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## **Georgia CASA Annual Report 2004-2005**



**Each abused or neglected child**



**involved in juvenile court proceedings**



**shall have a safe and permanent home.**

## CASA - COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES - IN GEORGIA

The CASA organization began in Seattle, Washington, in the late 1970's by a judge who was frustrated with the lack of information in the courtroom upon which to base a decision about a child's future. A pilot group of community volunteers was trained to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court. The program was so successful that it spread nationwide, with the National CASA Association beginning in 1982.

Georgia CASA began in 1988. The *mission* of Georgia CASA is to develop and support court-sanctioned, community-based programs that provide trained and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court deprivation proceedings. In 1989, the first CASA volunteers were sworn-in. Today, 43 affiliate CASA programs exist in Georgia, serving 99 counties and 40 of the 49 judicial circuits.

CASA volunteers are screened, trained and supervised by affiliate CASA program staff. After being trained and sworn-in, a CASA volunteer is assigned to a child's case by the juvenile court judge. Once assigned, the CASA volunteer studies the child's case file, meets with the child, interviews people who can shed light on the child's situation, attends court proceedings and ultimately makes a recommendation to the judge so a sound decision can be made about the child's future - a future with a safe, permanent home.

### 2004 CASA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, WILLIA BANKS, HALL-DAWSON CASA PROGRAM

*Willia Banks, with the Hall-Dawson CASA Program in Gainesville, was chosen as the 2004 Karen N. Sibley CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia. She has advocated for the best interests of over 50 children since becoming a CASA volunteer in 1994. Below is one success story she played an instrumental role in...*

Nathan was a two-year old who lived in a home with holes in the floor and used syringes on the floor. His parents suffered with mental illness, substance abuse and addiction. Nathan did not have proper food, clothing or shelter. He could not sit up, had poor motor skills and practically no verbal skills.

Due to his neglect, he was placed in a foster home, and Willia was assigned as his CASA volunteer. She helped him to receive services so he could properly develop. She also tried to work with his parents to help them improve their lives. His parents did not comply, however, and Nathan was adopted by a loving family and now has a safe, permanent home. Willia's quality of what was in Nathan's her persistence, were essential components in helping Nathan to have a permanent home.



Willia Banks, CASA Volunteer of the Year, with Judge Glenda Hatchett, National CASA Spokesperson.

reports to the judge best interest, as well as essential components in bright future in a per-

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CASA focuses on children.

Georgia CASA develops new affiliate CASA programs throughout the state and supports current affiliate CASA programs so each abused and neglected child in the state will have a safe and permanent home. Each year of Georgia CASA's work includes activities related to furthering our mission and vision.

## Quality Assurance

- The **Coweta CASA** program became the newest affiliate program. The Laurens County CASA Program expanded its services to include **Bleckley, Dodge and Wheeler counties**. (Forsyth County CASA began operation as an independent program after operating with CASA for Children for 12 years.)
  - **8,141 abused and neglected children** in Georgia were served by **1,500 CASA volunteers**. CASA programs were present in 99 counties, serving 40 of the 49 judicial circuits in the state.
- A **long-range strategic plan** for 2005 - 2010 was developed to keep Georgia CASA creative and pro-active in advocating for vulnerable children in the state.
  - Georgia CASA piloted a **state self-assessment** from the National CASA Association. Thirty-seven affiliate programs also completed **program self-assessments** during the year to ensure adherence to quality standards. (Self-assessments for remaining affiliate programs will continue next year.)

## Legislative Advocacy



*Jim Sibley (Board Chair), Mrs. Perdue, Duaine Hathaway (Executive Director) & Gov. Perdue*

- **CASA and Foster Youth Day at the Capitol** was held on February 10, 2005, with over 200 in attendance. Judge Velma Tilley of Bartow County Juvenile Court gave a speech to kick-off the day. In addition, Governor Perdue presented a CASA Proclamation. The group met with and educated their legislators about CASA, then attendees and legislators were treated to lunch.

