

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2024

Montana CASA/GAL Association

MTCASA - A Network of Hope



www.montanacasagal.org

A Success Story from a MT Local Program: The Impact of CASA

2024 SNAPSHOT



1,137

Children and families
served across the state
of Montana in 2024

350

CASA/GAL
Volunteers in
2024

MTCASA provides many services to Local Programs, passthrough funding is one of them. This story is a direct result from a Local Program about the impacts of that funding, and our CASA Volunteers

Giselle's Story

A Story From CASA of Missoula



Giselle* is a wonderful, boisterous, absolutely delightful 7 year old. She loves to wear sparkles, use her outdoor voice all the time, and play elaborate, imaginative games with her stuffed unicorns.

She is also a 7 year old who spent 6 years of her life in the foster care system. With an incarcerated father and a mother struggling to control her mental health and substance abuse, there was no parent around to keep little Giselle safe.

For nearly all of her young life, Giselle bounced between the homes of grandparents, cousins, neighbors— all of whom, for one reason or another, couldn't keep her long-term. Giselle was at risk of spending her entire childhood without a stable home to grow up in.

That's where long-time CASA volunteer Judy Kelly came in. Judy was a major proponent of getting Giselle placed with a therapeutic foster family near Helena. Once she was placed with these foster parents, Giselle was able to shine at the top of her class, dress as a mermaid for Halloween, and cuddle with the family terriers every night as she fell asleep.

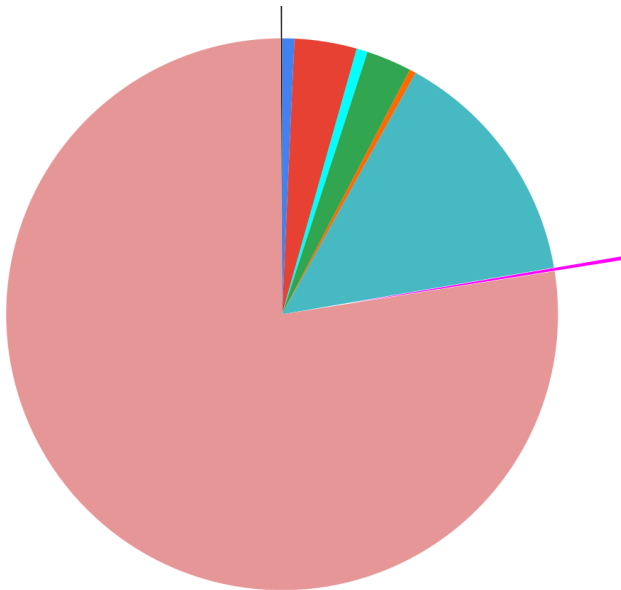
Judy stayed in excellent communication with Giselle's foster parents, teachers, and providers since she was placed there over a year ago, and updated the Judge and legal parties regularly on the girl's incredible progress in her new home. She painted a picture for the Court of a little girl who finally had space to be herself after years of trauma and displacement.

In December, 2024, just before Christmas, Giselle was finally adopted by her foster parents, alleviating all doubt about where and how she'll grow up. "Judy Zoomed into the courtroom across the state to watch Giselle be adopted," Volunteer Coordinator Lindsay Nugent said. "Giselle was wearing a purple princess gown, and had face paint done by her newly adoptive mother. Her classmates had all joined her for her special day. She didn't hesitate when the Judge asked her if she was ready to be adopted. And there wasn't a dry eye in the room."

*names have been changed

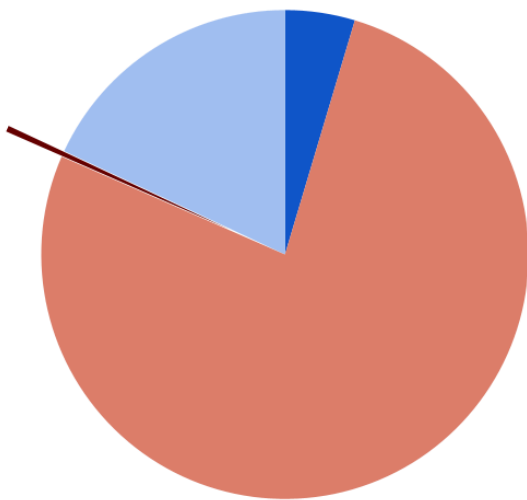


Thank you for partnering with us as we strive to keep children and families together, safe, and happy.



