



# VOICES FOR CHILDREN

ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2024

[www.vfcbrasos.org](http://www.vfcbrasos.org)





THE  
CASA EFFECT

Small moments  
today make a big  
impact tomorrow.

## OUR MISSION

To improve the lives of  
children in foster care  
through powerful  
volunteer advocacy until  
each child is placed in a  
safe and permanent home.

Executive Director's Report

# Amy Faulkner

## Celebrating 25 Years of Advocacy: Strengthening Families & Empowering Youth



### 25 Years of Advocacy

Voices for Children was founded in 2000.



### Small Moments, Big Impact

25 years. 765 volunteers. 2,206 children. Amplifying voices, changing stories, building brighter futures.

As we step into 2025, we proudly celebrate 25 years of unwavering advocacy for children in foster care. Voices for Children (VFC) has been a beacon of hope and stability since its founding in 2000, ensuring that every child has a dedicated advocate by their side. Over the last 25 years, we have trained more than 765 volunteer advocates, who have stood with over 2,206 children across Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, and Madison counties.

At the heart of our work is a commitment to strengthening families and empowering youth. We believe that with the right support, children in foster care can overcome challenges and build a brighter future. Our first-class training program, launched in 2001, ensures that our advocates receive the highest quality preparation to serve children effectively. This investment in training and ongoing support for our volunteers is critical in fostering resilience and stability for the children and families we serve.

The need remains great. More children continue to enter the foster care system, and additional volunteers are needed to advocate for them. We invite you to be part of this life-changing work by joining us as a volunteer or supporting our Annual Fund. By making a monthly donation of \$25, \$50, or \$100, you provide a reliable source of income that allows us to continue training and supporting volunteers, ensuring that no child has to navigate the foster care system alone.

This milestone anniversary is a testament to the power of advocacy and community support. The CASA Effect—the transformative force of a caring adult—creates small moments today that lead to a lasting impact tomorrow.

Thank you for standing with us in this mission. Together, we can continue to bring hope, resilience, and a brighter future to the children who need us most.



# ABOUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

## ● 1977

The first CASA program is established in Seattle, Washington

## ● 1989

The CASA movement came to Texas. Texas CASA is founded. There are currently 74 CASA programs in the state of Texas.

## ● 2000

Voices for Children is founded.

## ● 2001

Voices for Children trains it's first class of advocates.

## ● 2025

Voices for Children is currently serving 5 counties in the Brazos Valley region- Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Madison and Leon.



## 2024

### VOICES FOR CHILDREN BY THE NUMBERS

**\$2,500**

COST TO TRAIN A NEW  
VOLUNTEER

**1838**

HOURS OF LEGAL  
ADVOCACY

**5**

COUNTY SERVICE AREA

**84**

CHILDREN ACHIEVED  
PERMANENCY

**249**

CHILDREN SERVED

**7,659**

DOCUMENTED VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

**3,600**

APROXIMATE SQUARE MILES  
IN COVERAGE AREA

**105**

ACTIVE CASA  
VOLUNTEERS

**80,888**

MILES DRIVEN BY  
VOLUNTEERS





# VFC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Executive Committee

Billy Castillo, D'Vine Cuisine  
Board President

Alice Blue-McLendon, TAMU Winnie Carter Wild Life Center - Clinical Assoc Professor & Veterinarian  
Vice President

Dwight Mathis, Retired DPS  
Treasurer

Sherry Pittman, Community Member  
Secretary

Katie Compian DeHaven, RE/Max 20/20  
Immediate Past President

## Board Members at Large

Susan Mott, Burleson County Chamber of Commerce

Sara Salzer, MoH Realty

Amber Widener, Seidel Schroeder

Denise Beakey, Retired School Psychologist

Robbie Robichau, Department of Public Service and Administration at the Bush School of  
Government and Public Service - TAMU



## EX-OFFICIO

Amy Faulkner, VFC Executive Director

Lallah Howard, VFC Advocate Representative

## Building for the Future

In 2024, VFC completed renovations to our building—enhancing safety and functionality while preserving its historic character. The updated space strengthens our ability to serve children, families, and volunteers in a welcoming, secure environment.



