



# CASA MATTERS

*As the Executive Director of CASA of the Tennessee Heartland, I am proud to serve an organization that steps in when a child's world has fallen apart...*

The cases of child abuse and neglect we see are tragic, and the children we serve have experienced trauma that will affect them for life. Our staff and volunteers currently serve almost 40% of the children under the protection of Anderson, Blount and Scott Counties Juvenile Court. We take on the challenging cases, the cases of severe trauma and with multiple siblings, cases whose children need the extra support and advocacy that CASA provides. There are no easy cases.

Once they are assigned to CASA, each child receives a two-person team comprised of a highly trained CASA Volunteer and experienced Case Supervisor to ensure that child's best interests are well represented in court. The team works diligently to make sure each of these children receives the educational, medical, and therapeutic support they need to heal and have hope for a better future. We work toward the goal of a safe, permanent home, for each child, either with a biological parent or relative, or with a new adoptive family.

And for teens that are unlikely to be adopted, we work to help them create a better ending to their story. When a youth has no appropriate relatives or adoptive resources, they receive support from their Fostering Futures Volunteer, who can help them secure housing, get health insurance, find transportation, continue their education, and get a job. With CASA, even after they "age out" of the system, they have someone to call, someone who cares.

As the number of cases we handle rises, CASA will continue to advocate for the best interests of all the children we serve. Your commitment to CASA enables us to write a hopeful ending for children whose life story has taken a dark turn. Thank you for your friendship and support.

Kesha Waters  
Executive Director,  
CASA of the Tennessee Heartland



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2017-2018

Our 15th Annual Barbecue and Bluegrass Bash was held on May 24, 2018 at the Museum of Appalachia!



Another successful CASAblanca Gala at Second Harvest is in the books! This is the 3rd year for this fun event!



We hosted the 1st ever Summer in the Vineyard dinner at Highland Manor Winery.



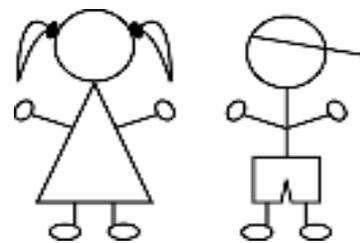
Daddy/Daughter Prom was the cutest event ever!



## A few program highlights...



Our advocates make an enormous difference in the court room. Their recommendations have been accepted by the Juvenile Courts in our service counties more than 95% of the time.



We trained 11 new volunteers that advocated for 54 additional children.

CASA of the Tennessee Heartland volunteers have driven over 20K miles and spent almost as many hours working on their cases!



**BECOME a VOLUNTEER**  
**WE WANT YOU!**

## Volunteer Spotlight

Meet one of our Anderson County CASA "Rockstars"