- Georgia CASA **tracked the following legislative bills and resolutions:**
  - House Bill 10 - Female Genital Mutilation Offense
  - House Bill 180 - Criminal History Information Checks for Foster Parents
  - House Bill 195 - Timeframe for Termination of Parental Rights Cases (*Georgia CASA advocated for*)
  - House Bill 212 - Guardian Ad Litem Training (*Georgia CASA advocated for*)
  - House Bill 272 - Foster Child Education Grant (*Georgia CASA advocated for*)
  - Senate Resolution 161 - Study Committee for Juvenile Code Revisions
  - House Bill 192 - Amendment to Payment of Local Victim Assistance Funds (*held over for next year*)
  - House Bill 605 - Caseload Limits for Child Protective Services Workers (*held over for next year*)
  - House Resolution 300 - Foster Children's Bill of Rights (*held over for next year*)

## Key Judge Project

- Georgia CASA partnered with several judges throughout the state to begin piloting a **Key Judge Project**. Created by the National CASA Association and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the project aims to promote CASA and to build and improve relationships among juvenile court judges and the CASA network. Judges Michael Key, K. Van Banke, Sanford Jones, Holli Martin and Joanna Temple are key judges for Georgia.

## Trainings

- Georgia CASA conducted the following **training sessions** for affiliate programs:
  - COMET Trainings (database management software for programs)
  - Council of Programs Sessions (for program directors)
  - Orientations to Georgia CASA (for new program directors & board chairs)
  - Volunteer Supervisor Training (for program staff)
  - Train the Facilitator Trainings (for program staff)
  - Marketing for CASA Organizations (*led by Snowden & King Marketing Communications*)
  - In-Service Trainings: Report Writing and Juvenile Court Process (for CASA staff & volunteers)
  - Grantwriting Training
  - Independent Study Edition Regional Trainings

*"The presenters are always very knowledgeable."*

*"Participants are engaged by useful, hands-on activities that teach ways to make CASA programs stronger and more efficient."*

*"Trainings also provide great opportunities to network with peers."*

*--Participants at various trainings*



*Participants at Train the Facilitator Training, January 2005*

## Fundraising & Public Awareness



*Models at the Fashion Show*

- The first annual **Georgia CASA Luncheon & Fashion Show** was held in March 2005. The sold-out event was a dramatic success and raised \$65,000 to provide services to the affiliate programs.

- The **statewide marketing campaign continued**, which launched in February 2004.

Major initiatives for the year included billboards, newspaper ads, radio ads and TV PSAs. Georgia CASA received over 150 calls during the year and numerous web site hits. Over 150 people responded to a marketing survey on the web site.

- During **April 2005, National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month**, Georgia CASA received 300 contacts for potential CASA volunteers, which were forwarded to 25 relevant affiliate programs, as a result of **WSB-TV's Georgia's Forgotten Children Campaign** launch. Also during the month, affiliate programs held various **events and activities** to promote the awareness of CASA and the problem of child abuse and neglect. The CASA organization was featured on several **Atlanta-area TV stations** in conjunction with the **National CASA Association's Annual Conference**, which was held in Atlanta.

## Above & Beyond Award

- The **Above & Beyond Award** was presented to Georgia CASA in the Spring of 2005 by the Promoting Safe & Stable Families (PSSF) Program of the Georgia Department of Human Resources. Georgia CASA was recognized for its unwavering advocacy for children and continued efforts in the field of child welfare in Georgia. The award was a testimony to the 13 affiliate programs that received grants from the PSSF Program in 2004 - 2005.

Georgia CASA has been supported by hundreds of donors since its inception in 1988. Donors generously support the work of CASA, helping to give children a chance for a bright future. Thank you to all donors!

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*A very special thank you to Jackson Spalding for help with the  
CASA Cookbook and Luncheon & Fashion Show.*

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By Mrs. Karen N. Sibley

### In honor of Ms. Suzanne Spillman

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Mr. and Mrs. William A. Holby

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By Mrs. Elkin Alston Cushman

### In memory of Mrs. Ruth Branch

By Mr. and Mrs. Harold T. Barrett, Jr.

Mrs. Linda L. Copeland

Dr. and Mrs. James T. Laney

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Mr. John Z. C. Thomas



*Scenes from Luncheon & Fashion Show Fundraiser  
(top to bottom) A table of attendees enjoys lunch; Stephanie Blank models  
with her twins; and the Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae group attendees pose  
for a photo*

What a great year for Georgia CASA as well as the affiliate CASA programs in the state! More abused and neglected children were served by CASA volunteers this year and CASA operations began in four new counties. We marked the 17<sup>th</sup> year of Georgia CASA with the completion of our long-range strategic plan for the next five years, through 2010. A revised vision accompanies our strategic plan: *Each abused or neglected child involved in juvenile court proceedings shall have a safe and permanent home.*



*Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director  
and James M. Sibley, Jr., Board Chair*

As we work towards our vision, we continue to aggressively pursue CASA program development in the remaining nine judicial circuits in the state without a CASA program. Look for several new affiliate CASA programs to begin during the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

Georgia CASA will embark on a capacity building campaign over the next five years as we support our long-range strategic plan. The four strategic goals of the plan include the following:

- (1) Increase CASA volunteer capacity,
- (2) Support local affiliate CASA programs,
- (3) Promote the quality and integrity of the CASA organization, and
- (4) Improve Georgia CASA's ability to provide services.