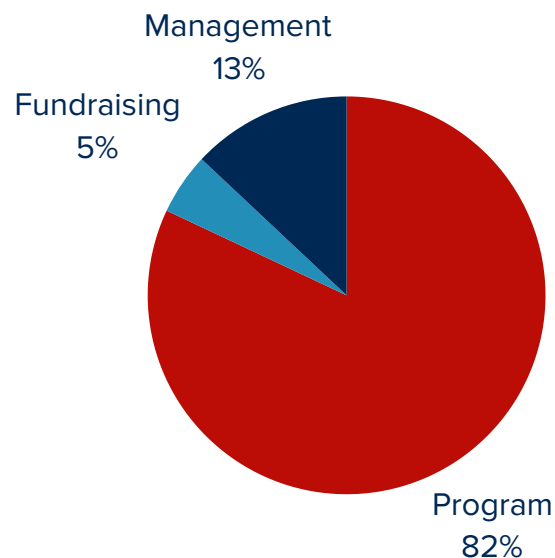
# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## ASSETS, LIABILITIES, NET ASSETS

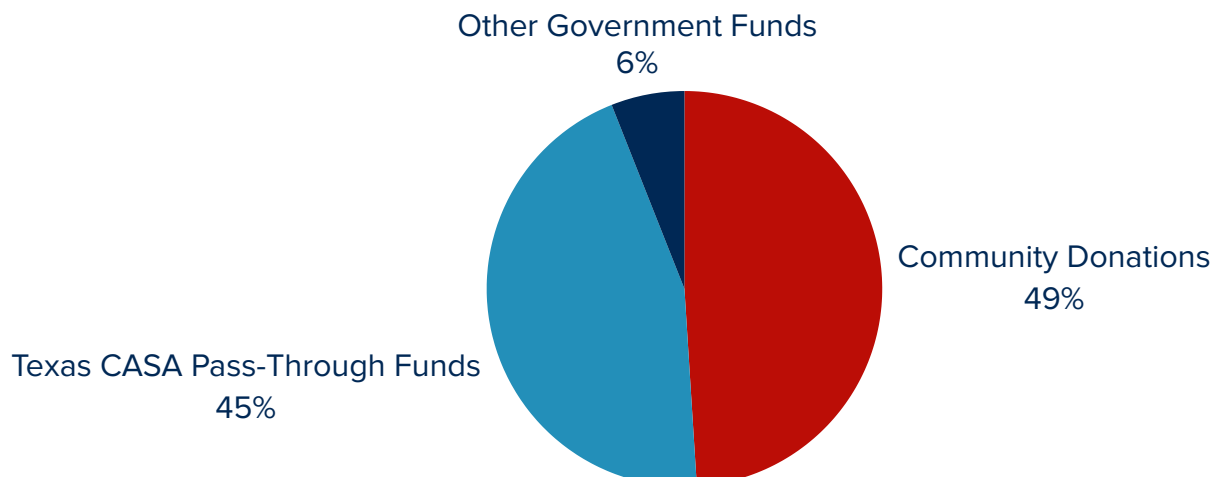
	2023	2024
ASSETS	\$ 1,212,560	\$ 1,439,415
LIABILITIES	\$ 44,631	\$ 101,116
NET ASSETS	\$ 1,167,929	\$ 1,338,299

	2023	2024
REVENUE	\$ 1,096,483	\$ 1,183,685
EXPENSES	\$ 923,781	\$ 977,704

## 2024 ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES



## 2024 FUNDING SOURCES





# A JOURNEY HOME: MANDY & ROBBY'S STORY

Mandy and Robby spent much of their young lives in foster care after being removed due to severe neglect. Their parents, both of whom had experienced foster care themselves, struggled with addiction, legal issues, and housing instability. Despite loving their children, they faced significant barriers to providing consistent care.

