



IMPACT REPORT

Helping to
make a
difference in a
child's life.

2025



Scan here to watch our
informational video



Welcome Impact Report 2025

Every 45 seconds a child enters foster care. We know most children in foster care experience multiple foster homes, schools, social workers and teachers, while dealing with the trauma of abuse or neglect. Research supports having a CASA/GAL volunteer can help improve the odds for these children and make a life-changing impact.

Consider donating and volunteering today. Your gift can make a difference in the life of a child. Get involved.

#FosteringFutures

For more information visit us at
www.summitcasagal.org

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Message from the

Board

Thank you for your support.

Dear Friends of the CASA Board Volunteer Association,

The CASA Volunteer Board plays a vital role in partnering with our program to secure funding, strengthen staffing and programming, increase public awareness, and celebrate the dedication of our incredible volunteers. In 2025, a strong number of CASA/GAL volunteers advocated for more than 700 abused and neglected children in Summit County. These numbers reflect real impact and demonstrate why this work matters so deeply to our community.

Fundraising efforts in 2025 were both meaningful and successful. In the spring, we hosted our second annual “Key Up for CASA,” a dueling pianos event featuring the Cleveland Keys. Due to its success, this event will continue to grow and move to a larger venue this year to welcome even more supporters. In the fall, we gathered at our annual breakfast to honor the recipient of the 2025 William P. Kannel Award, APD Chief Brian Harding, recognizing his outstanding partnership and support of our mission. Attendees left feeling inspired and motivated by the powerful message shared about service, leadership, and making a difference.

Recruiting a more diverse group of volunteers, particularly more male volunteers remains a priority, but we will shift the focus back to recruitment through awareness. We look forward to hosting several events this year to continue our recruitment efforts in 2026.

It has been an honor to serve as Board Chair for the past year. We have on board several new board members who are engaged, passionate, and committed to making an impact. I am grateful for the collaboration and leadership of my Vice Chair and friend, Kim Miller. Together we will continue guiding this board toward meaningful growth and service.

As I reflect on why I am drawn to this program, I think of this quote. “Safety and security don’t just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear.” — Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa

Thank you for your partnership. Together, we are building hope and opportunity for every child we serve.

Meredith Davis

2025–2027 Board Chair

About

CASA BOARD VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

In 1993, the CASA Board Volunteer Association, Inc. was established to further the mission and support the work of the CASA/GAL Program of Summit County. The Board partners with the Program by raising and administering funds for enhanced programming, personnel support, promoting public awareness of the CASA/GAL Program, and recognizing the efforts of heroic volunteers.

Our Vision is that the CASA/GAL Program of Summit County be a model for how very well the Program works to protect the most vulnerable citizens of a Community: children who have suffered abuse and neglect. The CASA Board Volunteer Association, Inc. is committed to ensuring that the local CASA Program provides a thoroughly trained and well supported CASA/GAL volunteer to every child in Summit County who needs one. Through the work of these caring and dedicated volunteers, we will advocate for all children in need, until they receive safe, permanent and nurturing homes.

In order to guarantee the on-going success of the Program, we will continually generate awareness of the plight of abused and neglected children, and will cultivate strong partnerships with individuals and organizations committed to bettering children's lives. We will do this with integrity, compassion and devotion to our children.



When a child welfare case begins, the courtroom is crowded with a judge, a representative from a children's services agency, biological parents, family members, attorneys, other courtroom staff and, of course, the child. Even though the child should be the priority in the room, judges, caseworkers and service providers who determine the child's future simply do not have adequate time or resources to understand the specific needs of each and every child.

By speaking for the child, a CASA/GAL volunteer is the voice of the child in the courtroom that ensures the wishes and needs of the child are not overlooked by the many competing interests at play.

WAYS CASA/GAL VOLUNTEERS SERVED

5.1

Average years of service for a CASA/GAL volunteer.

7

Average age of child served by a CASA/GAL volunteer.

