



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **FY 2021-2022**

**LIFE & STORIES**  
child & family advocacy



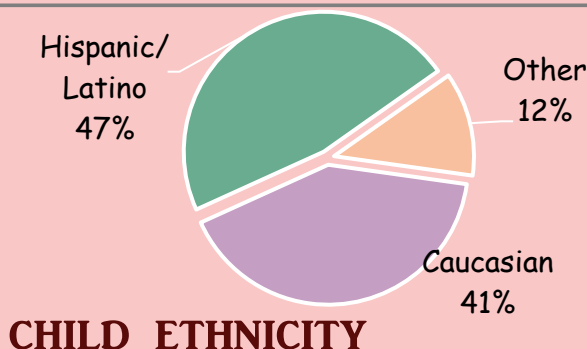
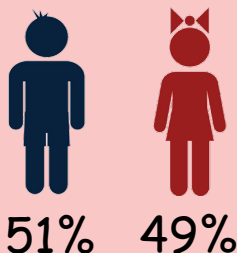
# COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA)

The CASA Program, which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate, recruits, screens, trains and supervises volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children involved in the court system to help secure a permanent, safe home. CASA volunteers are appointed by a judge to work first, last and always in the best interest of the child at the heart of a case.

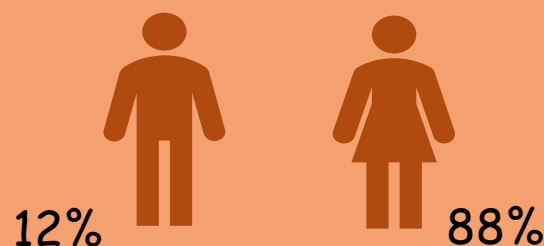
**264** Children had a CASA volunteer in **119** Cases