Our growth strategy includes increased public understanding of the importance of volunteer advocacy and the expansion of existing affiliate CASA programs to un-served counties in their judicial circuits. The strategy also includes the continuation of and enhancements to providing exceptional support to our affiliates, helping them to provide the highest quality of advocacy to children.

Thank you for your support over the past year for Georgia's abused and neglected children. You have helped to provide a CASA volunteer for children who need someone who has the time to make sure their best interests are considered in court, ensuring they are placed in a safe, permanent home where they can thrive. While we are closer than ever to having the CASA organization present in the entire state, we still have work to do in order to provide each of the over 14,000 children in state custody, at any one time, with a CASA volunteer.

Thank you for continuing on this journey with us to ensure our most vulnerable citizens have the chance for a bright future.

Sincerely,

James M. Sibley, Jr.  
Board Chair

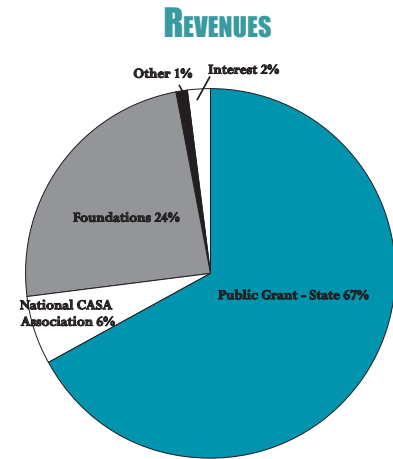
Duaine Hathaway  
Executive Director

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2005 and 2004

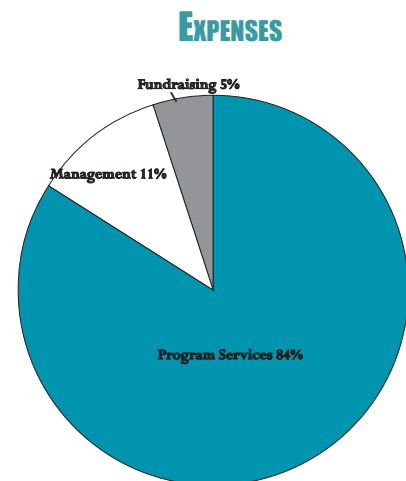
## ASSETS

	2005	2004
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 911,201	\$ 1,314,984
Grants receivable	50,000	98,750
Receivables from government agencies	282,395	282,395
Unconditional promises to give	<u>7,201</u>	<u>209,590</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>	1,250,797	1,905,719
<b>Furniture and equipment</b>		
Office equipment	68,997	67,916
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(62,376)</u>	<u>(56,216)</u>
<b>Net furniture and equipment</b>	6,621	11,700
<b>Other assets</b>		
Deposit	<u>14,217</u>	<u>1,717</u>
<b>Total other assets</b>	<u>14,217</u>	<u>1,717</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,271,635</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,919,136</u></u>



## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

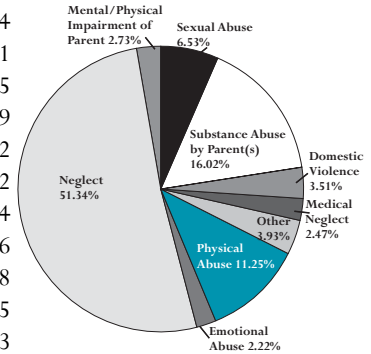
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 24,296	\$ 17,915
Accrued expenses	<u>24,749</u>	<u>18,165</u>
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	49,045	36,080
<b>Net assets</b>		
Unrestricted	1,165,389	1,574,716
Temporarily restricted	<u>57,201</u>	<u>308,340</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>1,222,590</u>	<u>1,883,056</u>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,271,635</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,919,136</u></u>