22

New volunteers trained and sworn in.



80

Number of children reunified with a parent



137

CASA/GAL volunteers assigned to cases



637

Total number of children served.



2.4

Average number of children served per CASA/GAL

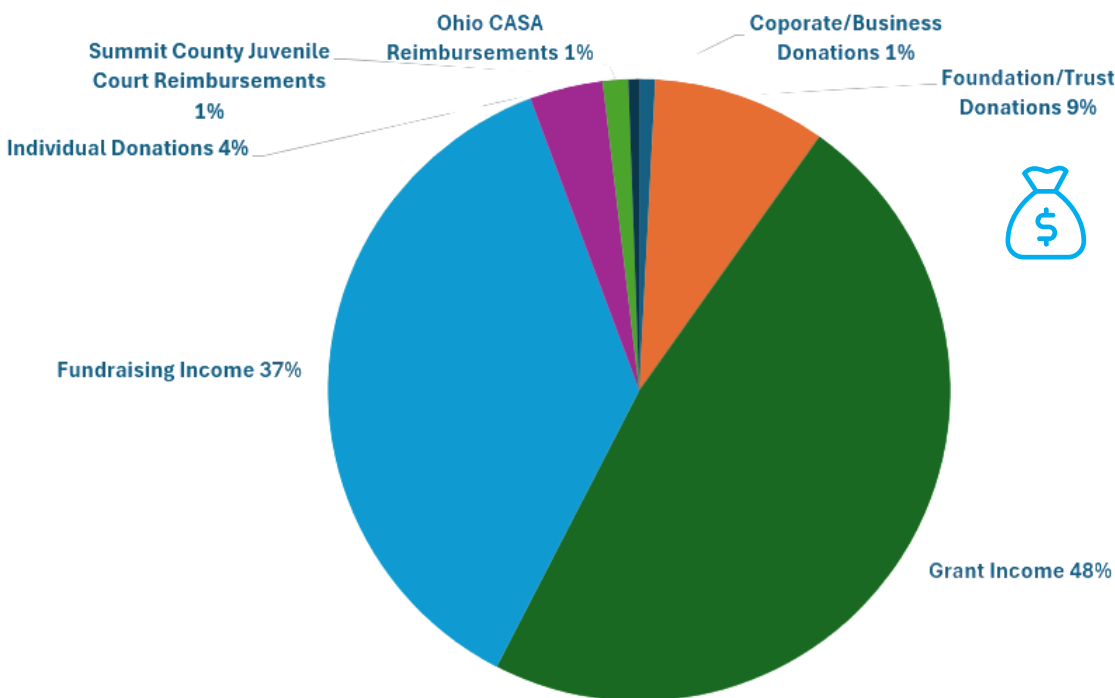


Reported miles driven: **39,510**

Reported hours volunteered: **7,321**

Financial Report

The CASA Board Volunteer Association Inc. provides financial support to the program to assist with recruitment, retention, recognition, and training of the CASA/GAL volunteers.



