

CARROLL COUNTY

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant Agency: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of NH

Contact Person: Tarah Bergeron, Development Associate

Phone: 603-626-4600x2113

Fax: 603-623-6362

E-mail: tbergeron@casanh.org

Agency Mailing Address: PO Box 1327

City: Manchester

State: NH

ZIP Code: 03102

Agency Physical Address: 138 Coolidge Ave Manchester, NH 03105

Agency's Total Operating Budget: \$4,158,606.80

Prior Year: 2023 - \$3,907,988

Current Year: 2024 - \$3,813,362.00

Proposed Year: 2025 - \$4,158,606.80

Amount of Funding Requested from Carroll County for 2025: \$7,500

DESCRIPTION OF FEE STRUCTURE, IF APPLICABLE:

CASA of NH does not charge a fee for services. We are the only nonprofit in the state providing a voice for the victimized children of NH. Our CASA volunteer advocates gave up more than 90,000 hours of their time during FY 24 to ensure each child was heard and had their best interest represented in court.

FUNDING SOURCES

<u>Category</u>	<u>Source, Title, Act</u>	<u>Actual Prior FY: 2023</u>	<u>Budget Current FY:2024</u>	<u>Request FY: 2025</u>
Fees				
Federal	Federal Grants		\$669,912	\$669,912
State	State GAL grant		\$1,126,550	\$1,126,550
County	Carroll County	\$0	\$5,000	\$7,500
Municipal	Cities/Towns/Counties		\$115,000	\$122,500
Fund Raising	Donations and Events		\$1,480,000	\$1,790,000
Grants	Private Grants		\$350,000	\$300,000
Other	CASA Cards/Merch/Interest		\$50,900	\$35,000

AGENCY OPERATING BUDGET

	<u>Actual Prior FY: 2023</u>	<u>Budget Current FY: 2024</u>	<u>Request FY: 2025</u>
Personnel	\$2,334,680	\$2,592,673	\$2,719,607
Fringe Benefits	\$90,265	\$114,909	\$136,117
Consultants & Subcontracts	\$81,346	\$81,932	\$92,675
Utilities: Electric, Phone, Heat, etc.	\$43,648	\$56,473	\$50,632
Rent	\$57,564.00	\$58,548	\$60,588
Office Supplies, Printing, Advertising, etc.	\$80,729	\$112,431	\$89,872
Education & Training	\$118,500	\$223,300	\$247,500
Travel, Lodging	\$47,476	\$56,481	\$66,100
Other	\$512,409	\$558,307	\$567,316
Other: Fundraising Exp.	\$119,600	\$119,600	\$128,200
TOTALS:	\$3,486,217.00	\$3,974,653	\$4,158,607

DEFINE UNIT OF SERVICE FOR THIS PROGRAM:			
One volunteer advocate who will speak on behalf of victimized children			
	<u>Actual Prior FY: 2023</u>	<u>Budget FY: 2024</u>	<u>Request FY: 2025</u>
Total number of units of service in Carroll County	47 children	47 children	50 children
Unit of Service Cost	\$2000/advocate	\$2000/advocate	\$2000/advocate
Total number of individuals served in Carroll County (count each person only once)	47 children/31 cases	47 children/27 cases	50 children/30 cases
Explain Method of Formula used to determine amount of Carroll County funding requested:			
CASA estimates it costs \$2,000 to recruit, train and support one CASA volunteer advocate for one year, The			
Requester funding of \$7,500 will enable CASA to support roughly 4 advocates from Carroll County who are or will			
Be speaking for children in your area.			
SERVICE AND FINANCIAL DATA			
Service and Cost Distribution (estimated) for:			
<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Individuals Served</u>	<u>Units of Service</u>	
Albany	1		
Bartlett	1		
Brookfield	2		
Chatham	1		
Conway	17		
Eaton	1		
Effingham	2		
Freedom	3		
Hale's Location			
Hart's Location			
Jackson	1		
Madison	1		
Moultonborough	2		
Ossipee	3		
Sandwich	3		
Tamworth	2		
Tuftonboro	2		
Wakefield	2		
Wolfeboro	3		
TOTALS	47		

Board of Directors: On a separate page, please provide the name of each member of your agency's board of directors and a detail of what, if any, compensation each Director receives.

Additional Documentation: Please provide a copy of the organization's most recent annual financial statement, bylaws, certificate of incorporation and proof of non-profit status.

Provide a brief narrative description of the program(s) for which you are requesting funding.

Within the narrative:

- a. **Describe the problem which the program will address.**
- b. **Describe the services to be provided and/or the activities to be engaged in.**
- c. **Describe the target population as succinctly as possible, including the geographical coverage, age group and/or other special characteristics.**
- d. **Mission Statement**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Hampshire is a nonprofit that recruits, trains, and supports community volunteers to serve as advocates for children throughout the state who have experienced abused or neglect. CASA volunteer advocates get to know a child and the important people in that child's life to provide vital information to help a judge make decisions based on the best interests of the child.

Throughout New Hampshire, CASA annually serves more than 1,400 abused and neglected children and youth from birth to 21 years. Without someone to focus on the child and ensure that their physical, mental, and emotional needs and best interests are being met, the futures of many abused and neglected children would be threatened by a lack of help, stability, and support. The victims are drug-addicted babies taken into custody directly from the maternity ward. They are toddlers broken or shaken to the point of brain damage by frustrated parents, barely more than children themselves. They are the little ones used for sexual satisfaction by a predatory step-parent, acquaintance, or relative. They are the adolescents left to their own devices for survival – who are challenged daily to provide for themselves and, perhaps, younger siblings. They are the teenagers who are verbally battered day in and day out, relentlessly, until they have no shred of self-worth remaining.

CASA of NH respectfully requests funding from Carroll County to address the urgent, pandemic-driven need for advocacy for abused and neglected children. Before COVID-19 struck, CASA was already trying to manage a steep increase in cases due to the substance misuse epidemic in NH. Now, the impact of the substance misuse crisis and the pandemic is compounded by mental health issues and domestic violence. We are even more challenged to build the capacity to reach our overarching goal of serving 100% of victimized children. In 2024 in Carroll County, we served 47 children, 16 of whom were new to the court system. We had to refuse 1 case involving 5 children and could only accept 85% of the cases referred to us.

