

# 2025

# ANNUAL REPORT





# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of ECI CASA:

We are happy to present you with our 2025 Annual Report. We hope that this information gives you further insight into the work that we do daily to help abused and neglected children in our community.

Child abuse is such a significant problem in Madison County, but many are often unaware of how enormous this issue is locally and are shocked when we share the statistics with them. We also continue to be dismayed by the problem in our community. In 2025, we had a total of 1,222 Child in Need of Services (CHINS) cases assigned to our program. We were able to serve 606 of these children, leaving approximately 50% without an advocate to protect their best interests. Madison County continues to be in the top 5 counties with the highest number of child abuse cases, and continues to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest waiting list in all of Indiana.

However, the news isn't all negative. Last year we had a total of 85 community members step up to volunteer to be child advocates. We have an excellent team who truly cares about children who give 110% daily to help our victims. Our community embraced us with support as well: we were selected by Harrah's Hoosier Park to be the recipient of a grant from the Caesars Foundation, and the Noon Exchange Club of Anderson, Indiana selected CASA as the beneficiary of their annual golf outing. We also continued to participate in the Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana grant project funded by Lilly Endowment, and we worked with a consultant funded by this project. Our program was also selected by the Indiana GAL/CASA Office to participate in a pilot project with a new training curriculum that is virtual and will allow us to train more volunteers more quickly.

As we look ahead to the future, like many non-profit organizations, we are facing funding cuts in our federal grant, and potential cuts from our matching grant from the Madison County government, and possibly other granting funds. This has caused us to downsize staff, which means there are fewer individuals to help our abused children. We had to eliminate 2 full-time GAL/Staff Advocate positions, which put approximately 70 children back on our waiting list.



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As you take a look at this report of all of the good things we achieved in 2025, you may gain more awareness of all that we still must accomplish. With our large case numbers, and less anticipated grant resources on the horizon, **WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

Consider contributing your time, talent or treasure! Could you volunteer as an advocate to help a child in need, or can you volunteer on our fundraising committee, or in another capacity? Are you a baker willing to donate baked goods for our volunteers for their training classes or swearing-in ceremonies? Do you own a business, or are you connected to one who will be an annual sponsor for CASA? Do you have a special talent or service that would be beneficial to our organization that you are willing to share? We understand that everyone is so busy nowadays. If that is your case, please consider making a donation to help support the work that we do. Your contribution to the agency in any capacity would truly make a difference in the life of a child in need, and help make their future much brighter.

Thank you for your support and friendship.

Annette Craycraft, ECI CASA Executive Director

## REACH OUR OFFICE

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eastcentralncasa@gmail.com  
www.eastcentralcasa.org

# OUR MISSION

**East Central Indiana CASA, Inc. equips and supervises volunteers who provide hundreds of neglected, abused, and exploited children with a voice and friend in the court process.**

# OUR TEAM

## **ECI CASA STAFF 2025 -2026**

Annette Craycraft, Executive Director  
Danielle Bell, Supervisor/Data Coordinator  
Natalie Bogan, GAL/Staff Advocate  
Abigail Caress, Development Director  
Stephanie Hamilton, Staff Advocate Svp./Trainer  
Lorri Kavich, Deputy Director  
Robin Jack, Admin Assistant

Tiffany Kendall, Bookkeeper/Payroll Clerk  
Aubrey Ramsey, GAL/Staff Advocate  
Wendy Rice, GAL/Staff Advocate  
Ashleigh Serf, GAL/Staff Advocate  
Ashley Stephenson, FRC GAL/Staff Advocate  
Kaydee Tipton, Volunteer Coordinator  
Kelsey Antrim & Fayth Davenport, Court Monitors  
Susie Hughey & Heather Miller, Court Monitors