344,551

Total Revenue

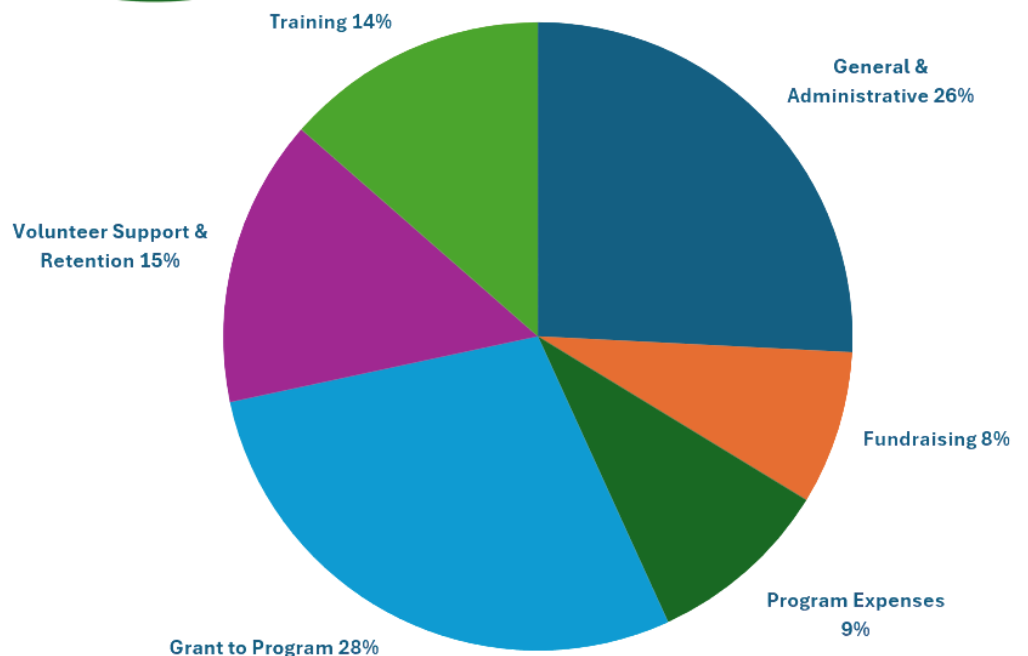
Revenue for 2025 comes from donations, fundraising, miscellaneous, grants, various foundations and charitable funds.



\$375,308

Total Expenses

Expenses incurred in 2025 were from program costs, fundraising expenses, volunteer support and retention, training and general administration.



Fundraising Events



Fundraising events provide an opportunity to support the mission of the CASA /GAL Program of Summit County while sharing examples of the positive impact the program makes in the community.



\$67,328

Key Up for CASA

Spring Fundraiser

The Key Up for CASA spring fundraiser was an evening full with laughter, networking, and music, thanks to the Cleveland Keys, who delivered an energetic dueling pianos performance featuring song requests from Bruce Springsteen to the Backstreet Boys.

CASA/GAL volunteers, staff, board members, supporters, and community members came together at Hilton by Double Tree to enjoy lots of great food, drinks, and fabulous local items to bid on.

\$ 59,230

Strong Families. Strong Futures
Fundraiser Breakfast

At this year's CASA Fall Breakfast Fundraiser, we welcomed community supporters to celebrate the life-changing impact of CASA/GAL Volunteers and honor the 2025 William P. Kannel Child Advocate of the Year, Chief Brian Harding.

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio reflected on the legacy of the Kannel Award and the qualities that define exemplary child advocacy.

The program concluded with a Special Congressional Recognition presented to Chief Harding by The Office of Congresswoman Emilia Sykes, underscoring his steadfast commitment to improving outcomes for abused and neglected children in our community.



Holiday

Toy Shop

Each year we look forward to the Toy Shop and the opportunity to spend time with our CASA/GAL volunteers, staff, and board members outside of court hearings and case conferences. This fun event allows volunteers to come and "shop" for the children on their cases, receive a gift from the CASA board, and mingle with other like-minded people.



The Toy Shop is made possible through the generosity of the Kimberly S. Denholm Charities, ensuring children with a CASA/GAL volunteer receive gifts and gift cards for the holiday season. On Black Friday, the Denholm family, joined by CASA board members, shopped for hundreds of children involved in Juvenile Court due to abuse or neglect allegations. This year, 354 children received gifts, bringing joy during a difficult time. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success!



