

LIFE STORIES

child & family advocacy

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Data in this report
reflects FY 24-25



LIFESTORIESWELD.ORG

OUR MISSION

Life Stories Child & Family Advocacy believes every child deserves a life free from abuse in a safe, permanent home. Our mission is to empower children to share their stories through compassionate advocacy, healing services, and prevention education.

2024-25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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DAVID ZUMBRUN
CHICKEN SALAD CHICK



AMY ROURKE
CAFE VALLEY BAKERY



KAREN ZACK
RETIRED

OUR VISION

A community where every child's story matters, and every child thrives.

Meet the team that helps uphold Life Stories' mission and vision:

STAFF

ADMIN TEAM



LISA DRAKE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



VERNIECE THOMAS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



SUSAN MCKENZIE
FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



MATTIE FALK
MARKETING COORDINATOR

FUNDRAISING TEAM

CASA TEAM



BRIANNA FISCHER
CASA PROGRAM MANAGER



MARIA PENA
BILINGUAL CASA CASE SUPERVISOR
& PROGRAM SUPPORT



ANGIE HALBERT
BILINGUAL CASA CASE SUPERVISOR



MELANY MARRERO
BILINGUAL CASA CASE SUPERVISOR

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER TEAM



JILLIAN HENRY
CAC PROGRAM MANAGER & FORENSIC INTERVIEWER



ELIZAVET CARRANZA ARROYO
BILINGUAL FAMILY ADVOCATE



JACY LEVINE
FORENSIC INTERVIEWER

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of Life Stories,

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was a year of steady progress and continued commitment to children and families across Weld County. Even in a landscape marked by uncertainty and growing need, Life Stories remained focused on what matters most: **ensuring children are heard, supported, and treated with care during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.**

Through our Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program and our Children's Advocacy Center, Life Stories served hundreds of children and non-offending caregivers this year. Volunteer advocates stood alongside children navigating dependency and neglect proceedings, while our Children's Advocacy Center provided trauma-informed forensic interviews and family advocacy in close partnership with law enforcement, child protection, and behavioral health professionals. **Families consistently shared that they felt welcomed, respected, and supported - exactly the experience we work hard to provide.**

This year also reflected continued investment in our people and our organization. We strengthened internal systems, supported staff development, and focused intentionally on building a workplace culture that recognizes both the emotional weight and the deep importance of this work. These efforts help ensure that those who serve children are supported, prepared, and able to do their best work.

Behind the scenes, important foundation-building continued. The Board of Directors expanded and strengthened its governance practices, facility and technology improvements were completed, and a new website launched to better reflect who Life Stories is today. Strong financial stewardship, careful budgeting, and diverse funding sources allowed the organization to remain stable and well-positioned for the future.

None of this work happens alone. I am deeply grateful to our dedicated staff, volunteer advocates, board members, donors, and community partners. Your belief in Life Stories makes a real difference for children and families throughout Weld County.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude for what has been built and a continued commitment to **showing up for children when they need us most.**




With sincere thanks,
LISA DRAKE
Executive Director

The **Child Advocacy Center (CAC)** is a safe, welcoming place for children and teens who may have experienced abuse or witnessed violence. At the CAC, young people can share their stories with specially trained interviewers in a supportive environment. Families also receive guidance and resources to help them begin the healing process. **In fiscal year 2024-25, our Child Advocacy Center:**




conducted
307
Forensic
Interviews
in response to allegations
of child abuse & neglect

provided advocacy for



467

non-offending caretakers



of caregivers
reported they
believed their
child felt safe
while they
were
interviewed
at the CAC



HEALING STARTS HERE: CREATING SPACE FOR A CHILD'S VOICE

Many children who experience abuse struggle to speak about what has happened to them. Fear, shame, and guilt often keep them silent. **When a child is able to find safety and share their story, it is a powerful and meaningful moment.**

Our Child Advocacy Center experienced one of those moments when a six-year-old girl came to us late last year. She was scared and not yet ready to talk about the physical abuse she had experienced.

The CAC team carefully considered the next steps. Instead of pushing forward too quickly, they focused on what the child needed most. Safety. Time. Stability. She spent the long weekend with a trusted adult who knew her and agreed to support her while the team worked together to determine the best path forward. **That decision made all the difference.**

When the child returned the following week, she was ready. She felt safe enough to share what had happened to her, because the team allowed her time in a secure and supportive environment.

This moment was a significant win for our Child Advocacy Center. The team helped a child find her voice. They also supported the multidisciplinary team in determining that she needed to be placed in a safe environment where she could continue to heal and flourish.