With this funding, CASA of NH will address the alarming rise in child abuse and neglect cases in Carroll County by enabling CASA to recruit, screen, train, support, and retain more volunteers. In turn, more volunteers will be able to advocate for more children impacted by the pandemic. Funding from Carroll County in the amount of \$7,500 would support a targeted Carroll County effort to recruit new volunteers and serve more children in need. This effort includes:

- Recruiting, screening, training, and retaining volunteer advocates that provide direct support to victimized children
- Providing case management and volunteer supervision

Although this funding will support our immediate efforts in Carroll County, it will also have a lasting benefit. Each volunteer typically takes on several cases during their tenure, so the impact of recruiting just one volunteer can potentially transform the lives of many children who have been victimized by neglect and abuse.

CERTIFICATION BY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES

The undersigned hereby certifies and represents that:

1. The information contained in this application and attached appendices is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete;
2. The undersigned is authorized to act on behalf of the organization in submitting this application.

SIGNATURES

Marcia R. Sink, President and CEO

Tarah Bergeron, Development Associate

Executive Director/CEO/Administrator Printed Name

Preparer's Printed Name & Title

Signature

Marcia R. Sink

Signature



Date September 20, 2024

Date September 20, 2024

Profit & Loss Projected
Budget FYE 06-30-25

			New Budgeted FYE 06/30/25 (New Year)
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
	4100 - Donations - General		250,000
	4255 - Donations - Major Gifts		600,000
	4175 - Greeting Cards		20,000
	4225 - Event Fundraising		500,000
	4250 - Event Sponsorships		190,000
	4260 - CASA Product Sales		5,000
	4265 - External Fundraisers		250,000
	4350 - Private Grants		300,000
	4400 - State - GAL Grant		1,126,550
	4500 - Federal - VOCA		643,848
	4510 - Federal - Title IVE		26,064
	4550 - City/Municipality		130,000
	4600 - In-Kind Donations		2,800
	7010 - Interest Income		7,200
	7020 - Dividend Income		
			4,051,462
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN			
Total Income			4,051,462
Expense			
	6000 - Fundraising Expense		
	6185 - Gift & SIs Promo - Fundraising		
	6400 - Facilities & Catering - Fundraising		37,000
	6525 - Event Supp & Exp - Fundraising		64,500
	6570 - Registratn & Fees - Fundraising		4,500
	6645 - Postage & Deliver - Fundraising		2,300
	6685 - Printing & Statio - Fundraising		19,900
	Total 6000 - Fundraising Expense		128,200
	6005 - Office Equipment/Software		16,552
	6010 - Advertising		1,000
	6040 - Bank Service Charges		600
	6050 - CASA product		2,000
	6070 - Conferences - Registration		2,250
	6080 - Conferences - Meals & Ent.		500
	6090 - Conferences - Accom/Travel		1,000
	6092 - Consulting		41,500
	6095 - CC Service Charges		27,800
	6120 - Dues, Membrshps, & Subscriptns		9,856
	6170 - Fees & Registrations		9,750
	6180 - Gifts & Sales Promotions		1,000
	6200 - Health Insurance		319,617
	6250 - Ins - General Liability (Jul Rnwl)		18,262
	6260 - Ins - Content (Jul Rnwl)		3,247
	6270 - Ins - Director/Officer (Jul Rnwl)		4,211
	6275 - Ins - Atty. Prof. Liab (Mar Rnwl)		5,517
	6278 - Ins - Emp Dishonesty (Jul Rnwl)		309
	6291 - Ins - Umbrella		3,461
	6280 - Ins - Volunteer Accident (Jul Rnwl)		2,452
	6290 - Ins - WC (Jul Rnwl)		4,222
	6292 - Ins - Internet (Jul Rnwl)		2,889
	6350 - Maint Agrmnts/Serv Contracts		7,312
	6355 - Maintenance - Computers		45,186
	6380 - Meals & Entertainment		13,600
	6440 - Mileage & Travel		47,000
	6480 - Staff & Volunteer Functions		15,350
	6520 - Office Supplies & Expense		27,200
	6560 - Payroll Service Fees		6,880
	6580 - R/M Building		17,730
	6600 - Payroll Taxes		204,999
	6640 - Postage & Delivery		16,920
	6680 - Printing & Stationary		8,200
	6686 - Recruitment & Training Expenses		228,800

Profit & Loss Projected
Budget FYE 06-30-25

		New Budgeted FYE 06/30/25 (New Year)
	6690 · Rent	60,588
	6720 · Prof Fees - Accounting	25,175
	6745 · Prof Fees - Grant Writing	26,000
	6790 · Performance Compensation Pool	54,577
	6800 · Retirement Match	58,734
	6804 · Salaries - Accounting	83,546
	6805 · Salaries - Technology	164,303
	6810 · Salaries - Staff	986,220
	6820 · Salaries - Program Manager	1,139,632
	6850 · Salaries - Legal Services	264,843
	6880 · Telephone & Internet	34,080
	6885 · Training - Staff	3,500
	6890 · Utilities	12,040
	Total Cash Expenses	4,158,607
	Net Operating Income	(107,145)
	Other Expenses: Non Cash Items	
	6100 · Depreciation Expense	72,252
	Net Income After Depreciation	(179,397)
	Restricted Income/Expenses: (not in operating)	
	7030 · Endowment Fund Gain/Loss/fees	(9,120)
	7022 · Operating Reserve Fund Gain/Loss/Fees	(30,000)
	4700 · Impact Campaign	0
	4259 · Endowment Funding	0
		(39,120)
	Net Income after Deprec & Restricted	(218,517)
	Balance to be covered by Impact Campaign Funds raised in previous years	
	These funds are sitting in our Operating Reserve	

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



President's Message

For children who have experienced abuse and neglect, a consistent, caring adult in their corner can make all the difference. During the past year, CASA of New Hampshire volunteer advocates stood by the side of 1,538 such children throughout the state, providing them with not just a comforting presence, but critical trauma-informed, best-interests advocacy.

Our work can be challenging, and so we make a point to celebrate the successes along the way. Those moments came in a variety of shapes, from parents reuniting with their children, to the joyous formation of new families through adoption, to cheering alongside our CASA youth who are just beginning to achieve their dreams. All of those bright moments and

more to come are thanks to our dedicated advocates, staff, board of directors and an incredible community. This year, 663 advocates collectively made 13,492 visits, donating 682,048 miles and 92,028 hours to be the voice for children in need.

In order for advocates to be there for children and youth, we need to be there for the advocates. Our retention, recruitment and training efforts are possible thanks to generous financial support that comes from all corners of the state, including donors, family foundations, companies, state funding, and fundraising events, such as CASA Cares.

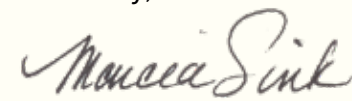
And, of course, this is key to maintaining our strategic growth, always working to increase our capacity to serve more children

and youth. We are grateful that so many of you are so deeply committed to our mission.