Thank you to our Key Supporters

Toy Shop Supporters

CASA Marcia
CASA Pamela
Kimberly S. Denholm Charities
Pilot Club International of Akron
Sew Sassy Quilters
The Giving Doll
The Petruccio Family
The Ryba Family
Ticket to Dream
The Andrea Rose Teodosio Foundation
Akron Community Fund - Millennium
Fund for Children
Bath Volunteer Service
WITAN
WELTY

In-Kind (\$1,000+)

Anthony & Karen Manna
Ballet Theater of Ohio
Ticket to Dream
Goodyear
Cleveland Cavaliers

Key Donors (\$1000+)

ADM Board
Anthony & Karen Manna
BAIRD - Haws Falasco Miller Group
The Petruccio Family
Bowers Family Charitable Trust
Brennan, Manna & Diamond, LLC
Capital Advisors
CBRE
J6 Advisors
Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio
Lambert Buick GMC
Nancy Harwood
Oswald
PCR Business Systems
Rand Charitable Trust
Signet LLC
State & Federal Communications
Struktol
Summit County Juvenile Court
The Cuyahoga Falls Oktoberfest Committee
The Vana Family Foundation
Thomas Haag
Wells Tracaso
Wesbanco
Westfield Bank



Thank you to our Grantors

AAML Foundation
Akron Bar Foundation
Annonymous Donor Advised Fund
Burton D. Morgan Foundation
Charles E. & Mabel M. Ritchie Memorial Foundation
David R. and Cheryl L. Venarge Fund
GPD Group Employees Foundation Inc.
Junior Women's Civic Club
Kaulig Foundation
Kenneth Calhoun
Lloyd L. & Louise K. Smith Foundation
Mark & Katie Smucker Family Fund
Maynard Family Foundation
Mills Foundation
Musson Charitable Foundation
OneOhio Recovery
Signet Love Inspires Foundation
Sisler McFawn
Stark Community Foundation
The Adam Fund
The Glenn R. and Alice V. Boggess Memorial
The Lehner Family Foundation
The Samuel Reese Willis Foundation
Ticket to Dream
William and Angela Lowery Family Fund
WITAN



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer

If you feel passionate about advocating for the best interests of a child in need, consider becoming a CASA/GAL volunteer today.

For more information visit us at www.summitcasagal.org.



”

To give a child a CASA is to **give them a voice**. To give them a voice is to **give them hope**. And to give them hope is to **give them the world**. - Pamela Butler, *former foster child*

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Role of CASA/GAL

CASA/GAL Best-Interest Advocacy



Male Recruitment Initiative: Men of CASA

“49% of the children we serve are male—but only 20% of our advocates are men. Help us close the gap.”



In 2025, Summit County CASA launched Men of CASA, a focused initiative to recruit more male volunteers and better reflect the children we serve.

Currently, 49% of the youth served by CASA are male, yet only 20% of CASA/GAL advocates are men. Increasing male representation ensures that children have access to diverse perspectives and strong role models.

To build awareness and connection, CASA hosted two recruitment events. In April, more than 40 attendees gathered at Topgolf Akron to hear from current volunteers and community leaders about the impact of advocacy. In November, Hops and Heroes at Missing Falls Brewery welcomed approximately 30 guests for an evening of conversation, testimonials, and community-building.

These efforts have already generated meaningful interest and momentum, helping to grow a network of men committed to supporting children in need.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a CASA/GAL volunteer, visit summitcasagal.org to learn more.



Active 2025 Volunteers



“All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we’re giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That’s one of the things that connects us as neighbors-in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver.”

- Mr. Rogers

25+ Years

Powers, Esq., Annette

15+ Years

Hill, Judi
Breiding, Bill
Osborne, Janet
Stringer, Jacqueline
Marcinko, Rhea
Hoover, Cheryl

10+ Years

Manna, Karen
Marotto, Antoinette
Piper, Susan
Dammarell, William
Tolson, Theresa
Wagner, Tina
Rossmeissl, Lynn
Schmidt, Jay
Thomas, Erica
Davis, Paula
Whitehurst, David
Miller, Julie
Powers, Esq., Loucile
Paoletti, Lesli
Ritson, Francesca
Gambone, Esq., Elizabeth