This is the heart of the Child Advocacy Center's work: **creating space for children to feel safe, listening when they are ready, and helping ensure they are protected so they can move forward with hope.**



"Before CAC's existed, a child would have to tell their story of some of the worst times in their life to multiple people. They'd have to say the same story to a doctor, then a police officer, then a social worker, then a teacher, and so on. Now, at a CAC, they can tell that story one time from start to finish with a trained forensic interviewer who can connect with all those professionals on the back end. At Life Stories, we reduce trauma, protect the integrity of interviews, and always have a child-first mentality and focus."

- Jillian Henry, CAC Program Manager

Every colored gingerbread person signifies a child who found safety, trust, and the courage to tell their story

To learn more about the Child Advocacy Center, visit lifestoriesweld.org/programs/child-advocacy-center

OUR PROGRAMS

CASA (COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES)

The **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** Program trains, supervises, and empowers community volunteers to advocate for abused, neglected, or abandoned children. At the request of judges, these dedicated volunteers serve as crucial voices for vulnerable youth in the court system.

In fiscal year 2024-25, the **CASA** program:

advocated for the best interests of

242 children in open abuse & neglect cases

giving them a consistent voice in the child welfare system

through the championing of

101 volunteers

who invested over

3,472

hours helping children in our community

CHILD ADVOCACY IN ACTION: A VOICE FOR A LITTLE BOY

“It is amazing what can happen when one person decides to be the change.”

This year, a little boy in the CASA program had already been **moved through eight different placements**. At only five years old, he was struggling to feel safe and to make sense of where he truly belonged.

When a CASA volunteer met with his new kinship caregiver, serious concerns quickly became clear. The child was having a hard time both emotionally and behaviorally. During the visit, he shared that he felt no one loved him and no one wanted him. He then said something no child should ever have to feel: **he said he did not want to be here anymore**.

The CASA volunteer immediately recognized how serious this was. She contacted the Guardian ad Litem and the caseworker to share her concerns and advocate for services. She did not stop there. She stayed persistent and she continued to follow up. She continued to visit that little boy and made sure she never missed a visit. **That advocacy made a difference**.

With the support of the child’s professional team and the strong recommendations made by the CASA Volunteer, the judge ordered that therapy begin as soon as possible. For this child, who had been carrying deep feelings of abandonment, **starting therapy was an important first step toward healing and stability**.

Because of a dedicated CASA Volunteer, this little boy’s voice was heard.

This is the impact of the CASA Program.

One child. One advocate. One life changed.



“I am here to give the children a consistent, caring advocate, and to help ensure their voices are heard, their needs are protected, and their futures are brighter.”

- Abby Workman, Current CASA Volunteer



To learn more or apply to be a CASA, visit lifestoriesweld.org/programs/casa

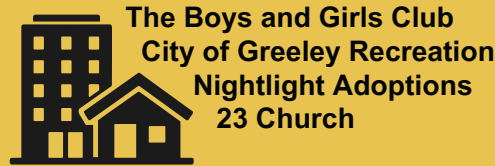
The **Darkness to Light** Program is a three-hour training that can be given to any community member but is geared toward individuals who work directly with children (teachers, nurses, church staff, etc.). Trainees will learn how to make good choices about protecting children and how to respond appropriately to child abuse suspicions, allegations, and investigations. **In fiscal year 2024-25, Darkness to Light:**

provided training to

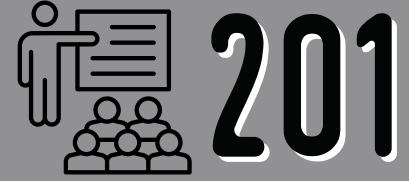
67 

adults who consistently work with children

delivered quarterly trainings in addition to tailored sessions for several partner organizations:



offering



hours of training to better support children and families

AWARENESS IN ACTION: PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH PREVENTION

When Life Stories provides Darkness to Light training, the goal is not simply to educate, but to create lasting change. One such moment came when Life Stories partnered with a local organization deeply rooted in serving families and children in our community. As the organization prepared to expand its services to include new childcare components, questions around safety, responsibility, and prevention rose to the forefront, making the timing of the training especially critical.

By offering Darkness to Light **at no cost**, Life Stories was able to support the organization during a pivotal moment of growth. Staff engaged in meaningful conversations about how abuse occurs, how to recognize concerning behaviors, and how everyday decisions can either increase risk or strengthen protection for children. The training reinforced a **shared understanding that safeguarding children must be intentional, proactive, and embedded into organizational culture from the beginning.**

What began as a single training quickly became a lasting commitment. Recognizing its value and impact, the organization chose to make Darkness to Light a required annual training for staff, ensuring child safety remains a priority year after year.

