



2023 IMPACT REPORT



TOGETHER FOR STRONGER FUTURES

Dear Family Law CASA Community Members,

We are so pleased to have wrapped up another successful fiscal year of serving kids at Family Law CASA. With your support, in partnership with our staff and volunteers, we were able to enable bright futures for over 180 children in 120 cases this past year!

This past fall, we held a 20th anniversary event inviting members of the Family Law CASA community to join in the festivities as we celebrated advocating for over 3,000 low-income children. This spring, the Family Law CASA staff and board carefully considered our organization's strengths, challenges and opportunities and laid a course forward over the next three years to respond to community needs, strengthen our organization, deliver high-quality programming, and begin to plan for our 20-year vision.

We are also proud to report that this year we raised our income limits for the families we serve due to the continued increase in the cost of living in King County. The new income limit is \$128,160/year matching the Public Defenders Low-Income guidelines for two parents with one child. This income cap increase has given us the opportunity to offer our services to more families in need.

As the cases we work on have become more complex and more highly litigated, we have striven to equitably represent each child's voice, regardless of background, and ensure the highest quality recommendations to the King County



Deidre McCormack Martin, Executive Director, and Lauren Aldinger, FY23 Board President.

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in partnership
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FAMILY LAW CASA VALUES

ADAPTABILITY • COLLABORATION • COMPASSION • EQUITY • GRATITUDE • INTEGRITY • LEVITY • QUALITY

court. We continued training all of our staff, board and advocates on diversity, equity and inclusion and integrated best practices into our policies and practices towards our racial equity goals.

In alignment with our commitment to advancing racial equity and increasing access to justice for all, we expanded our program to include interpretive services for non-English speaking families. This past year Family Law CASA provided Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) for nine non-English speaking cases – six Spanish, one Samoan, one Russian and one Japanese.

In this report, you will see the impact we collectively had, learn about new innovations in our programming, and read about our exciting 3-year strategic priorities that will lay the groundwork for a strong future.

We are ever grateful for all of the support and partnerships that help us do this important work to enable healthy kids and families and create a more equitable future for all in our community.

With sincere appreciation,



Lauren Aldinger
Board President

Deidre McCormack Martin
Executive Director



The 2023 Board of Directors gathered for strategic planning at their annual retreat.

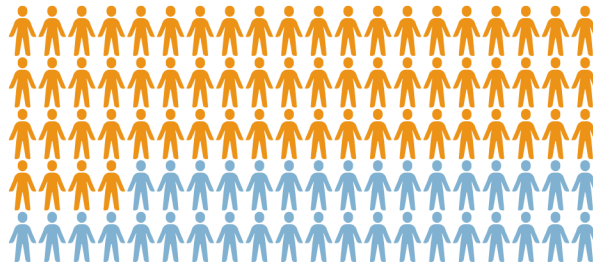
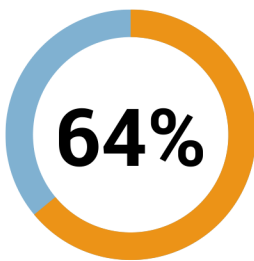
Pictured: (L-R): Dr. Melanie English, Abdul Kallon, Verónica Quiñónez, Deidre McCormack Martin, Katherine De Bruyn, Judge Jean Rietschel, Ret., Lauren Aldinger, Megan Charles, Mei Shih, Jacqueline Balinbin, Dr. Lorna Tumwebaze, Rebecca Pimley, Julie Maloney, Gary Sampson, Page Perey, Brad Elias, Bryan Digel & Blake Hilty. Not Pictured: Sherri Anderson, Hillary Collyer, Kellie McKenna & Joel Odimba, Jr.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

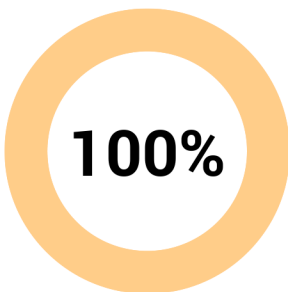


184

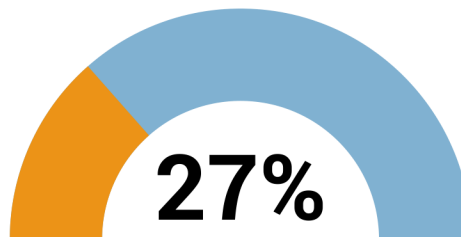
Family Law CASA provided an advocate for 184 children, giving them a voice in court and a safe custody plan.



