



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

# ANNUAL REPORT FY 2020

## CASA of the 7th Judicial District

*"Helping to break the  
cycle of abuse and  
neglect through  
prevention,  
advocacy and  
interaction."*

*Serving Delta, Gunnison,  
Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray,  
& San Miguel Counties*

[casa7jd.org](http://casa7jd.org)  
[info@casa7jd.org](mailto:info@casa7jd.org)



**CHANGE A CHILD'S**

*St*  *ry*



Dear Friend,

I want to share a brief summary of the progress we have made with your support through the past year.

Our dedicated team of **Court Appointed Special Advocates** volunteer their time to serve children who have suffered the trauma of abuse and/or neglect in the home. Appointed by a district court judge, our volunteers meet with the children regularly. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, stop by and visit with our CASA program manager.

In February of 2019, we opened 8 homes at **1st Place on 2nd St.** for youth coming out of foster care or at imminent risk for homelessness. Our young adults at 1st Place continue to inspire us. Over 80% of our tenants are currently employed. Involvement with law enforcement has plummeted. Two of our former tenants are off to college. In July, we received a \$315,000 grant to put 30 youth through a pilot project where the rent being paid by our 18 to 24-year-old tenants living on supportive housing vouchers is matched dollar for dollar and put into an investment account. Can we increase their earnings and decrease the time spent unemployed? Can we improve educational outcomes and reduce the need for ongoing public assistance? We will monitor the data over the next two years. Stay tuned!

Not content to watch families struggle through court ordered **Supervised Visitation**, we brought on Dr. Aixa Powell, and over the past 9 months have developed a new approach to supervised visitation that includes parent coaching, concrete support, and the ongoing assessment of 25 target behaviors identified as parenting benchmarks in the field of family psychology. Our new methodology for supervised visitation (SIMSuV) has been copyrighted, trademarked, and turned into a cloud application. It is pretty amazing.

We opened the **Youth Access Center (YAC)** in October of 2019. In the first 6 months we had over 120 youth using the space for individualized case management, peer support groups, and life skills training. In August we submitted our application to Colorado's Division of Housing and have begun a capital campaign to build 5 additional housing units and a Youth Access Center for young adults coming out of foster care in Delta. The plan is to break ground in January of 2021. It's a relatively small project with a budget of \$675,000, but should begin to meet an important need in that community.

While **COVID** created some hurdles, it also opened the door to some amazing friendships. Working with Region 10, our youth, Backstreet Bagel, and a few local volunteers, CASA delivered more than 3500 meals to senior citizens who were homebound during the worst of the COVID crisis. Our thanks goes out to donors like you that enabled such a rapid response. As the school year starts, we brought in additional staff and volunteers to assist our youth with school work.

It has been an unusual year, but with your support, CASA of the 7th Judicial District continues to serve families in crisis across our communities. Again, thank you!

*Carlton Mason CEO*

# Making a Difference

*Your generosity is making a difference!*

At CASA we believe:

- Every child deserves a safe, loving, permanent home;
- Every abused or neglected child has a voice that needs to be heard; and
- Every child deserves a stable adult presence.

In fiscal year 2019-2020, CASA of the 7th Judicial District touched the life of more than 460 children, youth, and young adults seeking safety, stability, and supportive relationships. Through advocacy, supervised visitation, individualized case management, and your continued support, we are making a difference.

**Thank you!**

## Mission

*"Helping to break the cycle of abuse and neglect through prevention, advocacy and interaction."*

## Vision

*"A community where children and youth become tomorrow's champions of hope, purpose, and family."*

## Board of Directors

*James R Haugsness - Pres.*  
*Susan Welk-Valdez - V. Pres.*  
*Trae Cranson - Sec./Treas.*  
*Pat Blackwelder*  
*Larry Dupper*  
*Warren Francis*  
*Valerie Hill*  
*Paul Magnani*  
*Twyla Righter*  
*Patty Voorhis*

