



# Annual Report

## Fiscal Year 2021-22

### Our Mission

**CASA for Lancaster County provides a voice for abused and neglected children in the court system so they can thrive in safe, permanent homes.**

## 2021-22 Fiscal Year Statistics

Number of Children receiving advocacy services - 291

Number of New Children Served - 110

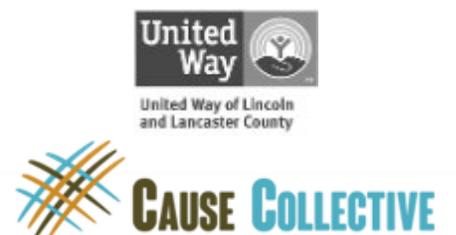
Number of Children Reaching Permanency (Case Closure) - 86

Number of New Volunteers Trained - 42

Average Length of Time Volunteers Remain in Program - 31 months

Number of Volunteers Assigned to a Case During Year - 122

Number of Family Groups Served - 153



CASA for Lancaster County was the recipient of Moran's Liquor Works Rare Whiskey Raffle - October 2021



January-February 2022 Training Class Swearing –In. New CASA Volunteers with Judge Ryder.

**Dear CASA Supporter,**

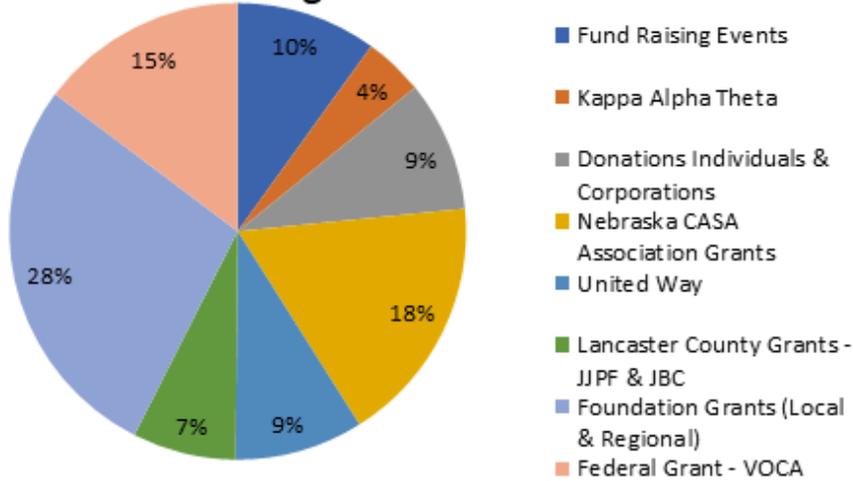
We continued to see more children entering the child welfare system in the 2021-22 fiscal year. CASA has been there to provide continuity for abused, neglected, truant and ungovernable children when placements change, new case workers are assigned or visits were curtailed or parental rights were terminated. Your continuing support enabled us to advocate on behalf of 291 children during the 2021-22 fiscal year—a 4% increase over the previous fiscal year. On behalf of our staff, board of directors, volunteers and the children we serve—thank you for supporting CASA! Currently, we are serving approximately 50 - 52% of the children in the system—which means there are more children we could serve if we have the volunteers and resources to support them.

Volunteer advocates are critical to our program’s future. We had 122 volunteers assigned to a case (child or sibling group) during the fiscal year. CASA volunteers ensured that a child’s voice was heard in court and prodded the system to work as it should—in the child’s best interest. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our CASA volunteers. You are special people who continue to amaze us with your determination, dedication and caring. I also want to thank our excellent board of directors who work to make sure our organization is properly funded and meets all National CASA standards. We couldn’t do the work we do without our many community partners or without the support of the judges and staff of the Lancaster County Separate Juvenile Court. Many of the changes we made at the beginning of the pandemic such as offering training virtually and meeting with volunteers via Zoom, continued throughout this fiscal year. We were able to train 42 new volunteers and offer a wide variety of continuing education trainings for our volunteers. Thank you all so much for persevering through these changing times.

