



CHAMPIONING
EVERY CHILD



CASA

CASA of Humboldt Impact Report | 2024/25



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS,

In our team, we talk a lot about “why” we do this work —what fuels us to show up every day? For me, there are so many reasons why and one of those is a central belief that no one should be defined by their worst day. A key part of moving through life’s challenges is having a safety net —the people who catch you when you’re falling and the relationships that make the hard times in your life easier.

Well, that’s what Court Appointed Special Advocates or CASAs do for kids who are in foster care —they are the safety nets. But what do kids say about us?

When a classmate asked one of our kids, “what’s a CASA?, She responded by saying, “it’s a best friend who is an adult.”

Our CASAs are the best friends who **show up for the big and even scary moments** like standing in a courtroom filled with strangers telling the judge really personal things about your life. CASAs stand by their side reminding youth that they have a say in deciding their future and giving them the support to make their voice heard.

Our CASAs are also the best friends who **show up for everyday moments** like blasting music and singing during a car ride, playing a video game, or grabbing an ice cream cone. The simplest things can be a reprieve for our kids during a storm of uncertainty---our **CASAs create opportunities for kids to be care-free.**

All these moments matter for kids---the moments that are big and small and the ones that are serious and silly. Our CASAs show up for every one of these moments with **the hope of having a positive impact on a child’s future or at the very least making “today” a little easier.**

We believe that every child in foster care in Humboldt County should have an advocate by their side. This year, we made significant progress on our goal of serving 50% of the children by 2027. Please enjoy reading about all that we’ve done over the last year.

With your support and partnership, our future is bright! As always, we welcome your thoughts, ideas, and participation!



With Gratitude,

Jeanne Gordon

Jeanne Gordon
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

CASA of Humboldt is dedicated to building healthy relationships and bridging community connections for vulnerable children and families in Humboldt County.

OUR VISION

CASA of Humboldt envisions a future of safety, resilience, and hope where every child and family feels supported to grow and thrive.



OUR VALUES

COLLABORATION

We partner with every person on a child's team —their parents, relatives, caregivers, social worker, teacher, and providers.

ADAPTABILITY

We tailor how we work with children and families to ensure that we are meeting their unique personal needs.

RESPECT

We listen openly to all points of view and perspectives and honor that children and families are the experts when it comes to knowing what will work best for their lives.

EQUITY

We strive to uplift the family's voice and preferences and advocate for resources and supports that they feel will be most helpful.





CASA OF HUMBOLDT

IMPACT

Since our inception in 1991, CASA of Humboldt has used Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to provide advocacy and mentorship to children involved with the Humboldt County dependency system (foster care).

CASAs are legally appointed and spend 8-10 hours per month working on behalf of their CASA child. They spend quality time doing fun activities with a child and they advocate for a child's best interests and needs.