We take that mission and our role as an officer of the court seriously. As the court-appointed guardian ad litem for the most vulnerable children, we recognize the weighty responsibility this entails, and will never waver in our obligation to those children or the courts.

We look forward to the year ahead with optimism and resolve, ready to build on our progress and make an even greater impact together.

Sincerely,



Marty Sink
President and CEO



Who We Are

Our Mission

CASA of New Hampshire provides a voice for children and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect by empowering a statewide network of trained volunteers to advocate on their behalf so they can thrive in safe, permanent homes.

Our Vision

A world where every child is given the opportunity to thrive in a safe, permanent, and nurturing home

Our Values

In fulfilling its vision and mission, the entire CASA organization is guided by the following values: Compassion, Integrity, Honesty, Justice, Passion, Respect, Courage, Transparency, Inclusivity and Equity.



The Year In Numbers



663 VOLUNTEERS
682,048 MILES DRIVEN
13,492 VISITS
92,028 HOURS

WE SERVED
1,538 CHILDREN



140 NEW CASAS WERE TRAINED AND SWORN IN

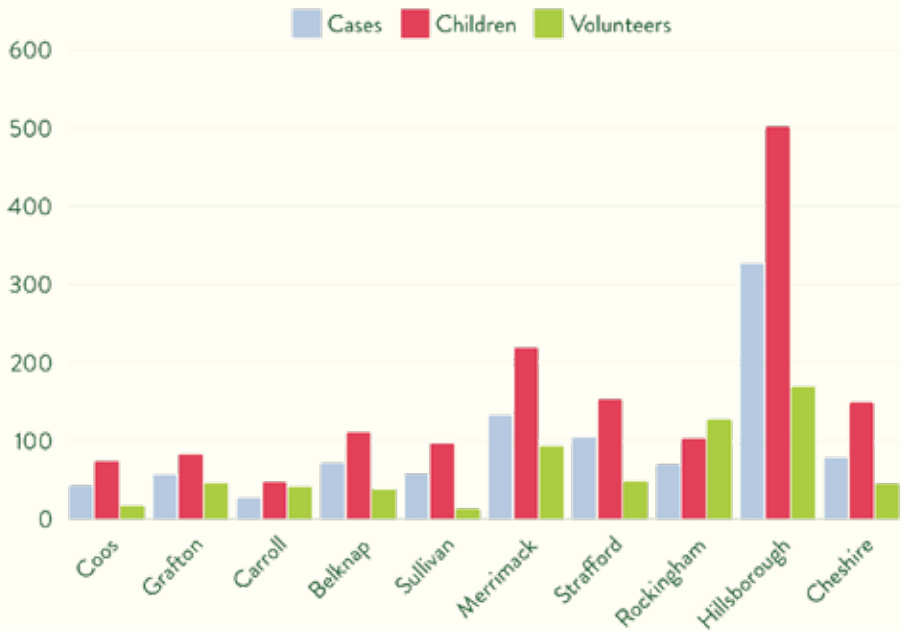
137 children adopted

263 children reunited with their families

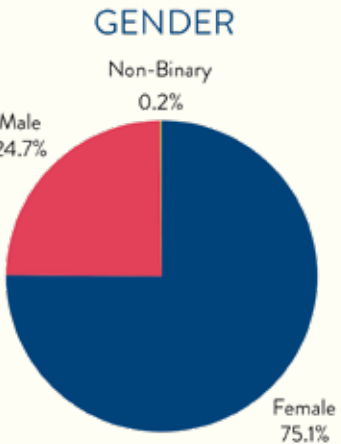
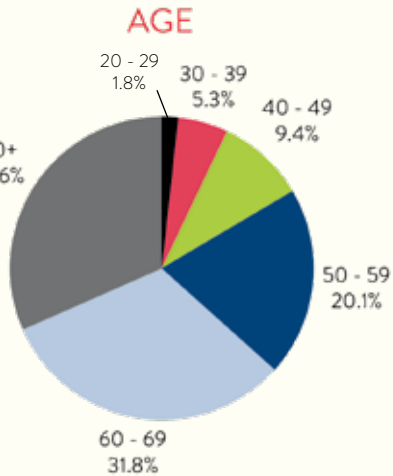
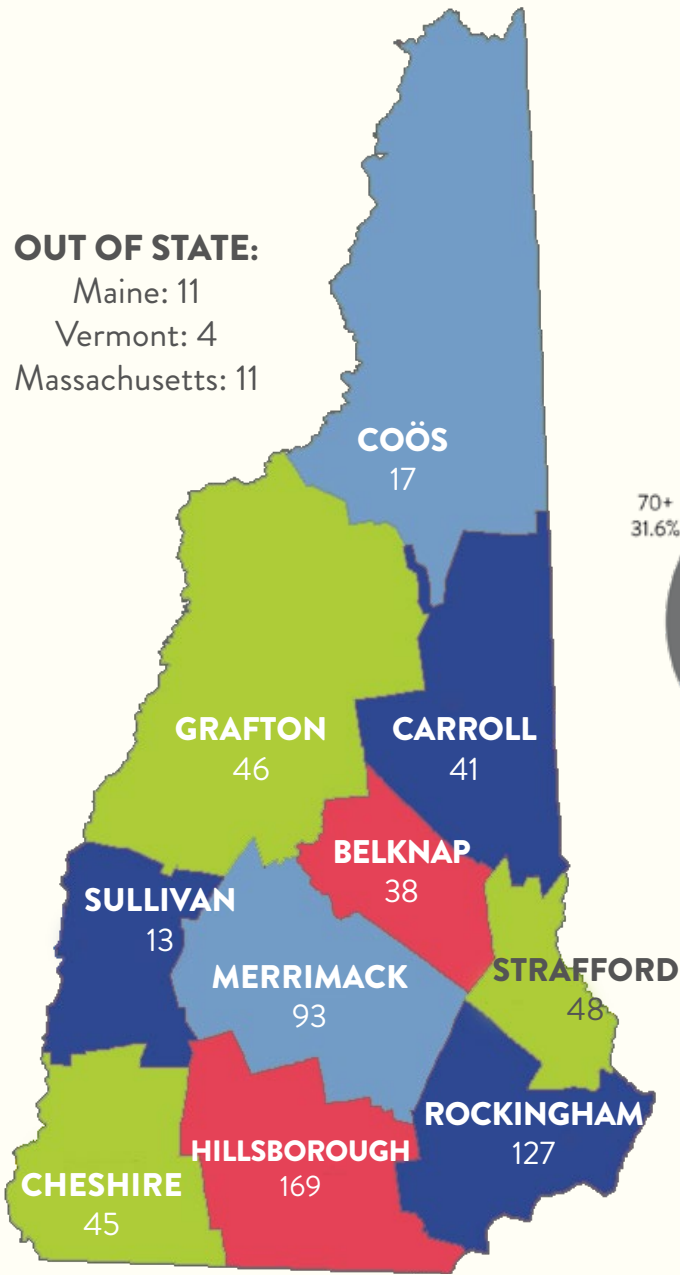
23 youth entered the HOPE program

