



# Voices of change



2018 Ohio CASA Annual Report



Dear Advocates,

CASA volunteers and staff used our strong voices to create change for children in 2018.

It was the year of more -- more volunteers than ever.  
More children served than ever. More active programs than ever.

Our ability to advocate for children who have been abused and neglected is a direct result of support from our networks. The Ohio Supreme Court, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Attorney General Mike DeWine, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, National CASA and countless donors allow us to use our reach to recruit more volunteers at a state-wide level, to visit local county programs and offer technical assistance and standards, and to begin new projects like youth and volunteer resource pages on our website.

We partnered in presenting a new conference for child welfare professionals, we recognized CASA volunteers at another annual CASA Day in Ohio celebration, and we made meaningful strides in improving the Celebrate Kids! Conference so our curriculum and training can be accessible to every volunteer, GAL, and court or county staff interested in attending.

Ohio CASA will continue our advocacy until every child in Ohio has a CASA volunteer, and until every child is in a safe, permanent, and loving home. Thank you for investing in our work so we can invest in the future of our communities.

With hope,

Douglas R. Stephens  
Executive Director  
Ohio CASA



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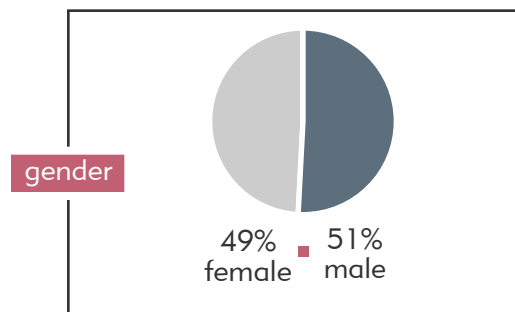
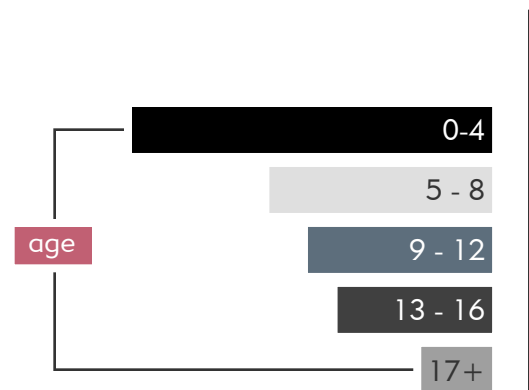
Rick Smith  
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Maureen Feeney Reese  
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Kim Vandervort  
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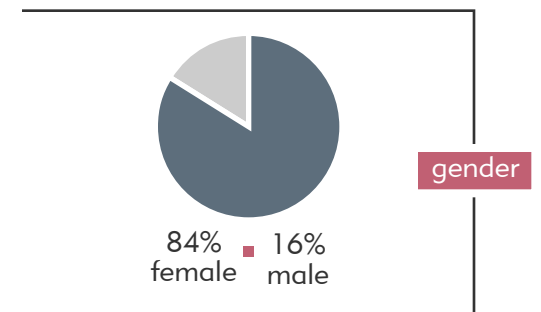
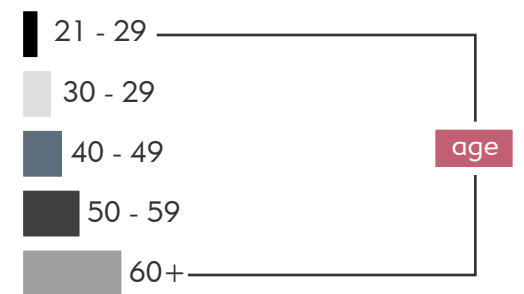
## CASA community impact in 2018

### children



9,521

### volunteers



2,424

## **Holding ourselves accountable: Responding to violence against Ohio's Children**

We believe in partnering with our community. In 2018, that meant investing in the Calling All Heroes Conference, a two-day event presented by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

Last March, our Executive Director Doug Stephens not only served as a breakout group facilitator, but also was part of the Summit Planning Committee, comprised of 14 additional child welfare and violence prevention professionals. Various breakout sessions addressed topics such as child sexual abuse and parental perpetrators, and welcomed presenters like CeCe Norwood, a past Ohio CASA Rising Star Award Winner.

These ongoing partnerships with more court and child welfare professionals allow our organization to not only raise awareness of our work, but to educate more people involved with youth on best practices and the difference that CASA volunteers are making across the state of Ohio.



## **CASA Day in Ohio**

On April 20, 2018, CASA volunteers, program staff, and supportive dignitaries from around the state gathered at the historical Old Courthouse in downtown Dayton to celebrate the 8th annual CASA Day in Ohio.