At the heart of Darkness to Light is the belief that preventing child abuse also means preventing generational trauma. When adults understand their responsibility, they are better prepared to **intervene early, speak up, and create safer environments for children.**

Through partnerships like this one, Life Stories continues to empower adults, strengthen organizations, **and build safer communities where children are protected and supported.**



"Darkness to Light has empowered staff to better serve our community and the youth we see every day. We appreciate Life Stories and this great educational program they provide to our community. They are an amazing organization to work with!"

- Megan Rink, Recreation Coordinator & Operations of Greeley Recreation Center

Each tile was colored by a child who had a CASA by their side. These small works of art were inspired by the steady presence and positive impact of their advocate

To learn more or schedule a Darkness to Light Training, visit lifestoriesweld.org/programs/darkness-to-light





In February 2025, our dedicated board of directors embarked on a comprehensive strategic planning process, investing significant time and thoughtful consideration into charting Life Stories' future direction. Our strategic roadmap focuses on four interconnected areas that will strengthen our ability to empower children's stories and build a community where every child thrives.

We're committed to developing our people through continuous learning and high-performance culture, while ensuring our operations excel in service delivery, funding sustainability, and data-driven decision making. Our client-focused approach emphasizes delivering excellent service to the communities we serve, our referral partners, and our donors through quality, compassion, and integrity.

Financially, we're building security through diversified funding streams and efficient resource allocation. This integrated approach ensures Life Stories remains a trusted advocate for children across Weld County, with the stability and expertise needed to make every child's story matter.

Through this strategic framework, we're positioned to expand our impact while maintaining the compassionate, trauma-informed care that defines our mission.

OUR VALUES: Integrity, Commitment, Trust, Compassion, and Collaboration

FINANCIAL			
Areas we will focus on to financially sustain our mission			
	Seek funding alternatives to enhance financial security	Expand donor base	Develop efficient way to allocate capital, operational, and contingency dollars, and maintain assets
CUSTOMER			
Areas we will focus on in regard to other people to achieve our vision			
	Deliver an excellent service (quality, timeliness, truth, privacy, compassion, expertise, and competency) to our communities and children, partners, and donors	Educate and inform on our mission and the work of the organization	Be good stewards of our finances and allocate with integrity
OPERATIONS			
Operational processes we must excel at to satisfy our clients			
	Ensure a presence in key service and market areas	Maintain a funding approach adequate to meet financial expectations for service delivery	Enable quality data analytics for effective decision making
	Ensure consistent processes for delivery of robust services/programs	Enhance relationships and efficiencies with donors	Establish process formality for continuity of service
LEARNING/PEOPLE			
Ways we will sustain our ability to change and improve			
	Build a high performance culture where team members are/feel valued, appreciated, and supported	Create a culture of continuous learning	Align technology with the needs of the organization
	Intentional engagement between board and team members	Attract, develop, and retain top talent	

This year, our community came together through signature events that raised critical funds and awareness for children and families in Weld County. From celebration to friendly competition, each event reflected a shared commitment to ensuring every child has a voice, safety, and hope. The generosity of our supporters continues to make meaningful impact possible.



WRANGLING HOPE: A GALA FOR THE VOICELESS

Our annual Gala brought together **500 guests** for an evening dedicated to protecting children and strengthening families in Weld County. **The event raised \$212,000 in critical funding to support advocacy, forensic interviews, and family support services throughout the year.** Guests heard from Life Stories Intern, Madison Liechti, who shared her powerful journey of being forensically interviewed as a teenager at Life Stories, an experience that later inspired her to intern with the organization and pursue a career in child advocacy. She is now working toward her master's degree at the University of Denver. Madison's story reinforced the lasting impact a compassionate response can have on a child's future. Support from countless sponsors and individual donors made this **one of our most impactful fundraising events to date.**



PULL FOR YOUTH CLAY SHOOTING TOURNAMENT

The Pull for Youth Clay Shoot combined friendly competition with meaningful impact, welcoming 70 shooters from across the region. **This event raised \$30,000, directly supporting Life Stories' work with children navigating the child welfare system.** Participants and sponsors helped raise awareness about the importance of early intervention and trauma-informed advocacy. With support from 14 sponsors, the Clay Shoot continues to grow as a signature event for engaging community and corporate partners.