Of the 184 children assigned an advocate, 64% of them were 11 years old or younger.



All of the children in Family Law CASA cases were from low-income households.



Family Law CASA reports and recommendations helped 27% of assigned families settle their case out of court avoiding trauma and saving the courts a substantial amount of time and resources.

98

Submitted
98 reports
to the court.



31

Litigated
31 trials.



152

Appeared at
152 additional
court hearings.



26

Contributed to
26 mediations.



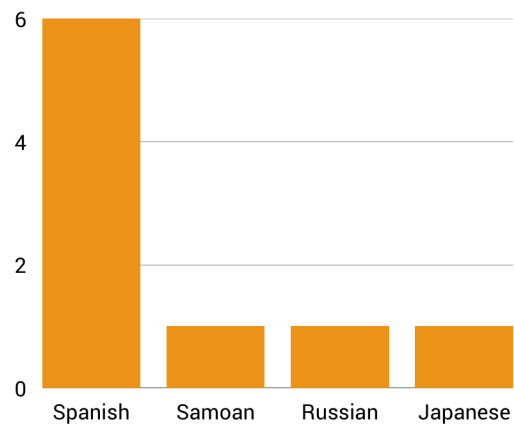
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NINE

In alignment with our commitment to advancing racial equity and increasing access to justice for all, Family Law CASA expanded its program to include interpretive services for non-English speaking families. This past year, Family Law CASA provided Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) for nine cases with non-English speakers.

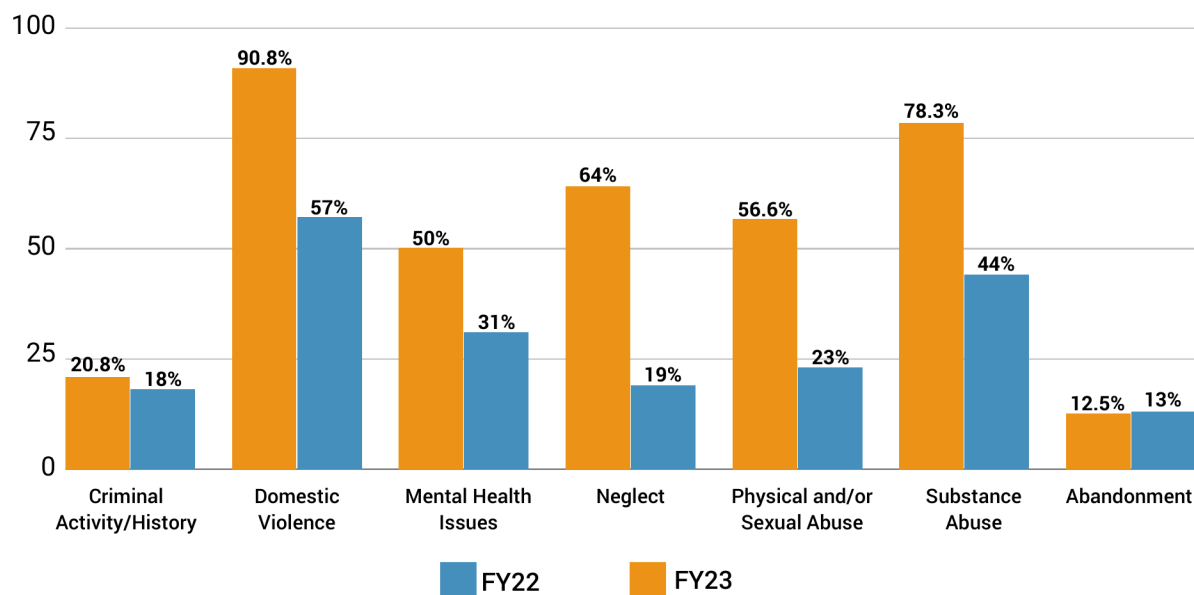
NUMBER OF CASES



53 OUT OF 120

Family Law CASA managed a caseload of 120 cases, with 53 cases completed during the year.

