

2025-2026
**Impact
Report**



Family Law CASA
Giving children a voice in court

From Our Executive Director & Board President

A Year of Shared Impact

As we begin a new fiscal year at Family Law CASA, we are filled with **gratitude for all we accomplished together**. In a year marked by deep inequity and growing complexity in the family court system, our staff, volunteer CASAs, board directors, donors, and Community Advisory Board members ensured that children and families had a stronger, more equitable path through the legal process. Thank you for your commitment, time, and care in advancing access to justice for those who need it most.

A few highlights from the past year include:

- Delivered advocacy services in **114 cases**, serving **178 children** across King County.
- **Achieved a record-breaking \$1.75M**, reflecting 23% growth in total revenue.
- **Appeared in 195 hearings and 41 trials**, increases of 38 percent and 128 percent, demonstrating rising case complexity.
- **Judges adopted 86% of our recommendations** into final orders.
- **Conducted 15+ presentations and meetings** with city, county, and state officials to strengthen access to justice.

This year also marks the launch of the Bridge to Justice Campaign, a multi-year effort to raise the funds needed to implement and sustain our new Resource Navigation Program. Thanks to early leadership gifts, including from our full Board of Directors, we have raised just over \$1M toward our \$2M goal. We are deeply grateful to these donors and look forward to welcoming others who want to help reduce trauma for children and support family stability after final orders. More information about the campaign can be found in the pages ahead.

Thank you for being part of this work and for helping build a more equitable court process and more stable futures for children and families. We look forward to another year of shared impact.



Deidre McCormack Martin
Executive Director



Bryan Digel
Board President



Our Guiding Statements

Vision, Mission, & Values



Vision

We envision a world where justice and equity transform communities, nurturing children to grow and thrive.



Mission

Family Law CASA is committed to positive long-term outcomes for children, families, and communities navigating economic injustice across King County. We advance intersectional equity by providing free advocacy services for children involved in family law cases, connecting families to support services, and driving transformational systems change.