208

Children in Foster Care in Humboldt County



107

Children Served in Humboldt County



1,299

Mentorship visits with children



340

Court hearings attended



5,318

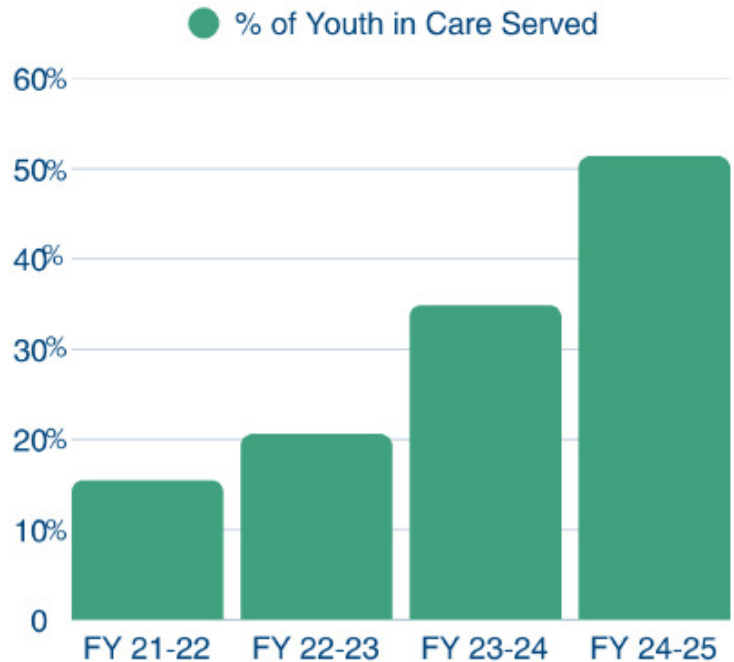
Total Hours of Advocacy Hours

PROGRESS OVER TIME

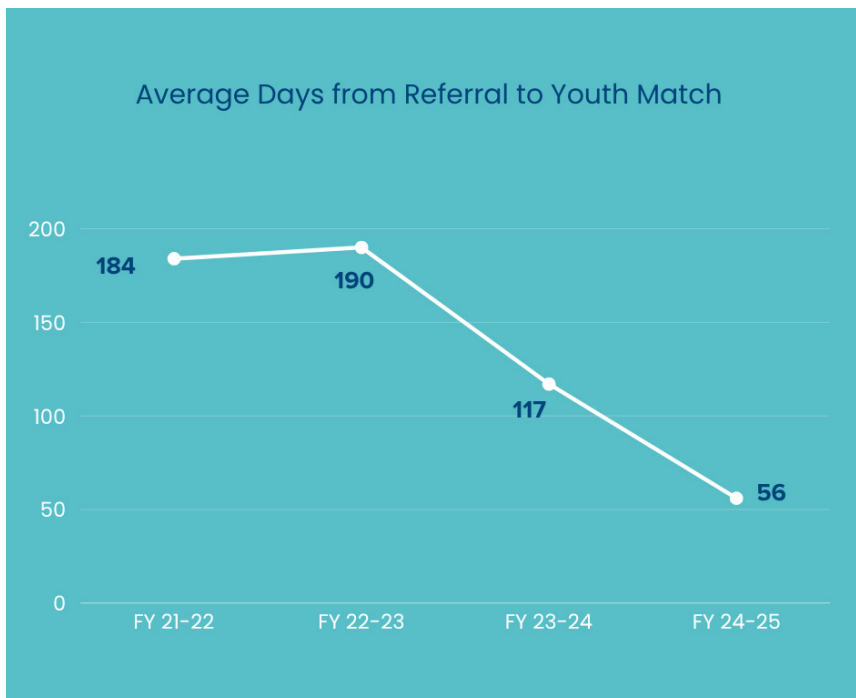
In February 2023, CASA of Humboldt’s Board of Directors endorsed an ambitious strategic plan to guide our work! Below are some highlights of what we accomplished!

50% BY 2027

Our goal has been to increase the percentage of children served to 50% of the children referred to our program by the end of 2027. We have made significant progress in achieving this goal!



LENGTH OF TIME TO SERVE YOUTH



When children enter foster care, the judge submits a referral to CASA of Humboldt. We strive to match youth as quickly as possible. We’ve changed our processes over the years and we’re seeing strong results!



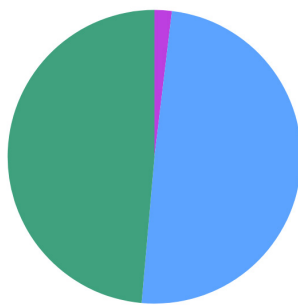
WHO WE

SERVE

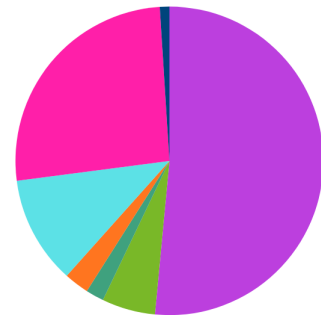
At CASA of Humboldt, we serve children, teens, and young adults of all identities and backgrounds. The Tribal affiliations for the youth we served this year included the following: Cherokee, Chippewa, Choctaw, Hoopa Valley, Hopi, Karuk, Round Valley, Tolowa Dee-ni', Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot, Yurok.