RISK FACTORS IN CASES ASSIGNED TO FAMILY LAW CASA



The program team navigated tough and complicated cases this year, 90% of which involved allegations of domestic violence, 78% included substance abuse, 64% neglect and 50% mental health issues among other high-risk factors. Most cases involved more than one high-risk factor.

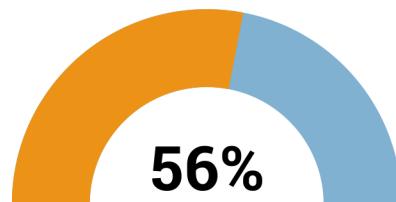
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25%

Of the 156 active advocates, 25% were BIPOC volunteers. BIPOC advocates are assigned to cases first, whenever possible.



56% of families were from communities of color including 24% Black/African American, 15% Latinx/Hispanic, 12% two or more races, 3.6% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1.2% Native American/Indigenous.

6,360

6,360 hours were donated by volunteer advocates to support the cases assigned to Family Law CASA in King County Superior Court.



Two implicit bias trainings were held for new advocates, led by experienced mediator, attorney, and forensic evaluator, Darcia Tudor. Current advocates and contract attorneys also participated.



Ninety-five advocates were assigned to cases in fiscal year 2023. Active advocates have experience and expertise in a wide variety of related backgrounds, including law, social work, education, mental health counseling, and child development.

50%

50% of the families in Family Law CASA cases were not able to afford attorney representation and continued through court proceedings as pro-se litigants. Family Law CASA's program team assisted with administrative details for the court to ensure each child would have a final parenting plan looking out for their safety.



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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Family Law CASA is forever evolving to stay at the forefront of family law issues, serve the needs of the court and to be the best advocates we can be for the children in the middle of high-conflict custody cases.

Setting the Standard

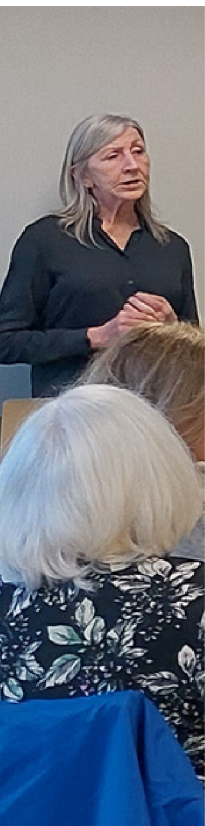
A key effort this past year was Family Law CASA's involvement in the development of the Intimate Partner Violence Impact Assessment (IPVIA) tool which helps identify the presence and impact of IPV in family law cases.

This is a collaborative project with the Coalition to End Gender Based Violence and the Justice for Families Committee and Family Law CASA has been involved for several years. In January of 2023 we piloted a specialized 2-day training with 10 advocates which covered how to use the IPVIA tool and write the accompanying report. Several CASAs are already actively using the tool and among the first to do so in the state.

The process includes comprehensive questions for the advocates to ask the parties in order to get the full spectrum of Domestic Violence (DV) including coercive control which is a newly adopted element of DV that is now in the WA state statutes. Of the cases assigned to Family Law CASA, 90% of them in the past 12 months included allegations of intimate partner violence. Therefore, the tool is critical for the safety of children in King County.

The long-term goal is to make the IPVIA process the standard for screening DV throughout Washington State and then the country at large. The Family Law CASA team is proud to be an early adaptor of the new most effective forms of advocacy, especially when dealing with DV/intimate partner violence.

Pictured: Tracee Parker, Justice for Families Grant & Project Manager with the Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence, facilitating the specialized training for ten advocates.



Enriching Learning, Elevating Advocacy

Family Law CASA remains committed to dismantling the systems of oppression that impact children and families in our community. This year, the program team developed new trainings and refreshed some existing materials to facilitate high quality learning for CASA volunteers. Examples of in-service training opportunities included a group Q&A time with Judge Jean Rietschel, a retired Chief Family Law Judge and Family Law CASA Board Trustee, and Dr. Mollie Hughes provided an overview of parenting classes and specific guidance about when it is appropriate to include classes in recommendations to the court.



