

Crawford County Court Appointed Special Advocates
Annual Report: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Lift up
a child's voice.
A child's life.™



Crawford County CASA, Inc.
310 Chestnut Street, Suite 232
Meadville, PA 16335
Phone (814) 337-4471
Email: crawcasa@windstream.net
Website: www.crawfordcasa.org

OUR MISSION

Crawford County CASA, Inc., under professional leadership, trains and provides citizen volunteers to advocate for the best interests of children who are involved in juvenile court proceedings primarily as a result of abuse and/or neglect. These volunteers conduct an independent investigation, establish working relationships with all involved parties and services, report their findings and recommendations to the court, and help monitor compliance with family service plans and court orders.

Crawford County CASA is dedicated to ensuring that children have a safe, permanent and nurturing home in the shortest time frame possible.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diane Patton, President
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Melissa Wiltshire

STAFF

Cindy Knight, Executive Director

Every child has...
...the right to be
respected
...the right to **dream**
...the right to be loved and
cared for
...gifts that should be recognized and
valued
...the right to achieve their God-Given
potential
...the need for
unconditional love

Get involved at crawfordcasa.org

Calendar Year 2017

- 23 Children were served by Crawford County CASA volunteers in 2017.
- 3 Children's cases were opened and assigned a CASA volunteer in 2017.
- 8 Children's cases were closed in 2017. Three children were adopted. Three children were returned to their parents after the court determined that home conditions had improved and two children left the system or aged out.
- 104 Children were adjudicated dependent in Crawford County during 2017.
- 12 Crawford County CASA volunteers worked cases in 2017.
- 25 Months is the average time a volunteer stayed on their child's case for cases closing in 2017. This continues to improve each year.
- 46 Court hearings attended by CASA volunteers and staff in 2017.
- 921 Hours is the amount of time in direct service to children donated by CASA volunteers in 2017.

Calendar Year 2018

- 22 Children were served by Crawford County CASA volunteers in 2018.
- 9 Children's cases were opened and assigned a CASA volunteer in 2018.
- 10 Children's cases were closed in 2018. Four children were adopted. Two children were returned to their parents after the court determined that home conditions had improved and four children either aged out or obtained another permanency goal.
- 163 Children were adjudicated dependent in Crawford County during 2018.
- 14 Crawford County CASA volunteers worked cases in 2018.
- 22 Months is the average time a volunteer stayed on their child's case for cases closing in 2018. This continues to improve each year.
- 61 Court hearings attended by CASA volunteers and staff in 2018.
- 825 Hours is the amount of time in direct service to children donated by CASA volunteers in 2018.

A VOICE OF EXPERIENCE



“Since I see CASA volunteers on a rather frequent basis, I have been in a position to evaluate their overall contributions to the Juvenile Court System. CASA volunteers are involved in the most serious and troubling of the juvenile cases. As such, their insights are quite valuable in attempting to formulate a workable plan for the juvenile in question and their family. In many cases, the CASA report supports the conclusions and recommendations of the CYS caseworkers; in others, the report may differ considerably. In all cases, the CASA reports are read by me and provide thoughtful assistance for my recommendations which result in the ultimate court order.”

Former Juvenile Master William F. Peters, Crawford County

Crawford County CASA, Inc.
Statements of Financial Position
As of June 30, 2017 and June 30, 2018

ASSETS	<u>June 30, 2018</u>	<u>June 30, 2017</u>
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	110,278	153,761
Investments – Raymond James	164,869	102,858
Current portion of pledges receivable, net	8,140	12,980
Prepaid Expenses	<u>1,370</u>	<u>1,370</u>
Total Current Assets	284,657	270,969
Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment	17,125	16,000
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>- 16,116</u>	<u>- 15,693</u>
	1,009	307
Other Assets		
Long-term pledges receivable, net	2,621	12,057
Security Deposit	<u>188</u>	<u>188</u>
	2,809	12,245
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>288,475</u>	<u>283,521</u>
 LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Accrued expenses	1,063	1,265
 NET ASSESTS		
Unrestricted	272,132	254,356
Temporarily restricted	<u>15,280</u>	<u>27,900</u>
Total Net Assets	287,412	282,256
	<u>273,427</u>	<u>283,521</u>

Crawford County CASA
2018 - 2019 Approved Budget

County/State	0
Donations	20,000
Fundraising	20,000
Grants	15,000
Interest	500
United Way	3,300
Other	1,000
Total Income	63,800
EXPENSE	
Advertising/Recruitment	100
Audit/Review	1,250
Bank/Paypal Fees	50
Dues/Membership Fees	660
Employee Benefits	1,165
Equipment	700
Equipment Service	500
Fundraising	1,500
Insurance -- Director's	750
Liability Insurance	1,047
Workers Comp.	280
Meals & Entertainment - Other	100
Office Supplies	500
Payroll	39,410
Health Insurance	2,400
Payroll Taxes	4,000
Phone/Internet	2,100
Postage	300
Printing	1,200
Recognition/Volunteer Appreciation	100
Rent	0
Temporary Employment	1,900
Training -CEC	500
Training -Staff-Board	1,000
Training -Volunteer	150
Travel	1,500
Website	225
Total Expense	63,386

A Note from the Board President

Dear CASA Supporters and Friends,

CASA in Crawford County has sustained its mission of advocating for abused and neglected children thanks to the financial gifts through many corporate, individual, business and other non-profit organizations. With further resources, we would be able to hire an additional staff member to assist our executive director with the day-to-day operations of the office. We are currently awaiting word on funding through a VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) grant for just such a position. It goes without saying that our executive director, Cindy Knight, continues to be the driving force behind the success of our program. Cindy attended the National CASA/GAL Conference in Boston in March 2018 and had the opportunity to connect with other directors and volunteers in addition to attending workshops and keynote addresses by Emmett D. Carson, Ph. D., CEO, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and Adam Foss, Former Assistant DA, Juvenile Division, Suffolk County DA's Office.