Hosted by the Montgomery County Juvenile Court CASA program, this was the first time the annual CDIO event took place outside of central Ohio and on a regional level. More than 100 attendees heard remarks from Judges Nick Kuntz and Anthony Capizzi, Representative Fred Strahorn, CASA Volunteer of the year award winner Doug Page from Miami County, Child Abuse Prevention Advocate Helen Thompson, and Montgomery County Commissioner Debbie Lieberman. The event was emceed by local media personality Faith Daniels.

Representative Strahorn presented a House Resolution acknowledging CASA Day in Ohio and Commissioner Lieberman presented a proclamation outlining how important CASA programs are to the community.

## **Annual Celebrate Kids! Conference**

In its 24th year, the annual Celebrate Kids! Ohio CASA state conference was filled to capacity with more than 400 CASA volunteers and staff from all around the state wanting to learn, network, and share ideas. This gathering was a chance for new and seasoned CASA volunteers and to learn from each other, as well as from the leading experts in child development and trauma informed care.

Bridget Mahoney, board chair of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network opened the three-day conference. Additionally, Dr. Jonathan Thackery, Chief Medical Community Health Officer of Dayton Children's Hospital shared with attendees how Ohio became the epicenter of the opioid epidemic and how we are all working to overcome its impact.

The conference closed with the annual recognition of those that served beyond expectations in 2018: Judith Layne, Cuyahoga County, Attorney Advocate of the Year; Christine Bisesi, Delaware County, Rising Star of the Year; Terri Carter, Montgomery County, Pro Star of the Year; and the staff of the Ohio Attorney General's Crime Victims Services Section, collectively as Child Advocate of the Year.





Thank you



## Individual donors

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James Armstrong  
The Dayton Foundation  
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Kevin O'Boyle  
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### Up to \$1,000

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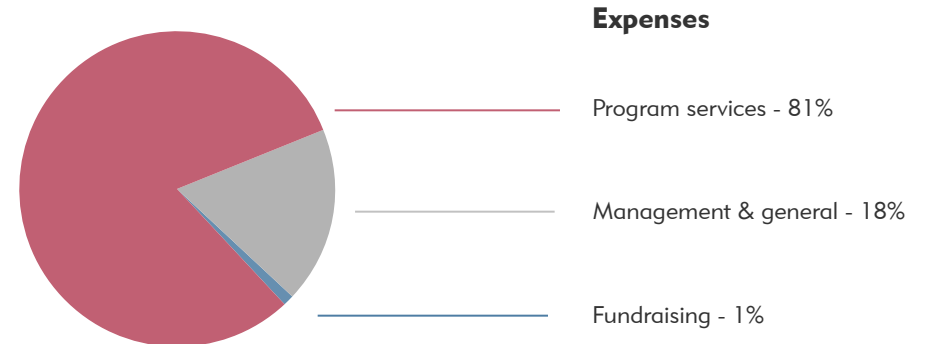
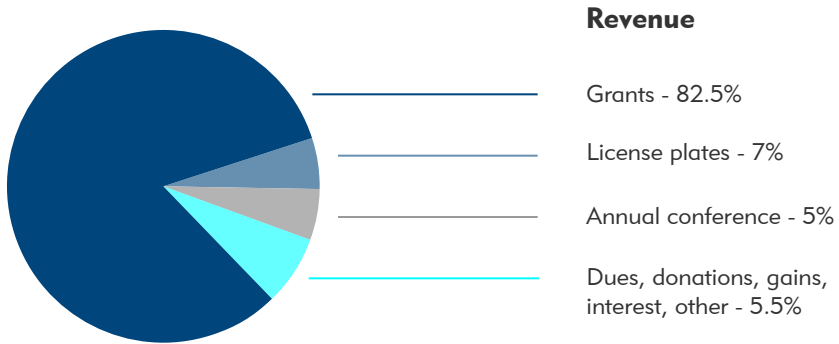


Department of  
Job and Family Services

THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

# Financial accountability

Data reflects 2018 Fiscal Year. Questions or corections can be sent to [ohiocasa@ohiocasa.org](mailto:ohiocasa@ohiocasa.org).



**Every child in Ohio deserves a safe,  
permanent, and loving home.**

Allen and Putnam Counties Ashland County Athens County Butler County Clark County Clermont County Clinton County  
Columbiana County Cuyahoga County Delaware and Union Counties Erie County Franklin County Geauga County Guernsey  
County Defiance and Williams Counties Jefferson County Lorain County Lucas County Mahoning County Meigs and Gallia  
Counties Miami County Montgomery County Noble county Ottawa County Preble County Ross County Seneca Sandusky  
Wyandot Counties Shelby County Stark and Carroll Counties Summit County Warren County Wood County

**43 programs • 52 counties**



150 E. Mound St., #210  
Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 224-2272

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