Values

Adaptability

Equity

Levity

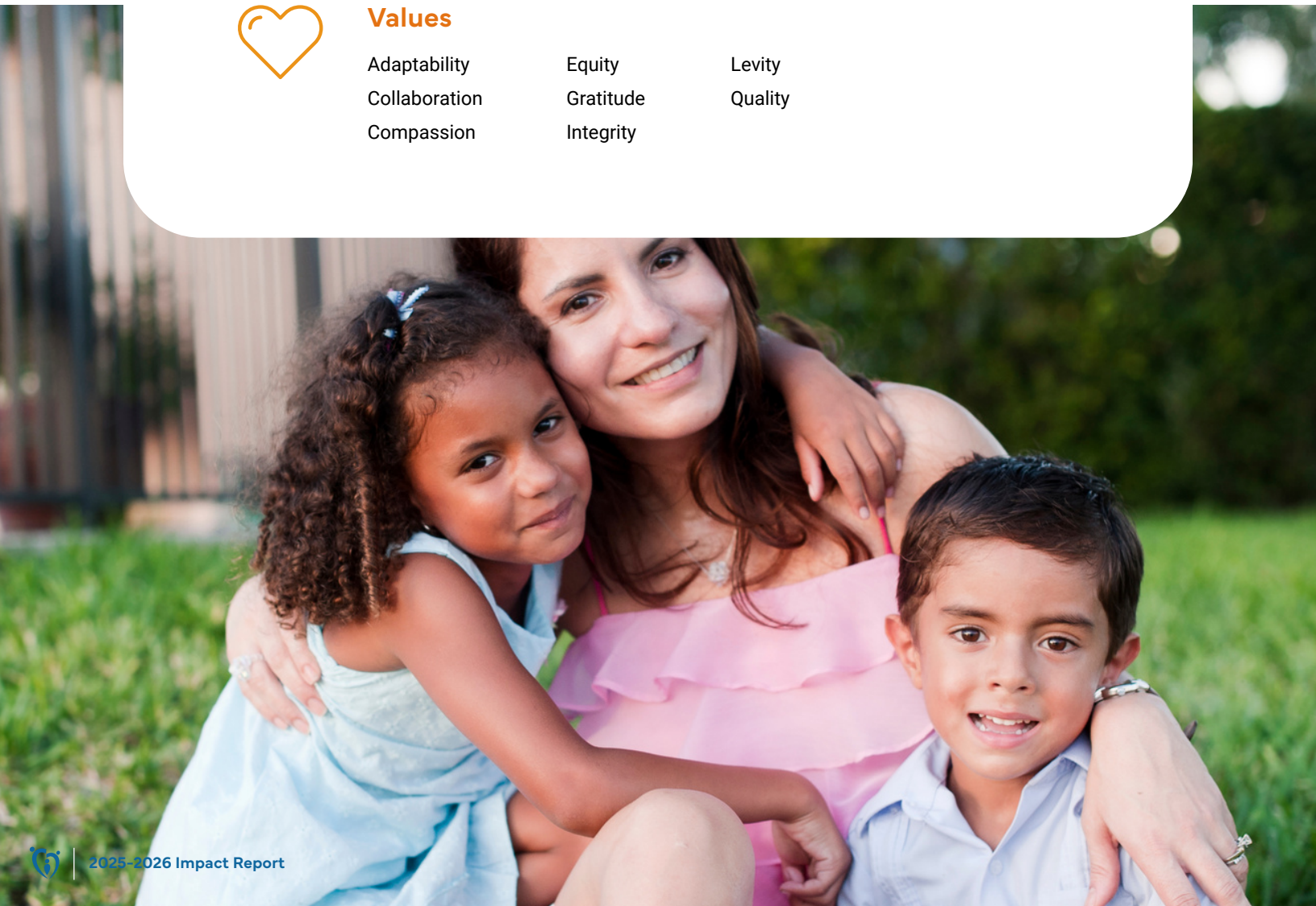
Collaboration

Gratitude

Quality

Compassion

Integrity



Listening Closely to Sunti's Needs

Two-year-old Sunti (soon-tee) is an energetic little boy who loves music and his toys. At the park, he likes to go fast down the slide. He doesn't talk much. He has an expressive language disorder, so it's harder for his voice to be heard.

Sunti's mom and dad had a volatile relationship before he was born. After another fight that turned physical, his dad opened a family court case to establish a parenting plan. The Court heard serious allegations from both parents about domestic violence, abusing alcohol, and conflicting claims about which parent was properly caring for Sunti.

The Court assigned the case to Family Law CASA. Emily, the Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), interviewed both parents and extended family members.

She spoke with Sunti's mom through an interpreter, provided by Family Law CASA. His mom shared she was working hard on her sobriety and attending treatment regularly. She said she worried about Sunti when he was with his dad, and shared several examples with Emily, including an incident when Sunti arrived at her house with a minor arm fracture, and she took him to the hospital.

Emily also heard about the strong emotional bond between Sunti and his dad. His dad wanted more time with him. He said Sunti's mom kept him from seeing his son for six weeks because he dropped Sunti off a few minutes late one time.

Sunti's parents each made so many allegations about the other that it was hard to know what really happened. But Emily noted the safety concerns raised by the serious domestic violence incidents described in interviews. After trial, the judge adopted her recommendations.

Sunti now lives primarily with his mom and sees his dad on weekends. After his dad completes a Domestic Violence Assessment, his residential time may increase.

Sunti is growing up with the support and stability he needs.



2026 in Numbers

Impact in Focus

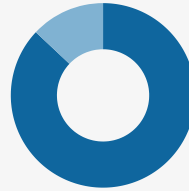
24

mediation
contributions



100

reports
submitted



The Court adopted

86%

of our recommendations

228

households
served



178

children
served

75% of them
were younger
than 12



268

court hearing
appearances &
contributions

195 appearances
73 contributions



68

cases
closed

60% of total cases

37% settled out of court
63% by trial

\$16,600

average cost per case



41

litigated trials

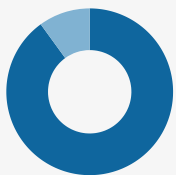
454

contract
attorney hours

91.5% increase over last year

45

new cases
accepted



90%

one or both parents had no legal representation



114

total cases
worked

CASAs donated **5,765** hours



A Plan Built Around the Kids' Needs

Katie (8 years) and Griffin (5 years) are active, creative kids who love their parents. Griffin likes playing soccer, riding his scooter with his dad, and nachos are his favorite. Katie loves drawing, snowball fights, and jumping on the trampoline with her mom. Both children want to spend time with both of their parents.

