



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

CASA OF SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN, INC

..... **2020 ANNUAL REPORT** .....





## Every child needs a hero, some need superheroes!

### Our Staff:

**Jamie Brooks**

Executive Director

**Patricia Conroy**

Volunteer Coordinator

**Lyndsey Anderson**

Volunteer Coordinator

### Our Board:

**Frances P. Chickering**

President

**Marian Tripplett**

Vice President

**Audrey Salesberry**

Treasurer

**Afiya Latham**

Secretary

**Betty Taylor**

Member

**Jeralee Kunkee**

Member

This year was a year like no other. Our children in foster care struggled to address their trauma in world that has closed its doors and opened its laptops. Children who struggle in the best of times, are suffering. We are there.

CASA of Southwest Michigan has continued to grow to serve their needs and best interests. Our St. Joseph County (MI) office opened in March 2020. We served 81 children in care with 45 dedicated CASA Volunteers. During the pandemic we trained 24 new CASA Volunteers.

This year was successful because of you! We are grateful for the support of our dedicated funders and our community partners that financially support our work. Thank you to our "Friends of CASA" volunteer group who spend countless hours helping to raise funds and increase volunteer recruitment. We could not do this work without the leadership of our dedicated Board of Directors and expert staff. Most of all our program and our community is grateful for our dedicated, incredible CASA Volunteers who have used their time and talents serving the best interests of our most vulnerable local foster childrens' best interests are served and they grow up and create a life of promise, possibilities, and permanency.

We know we can do more. And we will.



# OUR CHILDREN

CHILDREN SERVED: 81 (fiscal 2020)

## AGE

0-5	27
6-12	36
13-17	17
18+	1

## ETHNICITY

Hispanic	3
Caucasian	50
African American	19
Biracial/Multi-racial	8
Other/not specified	4

## GENDER

Identifies Male	47
Identifies Female	34
Identifies non-binary	0

## CHILD OUTCOMES (23 closed cases)

Reunification with parent	5 children
Adoption	15 children
Guardianship	2 children
Placement with relative	1 child

## TOTAL TIME IN FOSTER CARE (closed cases)

6-11 months	9 children
12-17 months	1 child
18-24 months	1 child
over 24 months	1 child

Average number of children assigned to a CASA Volunteer	1.9
Average number of cases assigned to a CASA Volunteer	0.9
Number of children served by CASA whose cases reopened after two years	0
Average number of times CASA Volunteer meets with their CASA Child monthly	3
Average length of time a CASA Volunteer is assigned to a child	23.5





## OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are the lifeblood of our work. Each volunteer is thoroughly vetted, trained for over 30 hours and agrees to advocate for a child, meeting weekly in most cases, until that child is in a safe, permanent and loving home or reunified with their parent. Other volunteers assist with data entry, help with outreach, fundraising, and serve on our board.

- CASA Volunteers trained: **24**
- CASA Volunteers serving children: **45**
- Other volunteers: **15**
- Hours contributed by volunteers advocating for children: **2436** (value to community based on IRS rate of \$50/hour: \$121,000)
- Miles driven by CASA Volunteers: **16,047** (value to community: \$9,388.00)
- Child visits by CASA Volunteers: **608**
- Percent of Court Hearings Attended by CASA: **100%**
- Average length of time volunteers remain with the program: **26.5 months**

Why I volunteer.....

"Children have a special place in my heart. Children who have been abused are victims of terrible choices made by adults, they deserve better! As a CASA Volunteer, I'm able to spend time with a child, learn their needs and help change their story." I feel privileged to become a trusted friend and support that can go through this chaotic journey with them and advocate for their needs in the courtroom and community."

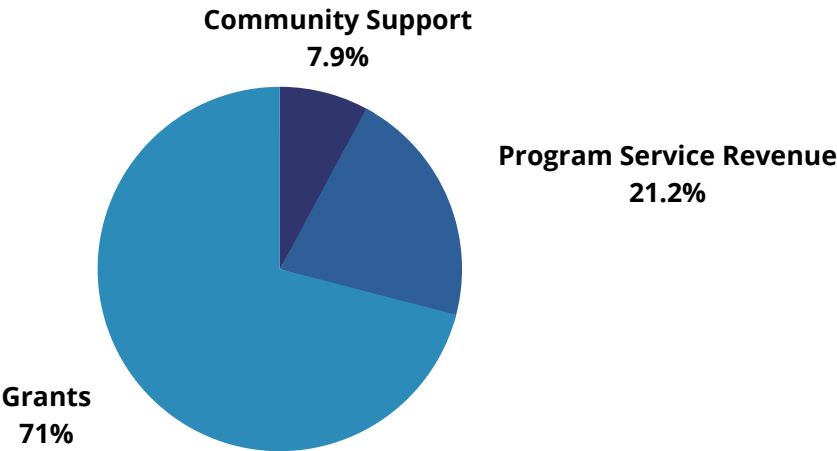




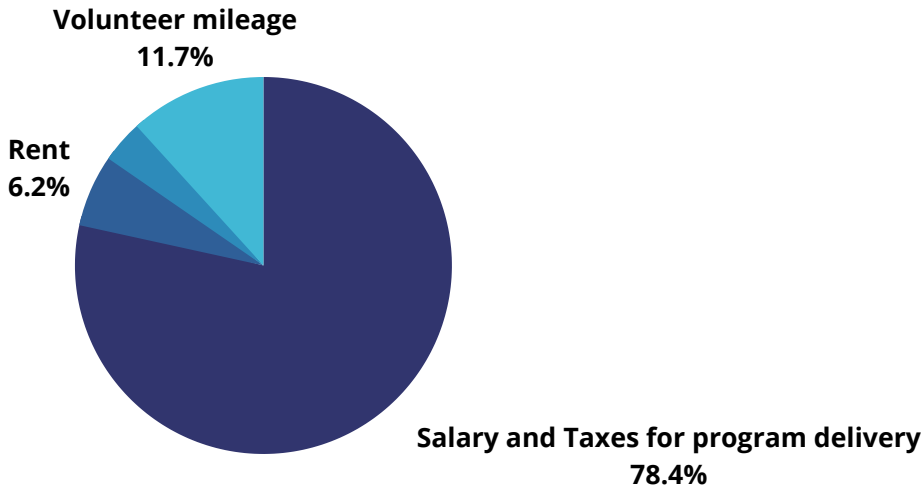


# REVENUE AND EXPENSES

REVENUE =  
\$153,439



EXPENSES =  
\$109,650







# Make a difference in a child's life.

CHANGE A  
CHILD'S STORY.™



## CONTACT. SUPPORT. VOLUNTEER.

### **CASA of Southwest Michigan, Inc.**

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St. Joseph County Office: 57 Main Street, Three Rivers, MI 49093

Mailing: P.O. Box 1146, Benton Harbor, MI 49023

269.932.3557

Website: [www.CASAswmi.org](http://www.CASAswmi.org)

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Trish Conroy, Berrien County Volunteer Coordinator

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