13TH ANNUAL SUPERHERO RUN

The Superhero Run celebrated the power of community and imagination, engaging **570 participants and 114 volunteers**, including individuals, families, schools, and local businesses. **This year's run raised \$51,443.91 to support Life Stories' mission of giving children a voice and a safe path forward.** Participants embraced the superhero theme, reminding our community that everyday heroes play a role in protecting children. Schools competed for team prizes, further expanding awareness among youth and families throughout Weld County. The Superhero Run continues to be a joyful, visible reminder that when a community shows up, children are stronger.

The Life Stories Stuffed with Love and Santa's Workshop toy drives bring comfort and joy to children involved in the child welfare system. Held in February, Stuffed with Love provides children with a soft, comforting stuffy during a time that can feel uncertain, while Santa's Workshop in December ensures children experience the magic of the holiday season. Made possible by generous community partners, donors, and volunteers, these drives offer more than gifts. They provide reassurance, stability, and care.



FEBRUARY: STUFFED WITH LOVE

Every February, Life Stories hosts our annual Stuffed With Love drive to ensure children who have witnessed or experienced abuse leave our Child Advocacy Center with a new stuffed animal to comfort them during a difficult time. The drive collects new, small to medium-sized stuffed animals throughout Weld County at multiple community drop-off locations, bringing together businesses, volunteers, and generous neighbors in support of children in need. **Every child, and each of their siblings, receives a cuddle buddy as a tangible reminder they are cared for and not alone.** This initiative helps create a sense of safety and reassurance immediately following a visit to the center.



“Each year, the Stuffed with Love drive reminds us of the incredible heart of our community. Together, **we unite to offer children facing difficult moments a small symbol of comfort, love, and hope**, just as the Life Stories staff and volunteers do every day.”

- Nathan McConnell, Board Member & First Farm Bank

DECEMBER: SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Santa's Workshop ensures children involved in the child welfare system experience the joy of the holiday season. Through generous donations from community members, sponsors, and volunteers, caretakers are able to select gifts tailored to age and interests, creating a meaningful experience for children. **For families navigating uncertainty, Santa's Workshop helps relieve financial stress while preserving holiday traditions and moments of normalcy.** More than a toy drive, the program creates positive memories during a time that can otherwise feel overwhelming.



“I am honored to take part in making Santa's Workshop a success for the families it serves. **Years ago, I was personally blessed by this organization as a single mom, and being able to give back now, especially shopping alongside my 19-year-old daughter, has been a truly humbling and meaningful experience.** It reminds us how far we've come and how powerful it is to pay that blessing forward, I can only hope that the families one day get the opportunity to pay it forward.”

- Anonymous



CASA SUPERVISOR MARSHA STOLL RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Marsha Stoll first connected with the CASA Program as a volunteer, and over the next 25 years she never stopped advocating for children. Her unwavering dedication has made a lasting impact on countless young lives. Thank you, Marsha, for your extraordinary service and congratulations on your well-earned retirement.

“I love kids! I love advocating for kids! I have been blessed to be able to do both of those things the last 25 years. I also LOVE CASA VOLUNTEERS who also love these two same things. One thing I have learned is eventually almost every case becomes a rollercoaster ride. Some people look at a roller coaster and can see where it is headed and still won't get on. Our volunteers can't see where they are headed, but get in, strap the seatbelt on, and go through whatever is ahead. They do that because they don't look at the ride, they look at the child. So in retiring, I say thank you! So many children's lives have ended up in a better place because these children had a CASA Volunteer.”



CAC PROGRAM MANAGER CHRIS EISENHAUER RETIRES AFTER 18 YEARS OF SERVICE

Throughout her years as our CAC Program Manager, Chris Eisenhauer has been a powerful voice for children. As a skilled forensic interviewer and frequent expert witness, she stood with children in some of their most difficult moments and ensured their stories were heard in court. Chris's leadership, courage, and compassion have strengthened our community in lasting ways. We are deeply grateful for her service and wish her the very best in her retirement.



“Imagine being an abused child who finally had the courage to tell. Imagine professionals believing you. Imagine being able to tell your story with no judgement. Imagine starting your journey to healing. That's what happens at the CAC every day. Thank you to all the children who trusted me to be the safeguarder of their story.”



Commissioned in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, **Life Stories** partnered with a local artist to create a mural that reflects the resilience, diversity, and hope of the children and families we serve. Designed as a welcoming and healing space, the project was made possible through the generosity of community sponsors who believe in the power of art to tell stories and inspire connection. The mural stands as a lasting symbol of collaboration, where local creativity, shared values, and child advocacy intersect.

