

Your Voice. Their Futures.

Changing the lives of New Hampshire's children



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

The Impact of Your Support

As the years go on, CASA of New Hampshire continues to witness an increase in need from the family court system largely due to the drug epidemic that is increasing not only the number of cases but the complexity of them. The court system is overburdened, and victimized children need CASA volunteer advocates to speak for their best interests.



Last year, CASA was called upon for 462 new families who came to the attention of New Hampshire's courts, with 763 children in need of support. While we were able to provide a volunteer advocate for 463 of those children, and 948 more already in care, a shortage of volunteers means 280 more children throughout the state went without CASA's dedicated advocacy. Studies show that children with a CASA volunteer advocate are more likely to stay in school, get better grades and have higher self-esteem. It is CASA-NH's mission to provide a volunteer advocate for every child in need because we believe every child deserves a happy, healthy future.

Today, your contribution helps us serve just one more child in need. Tomorrow, your contribution may help us reunite siblings with their family, provide a youth aging out of foster care with a CASA volunteer advocate as she transitions into adulthood, or lead to the adoption of a foster child into a loving home.

Your commitment to New Hampshire's abused and neglected children is making a lasting impact in their lives, helping to ensure their rights to safe, permanent homes.

"By virtually every measure, New Hampshire is a great place to be a kid and to raise a family. But for some children, life is hard and full of uncertainties. Every year hundreds of Granite State children end up in family court, the victims of child abuse and neglect...I've been a CASA for three years. I can't imagine a more fulfilling way to give back to my community."

Ken Gorrell, CASA Volunteer Advocate

FY18 BY THE NUMBERS



1,411 children
had advocates
by their side



573 advocates
served in NH
family courts



867 families
benefited from a
CASA advocate



10,000+ children
with advocates
since 1989



607,782 miles
were traveled by
advocates



Advocates gave
80,196 hours of
their time

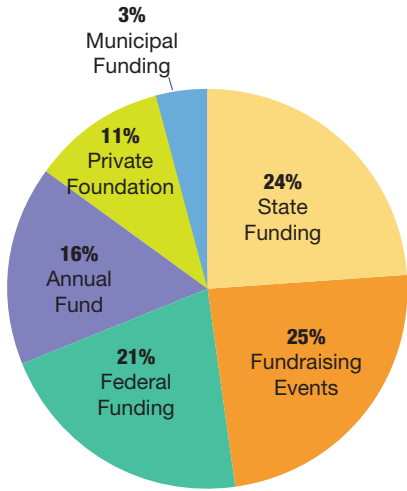
OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE

To protect the rights of our state's most vulnerable children to live, learn and grow in the embrace of a loving family. Our trained volunteer advocates speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children who come to the attention of New Hampshire's family courts.

800.626.0622 www.casanh.org speakup@casanh.org

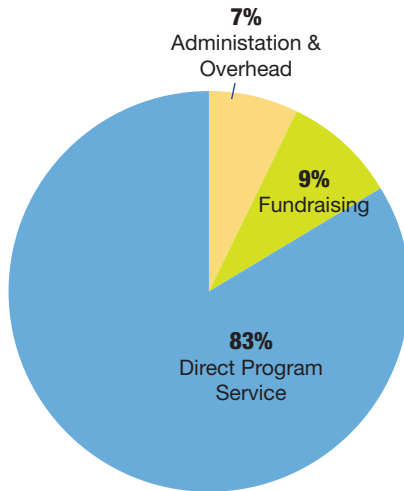
BERLIN CLAREMONT COLEBROOK DOVER KEENE LACONIA MANCHESTER

FUNDING SOURCES



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

FUNDING USES



Direct Program Service includes all costs related to administering the program, including recruiting, training and supervising volunteer advocates.



A Passion for Advocacy

When CASA volunteer advocate Elizabeth was called upon nearly 4 years ago to take a case where 3 siblings had been severely sexually abused, she didn't fully know the scope of how the case would evolve, but she knew the children desperately needed someone to take a caring interest in their lives and fight for what was best for them. And she believed she could be that person.

The needs of each child were different. The oldest was trying to navigate motherhood as a result of the abuse she sustained. The middle child was battling serious, trauma-induced mental health issues. And the youngest was recovering from early years of sexual abuse and trying to learn how to simply be a child again.

Elizabeth stepped in as a fierce and dedicated advocate for each child's varied needs. More complex than most cases, Elizabeth's experience working with children as an educator helped her understand the needs of each child in different stages of his or her life. She provided hundreds of hours of advocacy over four years, helping to ensure the best outcome she could for each sibling. She stood by the children as a criminal case proceeded against their parents and abusers. She helped unite the youngest child with a new forever family. She committed to making sure that the middle child's mental health was at forefront of decisions made for his future and followed through to help the oldest child earn her first full-time job so she can find success as she enters adulthood with a young child to care for and without the traditional family supports a teenager might have.

All three children face ongoing struggles and have a significant amount of healing ahead of them, but it's without a doubt Elizabeth's commitment and strength of advocacy helped bring a lot of light into their lives. She never settled on their needs, and if there was an obstacle, she'd climb over it. She truly saved their lives, each in different ways and with different challenges.

She has moved on to take new cases, but her experience on this and other cases working with older youth has provided her with some expertise she can share with other CASA volunteer advocates working with children who may not follow a path of adoption or permanent placement with a family member.

While she does take the time to volunteer with other local nonprofits, Elizabeth notes that representing the voice of New Hampshire's abused and neglected children will always come first.

This story is true but some names and identifying details have been changed to protect confidentiality.

FY18 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS & CASES

Key:
Cases/Children
Volunteers advocates active on case by residence

Totals:
867/1411
573 CASA GALs