(a program to support foster youth as they transition to adulthood)

CASES AND VOLUNTEERS BY COUNTY



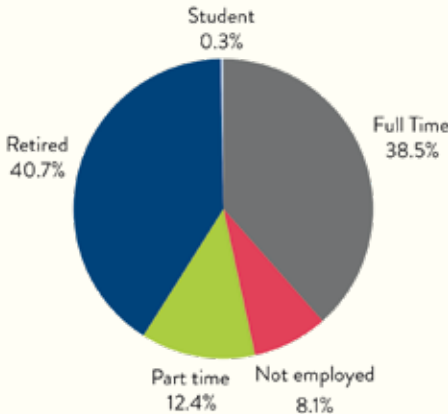
OUT OF STATE:
Maine: 11
Vermont: 4
Massachusetts: 11



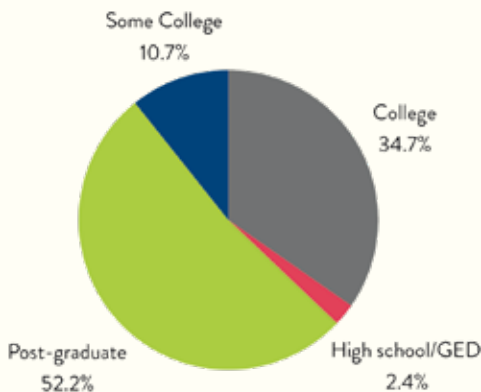
ADVOCATE MILESTONES



EMPLOYMENT



EDUCATION



2024 in Pictures

KT Across America

Our board member Kathleen Thomas of Hampton completed a cross-country bike ride in support of CASA of NH. She totaled about 3,800 miles, for an average of about 100 miles per day, with just a handful of days off. It was her commitment to CASA of NH, she says, that helped her with the mental aspects of the trip.

“I wanted something to keep my head focused while I’m riding across the country – for when I’m tired and questioning what I’m doing,” she says. “It’s important for me to realize that I may be suffering today on the bike, but that’s nothing like what these kids suffer. I have a choice, but they don’t get a choice, and I’ll take their inspiration with me.” She completed her journey by dipping her tires in the ocean at Sanders Point in Rye, NH and raised \$35,100!



Seth Meyers Stands Up for NH Children

New Hampshire’s own Seth Meyers returned home on November 4, 2023, for a special stand-up performance at the SNHU Arena in support of CASA of NH and the Granite State Children’s Alliance. More than 100 VIP guests were treated to a special pre-show reception and meet-and-greet with Seth, and a total of 2,120 people attended the show, all of whom enjoyed a night of laughter and fun in support of vulnerable children throughout the state.



CASA of NH Goes to Concord

CASA of NH held its inaugural CASA Day on April 17 at the State House Plaza in Concord to celebrate best-interests advocacy during National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The day featured multiple guest speakers, including Gov. Chris Sununu, current advocate Pete King, current advocate and former CASA youth Justice Ohanasian, CASA of NH President and CEO Marcia (Marty) Sink, and more. Lawmakers and the public were invited to visit and have cookies with CASA to learn about how incredible – and critical – our advocates’ work on behalf of the state’s most vulnerable children truly is.



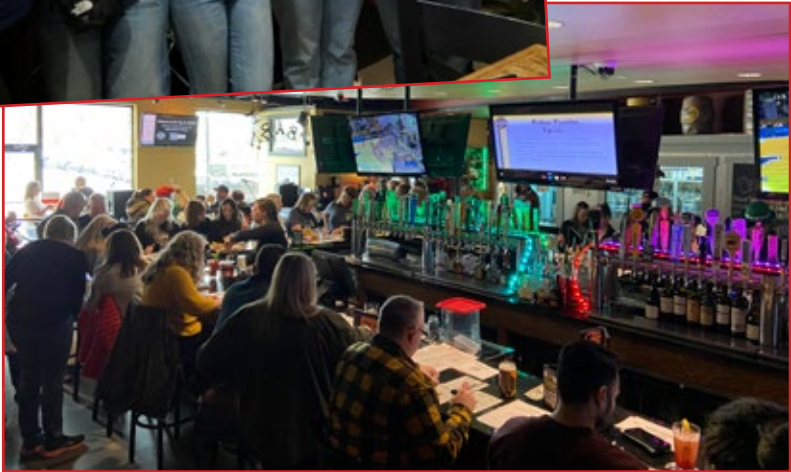
CASA Cares Raises Over \$570,000

We had another record-breaking year at our annual fundraising gala, CASA Cares: An Evening of Giving for New Hampshire’s Children, held on Friday, May 3. We raised more than \$570,000 to support our goal of having an advocate available for every child in New Hampshire who is involved in the child protection system.

Presented by Novocure, the event was held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown. Speakers included CASA President and CEO Marty Sink, former CASA of NH Board Co-chair and current Advisory Council member Amy Covenor, and Devin Oot, manager of community and government relations at Novocure. Guests also heard from U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas, who shared powerful remarks about the valuable impact CASA has on children and youth throughout the Granite State. Auctioneer John Terrio entertained the crowd as they bid on live auction items. In a deeply moving portion of the event, audience members also heard from former CASA youth and now current CASA advocate Justice Ohanasian, who shared her personal story.

CASA Volunteer Advocates Go “Out and About”

Our Out and About series, which helps CASA volunteer advocates connect with each other, was such a success last year that we made it permanent! This year advocates had the chance to chat over ice cream, learn to make soap, snowshoe, and create works of art. Out and Abouts continue to be an important way for us to express appreciation and gratitude to our volunteers while offering them the opportunity to meet their fellow CASAs.



Another Successful On Tap for CASA

We were thrilled to hold another successful On Tap for CASA event at New England's Tap House Grille in Hooksett this past spring. Begun in 2017, On Tap for CASA is a 10-hour barstool marathon where teams of 5-10 compete in games and friendly competition to be crowned either the top point-getter and/or top fundraising team. The event raised over \$51,000!

Celebrating Community Partners

CASA is able to provide trauma-informed, best-interests advocacy to vulnerable children across New Hampshire thanks to the generosity and support of our community partners. Bank of New Hampshire, Bernstein Shur, and Bank of America are just a few of our dedicated supporters who make our work possible. Thank you to all of the companies, foundations, and donors who generously donated this year. You can find a list of our donors at the back of this publication.