Tyreese Johnson, Program Manager, facilitating a new volunteer training

Designed specifically for Family Law CASA, Darcia Tudor, an experienced mediator, attorney, and forensic evaluator, facilitated two trainings about implicit bias for new advocates. The focus on implicit bias is critical to the program.

In the past 12 months, 56% of families involved in cases assigned to Family Law CASA were from communities of color. However, of the 156 active advocates, only 25% were BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) volunteers. While the program team builds the pool of available BIPOC volunteers, they assign BIPOC CASAs to cases first, whenever possible.



Furthermore, implicit bias is not restricted to any one domain. Implicit bias can surface in reports. The program team added relevant statutory language for

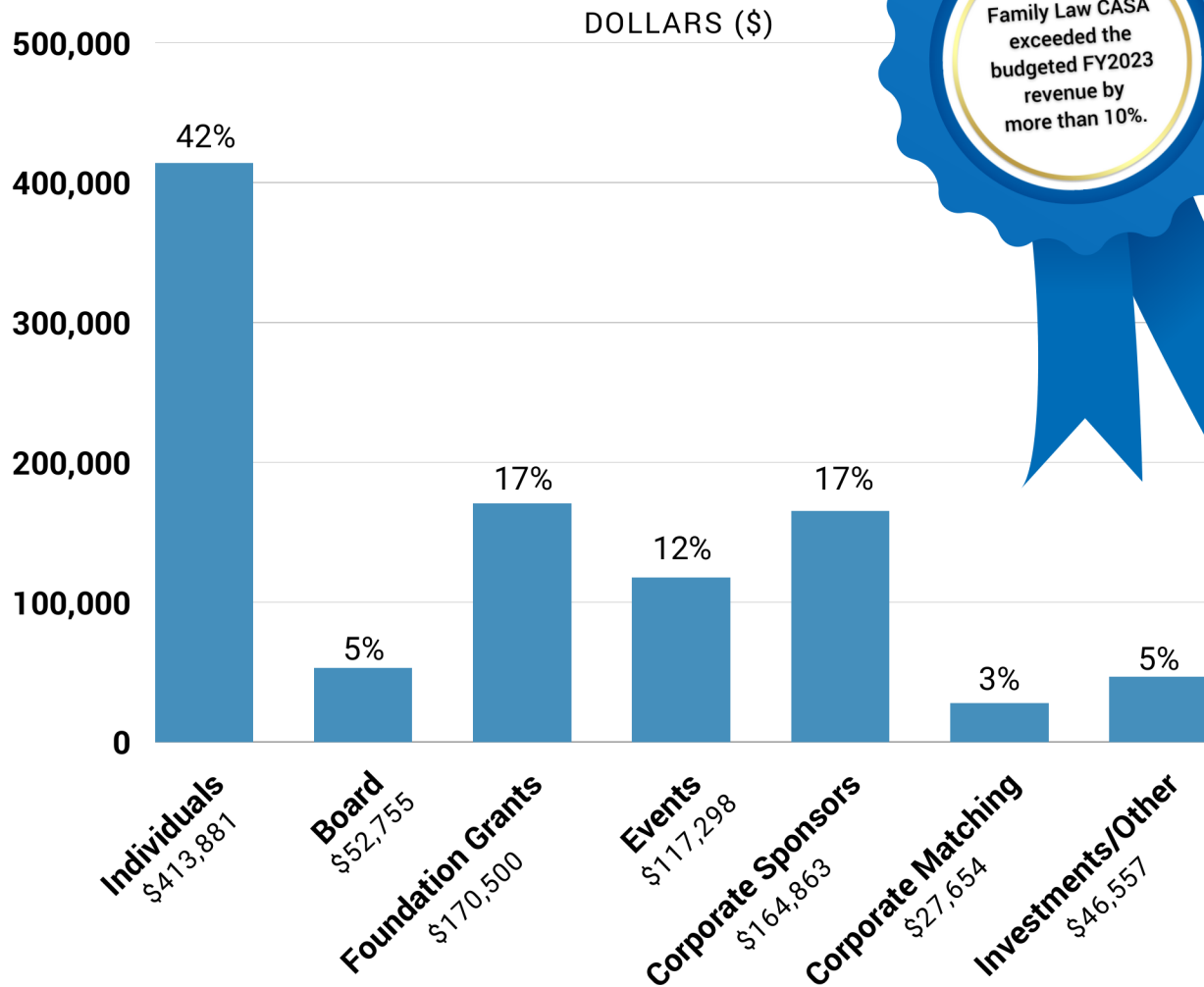
parenting plans (ex: RCW 26.09.187) and listed factors for consideration when conducting analysis of parenting functions and the best interest of the children. The necessity of referencing this language and factors stems from the accepted body of research demonstrating that children with established, bonded relationships with both parents have better outcomes as they mature.