More than a visual centerpiece, **the mural represents Life Stories' commitment to creating spaces where children feel seen, safe, and supported.** Every detail was intentionally designed to reflect the strength of the families we serve and the community standing behind them. By investing in this permanent installation, our sponsors helped transform our lobby into a place of belonging and hope; one that will welcome children and families for years to come.

The following article, originally featured in Windsor City Lifestyle, shares the story behind the mural's vision and the community that brought it to life.



“Every time a child came in and lit up, it solidified why we were doing this. It reminded me that the mural isn't just decoration; it's part of the healing process.”

- Alonzo Harrison, Artist of Hope Starts at Life Stories



Great ideas have a funny way of appearing when you're least focused; like during a meeting you're not really paying attention to. Alonzo Harrison's mural titled, Hope Starts at Life Stories, was born in the middle of a monthly meeting that staff members Susan McKenzie and Mattie Falk readily admit they weren't paying attention to.

Their boss, Lisa, certainly hasn't forgotten, as she makes fun of them for it all the time. "I knew something weird was happening the second I looked over at them," Lisa laughed. Amid their distracted brainstorming, Mattie mouthed across the room as if trying not to get caught, "What if we painted a mural?" Half-joking, half-serious, the idea might have ended there, but Susan, deeply connected to the arts community, immediately started thinking about who she knew. Her first thought was Tim Coons at the Weld Community Foundation. "Tim never actually responded to me," she laughed. "Then out of nowhere, I got an email from someone I'd never met (apparently referred by Tim) who was interested in learning more. So, we set up a meeting."

That someone was Alonzo Harrison, a Colorado native artist with a lifelong passion for painting. After studying liberal arts in Seattle, he eventually returned to Colorado, drawn back by community ties and a desire to make a difference where he grew up. When he heard about Life Stories, Alonzo felt an immediate personal connection. "I have family and friends who have experienced abuse," he says. "Supporting kids going through the hardest moments of their lives and helping them get what they need to heal...that's something I take seriously."

The creative process was both exhilarating and challenging. With guidance from Mattie and Susan, Alonzo envisioned a mural that would move from dark to light, a visual representation of the transformation Life Stories makes possible. Bold colors, playful shapes, and a rainbow-inspired palette symbolize inclusivity and hope, a visual reminder that every child who walks through the doors belongs and is seen.

"Painting the mural wasn't just physically demanding (I'm never using scaffolding again)," Alonzo jokes, "it was emotionally heavy, too." He wanted each brushstroke to offer empowerment to the kids who visit Life Stories under difficult circumstances. "No one comes to Life Stories for a good reason," he says. "So I wanted the space to give them something that would change the color of their experience."

One of the most meaningful parts of the project, he says, were the moments when children stopped to watch or share their own love of drawing and painting. "Every time a child came in and lit up...it solidified why we were doing this," Alonzo says. "It reminded me that the mural isn't just decoration...it's part of the healing process."

After two and a half months of planning and painting, the mural was finished. "I hope the mural gives kids something to lean on, to brighten their mood, to remind them they have what it takes to heal," Alonzo says. "If it can give them even one moment of lightness, then it's doing exactly what it's meant to do."

Hope Starts at Life Stories is more than just a colorful addition to the organization's lobby; it's a symbol of hope, healing, and the vital work Life Stories does every day for children and families in Weld County.

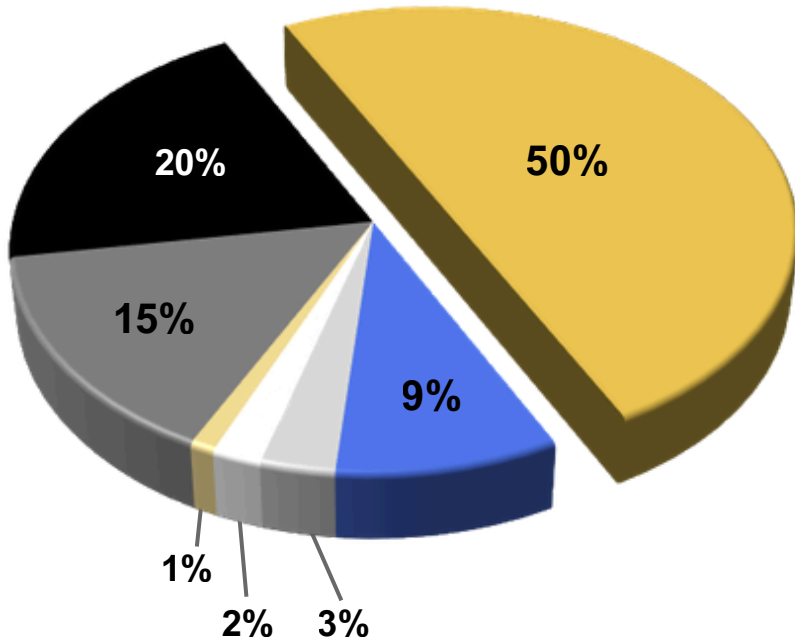
Hope Starts at Life Stories is more than just a colorful addition to the organization's lobby; it's a symbol of hope, healing, and the vital work Life Stories does every day for children and families in Weld County. The Child Advocacy Center brings together law enforcement, medical professionals, and child protection specialists in one safe, supportive space, so children and families don't have to navigate interviews, medical exams, and legal meetings in multiple locations. Life Stories also houses the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program, which pairs trained volunteers with children in the court system to ensure their voices are heard.