Bernstein Shur



Bank of America



Bank of New Hampshire



“[My child’s CASA] was probably the only one who wasn’t self-concerned. She wasn’t there for a paycheck.”
— *Mother who reunified with her child*


The Importance of Trauma-Informed Advocacy

CASA of New Hampshire provides high-quality, trauma-informed best-interests advocacy for children and youth throughout the state. CASA of NH GALs receive extensive training on trauma in addition to training on being aware of biases, loss, attachment, education, substance use disorder, mental illness, treatment, domestic violence and more.

“When kids have been abused or neglected, it clearly impacts their ability to trust adults,” explains CASA of NH Training Director Kelly Smith. These children, she adds, don’t have the language to express those feelings, nor do they have adults in their lives to give them that language and hold

their story. Ultimately, they often communicate their experiences through behaviors that impact their lives.

“The bottom line is, our advocates are not just looking at behaviors and getting stuck in a cycle of only focusing on the behaviors of a child,” adds Smith. “Our advocates understand that initially a child who has experienced neglect and/or abuse tells their story through their unhealthy behaviors. With CASA advocacy, our kids can receive the necessary services to work through their loss and trauma and begin to rewrite their story for themselves and potentially future generations.”



“With CASA advocacy, our kids can receive the necessary services to work through their loss and trauma and begin to rewrite their story for themselves and potentially future generations.”

—*Kelly Smith, Training Director*

Finding Home

“These kids deserve everything, and the system doesn’t serve them sometimes – even when they don’t mean to not serve them.”

— Jessica, adoptive mother

This year Heidi,* who spent nearly six years in foster care, was able to rejoin two of her siblings in her forever home thanks to the advocacy of her CASA, Charlene, and her adoptive mother Jessica.

“The success in this is that CASA gave it an open-minded chance,” Jessica says.

Jessica met Heidi while she was providing foster care for two of Heidi’s younger siblings. Heidi was in a different foster home. Initially she had limited, supervised visits with her siblings, but she began coming to Jessica’s home more often. Jessica adopted Heidi’s siblings, but after the case closed, she lost contact with Heidi. When Jessica learned that after Heidi’s struggles in a foster home she’d ended up in residential care, she started visiting her.

Jessica’s message was clear: “I’m not here to convince you to come live with us. We’re here, and we love you, and no matter what path you take, you have siblings you’ll never lose again,” she says.

Finally, Heidi was placed in Jessica’s home.

“When I went to Jessica’s home, I immediately saw the amazing chemistry between Heidi and her younger siblings, and that just flipped the switch for me,” Heidi’s CASA Charlene says. “That this is absolutely the place that she belongs.”

She reached out to the case worker to push for an adoption date.

Heidi was officially adopted and permanently reunited with her siblings early this summer. Charlene describes the family today simply and powerfully: “The household is full of joy.”

*Due to CASA’s confidentiality policies, names and locations have been changed to prevent identification of a specific child. The accompanying photos are stock images for illustrative purposes only and do not depict the people involved.



Remembering Douglas McIninch

Community Champion

Douglas McIninch, who passed away in April, was deeply committed to making his community a better place. His passion for philanthropy included service on the boards of the Derryfield School, New Hampton School, the Boy Scouts of America, the Manchester Mental Health Foundation, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and the YMCA. His profound impact doesn't stop there – he also served as an incorporator for Canterbury Shaker Village and the New Hampshire Charitable Fund, and ran several campaigns for other New Hampshire institutions.

He served as chair of The Samuel P. Hunt Foundation and The McIninch Foundation, which under his guidance and leadership were deeply generous to hundreds of organizations and communities throughout New Hampshire, including CASA of NH. Over the past 20-plus years, these foundations collectively donated more than \$200,000 to a variety of CASA of NH's operating and programming initiatives.

"Here at CASA we knew Doug as a tremendous supporter of our work," says CASA of NH CEO and President Marty Sink. "His commitment over 30 years (since nearly the beginning of CASA) no doubt has created significant generational impact. Because he believed so whole-

heartedly in our work, he enhanced our ability to serve more children and families in the greater Manchester community and beyond."

Born and raised in Manchester, Doug graduated from New Hampton School, and earned his bachelor's degree at Tufts University. He served two tours in the Pacific during the Vietnam War aboard the destroyer U.S.S. Brinkley Bass, achieving the rank of Lieutenant. Upon returning home, he earned his law degree from Suffolk University Law School. He went on to practice law in the Hillsborough County Attorney's office, as a partner at Eaton, Solms, Mills and McIninch, and later Eaton and McIninch.

He and his wife of 49 years, Nancy, moved to Windham in 1974 where they welcomed daughters Laura and Erica, and later the family settled in Bedford. In addition to his many philanthropic pursuits, Doug enjoyed fly fishing, race-car driving and instructing, and sailing the coast with his wife on The Nancy M.

His longtime friend, James Tyrie, is now a Samuel P. Hunt Foundation Trustee. When asked for his thoughts on Doug and his impact, he shared the following:

"I feel fortunate to have had Doug as a friend.



"Doug and I worked together as Samuel P. Hunt Trustees and as fishing partners (in Alaska, Canada and most Western states) for more than 20 years. He worked hard and played hard and thoroughly enjoyed life.


"Doug was intimately familiar with the Manchester and southern New Hampshire communities. His work ethic and knowledge made him the epitome of a Trustee for The Hunt Foundation. He was a focused and tireless worker who willingly shared his knowledge, wisdom and experience with others, and was eager to help many nonprofit recipients of The Hunt Foundation's grants succeed in their missions.

"Doug's input and opinion mattered to us all."

"Kids in foster care don't always have someone there for them through the sadness and all the emotions and feelings that they feel, and our girls were fortunate they had Miss Linda [their CASA] through it all."

— Emily Bruggeman, Adoptive Parent





“I can’t change the world,
the country or the state,
but I can be the voice for
a child who has no voice.”

— Ruth O’Hara, CASA Volunteer Advocate



Charting a New Path

The joy of a child returning home, or another finding a new forever home with an adoptive family, makes for a powerful story. Just as powerful but less told are the stories of teenagers who are charting their own futures.

Four percent of CASA’s cases that closed last year were due to youth reaching adulthood (turning either 18 or 21), and another 4% closed when a young adult entered the HOPE (Housing and Opportunities to Personally Excel) Program, which allows young adults to voluntarily stay in or return to foster care from ages 18-21.

