



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

MICHIGAN CASA

# 2020 Annual Report



Dear Friends,

It's been a remarkable year for Michigan CASA and the 28 local CASA programs in Michigan; a year in which our CASA children, while out of our reach, never left our sight. Our CASA volunteers found new and creative ways to continue their relationships with their children. Volunteers visited their CASA kids in driveways, made regular phone calls and video calls. They linked friends and siblings of their children into group calls, sent care packages, and recorded bedtime stories on tape. They conferenced with teachers, and they helped with homework virtually.

This is not at all surprising if you know a CASA volunteer. They embody commitment to the wellbeing of children. They are remarkable men and women who have and will continue to change the lives of children who have been abused and neglected. And, there are today 31% more of them when the pandemic first reached Michigan! Yes, another 211 community volunteers came forward this past year to be trained virtually and sworn in virtually to speak for the best interest of the child in court hearings.

Our state office also adapted during the shutdown. We developed new, virtual means of training volunteers; we sought and received state funding for the first time, and we continued to provide support and networking that is so crucial to the strength and excellence of local programs.

This year brings a new set of challenges. We must grow. Experts predict that there are now an estimated 30,000-plus children in Michigan who have spent the last year sequestered in households where financial strain has created food and housing insecurity, where stress has increased adult substance abuse, and where confinement has spawned anger and violence. Most disturbing is that pandemic isolation has removed these children from the protections once provided by mandatory reporters like teachers, physicians, and other professionals. The coming year, therefore, will bring more substantiated cases of abuse, more out-of-home placements, and a much greater need for CASA volunteers who will walk alongside children who have been traumatized several times over.

While we were able to increase the number of volunteers despite the pandemic in 2020, we must redouble our efforts to recruit and train volunteers in every county we serve. To reach those currently in our court system – not including the projected increase in cases this year – we need another 3,000 community members with a heart for children to be trained and sworn in. It seems a near impossible goal, and it would be if we didn't know, without doubt, the good hearts and deep commitment of so many people in Michigan. We are people who care about kids—those that are our own and those that aren't, but really need us.

It's been a remarkable year. And we believe there's an even better one coming.

Patty Sabin  
President/CEO  
Michigan CASA

## Mission Statement:

### Why We Exist.

Michigan Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is dedicated to changing the lives of abused and neglected children by establishing, supporting and expanding quality CASA programs throughout the state of Michigan.



## Vision Statement:

What we would look like if we achieved our mission. Michigan Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is dedicated to ending the cycle of child abuse and neglect, one child at a time.



## Michigan CASA Values:

- We value every child's right to be safe
- We value diversity, equity and inclusion
- We value honesty and integrity
- We value accountability and commitment
- We value service and collaboration



# Michigan CASA County Programs

We are currently located in 28 counties statewide. As the State organization, we are committed to supporting these existing county programs, expanding services offered and continue to be the voice for the abused and neglected children of Michigan.

ALLEGAN COUNTY

BARRY COUNTY

BAY COUNTY

BERRIEN COUNTY

BRANCH COUNTY

CASS COUNTY

CLINTON COUNTY

EATON COUNTY

GENESEE COUNTY

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

GRATIOT COUNTY

HILLSDALE COUNTY

INGHAM COUNTY

KALAMAZOO COUNTY

KENT COUNTY

LEELANAU COUNTY

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

MENOMINEE COUNTY

MONROE COUNTY

MONTCALM COUNTY

MUSKEGON COUNTY

OAKLAND COUNTY

OCEANA COUNTY

OGEMAW COUNTY

OTTAWA COUNTY

SAGINAW COUNTY

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

WAYNE COUNTY

# Program Service Accomplishments

**5,804**



Years of advocacy  
experience  
in the current  
network

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Hours contributed  
annually by Michigan  
CASA volunteers



**68,765**

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**\$1,748,694**



Annual economic  
impact of current  
volunteers in the  
State of Michigan



**CASA**

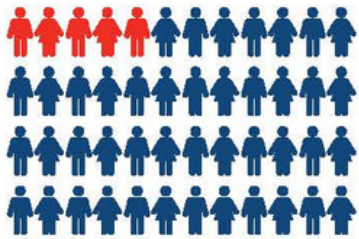
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# Statistics At A Glance



