



# COMMUNITY IMPACT | 2015

## THE PROBLEM: AN OVERWHELMED SYSTEM.

1,059

children in Kent County were in foster care due to abuse and neglect in 2015. Although the foster care system is designed to protect them, this system — the caregivers, social workers and attorneys charged with their care and guidance — is overwhelmed. With case loads maxed out and quality foster placements difficult to find for every child, a child in foster care may have multiple case workers and be shuffled through multiple homes during the average 18 months to two years they spend in foster care.

## THE SOLUTION? CASA.

1 VOLUNTEER, 1 CASE AT A TIME

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) assigns ONE highly-trained volunteer per child or sibling group. They only have ONE case for the entire duration of the case, whether that's six months or three years. This means a consistent, caring adult presence in the lives of these children.

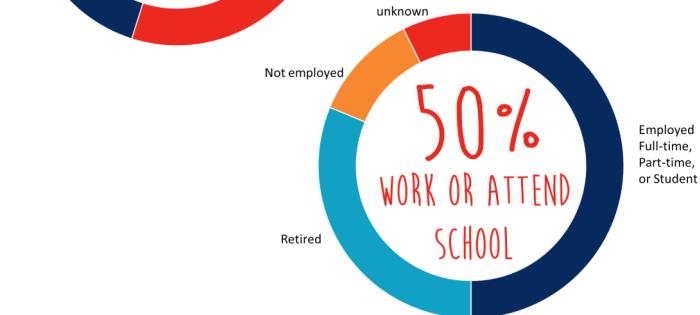
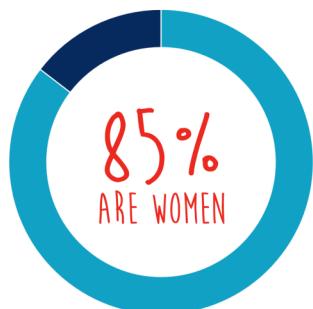
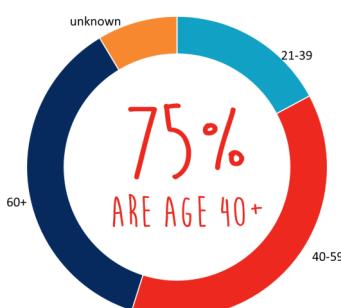
A CASA Volunteer is a judge's eyes and ears in the life of a foster child, and a child's voice in the court process. They speak on behalf of abused and neglected children in court, sharing detailed and thorough information in order for the child(ren) to achieve permanency as soon as possible.

*"These little ones are innocent victims of abuse or neglect and would not have a 'voice' in court, every 90 days, without a CASA. I truly feel honored to know my 'CASA kids' and advocate for their best interest as their bio-parents navigate through the court system."*

- Diane VanderMaas,  
Court Appointed Special Advocate since 2011

## OUR CASA VOLUNTEERS...

CASA of Kent County had 96 active volunteers in 2015.



# THE CHILDREN WE SERVE...

197  
CHILDREN  
SERVED

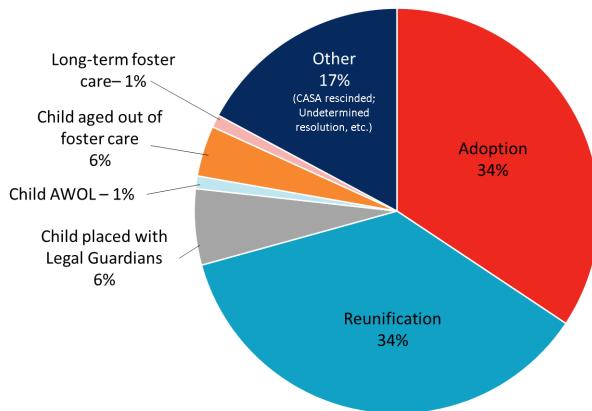
## CASA Children are...

51% female, 49% male  
53% Caucasian  
32% African American  
5% Bi-Racial  
10% Race unknown

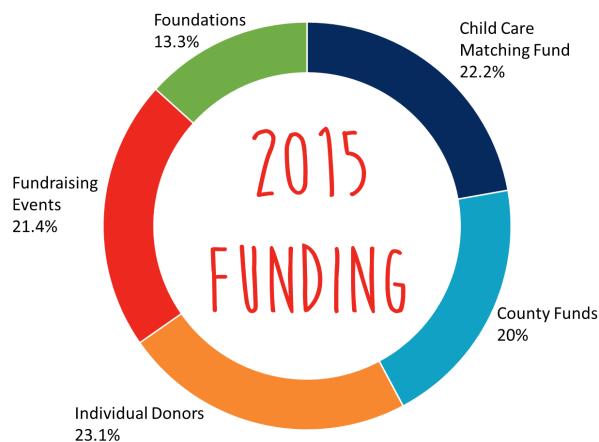
## A child with a CASA:

- Is more likely to find, or return to, a safe, permanent home.
- Gets more help while in the system.
- Is less likely to be bounced from home to home.

## PERMANENCY OUTCOMES FOR CASES CLOSED IN 2015



# OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORT...



## 2015 Expenses and Asset Balance

Total support and revenue	\$410,741
Total expenses	\$399,320
Program	\$269,831
Management	\$86,613
Fundraising	\$42,876
End of Year Net Asset Balance	\$347,151

It costs CASA of Kent County

\$1,250

annually to advocate for one  
abused or neglected child.

This important work would not be possible without a  
number of dedicated community partners, including:

Baldwin Foundation  
JCT Foundation  
Kate and Richard Wolters Foundation  
Kent County  
Gillett Family Foundation  
Heart of West Michigan United Way  
Peter C. and Emajean Cook Foundation  
Sadler Family Fund  
Sebastian Foundation  
St. Robert of Newminster Parish  
State of Michigan