## **VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES (CASAs) 2025-2026**

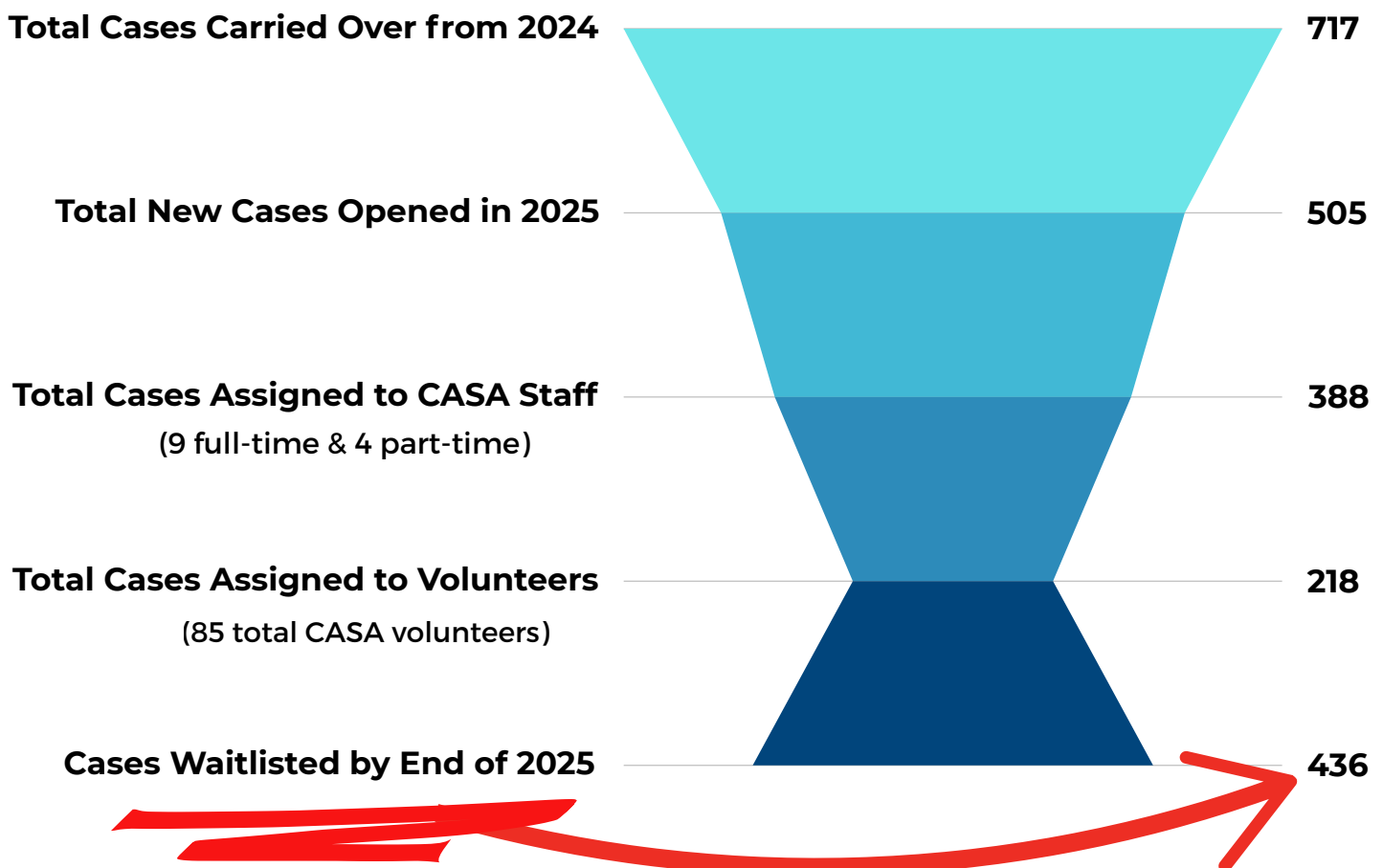
Heather Abenath	Linzie Dehring	Aleyah McCorkle	Tracey Rhoads
Barbara Abernathy	Nellie Elsten	Deborah McDaniel	Jo Scott
Rebecca Allen-Gull	Heather Ervin	Caitlin McGuire	Pamela Shoot
John Aukerman	Karen Gentry	Janine McKinney	Tina Skeel
Thomas (Rod) Autrey	Elizabeth Goff	Jeff McKinney	Ashley Smalley
Rosemary Ball	Carole Greenwalt	Heather Miller	Kristy Smith
Andrea Bearden	Kurstin Griffin	Catherine Morgan	Tammy Smith
Cheryl Bennett	Cheryl Hanlon	John Moser	Joe Snyder
Stacy Blake	Rebecca Jones	Thonja Nicholson	Traci Taylor
Mark Bokmeyer	Michael Juenemann	Kayla Overleese	Alexis Terrell
Erin Bradberry	Jennifer Kellams	Melissa Painter	Melodie Thompson
Stacey Butterfield	Tiffany Kendall	Lynn Pike	Kimberley Whitaker
Barb Clark	Marissa King-Ramirez	Jennifer Pittenger	Jana Witte
Kristina Claypool	Teresa Lee	Joan Reed	Heaven Young
Charity Colter	Kristina Logan	Sara Reichert	
Roode Clervrain	John Lord	Chelsea Reining	
Jenna Culp	Robert Mahl	Holly Renz	
Erika Deal	Bradley Marchant	Jennifer Reske	

