



CASA OF WEST CENLA
ANNUAL REPORT
2020



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT



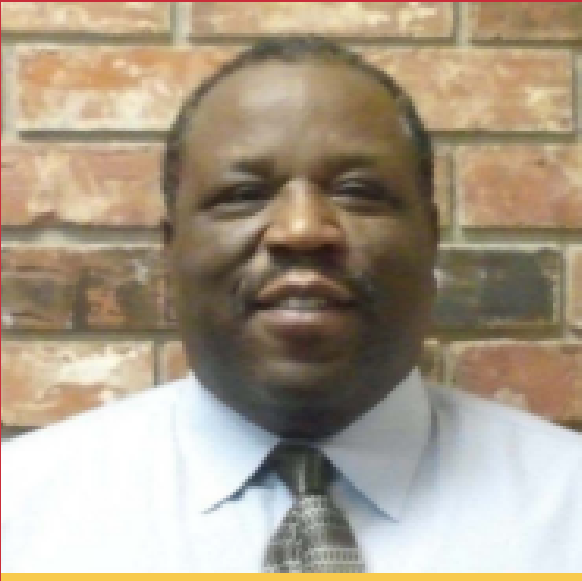
CASA of West CenLA is made up of community members from Vernon Parish, Beauregard Parish and Fort Polk. The members of our organization are a very diverse group from all walks of life and career fields. One thing is truly certain we all have a common goal. We all desire to see that the children in our community are safe, nurtured, thriving and have the opportunity to enjoy their childhood. Over the past 18 years CASA of West CenLA has advocated for the best interest of children in our foster care program. The children we serve have been placed in difficult situations due to no fault of their own. This work has been and continues to be performed by numerous community volunteers advocating for our children.

During 2020, we have all navigated challenges that made it difficult to complete this important work. Our agency volunteers, board members, staff and our awesome community continue to meet and overcome each and every challenge. Our 45 volunteers advocated for 75 children throughout this calendar year. In doing so the volunteers had 596 contacts with the children, accumulated 757.5 hours, drove an excess of 9662 miles, authored 45 court reports and attended 46 hearings. The efforts of the volunteers contributed immensely to the reunification of five children with their families and the adoption of 22 children.

In order to advocate for the children our volunteers had to adapt, improvise and overcome communication challenges by learning to use Facetime and Zoom applications. They had to attend court hearings via Skype and attend some cases via Zoom. Volunteers met their children and the foster families in the park or in other open spaces in order to conduct their monthly visits. The CASA Community Engagement Coordinator/Trainer had to rely heavily on social media and the use of the internet to recruit potential volunteers. Our trainer had to complete a pre-service training class virtually that started off as in person class. Several of the volunteers who completed the training were eventually sworn in by the Judges via Zoom.

Yes, this has been an interesting period for us all. We look forward to the coming days and the opportunity to continue to be a part of the solution. We are so grateful to the community at large for their support and trust. We thank our advocates for their time, energy and passion as they advocate for a safe, permanent and loving home for the children assigned to CASA of West CenLA. Their investment in our children increases the possibility for each child to reach and exceed their potential in life.

It is truly a privilege and honor to be a member of the CASA team and a part of this great community. Please do not hesitate to contact the CASA Board or CASA Staff to get more information about the program.



Vickie Perkins

Vickie Perkins
Board President

Tommy Edwards

Tommy Edwards
Executive Director

A BEACON OF HOPE FOR A FOSTER CHILD



CASA volunteers make sure the needs of Beauregard and Vernon foster youth aren't slipping through the cracks. That job was never more universally needed than during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our mission is to mobilize trained volunteers to advocate for the needs of abused and neglected children appointed by the courts.

2020 - 2021 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Children Served: 75