- Business Expenses
- Contract Services
- Facilities & Equipment
- Operations
- Insurance
- Payroll
- Travel and Meetings
- Program
- Other

MTCASA 2024 Spending



- Donations
- Grants/Contracts
- Investments
- Foundations

MTCASA 2024 Income

Thank you to our 2024 supporters



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



CASA Court Appointed Special Advocates FOR CHILDREN National CASA



Thank you to these individual donors:

MT CASA Local Program Network

- Tom and Carol McElwain-In honor of Jamie Campbell
- Joyce Dwyer
- Laura Dever
- Jeff & Kim Montag
- Mark Sanz
- Joe Walsh
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- Jeffrey Werstak
- Jim Fitzgerald
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- Tom and Christine McCall
- John and Jody Menyhart
- In Memory of Linda Shrock
- In Honor of Jenn Boyer
- Jeff & Kelli Hoffman
- Jan & Pat Munday
- Kimberly Casey
- Jennifer & Christopher Boyer
- Karen and Burke Townsend
- Bob Brown
- Shannon Parker
- Brandn Green





Looking Back at 2024 from April Barnings, Executive Director at Montana CASA/GAL Association

The year 2024 provided more opportunities to serve more children and their families during the most difficult time in their lives. We are proud of the Montana CASA Network as they continue to provide hope to children and vital information to judges supporting decisions based on the best interests of children. MTCASA ensured best outcomes for children in the following ways:

Provided \$500,000 in federal funding to 12 of the 15 qualifying local programs resulting in services to 420 new children and the recruitment of 90 new advocates. An increase of 10% in the number of children served by a CASA in Montana. Also resulting in 20 advocate training sessions provided by local programs and MTCASA-webinars, in person and the Annual MTCASA Conference. We are excited to see the expansion of services from Eastern Montana CASA to the Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes.



We are making progress towards the introduction of CASA to district courtrooms where CASA does not currently exist. To date there are close to 1,000 children still in need. Dialogue with judges in those areas along with local leaders and policy makers is moving us ever closer to planting the seeds necessary to open doors and/or expand existing services.

We will not stop until CASA is accepted as a priority service to children in need in every region of the state and to ensure that CASA continues in our state for the long-term. Along with our robust social media presence, watch for billboards across the state, digital media and the statewide media release of the recently produced MTCASA video series.

All of these successes were made possible through individual donations, foundations and legislative support. We appreciate our ongoing partnerships. Together, we make a difference for children.

Looking Forward at 2025 from Laura Dever, Board Chair at Montana CASA/GAL Association



We are a statewide, non-profit board that works with and for local CASA programs, and with National CASA, to provide support, resources, funding, networking and training for the CASA programs and volunteers.

2025 kicks off with the 69th Session of the Montana Legislature, where MT CASA advocates for the continued support and funding of CASA programming. We also welcome new board members Shannon Parker, Bob Brown and Dr. Mark Sanz, and administrative assistant Elizabeth Bowles. Many thanks to outgoing board member John Menyhart and previous admin assistant Maggie Jensen! MT CASA is also implementing a board restructuring this year that creates an advisory council for the executive director, which should improve both E.D. and board efficiency and flexibility.

In September, we will hold our annual CASA Conference in Butte to provide education, training and networking opportunities to all of the local CASA programs and volunteers. The 2024 Conference was very successful, and we'll continue to build this event.

All year long, the MT CASA/GAL Association staff and board work tirelessly to support and expand the local programs and volunteers who advocate for the well-being of every abused or neglected child in Montana. Thank you for your support of our mission: it makes all the difference.

Montana CASA/GAL Association is the state organization set to provide aid to 15 local CASA programs across Montana



In 2024, MTCASA and the 15 local programs continued to grow...



"Our program is more effective as a result of the collaboration fostered by MTCASA amongst the local Montana CASA programs." - Scott Appel (Executive Director, CASA of Missoula)




"Montana CASA has supported me, as our only staff, and our board of directors with guidance and training. MTCASA has also secured pass-thru funding for our program to apply for in our efforts to serve 100% of children in our judicial district. I appreciate our monthly director meetings, keeping us all informed and giving us the ability to support each other." - Chamene Plum (Executive Director, CASA of Hill County)



"Montana CASA Association supports Eastern Montana CASA GAL's unique program serving many communities in Eastern Montana by assisting with direct marketing needs. The Montana State CASA continues to look for financial assistance, public awareness needs to help all the local programs serving Montana advocate for all children who are victims of child abuse and neglect." -Cherie LeBlanc-Dyba (Executive Director, Eastern MT CASA/GAL)





**To donate or volunteer, visit
www.montanacasagal.org or
mail: PO Box 2596, Missoula
MT, 59806**

**Together we can provide hope
to Montana children and
families.**