During her eight years as a CASA, Doris worked with two teenagers who, rather than be adopted, reunify with their families, or identify a guardian, followed a path called APPLA – Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement. In APPLA, the youth identifies a support network of adults and prepares for independent adulthood.

Doris says she enjoys working with teens. “You can’t go in with

a program,” she says. “You have to sit and listen to them and see where they are, and then maybe make feelers as to what works, what will they listen to. It’s a gradual, slow relationship building.”

When reflecting on her last case, she recalled how the teen had a strong desire and ability to advocate for himself. This was an attribute that needed to be supported.

“His courage and resilience allowed him to rise above the issues of the past and the challenges he faced while being in the system,” she says. “He deserves the credit for where he is today.”

Throughout ups and downs that included stays in hospitals and residential care facilities, her CASA teen was adamant that he wanted to achieve his high school diploma. When requirements to meet that goal kept changing, Doris worked with her program manager and

“His courage and resilience allowed him to rise above the issues of the past and the challenges he faced while being in the system. He deserves the credit for where he is today.”

— Doris, CASA Volunteer Advocate

CASA’s legal team to gain clarity so he could finally achieve his dream. He graduated last June.

“He walked across the stage, and that was what he wanted,” says Doris. “He didn’t want a GED – he wanted a diploma from a school and he did it. He’s a very bright kid.” Since his graduation, he started a job and enrolled in the HOPE Program, which gives him the opportunity to access ongoing support, housing, and other resources as he navigates the transition into adulthood.

Meet Our Advocates



Heidi Reynolds
Canaan

Years as a CASA: 1
Profession: Business owner

“I am a CASA because every child needs to have someone they can trust speaking up for their future; to give them hope; and to treasure their innocence. Sometimes parents or guardians cannot do that, but I can!”



William Smith
Laconia

Years as a CASA: 1
Profession: Retired from corporate security/fraud

“...know that if you decide to proceed in becoming a CASA, your life will be changed for the better forever, knowing your efforts might directly help a child/children of a family in crisis.”



Deborah Wenger
Waterville Valley

Years as a CASA: 7
Profession: Retired, former COO of a high-tech company

“It will be a challenging and rewarding experience. You will learn so much about your community, encounter a wide diversity of people, experience both sadness and joy, and make a difference in a child’s life. You will also learn a lot about yourself. Just do it!”

“If you love children, then become a CASA. So many children need an advocate to stand up for them, and we need more people to do this important work.”

— Regina Tate, CASA Volunteer Advocate



Thomas P. Scolforo
Merrimack

Years as a CASA: Brand New!
Profession: Retired from pharmaceutical sales

“I have always wanted to help children in need and be a voice to represent their needs. Children are our greatest asset and hope for the future.”



JoAnne Dempsey
Wolfeboro

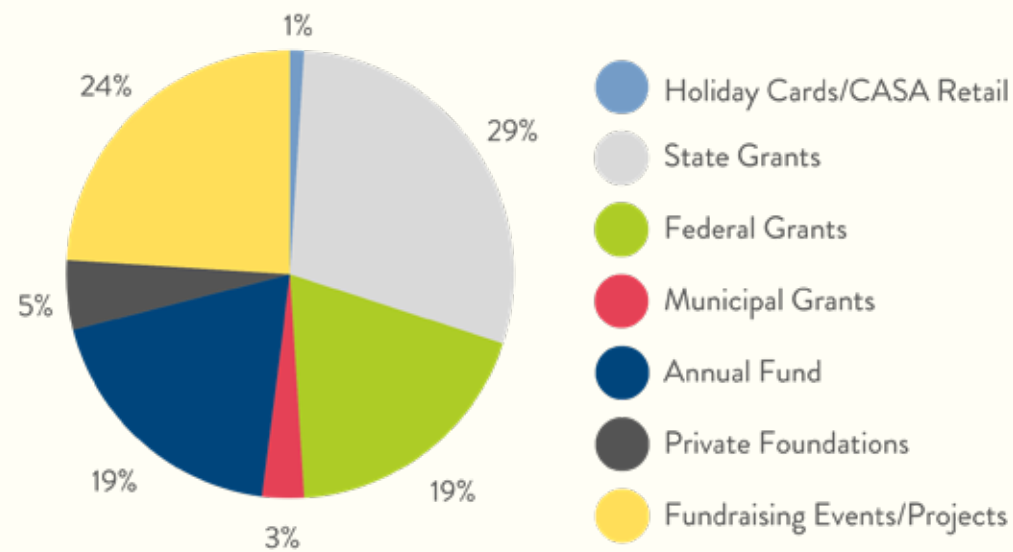
Years as a CASA: 9
Profession: Technology/manufacturing

“So many children wake up in the morning facing neglect and/or abuse in many different ways. They may stay in their homes through the process or live in a foster home. They are scared, confused, and often suffering from trauma. A strong and consistent presence of support and understanding from a responsible adult can make all the difference in steering their future in the right direction. It’s the connection that you will make with that child that can change everything even if it be in small and subtle ways. It can even change you.”

Our Funding

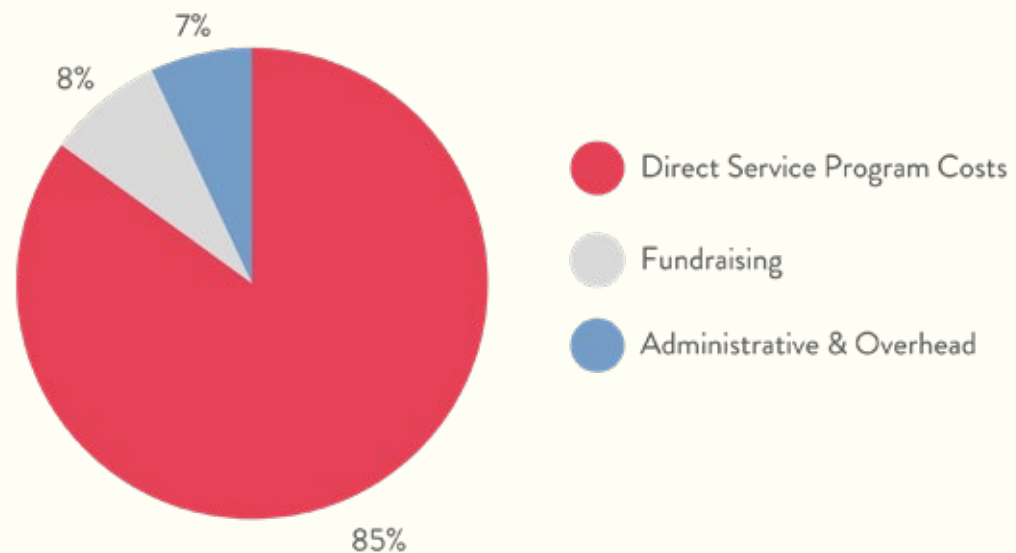
Funding Sources

CASA of NH strives to maintain frugal financial practices, a balanced budget, and funding diversity.