While in care, Mandy and Robby endured multiple placement, school, and caseworker changes. Struggling to cope, they began to act out. Through it all, their CASA volunteer, Julia, remained a steady presence—advocating for their needs, supporting them through each transition, and encouraging their parents as they worked toward reunification.

After more than five years, Mandy and Robby were successfully reunited with their father, who established stable housing, completed parenting classes, substance abuse treatment, and counseling. With Julia's help, he also built a strong support system to sustain his family's progress.



## HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

A CASA volunteer provides a consistent presence in the child's life while working with others to identify the child's physical, emotional, and educational needs along with resources to help the child and the family heal.



### Volunteer



Be At Least 21 years old



Attend an Information Session



Complete Application & Interview



Pass Screening Requirements



### Support



Become a Monthly Donor



Become a Community Partner



Invite VFC to present to your organization



Include VFC in your Estate Plans

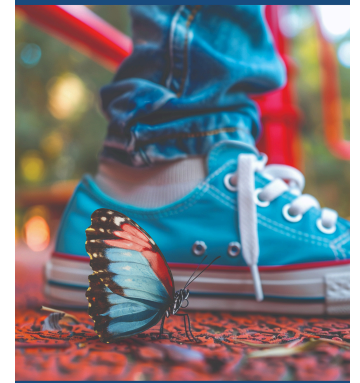
# ANNUAL SUPPORT DRIVE

Your donation to the annual fund provides critical, year-round support that directly impacts the lives of vulnerable children in foster care. Your gift directly supports children in foster care and ensures that every child in foster care has a dedicated CASA advocate looking out for their best interests while providing stability and hope for children navigating the foster care system. You will help us fund the recruitment, training, and support of CASAs, who serve as a lifeline for children in foster care by helping to cover costs like background checks, training materials, and advocacy resources.

Unlike grants or government funding, the annual fund provides flexible dollars to cover essential needs where they're needed most. Recurring donations help ensure long-term support for Voices for Children, creating an investment in stronger families and healthier communities.

In honor of our 25th year serving children in the Brazos Valley, we have created a unique way to showcase our recurring monthly donors. For each donor pledge, a piece of the butterfly will be revealed. Your monthly contribution will not only make a difference in the lives of children in foster care, but it will also leave us with a beautiful representation of the commitment of our community to Voices for Children.

SMALL MOMENTS TODAY



CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT  
TOMORROW

## 49%

### Community Donations

49% of the 2024 budget was funded through donations from the community.

## 75+

### New Monthly Donors

\$25, \$50, \$100

Celebrating 25 years of advocacy - goal of 25 monthly donors at each level



## POWERED BY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In 2024, 49% of our funding came from community sources, reflecting the incredible generosity of individuals, businesses, and community partners who believe in our mission. This vital support allows us to continue advocating for children in foster care and ensures every child's voice is heard and they have a chance at a brighter future.





## CBVF: GROWING TO GIVE BACK

The endowment fund established by the CASA of the Brazos Valley Foundation works to provide funding in perpetuity for Voices for Children, Inc. At the close of 2024, the Foundation managed \$175,390.58 in assets, including our unrestricted endowment, the Wikse Continuing Education Fund, and the Jan & Gary Barnett Scholarship Fund. Investments returned 9.58% under the guidance of our outside investment firm.

The Foundation Board—Jean Phelps, Andy Winn, Mark Browning, and Ernie Wright—is committed to growing the main endowment to \$500,000 through donor contributions and reinvested earnings. Once reached, annual distributions will directly support Voices for Children’s operations.