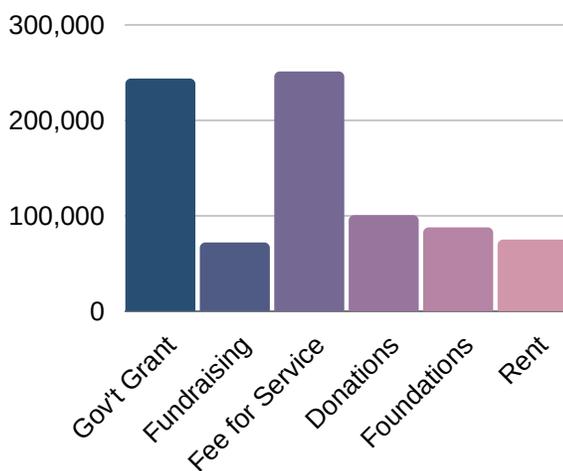
## Staff

*Rebecca Cameron*  
*Lauren Cook*  
*Alex Gray*  
*Stacy Harbaugh*  
*Jane Hardman*  
*Mike Marinkovich*  
*Chantel Martinez*  
*Leah Okeson*  
*Mercedes Wright*

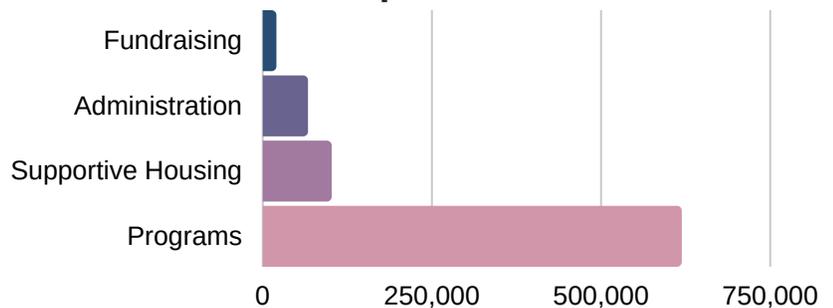
## Administration

*Carlton Mason*      *Karin Slater*  
 CEO                      CFO  
  
*Mariah Emond*      *Aixa Powell*  
 COO                      CRO

## Sources of Revenue

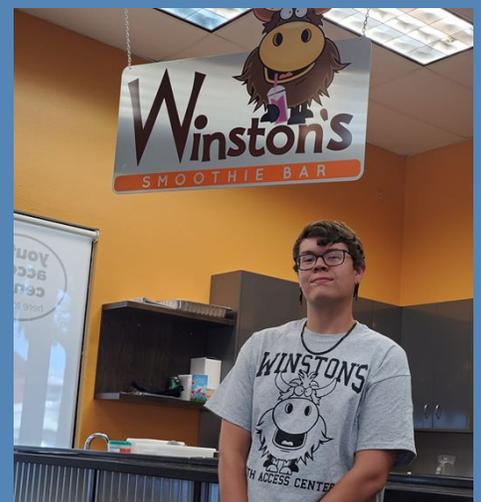


## Expenses



## CASA of the 7th Judicial District Programs

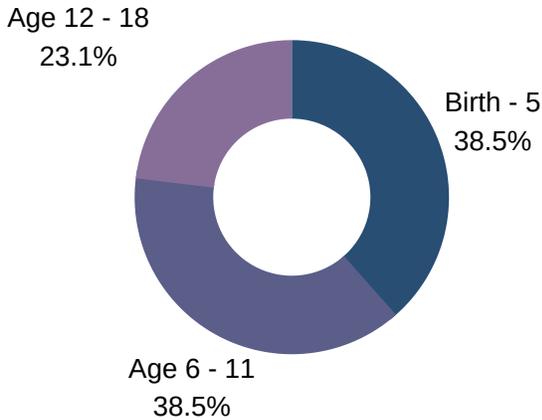
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Supervised Exchange & Parenting Time (SEPT)
- Youth Services - Preparing youth for independent living
- The YAC - Youth Access Center
- Winston's Smoothie Bar - Youth Employment Readiness
- 1st Place on 2nd Street - Housing and Supportive Services