Child Contacts: 596



Volunteer Training Session: 4

New Volunteers Sworn In: 8

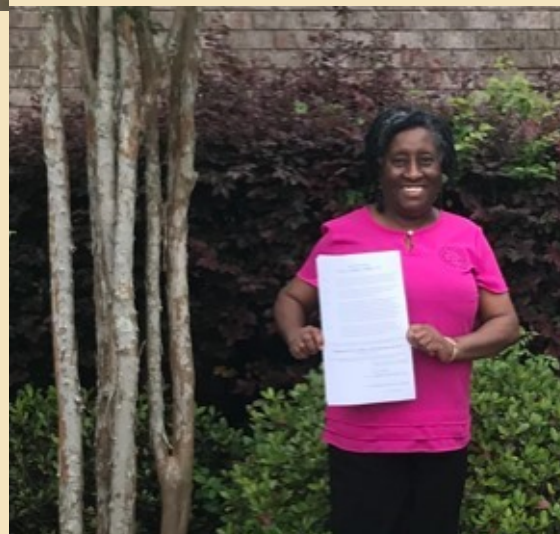


Children Reunified: 5

Children Adopted: 22



Active Volunteers: 45



Total Miles Driven: 9662

Value of Advocate Volunteer Hours: \$16,665

Children placed with Legal Guardian: 5

Children Emancipated: 2

PRE-SERVICE TRAININGS

CASA of West CenLA hosts four volunteer training classes each year: January, March, May and September. These classes are normally in-person but had to be completed virtually this year. Several of the volunteers who completed the training were eventually sworn in by the Judges via Zoom.



CAP MONTH

Every April, CASA of West CenLA participates in raising awareness for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This year we were unable to physically plant pinwheels. The mayors of Leesville, Anacoco, Rosepine, New Llano and DeRidder signed a proclamation recognizing April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.



BIRTHDAY BASH

CASA of West CenLA celebrated its 18th birthday with a virtual campaign with businesses and individuals in the community. CASA of West CenLA was featured in a two page spread in the local paper.



CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Every year, CASA of West CenLA hosts CASA Christmas Project. The Christmas Project provides gifts for foster children in Vernon and Beauregard Parishes. Our CASA advocates and DCFS workers collect children's wish lists then bring them to our office. Members of the community sponsor these wish lists and provide for the children wishes.

CASA OF WEST CENLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vickie Perkins
President