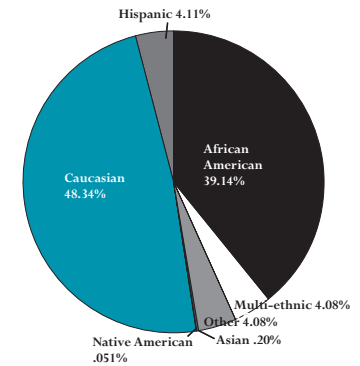
# AFFILIATE PROGRAMS REPORT ON CHILDREN SERVED

CASA Program	Children Served	New Children	Closed Children	Active Children	CASAs
Alcovy	97	29	34	27	10
Appalachian	265	115	135	130	33
Athens-Oconee	270	151	139	81	25
Atlantic	143	52	57	101	12
Augusta	445	241	202	231	39
Bartow	177	82	59	116	34
Camden	49	16	16	33	21
Carroll	120	54	50	68	35
CASA for Children	353	96	73	135	59
Central Georgia	194	55	68	133	52
Chattahoochee	169	47	61	132	32
Children's Voice	37	37	26	39	24
Clayton	522	345	424	175	96
Coastal Plain	58	58	108	90	18
Cobb	266	82	101	132	45
Coweta	28	28	1	27	13
DeKalb	250	124	109	141	98
Dougherty	46	17	6	34	5
Enotah	263	101	177	133	38
Floyd	60	45	23	23	6
Forsyth	211	85	45	145	63
Four Points <sup>1</sup>	99	13	38	62	8
Fulton	351	199	199	157	89
Glynn	208	79	97	109	34
Gordon	32	11	19	10	4
Gwinnett	133	56	26	151	26
Hall-Dawson	471	143	175	327	86
Houston	107	40	60	34	22
Laurens	277	133	112	140	21
Middle	33	16	24	26	2
Mountain	131	91	27	78	23
Murray/Whitfield	63	32	29	31	16
Ocmulgee	216	80	76	140	61
Ogeechee <sup>1</sup>	83	12	13	54	24
Piedmont	58	33	28	33	14
Rockdale	359	185	85	247	54
Savannah/Chatham	458	170	247	248	91
Sowega	101	55	38	65	15
Southwest Georgia	100	36	25	65	12
Tallapoosa	387	86	114	329	56
Thomas	169	71	31	121	19
Tri-County <sup>1</sup>	64	25	8	56	13
Troup	218	57	74	144	52
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,141</b>	<b>3,483</b>	<b>3,459</b>	<b>4,753</b>	<b>1,500</b>