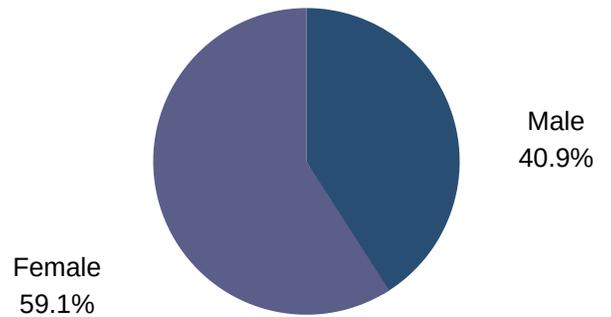
# Court Appointed Special Advocates



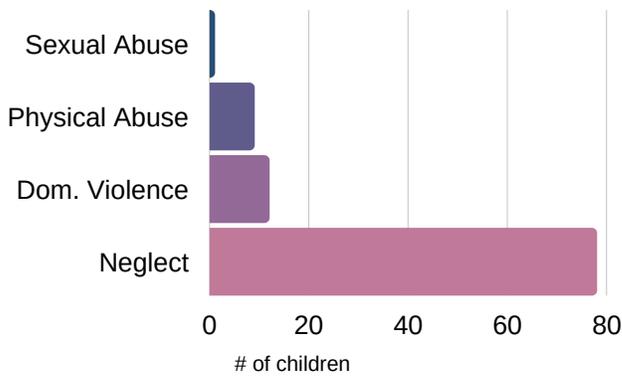
## Age of Children Served



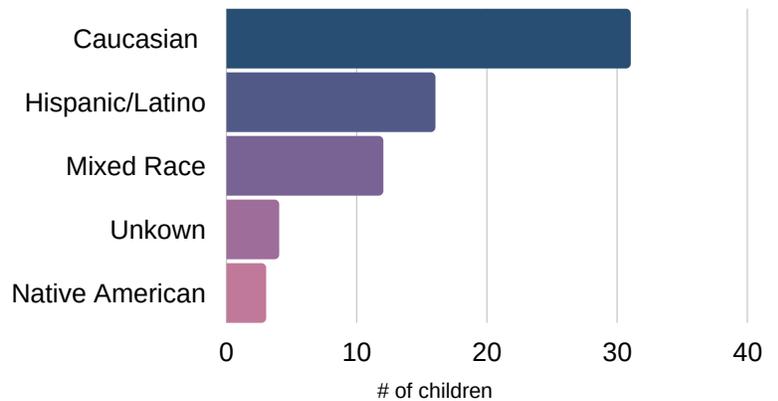
## Gender



## Abuse Type



## Race/Ethnicity



Active  
CASA  
Advocates

34

Number of  
Cases  
Served

51

Number of  
Children  
Served

97

Number of  
Hours  
Volunteered

904

# of Children  
who Returned  
Home

9

*\*of cases closed and served by a CASA advocate*

In fiscal year 2019-2020, 210 children were out of their homes in the 6 counties of the 7th Judicial District. In the same time period, 356 children were victims of abuse and neglect. Judges appoint advocates to the most severe cases