Becky Fejarang
Vice President

John Satcher
Treasurer

Elizabeth Maricle
Secretary

Michael Harper
Board Member

Stacey Schlittenhard
Board Member

Jim Buxton
Board Member

James Gaither
Board Member

Tiffany Johnson
Board Member

John Gott
Board Member

M.K. Dokwal
Board Member

Pamela Jackson
Board Member

CASA OF WEST CENLA STAFF

Tommy Edwards
Executive Director

Rochelle McMahon
Lead Advocate Supervisor

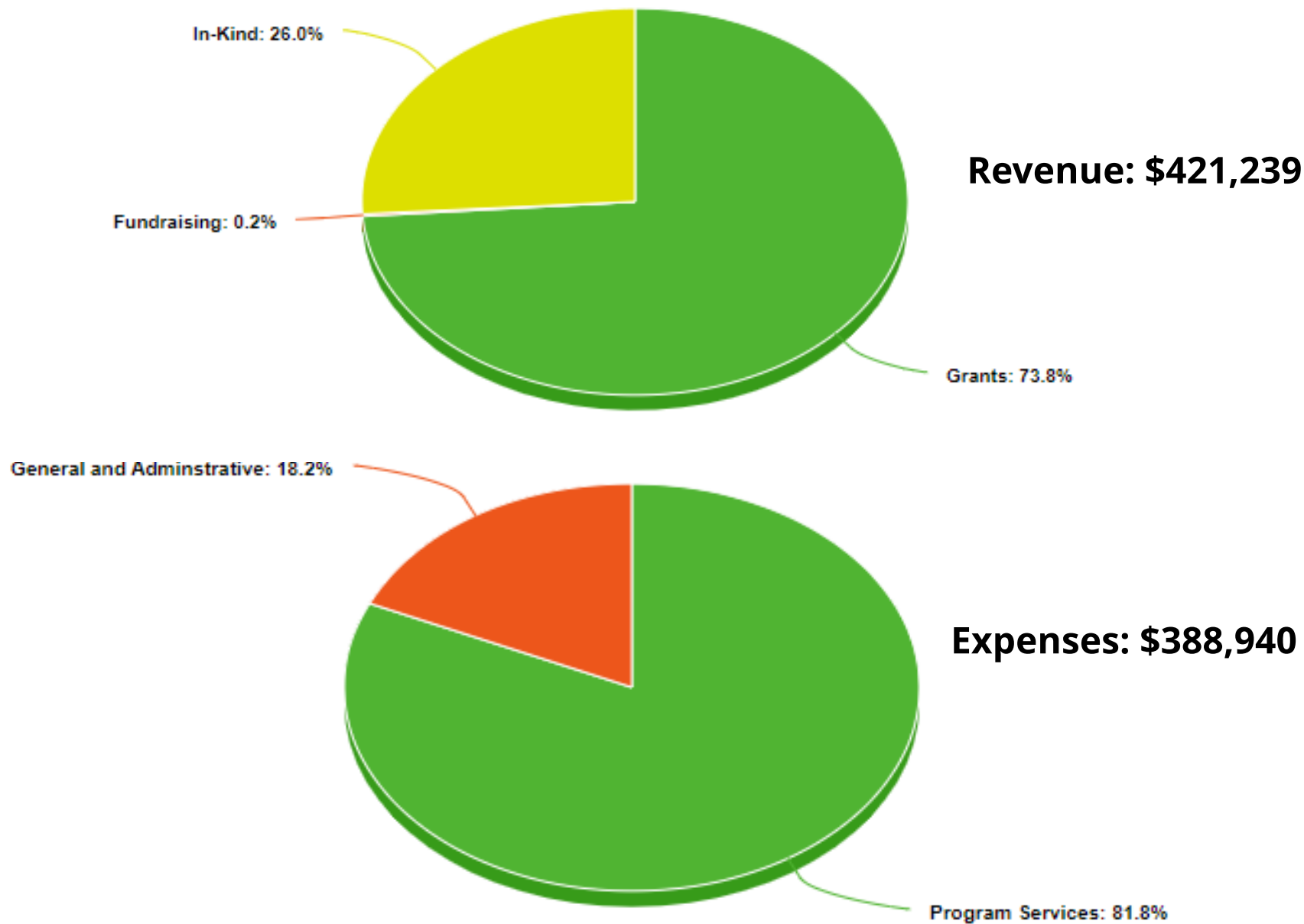
Beth Wilcox
Advocate Supervisor

Jessica Cryar-Walter
Trainer & Community
Engagement Coordinator

Joan Merle
Bookkeeper



FINANCIAL STATEMENT



WE ARE GRATEFUL

FOR THE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES WHOSE
GENEROSITY MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE.

Campbell Global, LLC

Otha Tucker

Network for Good

ACME Poster
Advertising

Rotary Club of Leesville

CLTCC Lamar Salter

Barksdale Federal
Credit Union

City of Leesville

City of DeRidder

Village of Anacoco

Town of New Llano

Town of Rosepine

Fort Polk Spouses' Club

Pregnancy Care Center

W.D. West House of
Care/ Hope Village

KJAE Broadcasting Co.

KVVP Broadcasting Co.

Adams Pest Control

Tommy Edwards

Alisa Edwards

Curious Cargo

Vickie Perkins

Michael Harper

Beth Wilcox

Susan Scalfi

Lynette Martin

Rochelle McMahon

The Rapides Foundation
Grant

Beauregard Electric Co.

New Life Baptist Church

Church of Living God

SNL Adversting, LLC

JoAnn McCray

Eustis Mortgage
DeRidder

Vickie Bosewell

Kem Johnson

Christina Redmond

Ruel Robbins

Joan Merle

Texas Avenue Baptist

Narayan Dokwal

Geeta Dokwal

Shania Pierre

Lynda Larche

Greater Ft. Polk Realtor
Association

Rustic Cottage

Get Healthy

Avery Grey Soapery

Grace Church

Sabine State Bank

Jay's Carpet One

Veterans Place

Jessica Cryar-Walter

Merchant & Farmers

Pilot Club of Leesville

Christway Church

Maritza Gonzalez

Shaylee Stephens

Kiara Heath

William Westbrook

Delcie Reid

Carol Canerday

Marsha Whitton

Court of St. Barbara

Susan Johnson

Jared Jones

EBONITES

James Merritt

Richard T. Dunand

Renee Wallace

Sonia Kay

Tami Morlock

Fort Polk Spousal Club

Meredith Brethe

Julie Amy

Beauregard Parish
Library

The Rapides Foundation

Belinda Watkins

Sara Whitfield

Crystal Williams

Cynthia Beekman

Ann Benoit

Roger Benoit

Aeriell Blais

Kevin Blake

Renea Boutte

Kelley Brack

Kim Day

Angie Donahue

Christie Elliot

Martiza Gonzalez

Juanice Hamlet

Valerie Hammond

Kalee Hardy

Larry Simon

Adam Tiffany

Melissa Vincent

Sheila Horton

Brenda Iles

David Iles

Randy Jansch

LaSandra Jones

Michelle Kennedy

Justin Landrum

Pam Loftin

Hannah Marx

May May

May Elisabeth May

Michele Payne-Jusch

Shirley Quinones

Shania Pierre

Sonkeshiva Sneed

Tami Temkin

Peggy Vinson

Lori Clouse



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF WEST CENLA



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF WEST CENLA

420 MCMAHON ST.
DERIDDER, LA 70634

113 S. 3RD ST.
LEESVILLE, LA 70634