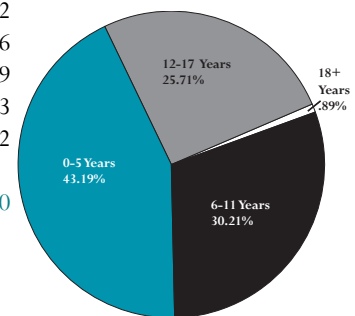
## TYPES OF DEPRIVATION



## ETHNIC BACKGROUND



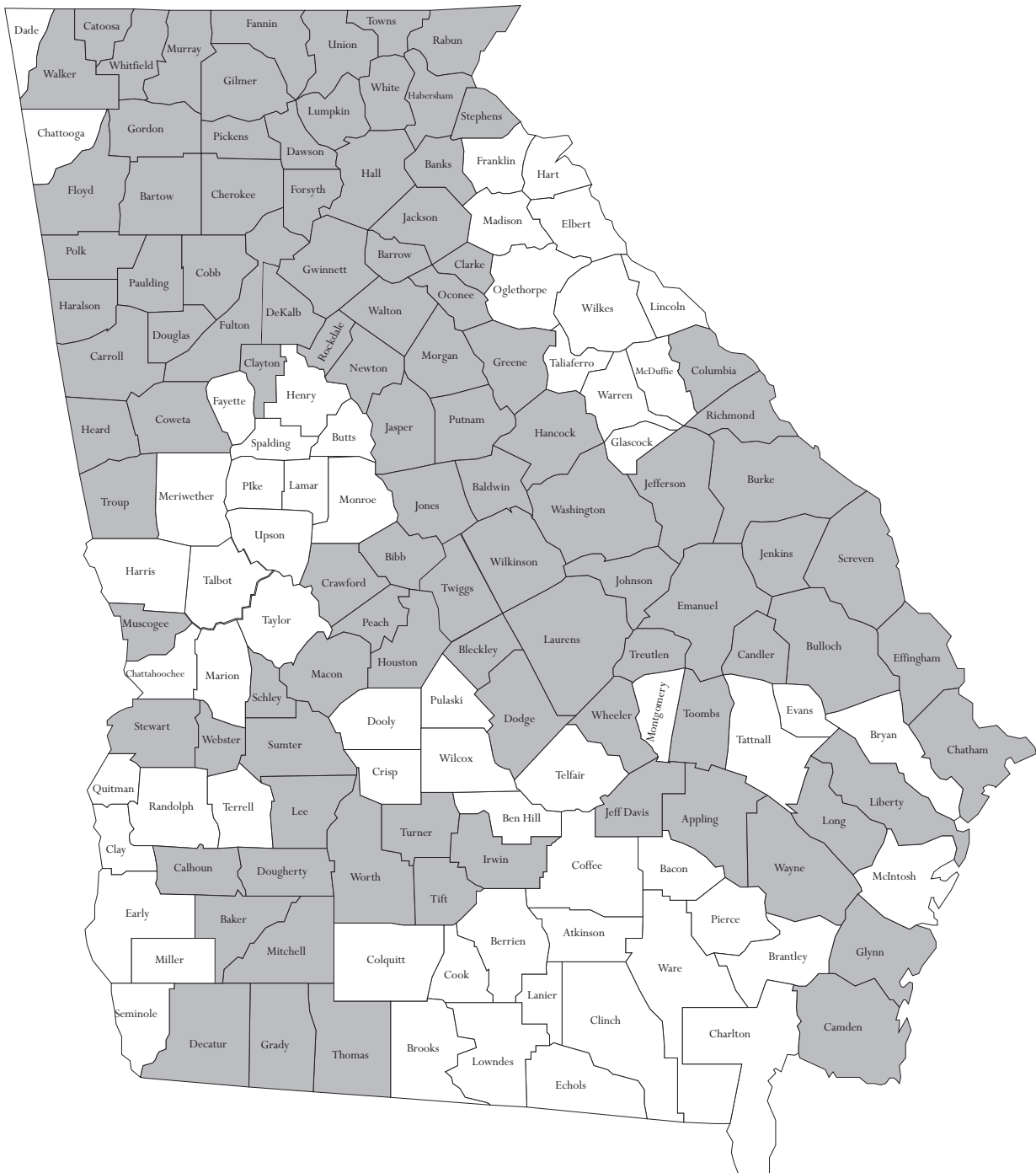
## AGES



Note: Pie charts include statistics only for children in the legal custody of the state.

<sup>1</sup>Statistics as of last report submitted

**As of June 30, 2005,  
CASA affiliate programs in Georgia  
served the shaded counties on the map below:**



Alcovy CASA Program 770-385-7450  
*Newton & Walton Counties*  
Jim Killman, Executive Director

Athens-Oconee CASA Program, Inc. 706-613-1922  
*Clarke & Oconee Counties*  
Christian Orobello, Executive Director

Atlantic Area CASA, Inc. 912-876-3816  
*Liberty & Long Counties*  
Irene McCall, Executive Director

Bartow County CASA 770-386-1060  
Program of Advocates for Bartow's Children, Inc.  
*Bartow County*  
Ava Lipscomb, Program Director

Camden County CASA Program, Inc. 912-882-3119  
*Camden County*  
Jessica Parkes, Executive Director

Carroll County CASA, Inc. 770-838-1964  
*Carroll County*  
Amanda Camp, Program Coordinator

CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit 706-276-2272  
Program of Appalachian Juvenile Court  
*Fannin, Gilmer & Pickens Counties*  
Dianne Scoggins, Director

CASA of the Augusta Judicial Circuit 706-737-4631  
Program of Child Enrichment, Inc.  
*Burke, Columbia & Richmond Counties*  
Monique Brabham, Program Director

CASA for Children, Inc. 770-345-3274  
*Cherokee County*  
Deidre Hollands, Executive Director

CASA Glynn, Inc. 912-264-4448  
*Glynn County*  
Marcella Baker, Executive Director

CASA of Houston County, Inc. 478-396-2185  
*Houston County*  
Terry DiDiego, Executive Director

CASA of the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit, Inc. 912-764-4849  
*Bulloch, Effingham, Jenkins & Screven Counties*  
Amelia Hipps, Executive Director

CASA of Southwest Georgia, Inc. 229-248-1040  
*Baker, Decatur, Grady & Mitchell Counties*  
Dan Provence, Executive Director

CASA of Troup County, Inc. 706-845-8243  
*Heard & Troup Counties*  
Tracy Jones, Executive Director

Central Georgia CASA, Inc. 478-464-3017  
*Bibb, Crawford & Peach Counties*  
Stephanie Owens-George, Executive Director