# SUPERVISED EXCHANGE & PARENTING TIME



## Family Contacts

*Supervised Visits*

5910

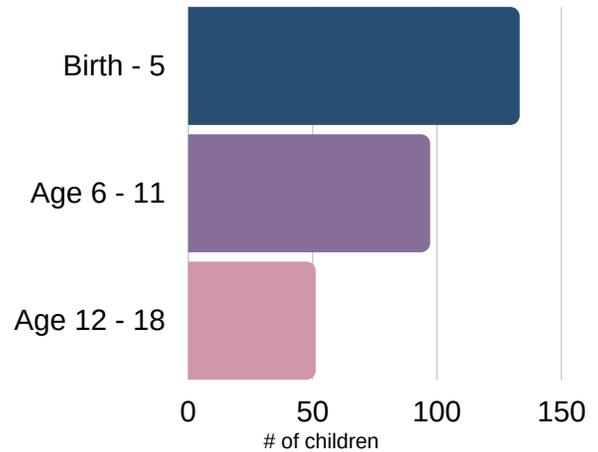
*Parenting Classes*

676

*Supervised Exchanges*

263

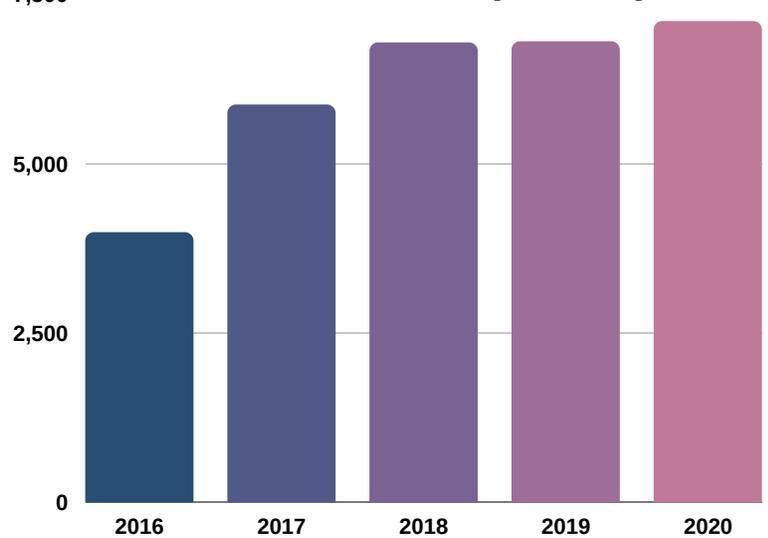
## Ages



## Visitation is essential for a child's well-being

The primary purpose of visitation is to maintain the parent-child attachment, reduce a child's sense of abandonment, and preserve their sense of belonging as part of a family and community. A child needs to see and have regular contact with their parent(s), as this relationship is the foundation of child development.

## Hours of Visitation year-to-year



*Volunteer Hours*

2215

(7004 Miles)

*Families Served*

155

*Children Involved*

264

*Hours of Parenting Classes*

676

*Hours of Visitation*

6,807



# Youth Services, The YAC, & 1st Place on 2nd Street

Youth Services focuses on adolescents age 14 to 22 who are soon to be discharged from the foster care system. With the help of community business partners, one-on-one mentoring, group sessions, and experiential learning activities, these youth prepare for independent living.

Number of  
Open Cases

51

Volunteer  
Hours

1013

# of Young  
Adults  
Housed at  
1st Place

16

Number of  
Youth visiting  
the YAC

105

Average # of  
Check-ins per  
Month by  
Youth age 14  
to 24

167

## FLEX - Innovative Programming

CASA7JD was awarded \$315,000 to supplement well-established outcomes of mentorship, financial literacy and housing strategies of stability with access to capital for Tenants at *1st Place on 2nd Street*. The **Financial Literacy & Equity Exchange (FLEX)** project is an initiative to match the 30% AMI rent payment required by state funded vouchers from employed tenants. The dollar for dollar match of rent will be placed in an investment fund, creating an incentive for these youth to develop financial literacy, maintain placement stability, and learn much needed life skills. The distribution of funds will be for the following purposes:

- educational goals,
- purchase of hard assets, or
- entrepreneurial opportunities.

An advisory board made up of organization staff and community members will review the submitted plans, offer any needed revisions, and approve for the distribution of funds. The objective is to create mobility from ongoing government assistance towards improved social integration and financial independence through increasing individual net worth.

## Youth Access Center

Over the past year the Youth Access Center (YAC) has become a safe haven for youth as young as 12 and as old as 24. Even now, months into COVID, they start to wander in as early as 10:00 am. From 11:00 am until 2:00pm each day a learning assistant is on staff to help with homework as part of our Covid response. By the time Winston's, the youth run commercial smoothie bar, opens at 2:00pm, young people are gathered around the table or in small groups: drawing, singing, playing the piano or ukulele, or just putting on their favorite music. The YAC quickly fills with the noise of happiness. The young people know that all staff, from the CEO to the Youth Development Specialist, are available to assist and converse.



Open Weekdays 2:00pm to 4:00pm

# Our CASA Volunteers

We may struggle to be eloquent, or lack in financial means; however, we are all a book to be read in the lives that we live. It is our attitudes and values that will influence the lives of the children we engage.

At CASA, our volunteers have an opportunity to help write a new chapter into the lives of some very special children.

An Advocate offers comfort and support; they elevate the child's interests in a world that often cannot see their struggle, A CASA can amplify the voice of a child in a complex system of courts and caseworkers.

