

CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY.™



CASA FOR LANCASTER COUNTY

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023-24

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.

2023-24 Fiscal Year Statistics

Number of Children Receiving Advocacy Services	299
Number of New Children Served	84
Number of Children Reaching Permanency (Case Closure)	118
Number of New Volunteers Trained	27
Number of Volunteers Assigned to a Case During the Year	115
Number of Family Groups Served	154
Average Length of Time Volunteers Remain in Program	38.5 Months

From Our Executive Director -

The 2023-24 fiscal year saw a small decrease in children and youth entering the child welfare system than the previous year. CASA volunteer advocates and staff advocated for 6% fewer children this year than last. Although our numbers were down slightly, 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, has enabled us to continue our quest to serve more children by recruiting and training more volunteers.

Volunteer advocates are critical to serving more children. We had 115 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 27 new volunteers in 2023-24. We also have a dedicated board of directors who work to make sure our organization is properly funded and meets all National CASA standards and requirements. We also are 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,

Dawn Rokey

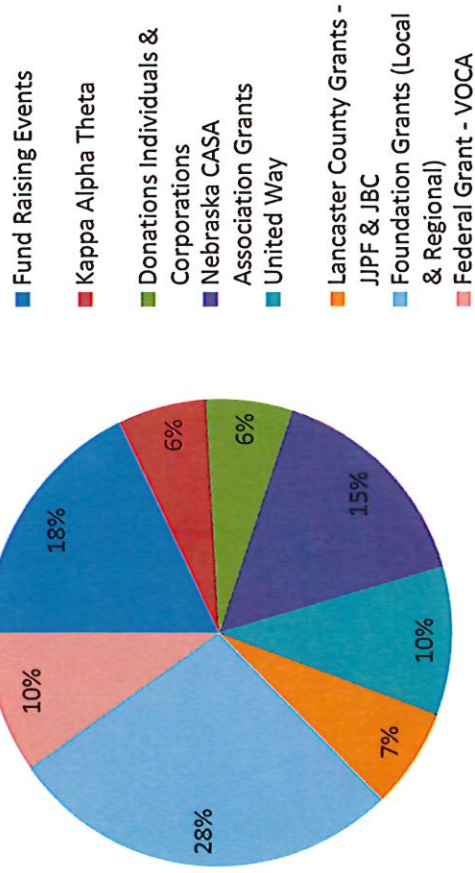
Executive Director, CASA for Lancaster County



NEBRASKA CASA ASSOCIATION



Funding Sources 2023-24



Fiscal Year 2022-23 Statistics

Children:

Children Served: 299

Female: 143

Male: 156

Race/Ethnicity:

Black/African American: 25%

Caucasian: 53%

Multi-racial: 12%

Native American: 9%

Not Hispanic or Latino: 78%

Hispanic/Latino: 22%

Ages:

Under 5: 28%

5 to 12 Years: 40%

13 to 17 Years: 22%

18 to 21 Years: 10%

Volunteer Advocates:

Assigned to Children: 115

Male Advocates: 14

Female Advocates: 101

Ages:

21 to 29: 38

30 to 39: 14

40 to 49: 13

50 to 59: 13

60+: 38

Race/Ethnicity:

Black/African American: 3.5%

Asian American: 2%

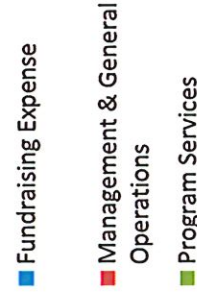
Caucasian: 92.5%

Multi-racial: 2%

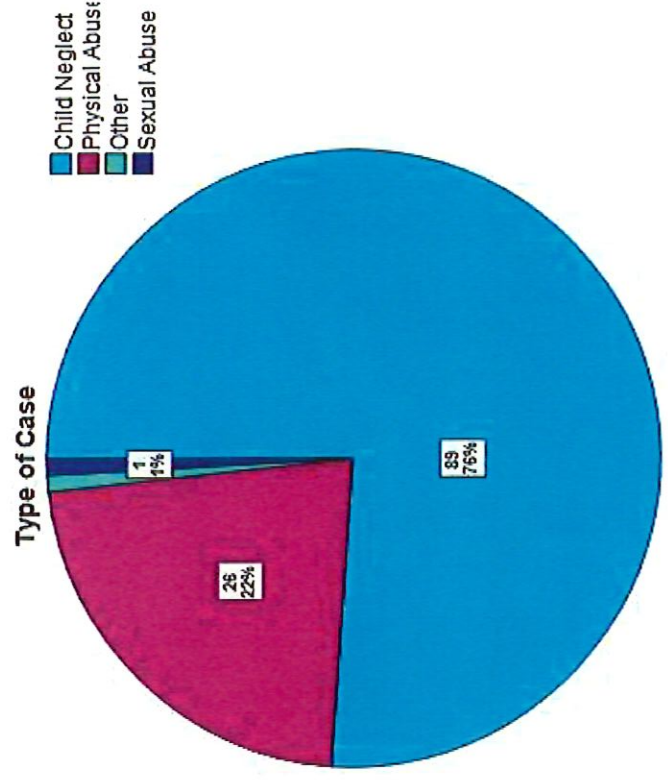
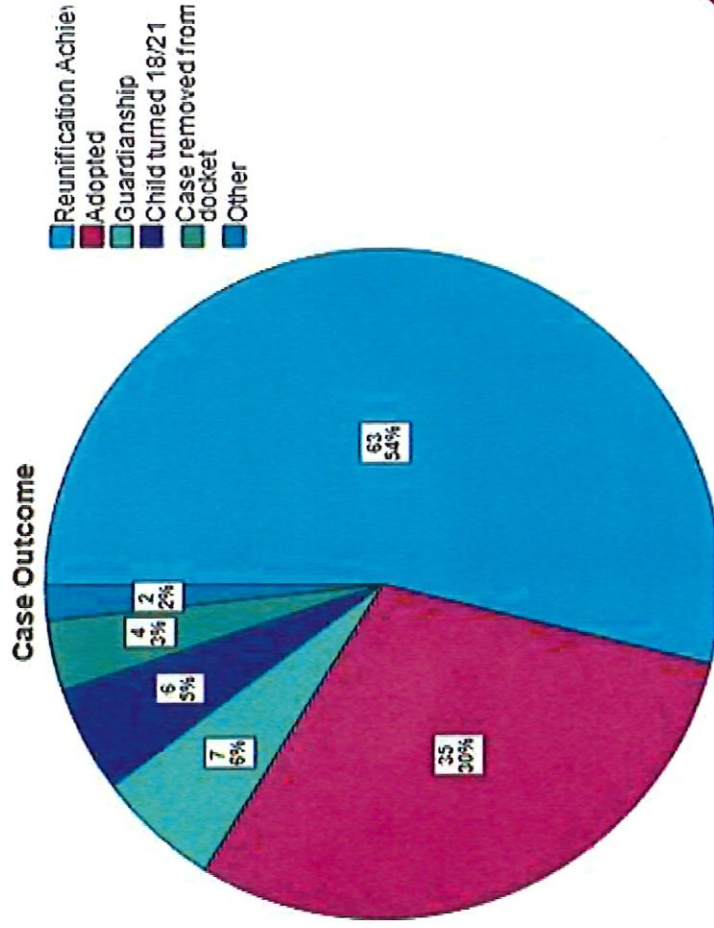
Not Hispanic or Latino: 99%

Hispanic/Latino: 1%

Functional Expenses 2023-24



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 2023-24 showing Case Outcomes and Case Type for the children we served during the fiscal year whose case closed. The charts show an increase in Adoptions (54%) over last year (49%) as well as a continued increase in Physical Abuse cases (22%) over the 2022-23 fiscal year (18%).



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

2023-24 Highlights—Events, New Volunteers and Volunteer Recognition

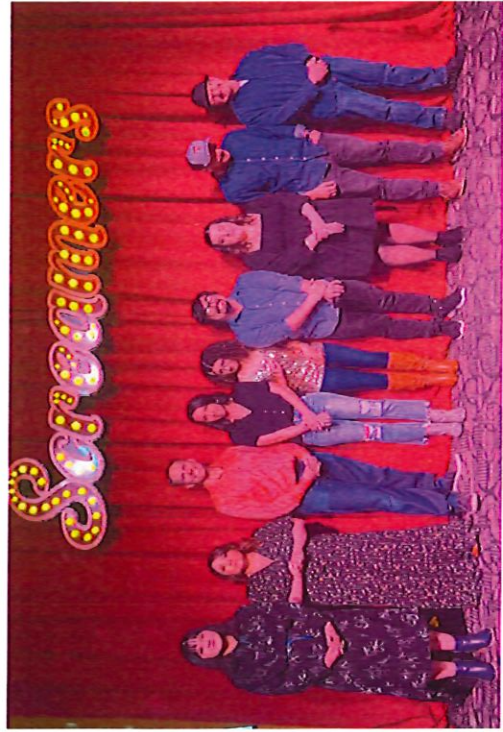
Postcard Graphic for 2024 Give to Lincoln Day

GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY MAY 30

Your financial support improves the outcomes for abused and neglected children in our community



Kristi presenting Jim Rea with a Peer Coordinator Recognition. Heroes Breakfast



Be the Voice Lincoln 2024—Singers!



January—February 2024 New Volunteer Class: Heather, Jack, Ryane, Judge Ryder, Allison, Shannon, Mary, Delaney and Kylee

CASA for Lancaster County
Board of Directors: 2023-24
 ColtenZamrzla, Board President
 Kelly Winnik, Board Vice President
 Bryce Morgan, Board Treasurer
 Audrey Mines, Board Secretary
 Sheila Bentzen
 Amber Bogle
 Tyler Loos
 Elizabeth Tonniges
 Maggie Wieting
 Dr. Emily Willett
 Andrew Wilson

CASA for Lancaster County Staff
 Amanda Conradt, Senior Volunteer Coordinator
 Hannah Lindblad, Volunteer Coordinator
 Kristi Morrow, Associate Director
 Dawn Rockey, Executive Director

The 2023-24 fiscal year was full of challenges. With the help of our donors, we had a successful Give to Lincoln Day, Be the Voice Lincoln, and Heroes for Children Breakfast. 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 299 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™” every day.

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

Thank You.

CHANGE A CHILD’S STORY.™



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA FOR LANCASTER COUNTY



Thank
YOU.

CHANGE A
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