

**CHANGE A  
CHILD'S STORY.™**



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

**CASA FOR LANCASTER COUNTY**

## **Annual Report**

**Fiscal Year 2024-25**

**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.**

### **2024-25 Fiscal Year Statistics**

Number of Children Receiving Advocacy Services	314
Number of New Children Served	133
Number of Children Reaching Permanency (Case Closure)	97
Number of New Volunteers Trained	38
Number of Volunteers Assigned to a Case During the Year	113
Number of Family Groups Served	169
Average Length of Time Volunteers Remain in Program	42 Months



## From Our Executive Director -

The 2024-25 fiscal year saw an increase in children and youth entering the child welfare system than the previous year. CASA volunteer advocates and staff advocated for 5% more children this year than last. This includes a 58% increase in new children/cases opened. Your support of our mission, to provide a voice for abused and neglected children in the court system so they can thrive in safe, permanent homes, enables us to serve more children and train more volunteers.

Volunteer advocates are critical to serving more children. We had 113 volunteers assigned to a case (1 child or a sibling group) during the fiscal year. CASA volunteers gathered critical information about the child's well-being and ensured that a child's voice was heard in court. Our volunteers prodded the system to work as it should—in the child's best interest. Thank you to all of our wonderful CASA volunteers. They are compassionate people who continue to amaze us with their determination, dedication and caring. Recruiting new volunteers is always a priority. We recruited, trained and swore-in 38 new volunteers in 2024-25 (a 40% increase over 2023-24). We are grateful for our board of directors who work to make sure our organization is properly funded and meets all National CASA standards and requirements. We are very thankful to our many community partners and our four Juvenile Court Judges and their staff. We couldn't do the work we do without their support and cooperation.

In closing, we are especially grateful to all of our donors—individuals, businesses, foundations, local and state government. You make our work possible. We greatly appreciate the on-going support we receive from Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority at UNL. Their efforts on our behalf truly makes a difference in children's lives. With all of us working together, we can ensure that abused, neglected, truant and ungovernable children have a voice in court and that their best interests are front and center! We are committed to continuing to grow our program and provide quality advocacy services to more children in the system and we couldn't do it without all of you. We ask for your continued support. Working together we can help "Change a Child's Story™" everyday.