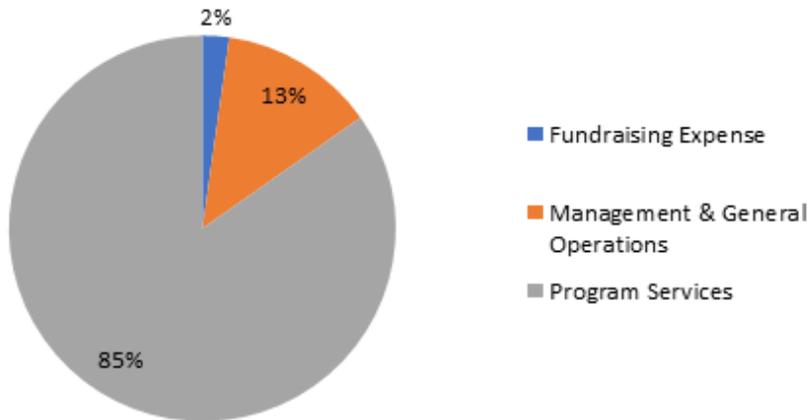
Finally, we are especially grateful to all of our donors—individuals, businesses, and foundations—you make our work possible. We deeply appreciate the on-going support we receive from Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority at UNL—we are glad to have them on the CASA team! With all of us working together, we can make sure abused, neglected, truant and ungovernable children have a voice in court and that their best interests are front and center! We are poised to continue to grow our program and we can’t do it without all of you. So we are asking for your continued support. Working together we can help to “Change a Child’s Story™”.

Executive Director, CASA for Lancaster County

## Funding Sources 2021-22



## Functional Expenses 2021-22



### Additional Statistics Fiscal Year 2021-22—Children:

Children Served: 291

Female: 142

Male: 149

Race/Ethnicity:

African American—15%

Asian American—0.3%

Caucasian—46%

Multi-racial—8%

Native American—8%

Hispanic/Latino—23%

### Volunteer Advocates:

Assigned to children - 122

Male—13

Female—108

Ages 21—29: 48

30—39: 12

40—49: 13

50—59: 17

60+: 32

Race/Ethnicity:

African American— 2%

Caucasian— 93%

Multi-racial—1%

Hispanic/Latino—1%

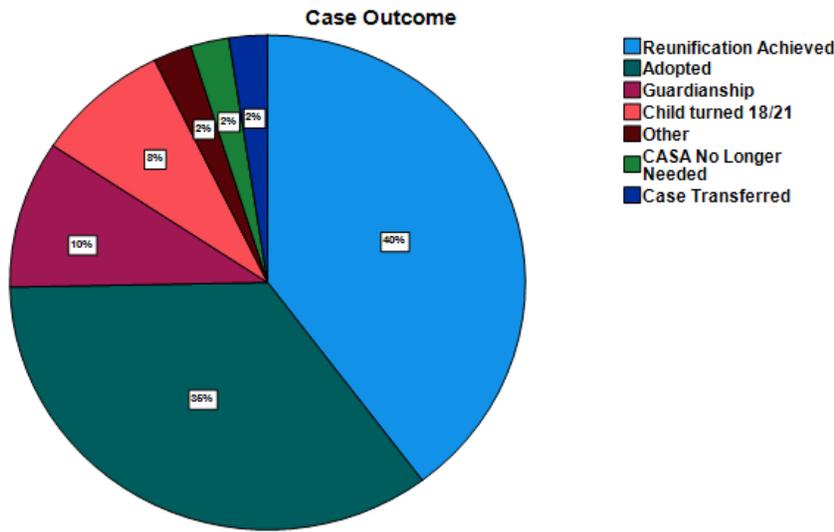
Asian—3%



CASA Staff—Dawn, Kristi, Amanda and Hannah with Christmas gifts donated by the staff and clients of Nebraska Bank of Commerce and by Clark & Enersen Architects for CASA kids.

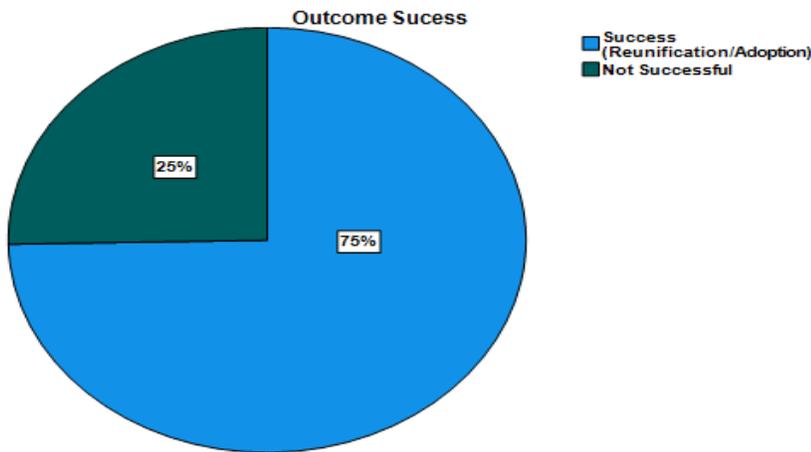
We value this partnership and know that Nebraska Bank of Commerce’s “Giving Trees” and other donors such as Clark & Enersen staff make Christmas brighter for our CASA kids!