Funding Uses

All costs related to administering the program, including recruiting, training, and supervising volunteer advocates.



“Having CASA on my case was a blessing! Amy helped me navigate uncharted waters while giving me the support I needed. I was completely unfamiliar with all the processes. I don’t know how I could have managed without her.”

— CASA youth family member



Our Donors & Funders

Lois and Jim Champy



Over the last several years, Jim and Lois Champy of Rye have become familiar and welcome faces at events, and are now regular guests at our annual gala CASA Cares. For the Champys, supporting and donating to CASA of NH is, in their words, “necessary.”

“This group of volunteers truly provides necessary support for children in New Hampshire,” they told us. “We strongly believe in CASA’s mission, [to be] a voice for children who need advocates on their behalf. Sadly, there is too much abuse and neglect even here in New Hampshire, and it is our responsibility to provide support. It is a truly worthy nonprofit.”

Mark and Carissa Foster



As a CASA volunteer, Mark Foster already goes above and beyond. But along with his wife Carissa, they’ve shown that their commitment to CASA of NH runs deep with their generous gifts and attendance at CASA Cares.

“There are many worthwhile causes and organizations competing for your support,” says Mark. “Whatever season of life you are in, I’m asking that you consider investing your resources and/or time to support CASA of NH, where you can have a direct impact on improving the lives of young people in your community and New Hampshire. Please help these kids that have been exposed to neglect or abuse have a voice in navigating their way through the system with your donations or time.”

Statement of Support from Derry Medical Center

“For 60 years, Derry Medical Center has proudly served local communities, providing high-quality, compassionate care to generations of families. As an independent primary care practice that has grown to include offices in eight New Hampshire towns, our commitment to the well-being of our communities extends far beyond the walls of our clinics.”

“We believe that health is not just about physical well-being but also about creating a safe, nurturing environment for every child to thrive. That’s why, under the leadership of Tom Buchanan, CEO, Derry Medical Center has proudly supported the vital work of CASA for many years.”

“Tom has been involved with CASA on many levels, including serving on the CASA Board of Directors as Treasurer for nine years. After 25 years at the helm of DMC, Tom announced his retirement in early 2024. An important legacy he leaves behind is a new generation of leaders who strongly support the mission of CASA.”

Interview with Tom Buchanan, CEO of Derry Medical Center:

Why do you support CASA?

“I was drawn to the organization because of their reputation for providing unwavering support and advocacy for children at a critical juncture in their lives. Helping at-risk children is one of the greatest rewards there is. It can be life-changing for children, ensuring that their needs are appropriately considered and represented as they grow up.”

What would you say to someone who is considering supporting CASA?

“CASA is a tremendous organization! The management team is extremely dedicated and mission-driven. Participation can include serving on the Board, becoming a CASA volunteer and managing cases, or becoming a donor.

“If you’re considering volunteering, know that the staff provides exceptional support and training. At any level, you will be glad you got involved with CASA.”

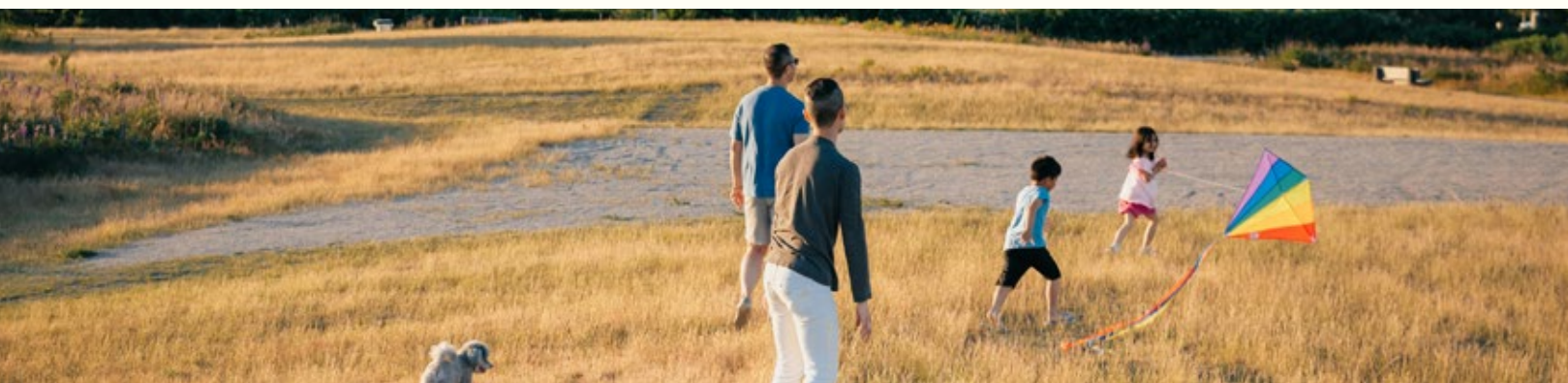
What was your experience serving on the CASA Board?

“I had an amazing experience while serving for nine years on the CASA Board as Treasurer. The Board was well represented both geographically and by professional backgrounds. During my tenure, the organization tripled in size, advancing its goal to reach more children throughout NH. Growth was always mission-driven and thoughtful. I felt my time and efforts were useful and appreciated. The work was satisfying and the learning never stopped. Assisting in a small way in the support of at-risk children was one of the highlights of my career.

“Thank you, CASA, for your pivotal role in shaping a brighter future for so many children, providing them with the support and advocacy they desperately need.”

“Helping at-risk children is one of the greatest rewards there is. It can be life-changing for children, ensuring that their needs are appropriately considered and represented as they grow up.”

— Tom Buchanan, CEO of Derry Medical Center





Grappone Automotive Group

The Grappone Automotive Group has long been committed to philanthropy. Their *Grappone in the Community* program supports their team members' volunteer efforts, and they donate at least 5% of the company's net profit each year to charitable efforts, and are consistent supporters of hundreds of organizations throughout the state. Asked why CASA of NH is among the many organizations they support, Amanda Grappone Osmer says, **"I don't know of any other group in our state that is doing such important, good, and targeted work to help young people who find themselves navigating the court system."** As a business owner who is blessed to be able to share our profits with our local communities, I personally choose to direct Grappone's charitable giving funds to such a worthy group."