A Mentor provides access to life experience from a trusted source to older youth, making the transition to independence,

**We thank all the Volunteers that step through our door and shine a light of hope on the children we serve.**

*More about*



*In the setting of court ordered supervised visitation, SIMSuV is a systematic methodology based on research in the areas of Cognitive Behavioral Techniques, Family Studies and Education, for the development of strategies that support the non-custodial parent in:*

- *Learning Positive Parenting Skills*
- *The Formation of Prosocial Behaviors*
- *A Progression towards Family Reunification*

*While providing parents with helpful interventions and concrete support to improve the likelihood of reunification, SIMSuV delivers the Court, Caseworkers, and Respondent Parent Counsel the data they need to make informed decisions.*

## FEATURES

- 5 Standard Behavior Categories
- 25 Target Behaviors Monitored
- 4 Levels of Competency
- Documented Interventions & Parent Coaching
- Ongoing Visitation Logs
- 1 Monthly Baseline Report
- **All in a Cloud Based Application**

*A heartfelt thanks to the Foundations & Communities supporting*

*CASA of the 7th Judicial District:*





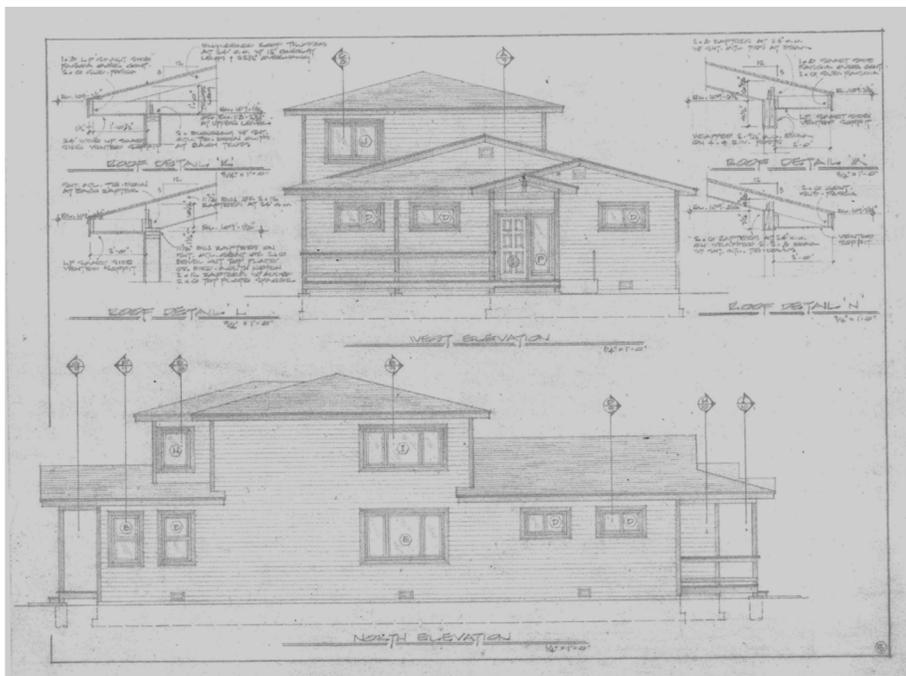
# CASA of the 7th Judicial District

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PO Box 1708  
Montrose, CO 81403  
Ph: 970-249-0337  
casa7jd.org



## Yes. I want to help CASA of the 7th Judicial District

### What's Coming in 2020-2021!



This will be new construction in Delta of a 3076 s.f. housing project on vacant property currently owned by CASA of the 7th Judicial District. The lower level will have four 1 bedroom suites. Each of the 4 suites downstairs will have full bath, microwave, mini-fridge, closet, bedroom, and exterior entrance. While each room will provide privacy and minimal food prep space, tenants will be encouraged to share the common area which will have a full kitchen, dining area, living room, and laundry. The 2 bedroom unit upstairs, will have a full kitchen and dining/living area; tenants living in this unit will also be encouraged to use the shared living space and outdoor areas. Tenants will also have a full time case manager available to assist with job readiness, employment, life skills, financial literacy, mental health, socialization, and the development of personal mentors. Staff will facilitate peer support groups involving both tenants and their friends. Ground-breaking is scheduled for January of 2021.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer  
\_\_\_ I would like information about volunteering for one of CASA's programs.  
\_\_\_ I would like information about joining CASA's Board of Directors.

I would like to donate  
\_\_\_ I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month as a recurring donation.  
\_\_\_ I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ as a one time donation.  
\_\_\_ I would like more information about becoming an annual event sponsor.

To donate by check, please mail your check to the address above or drop by our office, we would love to meet you!

To make a recurring payment you may donate online at [CASA7JD.ORG](http://CASA7JD.ORG) or call the office and speak with Karin Slater CFO.