0-5 31.8%
 6-10 20.6%
 11-15 29.8%
 16+ 17.8%



Female 49.5%
 Male 48.6%
 Non-Binary
 Other 1.9%



White/Caucasian 51.4%
 Native American 26.2%
 Hispanic/ Latinx 5.6%
 Multiracial 11.2%
 Unknown 2.8%
 Asian 1.9%
 Pacific Islander .9%

LANI'S STORY



When “Lani” entered foster care as a teen, she was pregnant and had just been separated from her sister. She felt scared and alone.

“Sarah”, a CASA of Humboldt advocate, met Lani for the first time a few weeks before she gave birth to her baby. Sarah and Lani immediately bond over reading, crafting, and their shared determination. Sarah worked diligently to make sure Lani’s voice was heard and to offer Lani reassurance and encouragement. Lani was going through many changes, entering foster care and becoming a mother, at the same time. This left her feeling a combination of loss of control over life, while also needing to be a responsible parent.

Despite the support from Sarah, Lani felt judged by many people she encountered and missed having support of a family. After six months, Lani ran away. Still Sarah never gave up on her and would send books for Lani and her baby boy to a PO Box, and they would message each other through Facebook. When Lani found herself in a dangerous situation, she reached out to Sarah pleading for help to get back to Humboldt County. Sarah worked in partnership with Lani’s Social Worker to get Lani to a safe place until she could fly home the following day.

Once back in Humboldt County, Sarah worked in tandem with Lani’s Substitute Care Providers to help Lani get enrolled in school, obtain a drivers’ license, and develop habits around self-care and physical wellness.

Sarah has also supported Lani around re-establishing a safe and healthy relationship with her mother. By validating Lani’s ideas around boundaries and encouraging the routine of attending church together, which is important to both Lani and her mother, their relationship was able to deepen.

Lani recently entered extended foster care, and Sarah is guiding Lani with budgeting, securing a part-time job, and exploring career goals.

VOLUNTEERS

WHAT DOES A CASA DO?

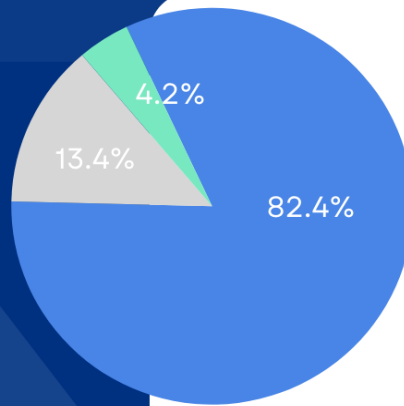
This year, we had 26 volunteers and 4 staff assigned by a judge to serve as court appointed special advocates (CASAs).

CASAs spend their time providing mentorship and advocacy to children living in foster care. They spend quality one-on-one time developing a relationship with their CASA child and doing fun activities in the community. This is important because when a child knows that someone cares, they feel supported and worthy of a bright future.

They also spend time talking to all the important adults in a child's life, like parents, caregivers, teachers, and providers, to learn about what a child and family might need during this vulnerable time in their lives and help connect them to resources and services.

CASAs submit reports to the court sharing what is going on in all the areas of the child's life and their wishes, hopes, and dreams for the future. These reports really help the judge learn about each unique child.

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES



- **82.4%** of their time was spent mentoring their CASA child.
- **13.4%** of their time was spent advocating with their child's care team.
- **4.2%** of their time was spent reporting to the court.