At Family Law CASA, we exist in response to the family court system that disproportionately impacts BIPOC families. Therefore, these learning opportunities are vital to our child advocacy program, and truly, giving children an authentic voice in court.

L-R: Stacey Thompson, Advocate Supervisor, speaking at Volunteer Appreciation & Open House Event; Gary Sampson, Board Member & Advocate, sharing about his experience with other CASA volunteers.

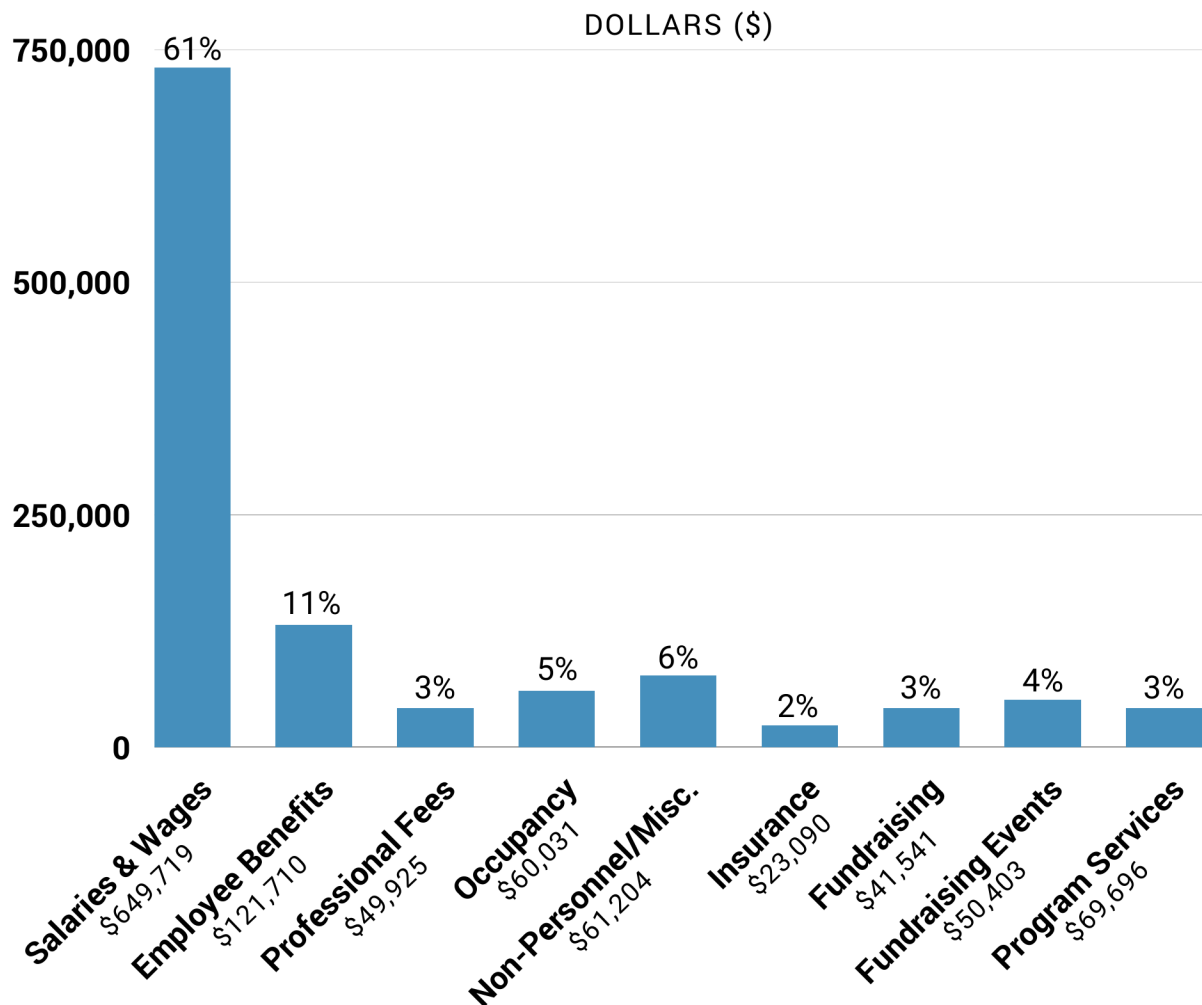
FY2023 REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE : \$993,508