David Brown

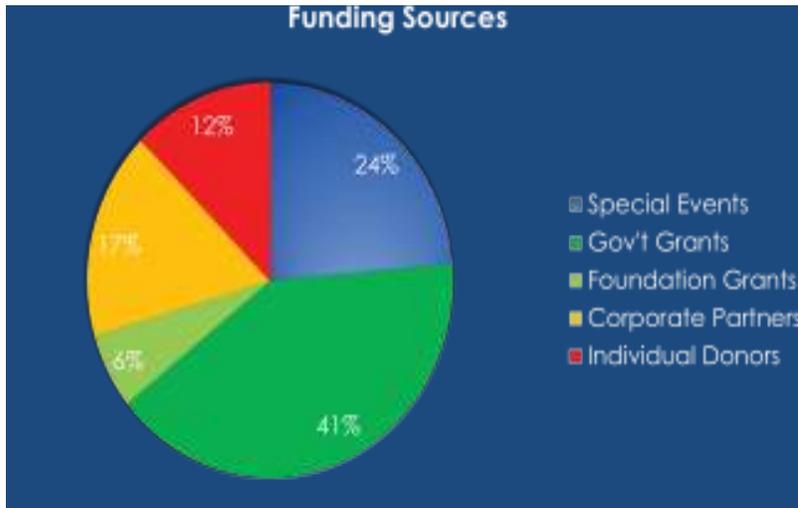


Looking back on my first year of being a CASA volunteer, I can honestly say I have made a difference in the lives of dependent and neglected children in Anderson County. Just having an extra pair of eyes on these situations has been greatly appreciated by the court. CASA reports provide factual information to the court that helps the judge make informed decisions and helps everyone develop workable solutions for the children and their families. CASAs also provide encouragement to parents struggling to complete court-ordered tasks or provide needed services to their children. CASAs develop a trusting relationship with the children so they feel safe expressing their concerns and asking questions. I have seen and been encouraged by incredibly dedicated teachers, counselors, and service providers who really make this transformation possible. I have seen the most hopeless-looking situations turn around; I feel truly blessed to have witnessed (and perhaps be part of) these little miracles.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP CASA

- If you know someone who would be a good volunteer, send us their information!
- Invite us to come and speak at your church or civic group.
- Consider making a donation in honor of a friend or family member in lieu of a holiday gift.
- Attend or volunteer to help us with an upcoming event.
- Engage your business with volunteer recruitment for CASA.
- Host a "give back" night for CASA– contact us for more information!

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Thanks to continuous financial support from donors, corporations, community giveback programs, and grants, CASA of the Tennessee Heartland is making huge progress towards serving every child who needs a CASA. Notable areas of funding include our **Corporate Partners, Government Grants and Special Events**. When combined, these three categories create over 80% of our annual budget. This shows that the communities in our three counties of service - Anderson, Scott, and Blount - understand the importance of our mission.

CASA is able to devote 79% of income received to direct program support, which includes recruiting, training and supporting volunteer advocates. In order to increase the program to eradicate the waiting list of 300+ children, CASA of the Tennessee Heartland will need to increase operations by just over \$100,000.

CASA, and more importantly, the children, are most grateful for your continued support in ensuring that every child has a voice.

*Kent Strunk*

*Treasurer-CASA TNH Board of Directors*

# STRATEGIC SUMMARY



## Message from our President:

CASA has made great strides this fiscal year, and is projected to go even further in 2018-2019. In 2016-2017, we served 285 children within Anderson, Blount, and Scott County. We were able to do so by having 10 new volunteers who were recruited by our outreach and fundraising events. The number of children served in 2017-2018 is 339, which is more than 50 children served than last year. Our growth is all thanks to our volunteers, who increased by 11 within 2018, our donors, and our sponsors.

Volunteers are not the only people who make a huge difference in the lives of these children. Our staff completes the puzzle with their dedication to recruiting and training new advocates. They are also constantly training and learning themselves. For example, all of the CASA of the Tennessee Heartland staff traveled to Boston to attend the National CASA Conference. There, they fellowshipped with and learned from a network of professional colleagues that also advocate for abused and neglected children.

Even though the numbers of children served are higher than ever, there are still at least the same number of children waiting to be served. The only way in which we can help them is by continuing to increase our outreach and fundraising goals, as well as increasing the training for our current volunteers and staff here at CASA of the Tennessee Heartland. We will not give up until we are able to serve every child who needs us.

*Jeremy Shipp*  
*President-CASA TNH Board of Directors*





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Clinton TN 37716

Scott County  
2845 Baker HWY  
Huntsville, TN 37756

Blount County  
391 Court St. Rm 212  
Maryville, TN 37801

## Upcoming Campaigns

**Giving Tuesday**

**CASAblanca  
Barbeque Bash**

**Make a Change**

**Child Abuse Prevention Month**

**Fajitas Not Flowers at El Rey**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2018-2019

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## STAFF

Kesha Shipe Waters, Executive Director  
Support Staff: Donika Lee, Kathryn Patton,  
Amanda Brackett, and Jackie Brown