Our annual luncheon, held at the First Presbyterian Church in Meadville in October 2018, featured a panel discussion. The event was well attended and we had many positive comments about the program with several people interested in becoming Board Members. While the luncheon is our signature fundraising event during the year, we look to continue our efforts to reach out in the community and broaden our donor base.

The Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority of Allegheny College holds an annual Tacos for CASA event every year raising more than \$2,000 for our program. They also volunteer at our luncheon registering guests and helping with set up and tear down of the location. The young ladies look to be even more involved in 2019.

Many thanks to the Board of Directors, as well as, our current and past volunteers for their support of CASA and its mission along with the countless hours of dedicated service and commitment to serving the children of Crawford County.

Sincerely,

Diane Patton

CASA Board President

Contributing to Success by Supporting CASA

The Meadville Business and Professional Women are a dedicated group of women who support Crawford County CASA, Women's Services, Inc., and the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network with funds raised through the annual Judith's Jig in memory of Judith Gilbert. Judith passed away on April 2, 2010 after an eight-month battle with pancreatic cancer, but leaves a legacy of kindness, caring and giving back.



The annual memorial 5K takes place around St. Patrick's Day and event organizers prepare for over 300 runners and walkers each year.

The Meadville BPW is comprised of professional women from the Erie, Greenville, Meadville, and surrounding areas. The chapter meets the first Monday of each month (except June and July) at Chovy's Italian Casual in Meadville. In addition to Judith's Jig, the Meadville BPW holds an event called Female Firepower, which brings together members and community members for a day-long informational event on important social issues affecting women as well as personal development. Female Firepower also provides an opportunity to network and become more familiar with our local professionals and business owners. The BPW also recognizes the struggle for women's pay equity with a small gathering each April and benefits local students with the Helen E. Remler (H.E.R) Memorial Scholarship Grant.



Optical Filters USA CEO Nicola Dent-Fisher is a former Board Member and long-time supporter of CASA. Each year, in addition to their generous corporate donation, Optical Filters provides gas cards to our volunteers. CASA volunteers drive countless miles making visits to their assigned children, parents of the children, attending court hearings and team meetings, etc. It may seem like a small thing, but to our volunteers, it provides a little extra support and motivation to keep fighting the good fight.

I am for the child™

BUSINESS SPONSORS

J. Wesley Rowden Law Office
Meadville Business & Professional Women,
Judith's Jig
Optical Filters USA
Allegheny College Kappa Alpha Theta

PLATINUM SPONSORS

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St. Patrick's Day Parade

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CCCTC Student Nurse Organization
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Ernst Conservation Seeds
Fallowfield United Methodist Church &
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Meadville Garden Club
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Northwest Savings Bank
Nichols Construction
Pfeffer Insurance Group
Salt Painting
Linesville Sisters in Christ
Shafer Law Firm

GRANTORS

Crawford County Human Services
United Way of Western Crawford County



Bethaven Inn

Bed and Breakfast
386 Hamilton Avenue
Meadville, PA 16335
814 336-4223
info@bethaveninn.com
Gary & Kathy Yaeger,



LIVE UNITED

Every effort has been made to recognize the Supporters and friends of CASA. If someone was mistakenly excluded, we sincerely apologize for the error.

WE EXPRESS OUR SINCERE THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Sponsor for a Child

Richard & Carol Deiss
Eva Hanaway
Mary Alice Kirkpatrick
Nancy Price

Champions for Hope

Philip & Michele Frndak
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Dr. Christopher & Charlotte Thomas

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The Dorfman Family Fund
Patricia Ferry
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Barbara Spencer
Dr. Peter & Anne White
Bonnie Zilhaver

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John and Kathy Spataro
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George Trauner
Carol Thumm
Patricia Wetherbee
RH Wilga

In Memory of Larry Spencer

Karen Esterly

In Honor of Max Waid

Harry and Adria Peterson

Janet Waid

David and Christine Roth

Crawford County CASA Says Thanks to:

Our partners in the important work that we do on behalf of abused and neglected children in Crawford County: County Commissioners, Crawford County Human Services Gail Kelly and Kelly Schwab, President Judge Anthony Vardaro, Judge John Spataro, Judge Mark Stevens, Judicial Hearing Officer Gregory Keenan and the Court.

Professionals in the child welfare system who volunteer their time to help train new CASA Volunteers: Children & Youth Services (CYS) Staff; Crawford County Drug and Alcohol Jayme Ferry; Salene Cowher, Psychotherapist; Larry Dickson of Mind, Body Wellness; Judicial and Hearing Officer Gregory Keenan.

Armstrong Cable Channel 36 for advertising CASA's need for volunteers.

Attorney Wes Rowden for donating our office space.

Bethaven Inn (Gary & Kathy Yeager) for their continued support and use of their lovely Inn for our Annual Meeting and Holiday Gathering.

Please consider creating a legacy of hope for a planned gift to CASA. Doing so will lift up the future generations of children. Please see us at the CASA office at 337-4471.