FY2023 EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES : \$1,196,310



— IMPORTANT NOTE —

The Family Law CASA Board of Directors approved a deficit budget for FY2023 to fund and sustain capacity for 100-120 cases per year. A draw from the Special Gift reserves covered the deficit.

2023 STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS

This year, the board and staff developed a new 2024-2026 strategy. Our objectives for the upcoming three years include...



Continue serving 180+ kids per year through 100+ high-risk custody cases in King County family court, advocating for their safe futures.



Ensure financial sustainability through a strategic revenue plan and thoughtful stewardship of funds.



Advance diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging through partnership with community-led organizations and creation of a community advisory council.



Raise our visibility and reputation through a refreshed brand and stronger community partnerships.



Craft a 20-year strategic plan to expand our impact, while ensuring community needs are met.

Your ongoing contributions fuel our strategic vision – let's amplify our impact together. Give now at familylawcasa.org.

SMARTER GIVING, BRIGHTER FUTURES

Join the Safe Pathways Program and discover the joy of leaving a lasting impact. Giving in your estate plan promotes sustainability for the child advocacy program and provides low-income children a voice in court for a safer tomorrow. Explore beyond a simple will, with options like a charitable gift annuity, a charitable lead trust, or a life insurance policy.

To learn more, visit
familylawcasa.org/give



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Thank you to the community partners for your support! You give local, low-income children a chance for a safer and brighter future.



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ACC - Advocacy & Caring for Children
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T-Mobile Match Program
United Way of King County
US Bank Foundation Match Program
Washington State Combined Fund Drive
Windermere Capitol Hill Foundation
Wyman Youth Trust

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Because of our sponsors, 100% of the 2023 Breakfast contributions from individual donors directly benefitted our CASA children.

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FUND THEIR FUTURE

Many thanks to those who have committed to the Fund Their Future Campaign to ensure the long-term support for CASA kids.

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Laurie Stewart
Jennifer Thomsen & David Olson
Darcia & Gary Tudor
Dr. Lorna Tumwebaze
Linda & Wally Walker
Wyman Youth Trust & Merrily Wyman

Be a cornerstone of change. Join our Sustainer Circle today.
Contact development@familylawcasa.org for more details.

CASA DEFENDERS

Thank you to our CASA Defenders for their monthly support and dedication to keeping local children safe.

Anonymous
Brent Bohan
Margie Clinton
Shirley Coly
Gunner & Ann-Marie Croy
Michelle Cummings
Jeanne Eagleson
& John Gray
Brad & Sasha Elias
Margaret Fairfield
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Ensure children's
safety, join us as
a CASA Defender.

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giving today at
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WAYS TO GIVE

THE SEVEN



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Designate your DAF to make a lasting difference!



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Visit familylawcasa.org to make a gift online.



MAIL YOUR GIFT

Send your gift to Family Law CASA at:
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JOIN SAFE PATHWAYS

Include Family Law CASA in your Estate Plans to support the futures of low-income children. Your legacy, their safety.



MAKE A GIFT OF STOCK

Multiply your impact while enjoying tax advantages. Contact us for transfer instructions.



DONATE FROM YOUR IRA

Give through your IRA (if you are 70.5 or older) as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).



GIVE WITH CRYPTO

Direct your gift of cryptocurrency through cryptoforcharity.io



Thank you

to our community!