Abused and neglected children in the state of Michigan



**1,291**

Children served by CASA

**9,916**

Children unserved in the state of Michigan

Volunteers **needed** to serve 100% of the children in Michigan

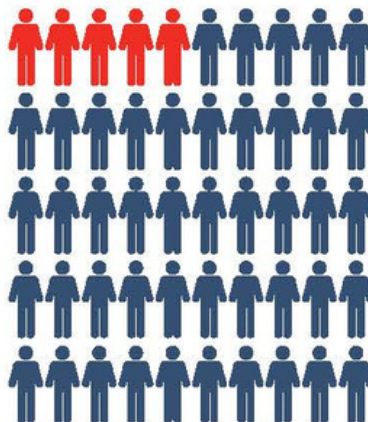


**879**

Current Michigan CASA volunteers

**3,087**

Additional volunteers needed to meet the needs of unserved children in Michigan



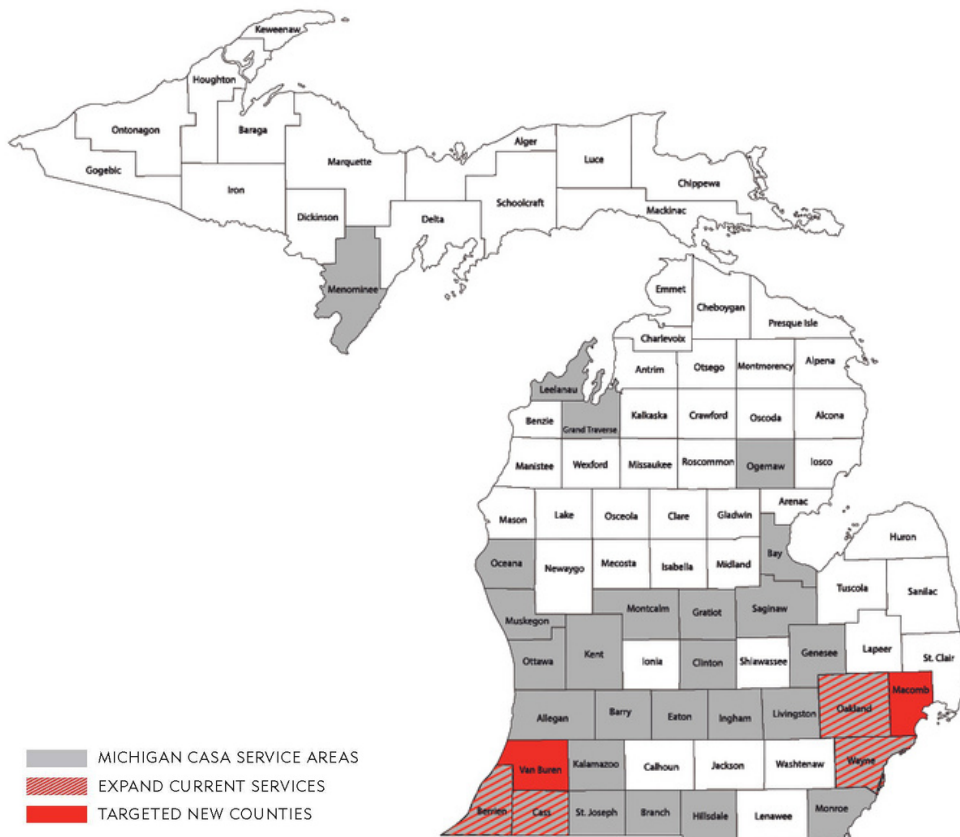


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# Three Year Target Areas



Once equipped with the economic resources required, Michigan CASA will focus its growth activities in the southeast Michigan counties of Macomb (unserved), Wayne (grossly underserved), and Oakland (underserved) along with the southwest counties of Berrien and Cass counties (underserved) and VanBuren county (unserved). Between these 6 counties there are 4,796 eligible children, of which only 448 are currently being served. This represents just 10% of the children in this 6 county region. If all of the children in these regions were to be served, the overall state average would increase to 43%.

# 2020 Michigan CASA Board

## CASA Officers:

Rob Jamula, Board Chair

Pete Scudder, Treasurer

Kathleen Brach, Secretary

## CASA Board Members:

Amy D'Aprile

Rev. Robert Dean

Lynn Gardner

Kelli Gierz

Raymond M. Kennedy

Kelly Kucinich

Phil Minster

Zenell Roberts

Kelly Schafer

Jennifer Taylor





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## 2020 Financial Results

**Total Income: \$170,564**

**Expenses:**

**Program \$149,923**

**Fundraising \$ 39,973**

**Administration \$ 39,973**



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## Contact Information

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