Written by Susan McKenzie
Fundraising & Development Manager

Originally published in **WINDSOR**
CITY LIFESTYLE

Thank You to Our Mural Sponsors



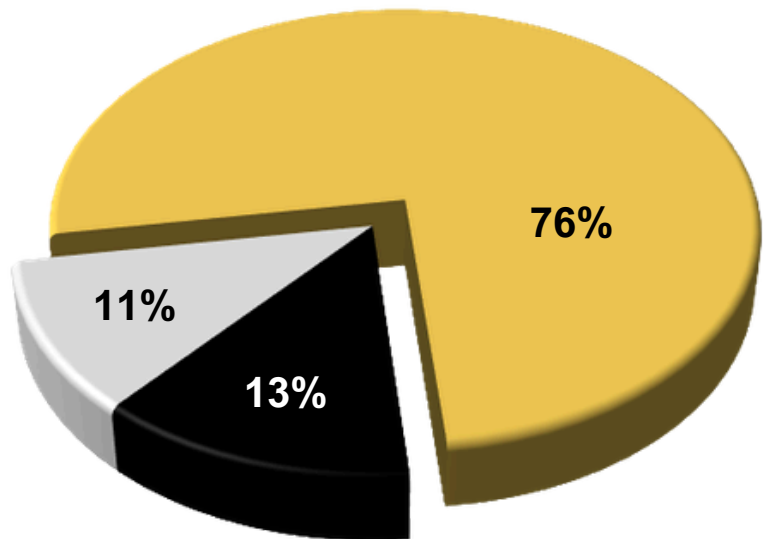


- Grants | \$808,639
- Fundraising | \$324,036
- Other Revenue | \$236,264
- Contributions | \$138,099
- Investment Income | \$50,075
- Program Revenue | \$37,787
- Net Assets Released from Restriction | \$16,773

*Other Revenue: Includes one-time, non-recurring Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) reimbursements related to COVID-19.

TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,611,673

- Program Services | \$940,827
- Fundraising | \$162,172
- Management/General | \$142,804



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,245,803

NET OPERATING INCOME: \$365,870

YEAR-END NET ASSETS: \$2,125,977

At the heart of our work is a dedicated Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) committed to protecting children and pursuing justice on their behalf. Through coordinated collaboration, professionals from across multiple systems work together to ensure cases are handled in a trauma-informed, child-centered manner. This unified approach strengthens investigations, improves communication, and reduces the burden on children and families. The agencies listed below represent the collective commitment required to keep children safe and supported in our community.

Child Protective Services

Weld County Department of Human Services

Prosecution

Weld County District Attorney's Office

Local Law Enforcement

Ault Police Department
Dacono Police Department
Eaton Police Department
Evans Police Department
Firestone Police Department
Fort Lupton Police Department
Frederick Police Department
Garden City Police Department
Greeley Police Department
Hudson Police Department
Johnstown Police Department
Keenesburg Police Department
Kersey Police Department
LaSalle Police Department
Lochbuie Police Department
Mead Police Department
Milliken Police Department
Nunn Police Department
Platteville Police Department
Severance Police Department
Weld County Sheriff's Office
Windsor Police Department

Outside Agencies

Burlington Police Department
Fort Morgan Police Department
Fort Morgan District Attorney's Office
Kit Carson County Sheriff's Office
Logan County Sheriff's Office
Longmont Police Department
Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Medical

Banner Health
UC Health

Mental Health

ChildSafe
Life Stance
North Range Behavioral Health
Polaris Partners Counseling & Consulting
Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Center (SAVA)

