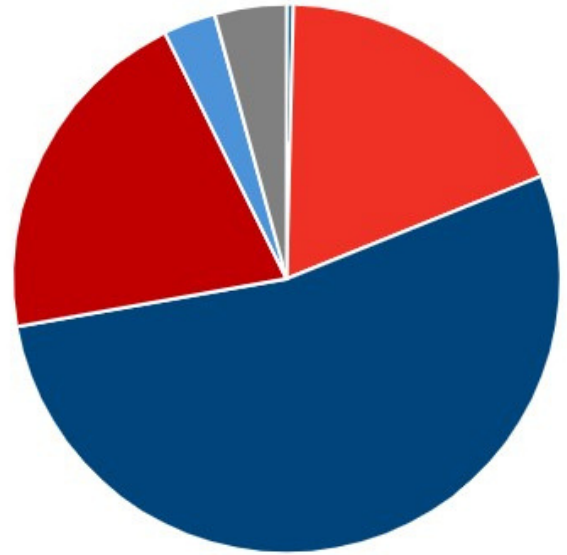


CHILD DEMOGRAPHICS



White (50%)
Hispanic/Latino (34%)
Two or more races (11%)
American Indian (4%)
Other (1%)

VICTIMIZATION TYPE BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN



Neglect (53%)
Physical Abuse (21%)
Domestic Violence (18%)
Truancy (4%)
Sexual Abuse (3%)
Foster Youth in Transition (1%)

OUR **IMPACT:**

PERMANENCY, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

82%

of children have regular healthcare providers

94%

of children did not move placements for the duration of their case

“Children within the child welfare system are more likely to have physical, chronic, and mental health issues than their non-involved peers. Having a regular care provider is a best practice recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.”

HOW A CASA SUPPORTS THIS:

- Makes court recommendations
- Provides transportation
- Provides support during a health emergency
- Works with the child, caregiver, and healthcare provider



OUR **IMPACT:** EDUCATION



41%

of youth receive specialized educational support

83%

were promoted to their next grade level

76%

of children not meeting educational expectations received educational advocacy

HOW A CASA SUPPORTS THIS:

- Makes court recommendations
- Assists with transportation
- Advocates for services in school and special education services
- Communicates with teachers



OUR **IMPACT:** DEVELOPMENT (0-3 YEARS)

“Early-stage experiences and development can affect the rest of our lives.”

87%

are meeting cognitive milestones

95%

are meeting physical milestones

74%

are meeting language milestones

82%

are meeting social-emotional milestones

HOW A CASA SUPPORTS THIS:

- Advocates for services
- Makes court recommendations
- Secures services
- Works with the child, service providers, and placements
- Provides or arranges transportation



OUR **IMPACT:** EXTRACURRICULARS

“Involvement in positive extracurricular activities helps create a sense of purpose, self-agency, self-regulation skills, relational skills, problem-solving skills, self-esteem, and positive relationships for children who have experienced abuse and neglect.”

48%

of children who weren't participating in extracurricular activities received advocacy and participated



66%

of children who are in first grade and older participate in extracurricular activities

OUR **IMPACT:** 14 AND OLDER

63%

of youth with transition to adulthood needs were supported

92%

of CASA volunteers were involved in their appointed youth's transition

CASAs Supported Youth with:

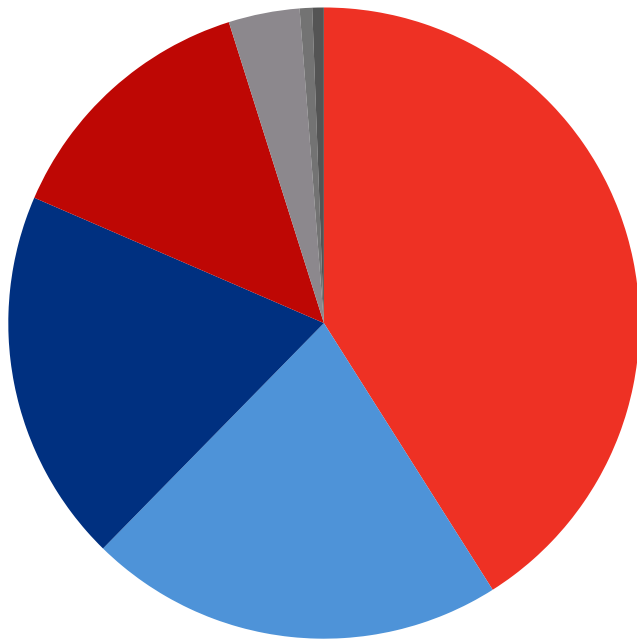
- College Applications
- Financial Independence
- Housing Opportunities
- Identity Documents
- Self-Care
- Vocational Activities
- Work/Employment
- General Wellbeing Needs



OUR FINANCIALS

FUNDING SOURCES

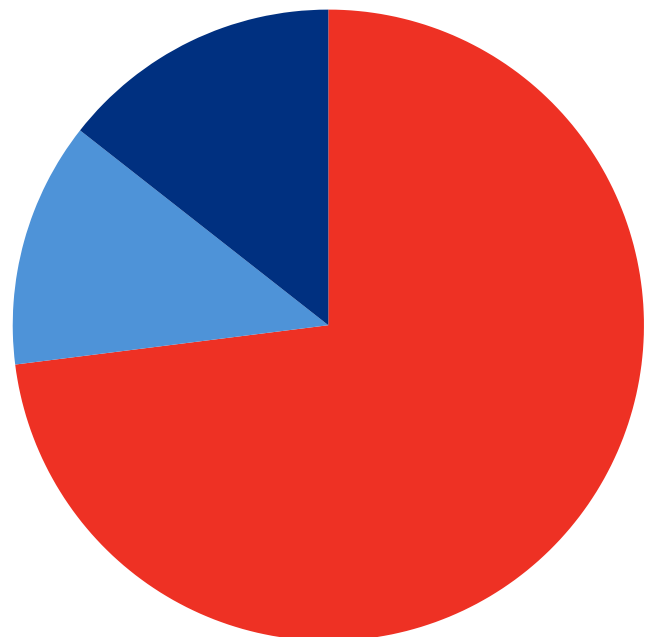
TOTAL: **\$1,121,064**



Government Grants (41%)	■
\$459,883	
Individuals (21%)	■
\$238,983	
Events (19%)	■
\$214,781	
Philanthropic Grants (13%)	■
\$152,831	
Community Groups (4%)	■
\$40,758	
Corporations (1%)	■
\$7,229	
Other (1%)	■
\$6,599	

FUNDING ALLOCATION

Programs (73%)	■
\$704,087	
Fundraising (4%)	■
\$138,972	
Administrative (13%)	■
\$121,278	



"One of the biggest impacts I see in our CASA volunteers is their unwavering dedication to the best interests of their CASA child. Whether it is through advocacy in the courtroom, frequent meetings with the child's team, late night phone calls, or long drives to foster placements, (just to name a few), the CASA volunteer is able to identify the needs of the child and meet those needs in creative and life changing ways."

- Magistrate Carolyn McLean,
Boulder County District Court



Donate Here!