# OUR 2025 CASELOAD

## THE "NEW NORMAL" IS SKY HIGH

We have witnessed our CASA caseload of abused and neglected children in Madison County double over six years from when our agency was assigned approx. 600 cases in 2019 until 2024 when we experienced a record-setting caseload of 1,349 CHINS cases. In 2025, we experienced another year of this "new normal" - and the challenges that came with it.

- Madison County's child abuse and neglect cases still rank **in the top 5** in the state of Indiana - despite our overall population ranking 13th.
- In 2025, a sky-high caseload of **1,222 CHINS cases** as well as **266 termination of parental rights (TPR) cases** carried over or assigned to CASA from the start of January to the end of the year **surpassed our capacity to serve.**
- By triaging the most serious of cases, recruiting and training more volunteers, and stretching staff capacity, our team managed to **serve 606 children (598 served in 2024), but 436 children were still waiting for a CASA advocate by year's end.**



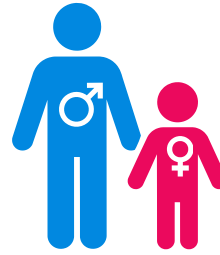
# 2025 CHILD CASE DATA

## SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS



Child abuse and neglect can happen in any family, at any income level. However, poverty is a major risk factor. **100% of children** in our 2025 caseload came from households earning **below federal poverty guidelines**.