5+ Years

Gibson, Joanne
Greene, Esq, Katelyn
Johns, Carla
Kinney, Esq, Ryan
Sheepwash, Erin
Zigler, Steven
Ambroziak, Ronda L
Belvin, Elizabeth F
Bender, Cherianne
Burkholder, Kevin J
Cameron, Samantha
Hendrix, Steven P
Hooker, Esq, Meredith
Jones, Pamela J
LaVoie, Heidi
Moore, Ashley R
Neumeyer, Esq., Stephen J
Ryba, Christopher G
Stiles, Eric C
Himmelright, Allyson
Prochnow, Jonathon
Ganoe, Naomi
Hasek, Sharon
Osivnik, Victoria
Quine, Laura
Moledor, Sallie
Cabe, Esq, Jill
Brugmann, Megan
Burt, Esq, Alexandra
Humbert, Amy
Petruccio, Barbara
Yurechko, Esq, Amanda
Farine-White, Cherie
Gardiner, Melanie
Woolum, Lauren

1-4 Years

Brooks, Madalyn
Buck, Cathy
Campbell, Samantha
Chua, Arzice
Funk, Kristal
Glomb-Dusenbery, Robyn
Hammond, Jane
Johns, Savannah
Keller, Linda T.
Linz, Esq, Ellen
Neuenschwander, Lia
Nuss, Mary
Palm, Tamara
Peteya, Nancy
Phillips, Sarah (Sally)
Philson, Roberta (Bobbi)
Rist, Jessica
Royal-Spencer, Esq., Renee
Simon, Daniel
Slattery, Kathleen
Stratton, Brian
Sube, Angela
Thompson, Kevin
Twitchell, Erin
Aspiras, Julie
Ballard, MaryLou
Brotherton, Hannah
Buswell, Christopher
Conlon, Renee
Gauntner, Jenna
Gay, Diamond
Gioia (Myers), Stephanie
Harris, Krystie
Hileman, Elizabeth
Hubbert, Aimee
McFarland, Maureen
Pence, Esq, Olivia
Quinn, Mary
Stratton, Chloe

Andress, Esq., Monica
Boxler, Jill
Giunto, Jean
Korane, Marcia
Nieciecki, Rebecca
Sabol, Crystal
Tucciarelli, Candace
Wemhoff, Meredith
Whitt, David
Wilkinson, Melissa
Dye, Esq, Scott
Fike, James (Randy)
Dunaway, Nancy
Malik, Alice
Burks, Tia
Coberly, Matthew
Dennis, Jazmine
King, Taylor
Scheff, Jamie
Sulenta, Douglas
Sulzer, Jaclyn
Tahir, Mercedes
White, Allison
Santez, Esq, Mary
Selleny, Brianna
Petras, Hannah
Hughes, Esq., Justin
Wilmot, Carrie Lee
Lambert, Jessica
Koshak, Brenda
Chlanda, Lauren
Grabarczyk, Keaton
Borschowa, Joshua
Rankin, Mega
Rummell, Jacob (Jake)
Westwood, Hannah
Winkel, Jessica (Jessie)



Staff Members



Beth Cardina
Program Director



Lora Mycoskie
Administrative Assistant



Kandy Monroe
Lead Volunteer Coordinator



Tammy Barnes
Volunteer Coordinator



Sarah Harvan
Training Coordinator



Karen Holmes
Volunteer Coordinator



Chris Kasper
Volunteer Coordinator



Lisa Rotondo
Volunteer Coordinator



Alan Futo
Lead Child Advocate



Geoff Auerbach
Child Advocate



Amy Datsko
Child Advocate



Chad Horstman
Child Advocate



Allison Marquis
Child Advocate



Tonya May
Child Advocate



Ruth Wisniewski
Child Advocate



**Cara Wolfgram
Evans**
Child Advocate



Erin Zito
Child Advocate



Jaime Blair
CASA Staff Attorney



Holly Farah
CASA Staff Attorney



Joe Kernan
CASA Staff Attorney

Donor Spotlight:

GPD Group

Serving communities has long been a cornerstone of GPD Group's culture. Through volunteerism, local partnerships, and giving initiatives, GPD has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to the communities they call home.