CASA for Lancaster County has been working with UNL through our Lancaster County Joint Budget Committee (JBC) grant to analyze our data. Below are charts showing **Case Outcomes, Case Success and Race/Ethnicity of the children we served during the 2021-22 fiscal year whose case closed.**

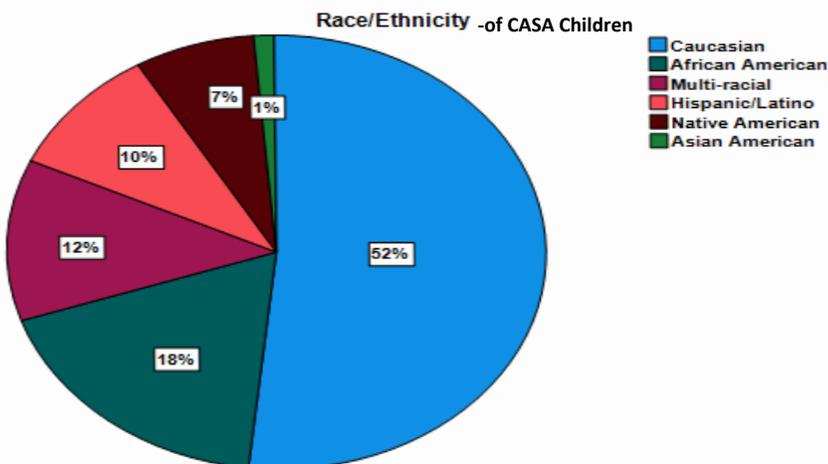


76% of the cases that closed during the fiscal year were either adoption or reunification.

In analyzing our data—the fewer placements a child has, the more likely they are to have a successful outcome (adoption or reunification). Also, the younger a child is, the more likely they are to have a successful outcome.



Successful cases were those that closed with Reunification or Adoption. All other types of case closure (Guardianship, Aging-Out, Case Transferred to another court) were termed Unsuccessful.



Special thanks to Dr. Richard Wiener at UNL and his students for analyzing our data and their assistance in explaining our outcomes.

The 2021-22 fiscal year was another year of adaptability and resilience. With the help of our donors, we had a great Give to Lincoln Day as well as tremendous support from local and regional foundations. The funding ensured that we were able to continue recruiting and training new volunteers, supporting and retaining our assigned volunteers and thereby helping to keep over 290 at-risk children safe from further harm. This takes a team and we are thankful for our volunteers, donors, board members and staff. As a team, we are all com-mitted to continuing to work to “Change a Child’s Story™” every day.

**CASA Board of Directors:**

Dr. Elizabeth Tonniges, Board President  
Colten Zamrzla, Board Vice President  
Bryce Morgan, Board Treasurer  
Audrey Mines, Board Secretary  
Sheila Bentzen  
Tyler Loos  
Dustin Romshek  
Maggie Wieting  
Dr. Emily Willett  
Andrew Wilson  
Kelly Winnek

**CASA for Lancaster County Staff:**

Amanda Conradt, Volunteer Coordinator  
Hannah Lindblad, Volunteer Coordinator  
Kristi Morrow, Program Coordinator  
Dawn Rockey, Executive Director

**To all of our donors— we are grateful. Without your continued financial support, we would not be able to advocate for more abused, neglected, truant and ungovernable children each year. You make our work possible. Thank you.**

**CHANGE A  
CHILD’S STORY.™**



Scenes from 2021-22

In-Service Training July 2021

Swearing-In New Volunteers during the fiscal year. Thank you to all of the Juvenile Court Judges for their support. Board President Betsy Tonniges with her Inspire Award. Volunteer Coordinator Hannah Lindblad running in the Boston Marathon. CASA Staff at Give to Lincoln Day Tower Square Event.