## BIO STATISTICS BY SEX/AGE



**50%** ages 0-7

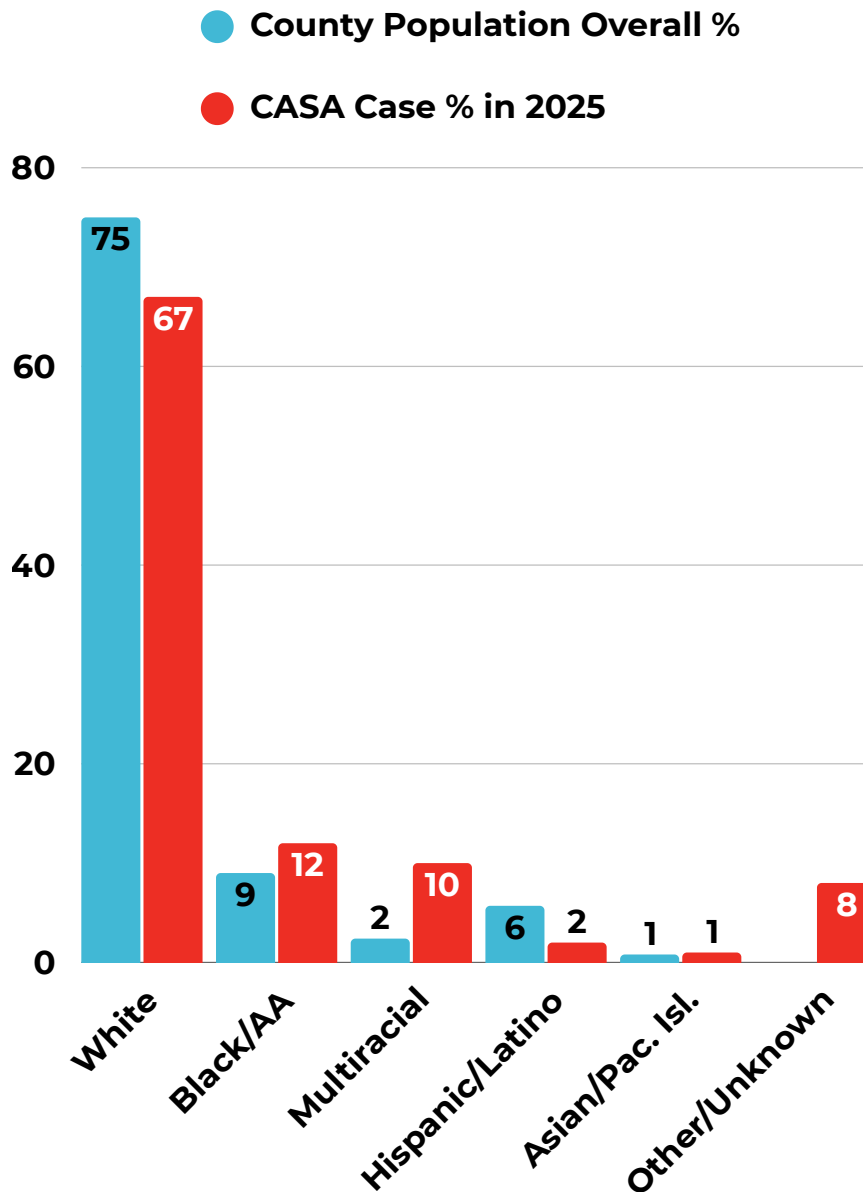
**29%** ages 8-13

**21%** ages 14-18+

**52%** **48%**

## BY ETHNICITY

In 2025, our caseload of children represented the following ethnic groups. The data from overall county demographics reported in the 2022 Madison County US Census data is provided for comparison:



# OUR IMPACT

“**One of the newest members of our GAL/CASA team showed courage** in her first TPR (termination of parental rights) mediation when she was able to stay steady in her pursuit of the best interests of the children.

When an unknown attorney wanted to dismiss the children’s wishes and create a contract that was in opposition to Indiana Statute, she became the first GAL/CASA under my supervision to decline to sign a mediated agreement.

Thankfully, the mediation was able to end in a positive resolution for all parties. **Now the children will have a permanent, loving home with their grandparents** and retain an age-appropriate amount of agency over their own lives.”

- STEPHANIE HAMILTON,  
STAFF ADVOCATE SUPERVISOR/TRAINER



## »» SUPPORTING EACH CHILD'S SAFETY & SUCCESS

ECI CASA believes that every child has the right to a safe, permanent home. As we strive against a rising tide of child abuse and neglect cases in our county, we are proud of our statistics of successful case resolution and permanent home placement, whether through healthy reunification or adoption for the children and youth we serve.

### IN 2025:

- **106 adoptions** were finalized to ensure permanent placement for **266 TPR** (Termination of Parental Rights) cases (in 2024: 93 adoptions, 147 TPRs).
- **276 reunification cases** assigned to our CASA agency returned the child to their original caregivers.

# OUR EFFORTS

“

We do more than just ensure a permanent placement outcome for each child. We seek out ways to meet their critical developmental needs as well - their **health, safety, educational, and emotional wellness**. Those needs must be met as part of truly advocating for the **'best interests'** of each child.”

- LORRI KAVICH, ECI CASA DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## SERVING EACH CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS

In 2025, our team added hours of valuable additional advocacy work and training to ensure we're serving our youth and children through the best possible practices:



**56 DUAL STATUS CASES**  
(Juvenile Court + CHINS)



**435**  
**MEDIATIONS**



**OVER**  
**2,936 HOURS**  
**OF CHILD**  
**CONTACT**

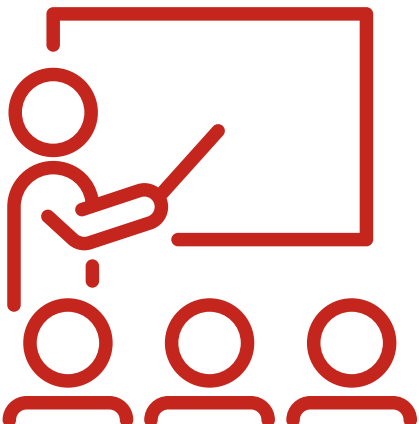


**63 CHILDREN**  
**IN FAMILY**  
**RECOVERY COURT**  
**(FRC) CASES**

### OUR CASA STAFF COLLABORATES & PARTICIPATES WITH:



- Sex Crimes Task Force
- Trauma Team
- Fatality Review Team
- Child Protection Team
- Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Team
- DCS Regional Services Council
- Indiana State GAL/GASA Commission
- Juvenile Probation Multi-Disciplinary Team