Victim Services

Carbon Valley & Mead Victim Services
Erie Police Department Victim Services
Greeley Office for Victim Services
Law Enforcement Victim Advocates
Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Center (SAVA)
Weld County District Attorney's Office
Victim Witness Advocates
Weld County Sheriff's Office Victim Services

Juvenile Justice

Colorado Youth Detention Continuum

Community Organizations

A Courageous Rose
Justice Now
North East Colorado Coalition Against Trafficking
Ten 24 Ministries

State Law Enforcement

Colorado State Patrol

Federal Law Enforcement

Federal Bureau of Investigation



"As the largest municipal police department in Weld County, our partnership with Life Stories is essential to meeting the needs of child victims. This collaboration allows law enforcement, advocates, and professionals to work together seamlessly, ensuring a compassionate and effective response. Through this partnership, we are better equipped to protect children, support families, and pursue justice while minimizing further trauma."

- Chief Adam Turk, Greeley Police Department

PARTNERSHIPS

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

At Life Stories, we feel incredibly fortunate to have the unwavering support of our community and the strong media partnerships that help amplify our mission. Together, these connections allow us to raise awareness, spark meaningful conversations, and share the powerful stories that inspire change. We are grateful for every partner, platform, and individual who stands with us to ensure that **every voice is heard and every story matters**.



L-R Susan McKenzie (Life Stories), Lidia Varela (High Country Beverage), William Neidig (La Jota)

LA JOTA MEXICANA RADIO

In 2025, we partnered with William Neidig at La Jota Mexicana to create a 12-month podcast series called **Life Stories: Trabajando para un Mejor Futuro** that brought important community conversations to life. Each episode featured different professionals such as mental health experts, caseworkers, and Life Stories sponsors. It was a collaboration of sharing insights, resources, and stories that deepen understanding of the challenges the children and families we serve face. **This partnership allowed us to reach new audiences, strengthen community connections, and elevate the voices of those doing critical work across Weld County.**

“Participating in **Life Stories: Trabajando para un Mejor Futuro** has been incredibly meaningful to me, both personally and professionally. I have been a long-time partner and supporter of Life Stories, and it has been an honor to work alongside a program that is so deeply committed to uplifting voices, sharing lived experiences, and investing in the future of our community. Each conversation reminded me of the power of storytelling and how intentional dialogue can create understanding, connection, and opportunity.”

- Lidia Varela, Event Coordinator at High Country Beverage

KFKA 1310 RADIO

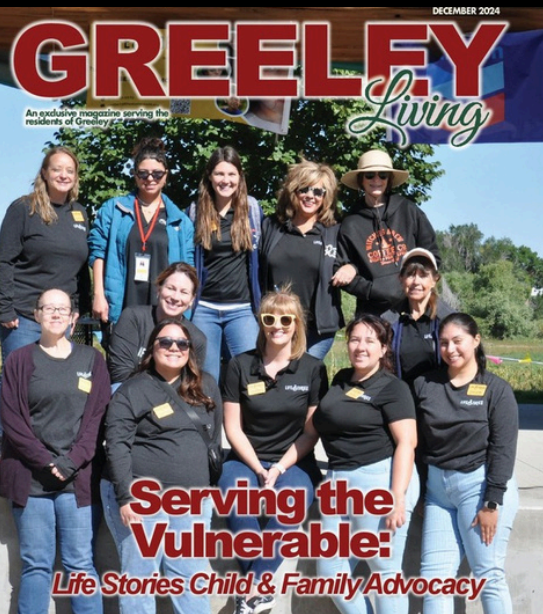
Our partnership with KFKA Radio has grown into something far more meaningful than a traditional media collaboration. KFKA consistently opens its doors and airwaves to Life Stories, giving us the space to share updates about our events, highlight our community needs, offer educational insights, and raise broader awareness about the work we do. Their willingness to uplift our mission helps ensure that more community members hear the stories that matter and understand how they can be part of creating lasting change.