**151** Active CASA volunteers

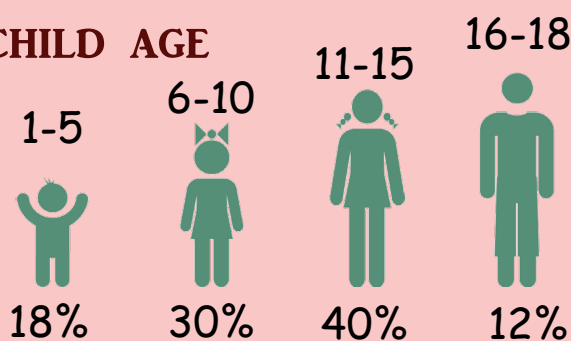
## CHILD GENDER



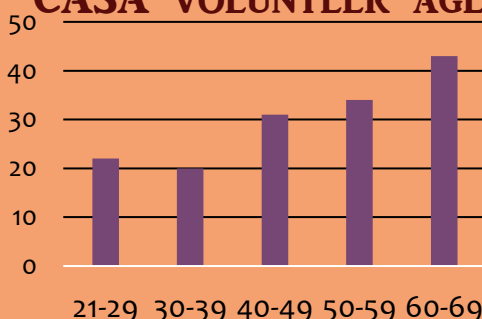
## CASA VOLUNTEER GENDER



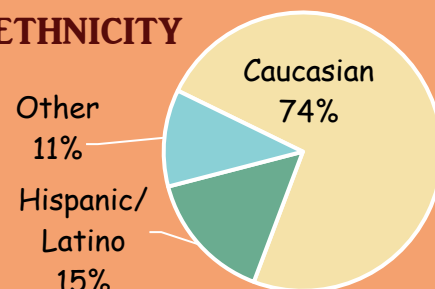
## CHILD AGE



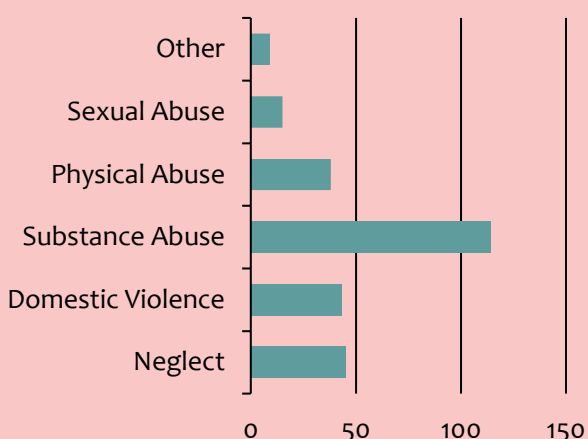
## CASA VOLUNTEER AGE



## CASA VOLUNTEER ETHNICITY



## PRIMARY ALLEGATION



**105** New children

**115** Children's Cases Closed

**30** New CASA Volunteers

**3,248** Volunteer Hours

## MEASURING OUR IMPACT — EVIDENCED BASED OUTCOMES

CASA of Weld County participates in Colorado CASA and its statewide Outcomes Project. This project focuses on measuring outcomes to answer the question "How are CASA volunteers changing the odds for children?" Colorado CASA's response to this issue is to provide outcomes where meaningful change is measurable, sustainable, linked to the program's efforts and there is accountability for results.

**DARKNESS TO  
LIGHT, STEWARDS  
OF CHILDREN®**

The 2-hour video-based presentation can be given to any community group but is particularly fitting for individuals who work directly with children. It is a nationally distributed, evidence-based program that aims to educate adults to be responsible for preventing, recognizing, and reacting to child abuse.

# CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

The Child Advocacy Center provides a child-focused environment to gently support child victims of sexual and physical abuse and their non-offending family members. The Center encourages a coordinated response to the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse.

**390**

Number of kids who received a forensic interview

**720**

Non-offending family members were served



## CHILD GENDER



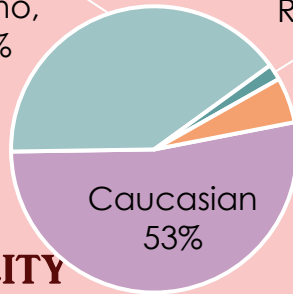
26%



74%

## CHILD ETHNICITY

Hispanic /Latino, 40%



Multi-Racial, 2%  
Other, 5%

## CHILD AGE

0-5



18%

6-12



45%

13-18



36%

19+



1%

## RELATIONSHIP OF ALLEGED OFFENDER TO CHILD

PARENT'S BOY/GIRLFRIEND

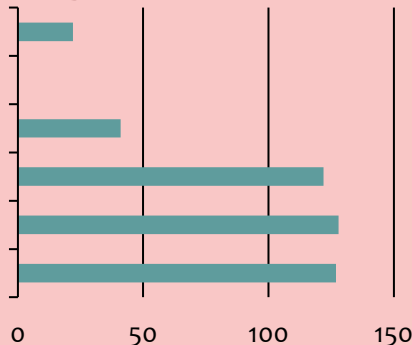
UNKNOWN

STEPPARENT

PARENT

OTHER KNOWN PERSON

OTHER RELATIVE



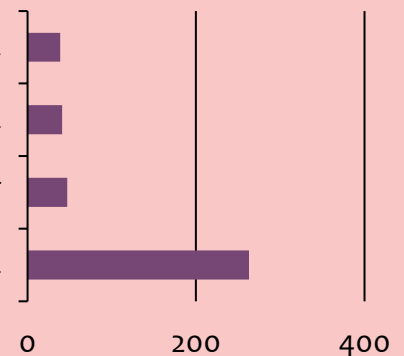
## TYPES OF ABUSE REPORTED

OTHER

WITNESS TO VIOLENCE

PHYSICAL ABUSE/NEGLECT

SEXUAL ABUSE



**100%**

Of the children referred to us were served.

All services are provided at no charge to families.

**30+**

Partner agencies in Weld County

## MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

The Outcome Measurement System (OMS) helps CACs evaluate their programs in order to increase the quality of services provided to children and families and to improve the collaborative efforts of the multidisciplinary team (MDT) members. OMS allows Children's Advocacy Centers to report on two measurable outcomes:

1. The CAC facilitates healing for the child and the caregivers. Recent Results: 99% of caregivers believed that their children felt safe at the center.
2. The MDT approach results in more collaborative and efficient case investigations. Results: 95% all members of the MDT, as defined by the needs of specific cases, are actively involved.

## DARKNESS TO LIGHT, STEWARDS OF CHILDREN®

It encourages awareness but also teaches skills and presents crucial tools needed in order to respond appropriately to child abuse suspicions, allegations, and investigations. It ultimately aims to protect all children in our community.