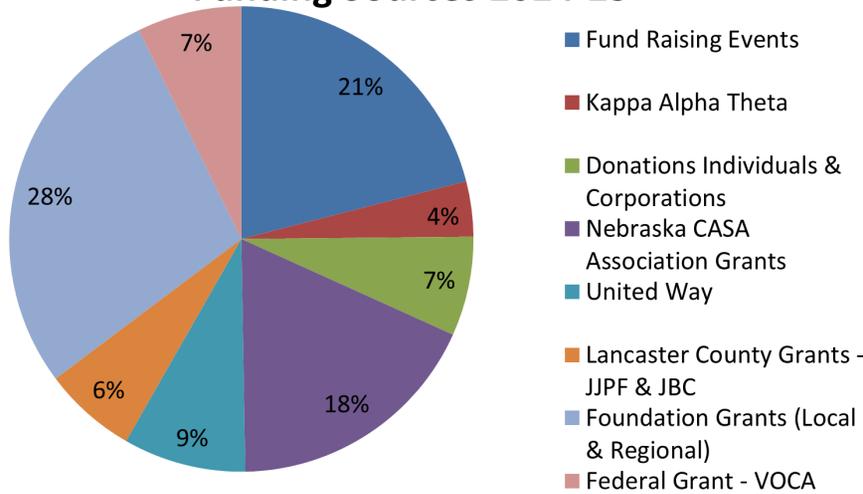
Thank you,



Executive Director, CASA for Lancaster County



### Funding Sources 2024-25



### Fiscal Year 2024-25 Statistics

**Children:**

Children Served: 314

Female: 156

Male: 158

**Race/Ethnicity:**

Black/African American: 23%

Caucasian: 40%

Multi-racial: 10%

Native American: 10%

Hispanic/Latino: 15%

Declined to Provide/Unknown: 2%

**Ages:**

Under 5: 29%

5 to 12 Years: 41%

13 to 17 Years: 21%

18 to 21 Years: 9%

**Volunteer Advocates:**

Assigned to Children: 113

Male Advocates: 14

Female Advocates: 99

**Ages:**

21 to 29: 35

30 to 39: 15

40 to 49: 14

50 to 59: 13

60+: 36

**Race/Ethnicity:**

Black/African American: 2.5%

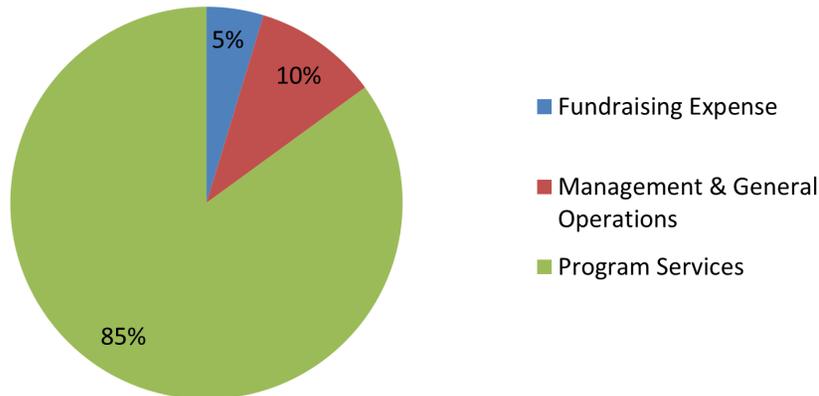
Asian American: 2.5%

Caucasian: 90%

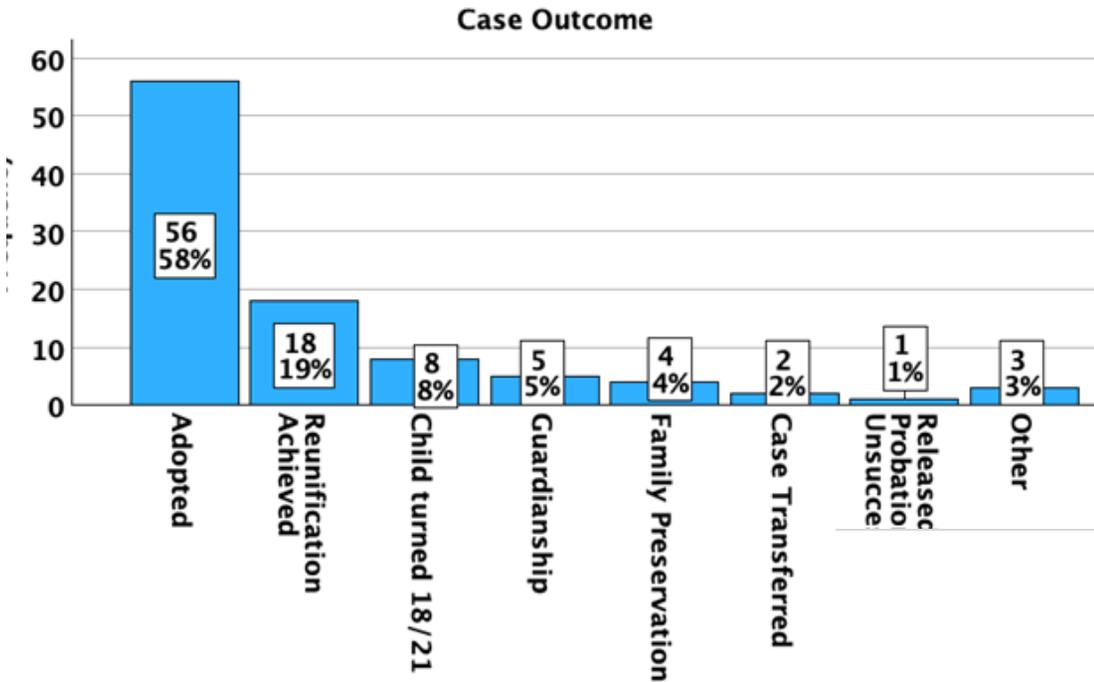
Multi-racial: 1.5%

Hispanic/Latino: 3.5%

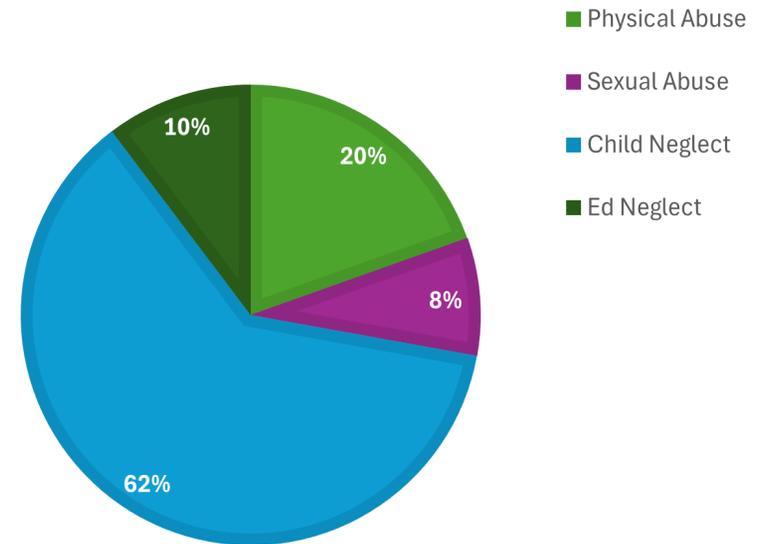
### Functional Expenses 2024-25



CASA for Lancaster County continues to work with UNL through our Lancaster County Joint Budget Committee (JBC) Grant to analyze our data. Below are charts for 2024-25 showing Case Outcomes and Case Type for the children we served during the fiscal year whose case closed. The charts show a majority of our case closures from Adoptions. This has been consistent the past two fiscal years. We also see Physical Abuse cases (20%) continuing to increase as well as Educational Neglect.



Type of Case FY 2024-25



We are grateful for the assistance of Dr. Richard Wiener at UNL and his graduate students for analyzing our data.

2024-25 Highlights—25th Anniversary, New Volunteers & Events



Retired Judge Linda Porter— CASA Champion Award Recipient

PROGRAM STATISTICS  
PERMANENCY



<p><b>2000-2010:</b> Number of Children Reaching Permanency: 459; 27% were Adopted</p>	<p><b>2011-2020:</b> Number of Children Reaching Permanency: 782; 35% were Adopted; 36% were Reunified; 8% Aged-out</p>