L-R Tanner Schwindt (KFKA), Tina Whitcomb (CASA Volunteer), Mattie Falk (Life Stories), Brian Gary (KFKA)



L-R Tanner Schwindt (KFKA), Brianna Fischer (Life Stories), Brian Gary (KFKA)



GREELEY LIFESTYLE

Greeley Lifestyle magazine highlighted three of our exceptional CASA volunteers, Mayra Gonzalez, Jordan Barkley, and Polly Kurtz, recognizing their dedication and the meaningful impact they have on children in Weld County. Their feature not only celebrates their service but also elevates Life Stories' mission and **helps inspire new volunteers and supporters throughout the community.**



GREELEY
LIFESTYLE

GREELEY LIVING

We were especially surprised to see our staff picture from the 2025 Annual Superhero Run on the front cover of Greeley Living magazine! The article features, **Serving the Vulnerable: Life Stories Child & Family Advocacy**

Life Stories was honored to be recognized through multiple awards for our impact, leadership, and commitment to children and families in Weld County. These awards reflect the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters who make our work possible every day. **Each recognition is a reminder of the trust our community places in us and a testament to the powerful outcomes we can achieve together.**



WELD COUNTY BUSINESSES WHO CARE

Life Stories was recognized at the Weld County Businesses Who Care fundraiser, receiving \$20,400 to support our mission of advocating for children and strengthening families. This award reflects the community's confidence in our work and provides crucial unrestricted funding that helps sustain our core services, from forensic interviews to CASA advocacy and family support. The recognition also expanded awareness of Life Stories' role in protecting children and fostering healing across Weld County. We are deeply grateful for this support, which directly enhances our ability to serve more children in need.

SAVA PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Life Stories was honored as the SAVA Partner of the Year in recognition of our strong collaborative work with the Sexual Assault Victim Advocate (SAVA) Center. SAVA is a Northern Colorado nonprofit that provides crisis intervention, advocacy, counseling, and prevention education to survivors of sexual violence in Larimer and Weld Counties, working toward a culture free from sexual violence through community outreach, education, and trauma-informed support. Our partnership with SAVA strengthens the coordinated response for children and families impacted by abuse, ensuring that they receive comprehensive support across multiple systems. This award reflects the shared commitment of both organizations to protect children, support survivors, and create meaningful change in our community.



BAESSLER NIGHT OF GIVING

Life Stories was honored to receive \$20,500 from the Baessler Night of Giving, an annual community-giving event hosted by BH Impact, the charitable arm of Baessler Homes. The poker-themed evening brought together community members for a fun and engaging night centered on generosity, where attendees had the opportunity to direct funding to local nonprofits making a difference. Life Stories was proud to be selected as a beneficiary, receiving critical support to advance our mission of protecting children and strengthening families. This investment helps sustain our core services, including forensic interviews, CASA advocacy, and coordinated multidisciplinary response. Thank you to Baessler Homes and BH Impact for creating meaningful opportunities to support organizations serving children across our community.

PARTNERSHIPS

GUARDIAN CIRCLE

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our 2025 Guardian Circle Sponsors who have made a financial commitment to support all of our events this year. The Guardian Circle is a premier, multi-event sponsorship program designed for businesses that want to make a deeper, sustained investment in protecting children and strengthening families. Rather than supporting a single event, Guardian Circle partners commit annually, providing consistent funding that allows Life Stories to plan strategically, respond to emerging needs, and expand our impact. Their unwavering support strengthens our ability to serve children and families, positioning these businesses as pillars of our organization and champions for social good. Through their generosity, they create a lasting impact and help drive meaningful change across our community.

PRESENTING \$14K+



ASSOCIATE \$7,500+



AMBASSADOR \$4K+



To see a full list of sponsors visit www.lifestoriesweld.org

GIVE & SUPPORT

One-Time Gift: Give today to provide critical care and support for children in our community

Monthly Giving: Join the *Voices of Hope* giving program with a monthly gift starting as low as \$5/month

In-Kind Donations: \$25 gift cards / snacks / comfort items for children

CONNECT & LEARN

Attend Events: Join us for fundraisers and events

Join Our Email List: Stay informed about trainings and the impact you're making through your support

Take a Training: Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children, and more

VOLUNTEER & LEAD

CASA Volunteers Needed: Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate

Event Help: Support and volunteer at one of our three signature events: Gala, Pull for Youth, Superhero Run

Leadership Roles: Apply for a position on the Board of Directors

ADVOCATE & SHARE

Invite Us to Speak: Host a presentation or lunch-and-learn

Be a Champion: Use your voice, your network, and your influence to spread awareness of child abuse prevention and advocacy

Spread the Word: Follow / like / share / comment on our social media channels



facebook.com/LifeStoriesWeld



[@lifestoriesweld](https://www.instagram.com/lifestoriesweld)



[linkedin.com/company/
life-stories-child-and-family-advocacy/](https://linkedin.com/company/life-stories-child-and-family-advocacy/)

LIFE STORIES

child & family advocacy



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