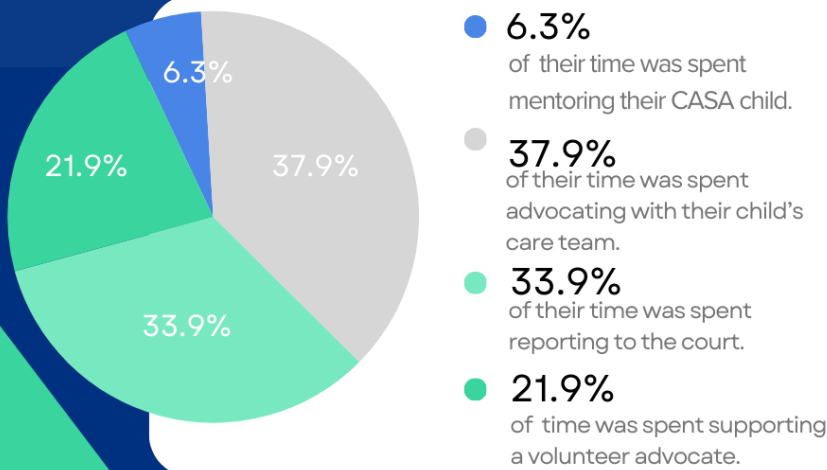
CASE SUPERVISORS

CASE SUPERVISORS SUPPORT OUR CASAS

Because no one can do this work alone, each volunteer advocate is paired with a Case Supervisor.

CASA of Humboldt's Case Supervisors have experience working with children and extensive training on the child welfare system. This allows them to provide important support to a child's case around writing court reports and collaborating with members of the child's care team.

If for some reason, a volunteer can't attend a meeting or hearing, then the Case Supervisor attends on their behalf. With this support, volunteer advocates know they are never alone on this journey.



- **6.3%** of their time was spent mentoring their CASA child.
- **37.9%** of their time was spent advocating with their child's care team.
- **33.9%** of their time was spent reporting to the court.
- **21.9%** of time was spent supporting a volunteer advocate.

VOLUNTEERS

BECOME A VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A VOLUNTEER?

You just need to be you—someone who is reliable and has life expertise to share with a child! We provide all the training that you'll need and match all CASAs with a Case Supervisor who guide them step by step!

You do not need to have any special qualifications to be a CASA. You do not need to have a job where you worked with children or background in the child welfare system or law.



MORE WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN AND YOUTH

MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

Your tax-deductible donation supports critical advocacy services for children and youth in foster care. Every dollar helps provide a child with a caring, consistent adult who will speak up for their needs in court and beyond.

ESTABLISH A MONTHLY DONATION

Your ongoing gift provides reliable, consistent support that allows us to plan ahead and ensure every child has a dedicated advocate.

JOIN THE LEGACY SOCIETY

Leave a legacy of hope and justice for generations to come. Legacy giving is a powerful way to align your values with your lasting impact.

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT CASA

Whether you share our mission on social media, host a small info session, or simply talk to friends and coworkers, you are helping others learn about CASA. Awareness leads to action.



THE POWER OF CHAMPIONING EVERY CHILD

BENEFITS FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

For a child navigating the foster care system, the role of one consistent, caring CASA volunteer is incredibly impactful. Extensive research shows foster youth paired with a CASA are far more likely to thrive in key areas than peers without an advocate.

With a CASA, children are more likely to be placed in a safe, permanent home, remain connected to loved ones, and receive vital services. CASAs help ensure youth stay on track educationally and graduate high school. Studies find foster youth with a CASA report greater hope and resilience. They are less likely to re-enter the child welfare system after achieving permanency.

In short, volunteer advocates lift up youth who may feel unseen and unheard. They champion children's needs in courtrooms, classrooms, and communities. CASAs empower youth to envision a brighter tomorrow and make their voices heard.

YOUTH WITH A CASA ARE MORE LIKELY TO:



Achieve a permanent home



Receive vital services in a timely manner



Be on track to graduate from high school



Do not re-enter the child welfare system



Report higher levels of hope



Have long-term connections to loved ones



WHY WE GIVE

There's a very heartfelt reason we chose CASA of Humboldt as our first local non-profit to give back to when starting our business. KIDS!! Many of you don't know for the first years of Jason's life he was in foster care. After 20 years, Jason was finally reunited with his foster parents, along with the Dad that stepped up and adopted him. There were tears shed, and years to catch up with but the love was never broken. Support our kids in whatever you can help with..Because you DO make a difference!!!

Holly Stary & Jason Dodge



“I needed someone to care about where I was and if I was OK. If we can help the next generation to get the support they need, we can change the world. In my experience, when hurt people grow up they either hurt more people or they are there for the ones they see themselves in.”