Greater Lakes Region Charitable Fund for Children

When asked what she would say to someone considering support for CASA, Jennifer Kelley of the Greater Lakes Region Charitable Fund for Children says it's "the best decision ever!" With a mission to engage the community and to financially support local families and children in need, for 20-plus years they've recognized that CASA's statewide presence enables us to provide a critical service to children in the Lakes Region.

"We support CASA because they take care of our most vulnerable population – children," Kelley says. "CASA advocates for children's best interests, which makes a life-changing difference for children and youth who have experienced abuse or neglect, many of whom are in foster care."

"We are proud to support CASA of NH because they provide these vulnerable children with a voice."

— *The Rowley Agency, A Gallagher Company*

The Rowley Agency A Gallagher Company

CASA of NH is grateful for our strong relationship with The Rowley Agency, and in particular for the friendship of Bill and Jean VerPlank. Bill, who passed away in 2022, served on the CASA of NH Board of Directors for 10 years. He joined The Rowley Agency in 1985 and remained there for the rest of his career, becoming a partner in 1996 until his retirement in 2018. Additionally, CEO Dan Church and President Gary Stevens have long supported our work at CASA of NH. The Rowley Agency has supported CASA of NH for 25 years – here is their reason why:

"The children who have benefited from CASA have often been failed by the adults in their lives. Their safety and stability have not been a priority. **We are proud to support CASA of NH because they provide these vulnerable children with a voice, put their needs first, and fight for their opportunity to flourish in a safe and permanent home.** Whether it's volunteering or donating, it would be difficult to find a more admirable and important cause."

Norwin S. and Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation

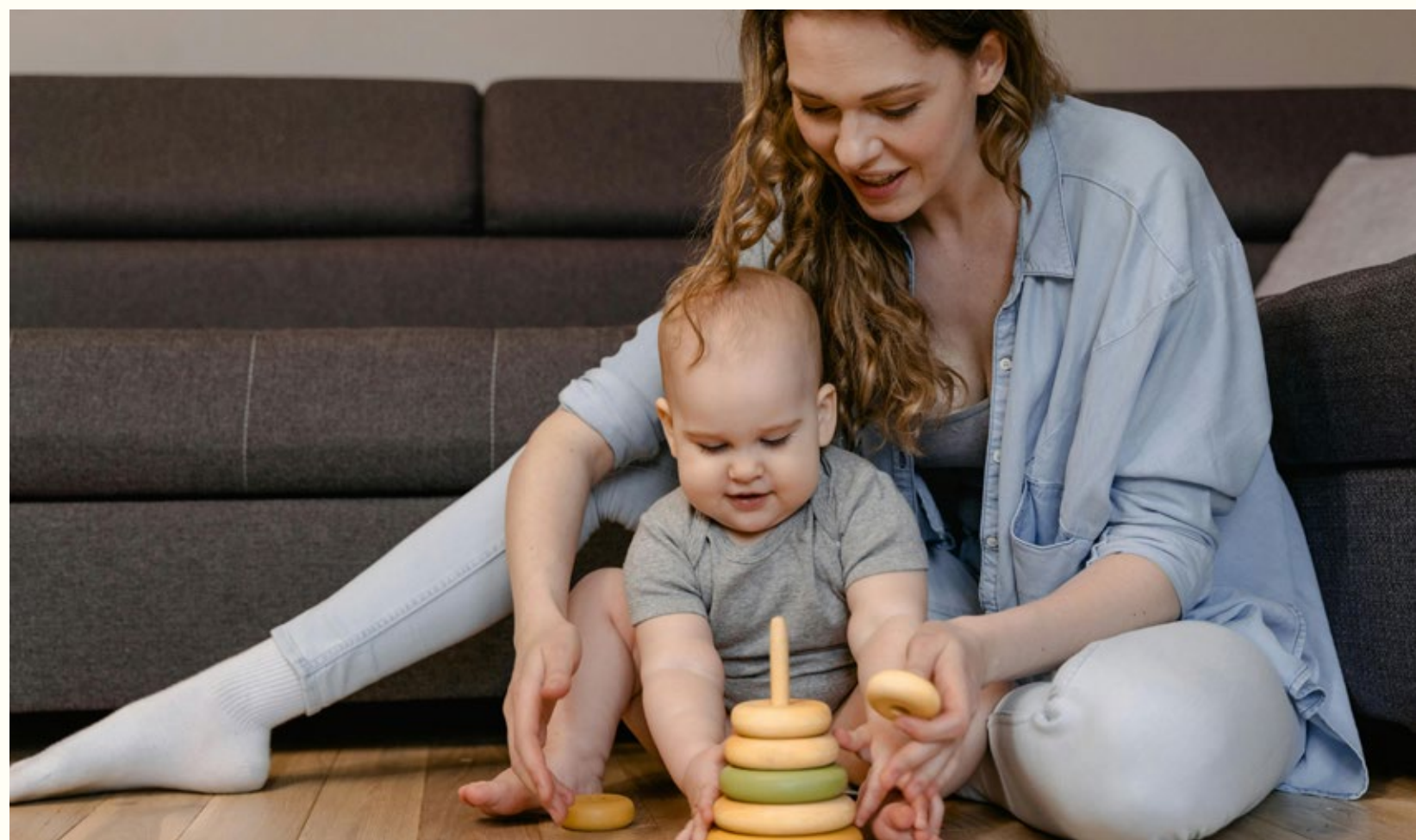
Donors and Funders Continued

"More than 30 years ago," recounts Tom Donovan, Bean Foundation Senior Trustee, "Marty Sink applied to the Bean Foundation for a grant to support CASA, a new organization with a different approach to address the interests of children embroiled in the court system." Donovan explains that "Bean has always been willing to take risks on promising new organizations, and so the trustees took a chance with CASA." And we're incredibly grateful they did, and for their consistent support ever since.

In recent history, some of the funding included support for the following:

- The Fostering Futures Program, which engages volunteer advocates to support youth ages 12-21, helping them understand the support available to them as they transition out of foster care.
- Efforts to increase recruitment and retention, which is critical to CASA's mission, including additional support last year as CASA continued to address a horrific increase in child abuse and neglect cases.
- Implementing an organization-wide coaching model that worked hand-in-hand with a volunteer-centered culture to create a vibrant and self-sustaining organization.

Since that initial start-up grant from the Bean Foundation, Donovan sees that CASA of NH has come a long way. "CASA's growth and statewide success since then has made the Bean trustees proud to have been there from the start. Bean has continued to offer targeted support to CASA over the years," he adds. "Our trustees embrace the fact that CASA advocates are highly trained community volunteers who get to know a child and are able to provide important information to help a judge make decisions in the best interest of the child. Support for CASA is support for a well-run organization with a clear mission."



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