### TRAINING & EDUCATION IN 2025

- **23 In-Service Trainings**
- **4 Multi-Week New Volunteer Training Classes** training new volunteers, totaling 690 hours
- **Continuing Education:**
  - **400.75 hours (staff)**
  - **703 hours (volunteers)**

**TOTAL EDUCATION: 1,794.25 HOURS**

# OUR RESOURCES



## HUMAN RESOURCES



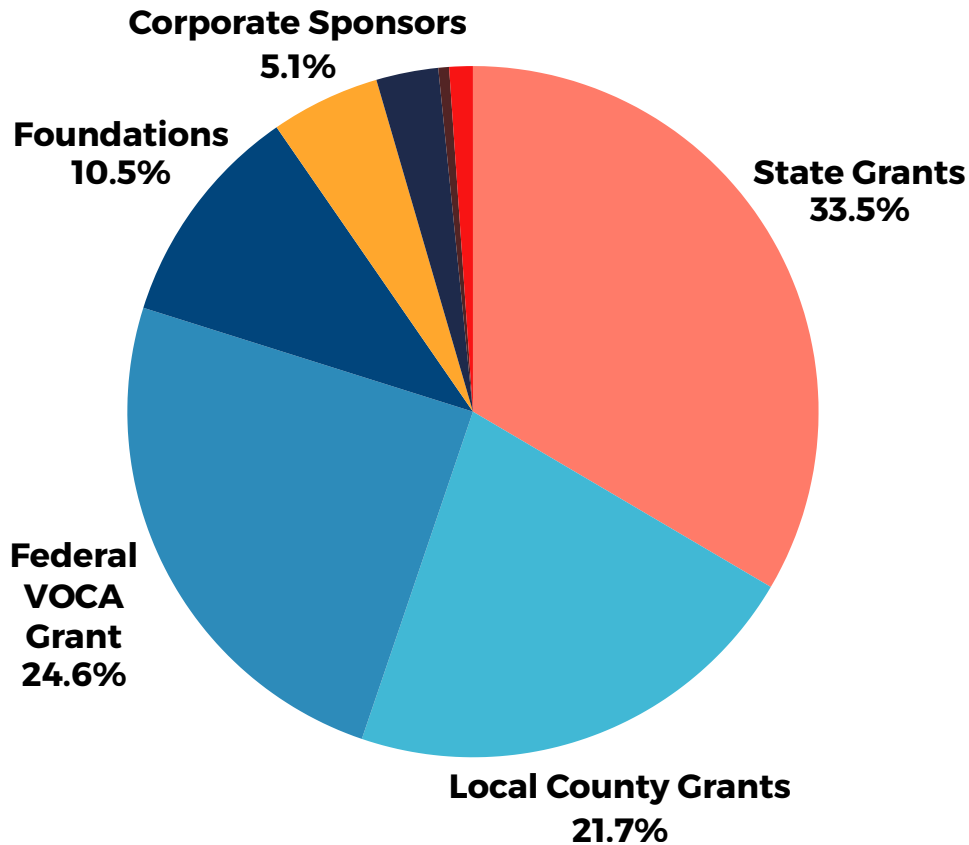
### STAFF-TO-VOLUNTEER CASA RATIO

**18** total staff: **85** volunteers  
(2024: 15 staff, 58 volunteers)

### 2025 VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

+ **20 New Volunteers**  
trained & sworn-in  
(2024: 23 New Volunteers)

## FINANCIAL RESOURCES



 Misc. 1.1%

 United Way Community Resilience Grant: 0.5%

 Fundraising Events & Individual Gifts: 2.9%

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We are so grateful for our supporters!

## 2025-2026 ECI CASA Board of Directors

Stephanie Talley, **President**

Robert Schultz, **Vice President**

Joy Byrne, **Secretary**

Linda R. West, CFRM, **Treasurer**

Jessica Carson-Bannon

David Dodd

Michael Frank

Connie Kurtz

Scott Mellinger

James Meyer

Anitra N. Montgomery

Jenny Reske

Pam Storm

## 2025 PREMIER SPONSORS



## 2025 PRESENTING SPONSORS



# SUPPORT US



**OVER 400 CHILDREN ARE WAITING**  
Your support for ECI CASA can change the lives of the children on our waiting list for an advocate in 2026. Join us today to help us tell their stories and transform their lives.

**DONATE**



**BECOME A MONTHLY  
SUPPORTER**



**VOLUNTEER**