CASA-BRAZOS VALLEY FOUNDATION

supporting

Voices for Children, CASA

Learn more at [www.vfcbrazos.org/foundation](http://www.vfcbrazos.org/foundation) or contact us at [foundation@vfcbrazos.org](mailto:foundation@vfcbrazos.org).

## BUILDING BRIGHTER TOMORROWS, ONE GIFT AT A TIME

### Supporter Spotlight: Carmella & George Edwards

Carmella and George Edwards came to the Brazos Valley in the 1970s. Although they have lived elsewhere for some of the years since then, they feel a deep attachment to the community and a responsibility to leave it better than they found it. Carmella and George have included Voices for Children in their estate plan because they believe that it is vitally important to intervene early to put children on the right path in order to prevent serious problems later in life.



It's especially satisfying to be able to provide assistance at a critical point in a young person's life.



George Edwards III  
CBVF Supporter

Creating an endowment to support the operations of Voices for Children will give the organization a reliable source of funding and greater potential to engage in long-term planning.

“It is especially satisfying to be able to provide assistance at a critical point in a young person’s life. We are privileged to be able to help in this way, and we encourage others to considering Voices for Children in their estate planning.”

*Have you remembered Voices for Children in your will?*

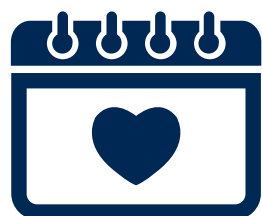
# SMALL MOMENTS, BIG IMPACT



By the time Tom was assigned as a CASA for Andy, the young boy had already spent years in the foster care system. Andy’s early life was marked by instability—allegations of abuse and neglect, exposure to drug abuse and domestic violence, and a parent struggling with mental illness and a long history with Child Protective Services.

Despite these challenges, Tom forged a strong connection with Andy. Through patience, empathy, and unwavering commitment, he became a trusted and consistent presence—something Andy had rarely experienced.

Their relationship provided Andy a sense of stability and helped guide him toward independence as an adult. Tom’s advocacy reinforced to everyone involved that children in foster care don’t just need services—they need someone who shows up, again and again.



## SAVE THE DATE

### VFC Honoree Reception

June 12, 2025

### VFC Pickleball Palooza

October 18, 2025

### Shop for CASA -School Drive

June 2025

### Brazos Valley Gives Day of Giving

October 21, 2025

### New CASA Pre-Service Training

June 2- 12, 2025

August 19-September 11, 2025    November 2 - 13, 2025









**AGGIELAND**  
CREDIT UNION

**T X B** WE ARE TEXAS BORN.



SHANE PHELPS  
LAW



**PREMIERE EVENTS**  
FORMERLY PARTY TIME RENTALS



United Way  
of the Brazos Valley



THE  
**TEXAS A&M**  
UNIVERSITY  
SYSTEM

**DC**  
DIVINE CUISINE



**IG**  
IMPACT GROUP  
MARKETING

**ANCO**  
INSURANCE  
Since 1873

**SCRIPPS HOWARD**  
FOUNDATION

**BLEYL**  
ENGINEERING

**BCS** Print  
Signs & Graphics

*Thank  
you!*  
*Community Partners*

KAPPA ALPHA THETA

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Normangee  
State Bank  
ROCK SOLID

**THE DUNLAP**  
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FOUNDATION

**RE/MAX**

20|20  
twenty | twenty

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Bank®  
MEMBER FDIC

**PHYSICIANS**  
**PREMIER**  
24/7 EMERGENCY ROOM

**ATM** | TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
The Bush School  
of Government & Public Service

Katie DeHaven, Broker Associate

**PIGER'S**  
Tire & Auto Center

**Strive**  
HEALTH SERVICES

**SMALL MOMENTS CAN  
HAVE A BIG IMPACT**

WE CALL IT  
**THE CASA EFFECT**

[vfcbrasos.org/become-a-casa](http://vfcbrasos.org/become-a-casa)

**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN



**CONTACT US**

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