<p><b>2021-2024 to-date:</b> Number of Children Reaching Permanency: 401; 38% were Adopted; 38% Reunification; 8% Aged-Out</p>	



Be the Voice Lincoln 2025—Contestants & Judges



January—February 2025 New Volunteer Class with Judge White

## CASA for Lancaster County

### Board of Directors: 2024-25

Kelly Winnik, Board President  
Maggie Wieting, Board Vice President  
Bryce Morgan, Board Treasurer  
Audrey Mines, Board Secretary  
Sheila Bentzen  
Amber Bogle  
Laura Maddox  
Elizabeth Tonniges  
Dr. Emily Willett  
Andrew Wilson  
Colten Zamrzla

### CASA for Lancaster County Staff

Amanda Conratt, Senior Volunteer Coordinator  
Clair Jantz, Volunteer Coordinator  
Hannah Lindblad, Training & Recruitment Specialist  
Kristi Morrow, Associate Director  
Dawn Rockey, Executive Director

The 2024-25 fiscal year presented funding challenges due to upheaval with federal funding. With the help of our donors, we had a successful Give to Lincoln Day, Be the Voice Lincoln, and 25th Anniversary Event. We are also very grateful for the tremendous support we received from local and regional foundations. The funding ensured that we were able to continue recruiting and training new volunteers and supporting and retaining our assigned, experienced volunteers. Through hard work and financial support, we assisted 314 at-risk children by advocating for their best interests and needed services. To do this work, it takes a team and we are very thankful for our volunteers, donors, board members and staff.

As a team, we are all committed to continuing to work to **“Change a Child’s Story™”**.

**Thank you to all of our donors. Your donations enable us to advocate for more abused, neglected, truant and ungovernable children each year. You make our work possible.**

# CHANGE A CHILD’S STORY.™



CASA FOR LANCASTER COUNTY