**130**

Adults trained

Parents

Dental Hygienists

Teachers

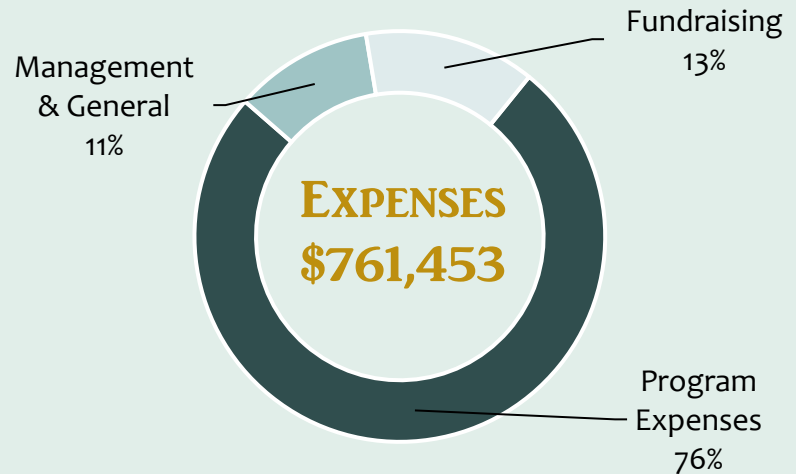
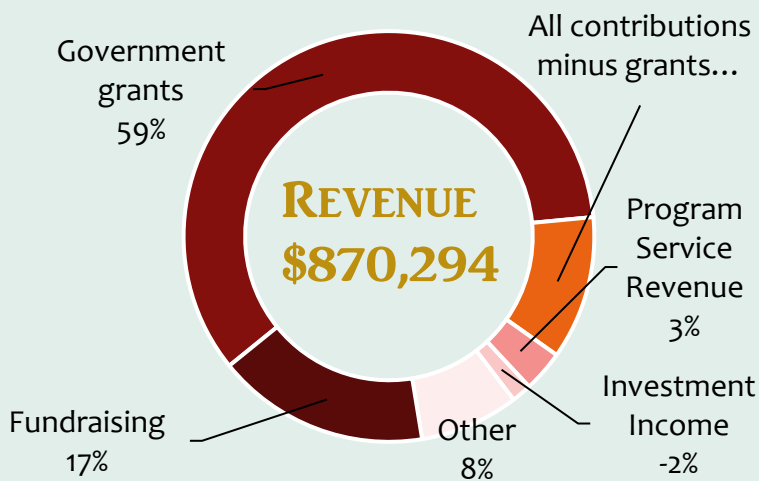


Coaches

Youth Pastors

Nurses

# FINANCIALS



Charitable Solicitation is done through fundraising including Colorado Gives Day, Superhero Run/Walk, Top Chef of Northern Colorado and other benefits which include both individual and corporate donors. We have an on-line giving function on our website and contributions are geared to the general operating needs of the agency and building of operating reserves as well as other special projects.

**19.94%** Administration & Fundraising Costs

**\$1,411,625** Year End Net Assets

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2021-2022)

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**Valorie Martensen**, Roche Constructors  
**Veronica Falcon- DeLeone**, Weld County Sheriff Office  
**Betty Strobel**, Retired District Court Judge  
**Wendy Steward**, Weld County DA Office  
**Katie DeVries**, Sherman & Howard, LLC  
**Julie Klein**, Innovative Connections  
**Kristi Schwartz**, Weld County DHS

We are grateful for one-time and repeat financial gifts that support our work and enable us to forensically interview more child victims and train more CASA volunteers as advocates for kids. Each donation of \$250 or more earns a Colorado Childcare Tax Credit. Cash donations can be made online at [lifestoriesweld.org](https://lifestoriesweld.org)

*As we continue to navigate this unprecedented time, we are so incredibly grateful to our board members, volunteers, community partners, donors, sponsors, and friends of Life Stories for all your support! Our generous community has stepped up in so many ways, helping us to maintain our important services that make a difference in the lives of children. Because of you, we are helping chart a new path for a bright future for vulnerable children. Thank you for working with us in 2020 and beyond to change a child's story - today and tomorrow.*