Chattahoochee CASA 706-323-3687  
Program of Urban League of Greater Columbus, Inc.  
*Muscogee County*  
Mattie Hall, Program Director

Children's Voice: Douglas County CASA, Inc. 770-577-7228  
*Douglas County*  
Elizabeth Byrd, Executive Director

Clayton County CASA 770-477-3268  
Program of Clayton County Juvenile Court  
*Clayton County*  
Gerald Bostock, Program Coordinator

Coastal Plain CASA, Inc. 229-386-9765  
*Irwin, Tift, Turner & Worth Counties*  
Gregory Millette, Executive Director

Coweta CASA, Inc. 770-253-0046  
*Coweta County*  
Sue Rickenbaker, Director

DeKalb County CASA Program 404-378-0038  
Program of Child Advocate Network, Inc.  
*DeKalb County*  
Ann Eagerton, Executive Director

Dougherty County CASA Program 229-431-1121  
Program of Open Arms, Inc.  
*Dougherty County*  
Rita Ellis, Program Coordinator

Georgia CASA helps the  
affiliate programs to  
meet the needs of the  
children.



Enotah CASA, Inc. 706-864-0300  
*Lumpkin, Towns, Union & White Counties*  
Stacy Millican, Executive Director

Floyd County CASA Program 706-235-2272  
Program of Northwest Georgia Child Advocacy Center, Inc.  
*Floyd County*  
Sue Lagermann, Program Coordinator

Forsyth County CASA, Inc. 770-886-4082  
*Forsyth County*  
Gene Valde, Executive Director

Four Points CASA Program 706-638-1555  
Program of Four Points, Inc.  
*Catoosa & Walker Counties*  
Tina Gross, Program Director

Fulton County CASA Program, Inc. 404-224-4720  
*Fulton County*  
Julia Neighbors, Executive Director

Gordon County CASA Program 706-629-4561  
Program of Gordon County Juvenile Court  
*Gordon County*  
Anne Pitts, Program Coordinator

Gwinnett County CASA 770-822-8254  
Program of Juvenile Court of Gwinnett County  
*Gwinnett County*  
Steve Gill, Program Coordinator

Hall-Dawson CASA Program, Inc. 770-531-1964  
*Dawson & Hall Counties*  
Connie Stephens, Executive Director

Juvenile Court of Cobb County/CASA 770-528-2284  
*Cobb County*  
Lina Maxwell, Interim Judicial Program Coordinator

The Laurens County CASA Program, Inc. 478-275-8100  
*Bleckley, Dodge, Johnson, Laurens, Treutlen, Twiggs & Wheeler Counties*  
Sherri Howard, Executive Director

Middle Judicial Circuit CASA 478-237-2522  
Program of Juvenile Court of Middle Judicial Circuit  
*Candler, Emanuel, Jefferson, Toombs & Washington Counties*  
Faye West, Director

Mountain Circuit CASA, Inc. 706-839-1064  
*Habersham, Rabun & Stephens Counties*  
Kristin Johnson, Executive Director

Murray/Whitfield CASA Program 706-272-7919  
Program of Family Support Council, Inc.  
*Murray & Whitfield Counties*  
Sandra Martin-Ales, Program Director

Ocmulgee CASA, Inc. 478-452-9170  
*Baldwin, Greene, Hancock, Jasper, Jones, Morgan, Putnam & Wilkinson Counties*  
Lori Muggridge, Executive Director

Piedmont CASA, Inc. 706-387-6374  
*Banks, Barrow & Jackson Counties*  
Annette Raymond, Executive Director

Rockdale CASA, Inc. 770-761-0202  
*Rockdale County*  
Lynn Wetzel, Executive Director

Savannah/Chatham County CASA, Inc. 912-447-8908  
*Chatham County*  
Renee Gresham-Crawford, Executive Director

Sowega CASA, Inc. 229-928-4571  
*Lee, Macon, Schley, Stewart, Sumter & Webster Counties*  
Patricia Brunson, Program Director

Tallapoosa CASA, Inc. 770-505-0065  
*Haralson, Paulding & Polk Counties*  
Martha Carver, Executive Director

Thomas County CASA, Inc. 229-225-4338  
*Thomas County*  
Asuncion Ellis, Executive Director

Tri-County CASA, Inc. 912-367-0064  
*Appling, Jeff Davis & Wayne Counties*  
Denise Graham, Executive Director

Affiliate programs  
recruit, screen, train  
and supervise CASA  
volunteers.





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