

The Impact of Your Support | FY 2023

THE LONG ROAD HOME



When Paige's* family first became involved with the child protective system, she describes herself then as "overwhelmed, too scared to ask for help." She struggled with substance misuse, and her children were removed to foster care due to neglect and exposure to domestic violence.

However, with perseverance, determination, and support from local service providers and caseworkers, she brought her youngest

daughter Caitlin* home. Today, she has an important message for parents who may be in a similar situation as she once was — overwhelmed, and facing a long road to reunification: "It's not impossible."

An important part of the team who helped Paige achieve reunification was Caitlin's CASA volunteer, Linda. When Linda first met Caitlin, she saw a shy baby who had already experienced so much upheaval in her short life.

"There were a lot of new faces in her life at the very beginning," says Linda. "She was very standoffish and shy at first. But I sat on the floor next to her and let her come to me, and that approach seemed to work. I would hold a toy and she would come to me."

Paige says that at first, because of her past trauma and negative experiences with the system, she didn't trust anyone. However, over time, as she saw DCYF and others like Linda wanted to help, that changed.

"She believed in me," Paige says of Linda. "It was great to hear that recognition, especially from a CASA/GAL who was there to protect my child. I'm so grateful she saw the hard work I did."

Caitlin's case officially closed this past June. Today, Paige is sober and says she wants to use her voice and story to help advocate for others and to improve the system for families. Looking back, she says she can see her wrongs and takes accountability, and she continues to work on herself and the trauma she has been through. But, importantly, she also sees how far she has come.

"It could have ended badly for me," she says. "I'm happy and proud of myself."

*Due to CASA's confidentiality policies, names and locations have been changed to prevent identification of a specific child or parent. The accompanying photo is a stock image for illustrative purposes only and does not depict the people involved.

"He is the reason I love helping people now. During such a dark and angry time in my life, he always showed up with a smile. He didn't act like a normal case worker. He made sure to treat me like a human, like I deserved — something I hadn't felt in forever while in foster care and placement." – Brie Lamarche, co-founder of the NH Youth Success Project, about her CASA volunteer Pete Woodward

FY23 BY THE NUMBERS

1,549
children



952
families



612 volunteers
made 13,661
visits to children

609,391
miles driven



87,585
hours given



\$3 million
advocacy services



CASA's Mission

CASA of NH provides a voice for abused and neglected children and youth by empowering a statewide network of trained volunteers to advocate on their behalf so they can thrive in safe, permanent homes.

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR CASA

Building on last year's advertising and marketing momentum, we increased our efforts to reach ever more people statewide through all media channels. Our twice-monthly virtual information sessions remain successful, and we began work to fine-tune them in order to create even more opportunities to engage with potential volunteers.

In addition to the virtual 40-hour format, we are offering select in-person trainings, plus a "hybrid" session that includes both virtual and outside, guided instruction done on attendees' own time. By widening the ways in which we offer core training, we hope more people are able to attend and ultimately become active advocates.

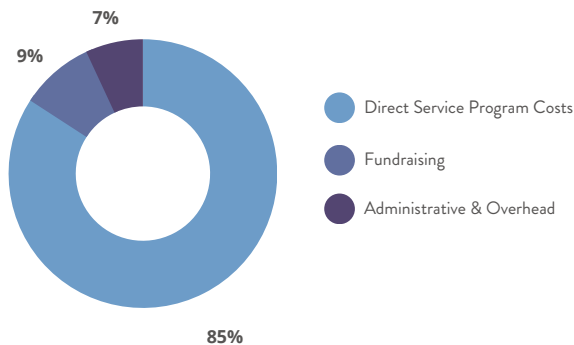
As we began to see results from in-person events, we increased our attendance at fairs and festivals and grew the number of advocate appreciation events, speaking engagements, lunch-and-learns, small informational gatherings, presentations to local community partners and educational events.

A strong staff strengthens our ability to provide the highest level of advocacy. To that end, we continue to practice the leadership and management skills learned through energy leadership training, and remain focused on our justice, equality, diversity and inclusion efforts. Our work can be difficult, and we are committed to helping and supporting our staff, who rise to the challenge.

Read our full FY 23 Annual Report online at casanh.org/annualreport

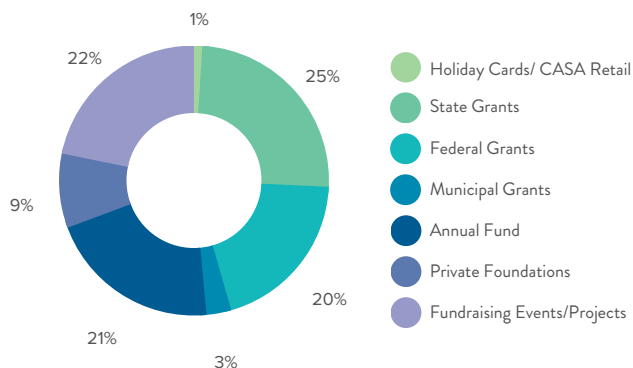
"If we can help the cause in some small way, to help the kids of New Hampshire — to help you — then we're on the path to helping those who don't have the privileges that we have," — Barbara Letvinchuk, RBC Wealth Management senior vice president. RBC Wealth Management has contributed to CASA of NH in numerous ways, from sponsoring our Cards for CASA program to attending and sponsoring — several times — our annual gala and main fundraising event, CASA Cares.

FUNDING USES



All costs related to administering the program, including recruiting, training, and supervising volunteer advocates

FUNDING SOURCES



CASA of NH strives to maintain frugal financial practices, a balanced budget, and funding diversity.

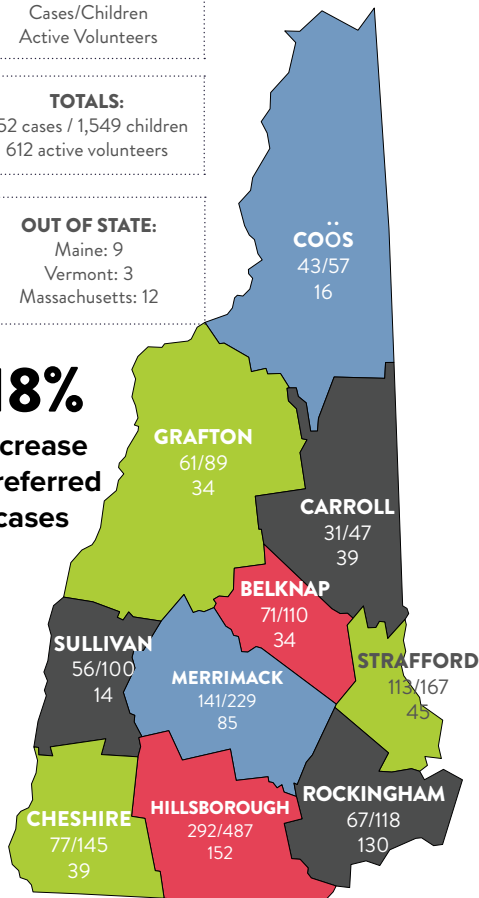
2023 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS AND CASES

MAP KEY:
Cases/Children
Active Volunteers

TOTALS:
952 cases / 1,549 children
612 active volunteers

OUT OF STATE:
Maine: 9
Vermont: 3
Massachusetts: 12

18%
increase
in referred
cases



Full FY23 audited financials will be posted in November 2023 at casanh.org/financials

CASA of New Hampshire - P.O. Box 1327, Manchester, NH 03105

www.casanh.org | 800-626-0622 | speakup@casanh.org

BERLIN CLAREMONT COLEBROOK DOVER KEENE LACONIA MANCHESTER