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	2024-2025	2023-2024
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	\$888,527	\$670,560
REVENUE		
Grants & Awards	\$212,357	\$196,959
Fundraising & Donations	\$222,997	\$242,138
Miscellaneous Income	\$44,179	\$5,000
Investment Income/ loss	\$110,794	\$119,069
Donated Goods	\$26,502	\$0
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$271,698	\$107,394
Total Revenue	\$888,527	\$670,560
EXPENSES		
Program services	\$390,258	\$326,555
Management & general	\$137,329	\$109,546
Fundraising	\$216,508	\$175,826
Total Expenses	\$744,095	\$611,927
Net Assets at the Beginning of Year	\$1,519,596	\$1,460,963
Net Assets at Year End	\$1,664,028	\$1,519,596
NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS		
Grant Awards	\$261,091	\$251,670
Net Assets Released	(\$271,698)	(\$107,394)
Net Assets at the Beginning of Year	\$182,154	\$37,878
Net Assets at Year End	\$171,547	\$182,154
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$1,881,380	\$1,744,961

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

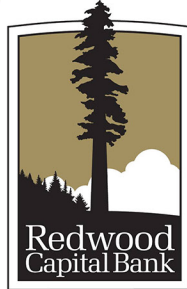
ASSETS		
	FY 2024-2025	FY 2023-2024
ASSETS		
Current assets	\$483,858	\$365,841
Property & equipment	\$381,546	\$396,693
Deposits	\$500	\$500
Investments & other	\$1,015,476	\$981,927
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,881,380	\$1,744,961

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Liabilities	\$45,805	\$43,211
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$45,805	\$43,211
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,664,028	\$1,519,596
With Donor Restrictions	\$171,547	\$182,154
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,881,380	\$1,744,961

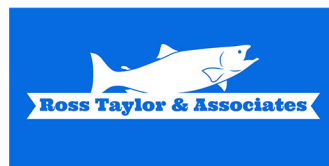
Shmidbauer Family Foundation



Coast Central Credit Union
Where YOU are central



BUSINESS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



North Coast Nurture Center

THANK YOU

To our donors, sponsors, local businesses, community partners and volunteers- thank you.

You showed up with generosity, compassion, and a shared belief that every child deserves safety, stability, and someone in their corner.

Your kindness strengthened families, uplifted futures, and helped ensure that no child walks their journey alone. Whether you gave time, resources, talent, or heart, you made a real and lasting difference.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and commitment. This impact belongs to all of us- and most of all, to the kids whose lives are brighter because you cared.

Thank you for being a part of this community of hope. Together, we are changing what's possible for our kids.



*2025 Hope Blooms Here Gala
Amber, Krista, Lora, Madison, Rachel, Bella, Jeanne (not pictured, Kate)*

STAFF

Jeanne Gordon, Executive Director
 Amber Madrone Anderson, Development Director
 Lora Bristow, Program Evaluation/ Data Associate
 Krista Mashburn, Case Supervisor
 Rachel Finkelstein, Case Supervisor
 Bella Garrett, Case Supervisor
 Madison Madrone, Case Supervisor
 Kate Frachon, Outreach Coordinator

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 Ashley Kane, Board Secretary
 Katelyn Cline, Board Treasurer
 Mary Bain, Board Member
 Robin Kissinger, Board Member
 Nanci Lien, Board Member
 Nancy Streufert, Board Member



“I would say that being a volunteer advocate has been one of the best decisions I have made. Not only do I get to build long lasting relationships with some really incredible young people, but I also get the privilege of watching them grow, supporting them when they stumble, and cheering loudly for all their accomplishments.” — Lorien, CASA volunteer

SOCIAL

 @HumboldtCASA

 @HumboldtCASA

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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

CASA of Humboldt is a member of the National CASA/GAL Association and the California CASA Association.

CASA of Humboldt is located on the traditional land of the Wiyot peoples who stewarded this land for many centuries. We acknowledge how tis history impacts who we are right now, and where we are right now.