In 2014, GPD expanded this commitment by establishing The GPD Employees' Foundation, a 501(c)(3) dedicated to improving the lives of children. The Foundation supports K-12 public education through grants that enrich student learning and partners with nonprofit organizations that serve at-risk children and those with medical or special needs.

This mission closely aligns with CASA/GAL program's work to advocate for abused and neglected children. In 2025, the CASA Board Volunteer Association, Inc. was honored to receive a \$5,000 grant from The GPD Employees' Foundation to support trauma-informed training for Summit County CASA/GAL Volunteers. This investment strengthens our volunteers' ability to serve children with compassion, understanding, and informed care.

We are deeply grateful to GPD Group and The GPD Employees' Foundation for their continued commitment to children and for their meaningful support of CASA/GAL program's mission.



CASA Volunteer Association Board

2025 Board Executive Committee

Meredith Davis, Board Chair
BHHS, Stouffer Realty

Kimberly Miller, Board Vice Chair
BAIRD

Rachel Shepard, Board Treasurer
Lona Rock LLC

Diego Hernandez, Secretary
Prosel

The Board of Trustees is
comprised of volunteers
from the community.

For the current Board
Member list, visit
www.summitcasagal.org

2025 Board Members

Beth Cardina, Program Director
CASA/GAL Program of Summit County

Adrienne Borstahl, J.D., M.B.A., Board
Member
Westfield Insurance

Jessica Albano-Maddamma, Board Member
Westfield Insurance

Brad Bowers, Board Member

Amanda Carroll, Board Member
PCR Business Systems

Francesca Jirsa, Fundraising Committee
Chair
Yoga Instructor

Pamela King, PR & Marketing Committee
Chair
Pamela King Consulting

Magistrate Ryan Kinney, Board Member
Summit County Domestic Relations Court

Kellie Lockemer, Board Member
Community Legal Aid

Karen Manna, Board Member

Blake Norton, Board Member
CBIZ

Meghann Price, Board Member
First Energy

Francesca Ritson, Board Member
Cimino Box and Pallet, LLC

Christopher Ryba, Volunteer Recognition
Committee Chair
Talkdesk, Inc.

Gina Shannon, Board Member
Premier Bank

Ryan Silvestro, Board Development
Committee Chair
State and Federal Communications

Board Administrator
Victoria Osivnik, Going Beyond Bookkeeping



Volunteer



Become a CASA/GAL volunteer and be the voice of a child in need. Volunteers need to be 21 years of age and attend a 30-hour pre-service training course. By becoming a volunteer, you will be appointed by the Summit County Juvenile Court Judge and can expect to spend approximately 10 – 12 hours a month advocating on behalf of a child in need.

Planned Gifts



Make the CASA/GAL Program of Summit County's life-changing work part of your legacy through a planned gift. Include the CASA/GAL Board Volunteer Association of Summit County in your will or trust or name it as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy.

Employer Gift Match



Multiply your donation by taking advantage of, or starting, your employer's matching gift program. Check with your human resources department.

Stock Gift



Save on capital gains taxes by making a gift of stock. Instructions for making a stock donation are on the CASA/GAL website.

Tributes & Memorials



Honor special people and special occasions with tributes and memorial gifts. Your donation will be acknowledged with a CASA/GAL card sent to your honoree or their loved ones.

Donate



Make a gift today and change the life of an abused and neglected child. Find out how you can donate below.



WAYS TO DONATE



Scan to donate



Donate online:
www.summitcasagal.org

Checks can be mailed to:
CASA Volunteer Board Association, Inc.
650 Dan Street
Akron, Ohio 44310



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

BOARD VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION INC.

650 Dan Street

Akron, Ohio 44310

www.summitcasagal.org