Before their parents became sober, the family struggled with addiction and instability. Griffin and Katie witnessed physical and verbal fights, including an arrest for domestic violence. Ultimately, the children went to live with their grandparents. It was a wake-up call for both parents – and they both resolved to change their lives.

Dad became sober first. He was worried about how the children's mom's ongoing instability and later recovery might affect Katie and Griffin, so he turned to family court to request a formal parenting plan. Neither parent had legal support during the court process.

The Court assigned the case to Family Law CASA to provide clarity and help the judge understand the children's needs. Marissa, the Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), met with both children, the parents, and other family. She saw that Griffin and Katie had strong connections with each parent, and that both parents were trying to build healthier relationships and co-parent to the best of their abilities. The children were engaged in counseling. Katie experienced headaches from the stress of the situation, and her doctor recommended slowing down the reunification process with her mom.

Marissa recommended that the children continue living primarily with their dad, with a gradual increase in time with their mom.

After reading Marissa's report, instead of going to trial, both parents decided to work together and reached a settlement focused on what was best for their children.

Today, Griffin and Katie are growing up with the support, steadiness, and the parent-child relationships they need.



Impact in Focus

Rates of Alleged Safety Issues in Our Cases

Safety Issue	FY25	FY26
Domestic Violence	71%	83%
Substance Use	44%	50%
Mental Health Issues	41%	48%
Neglect	41%	50%
Physical/ Sexual Abuse	29%	39%
Withholding Child	17%	15%
Criminal History	15%	12%
Abandonment	15%	18%
Abusive Use of Conflict	6%	4%



60%

of children served were from
communities of color

- 26% multiracial
- 16% Black
- 11% Latinx
- 5% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 1% Native American/Indigenous
- 1% Middle Eastern/North African

38%

of our 116 volunteer CASAs
were people of color.

They are assigned to cases
first when possible.

Our \$2M Infrastructure Investment

Bridge to Justice

The Bridge to Justice Campaign is a \$2M infrastructure investment children and families need before, during, and after family court: sustaining high-quality child advocacy, launching a post-court Resource Navigation Program, and creating a feedback loop to inform family court practice and systems change.

The Gap

Once final orders are issued, many families lose coordinated support just as they're working to stabilize routines, follow parenting plans, address safety needs, and connect with basic services like housing, food, mental health care, and employment.

The Solution

A social worker ("Resource Navigation Manager") will work with each family to build an individualized support plan, personally introduce the family to existing service providers (a "warm handoff"), and support until connections take hold.



In South King County, I see every day how complex and overwhelming custody-related challenges can be for caregivers. Family Law CASA already plays a critical role in ensuring that children's voices are heard in court, and **expanding resource navigation services would fill a major gap for families** who need help accessing stability, safety, and basic supports during these stressful transitions. This added support would directly strengthen child well-being and school success."

-Jess Núñez, School Counselor & Advisory Member

Campaign Commitments

Thank you to these individuals and foundations for their commitment to the Bridge to Justice Campaign. With their support, the Campaign reached the halfway point, raising \$1M as of May 2026.

Anonymous
Ayanna & Darryl Colman
Brad & Sasha Elias
Brianna & Matt Sanders
Bryan Digel
David Worthington
Dawn McGeorge
Deidre McCormack Martin
& Ted Martin
Dr. Melanie English
Ed & Deborah Greenleaf
Elizabeth Park

Gary & Kristin Sampson
Hon. Jean Rietschel, Ret.
Jacqueline Balinbin
Justice Bobbe Bridge, Ret.
& Jon Bridge
Katherine & David De Bruyn
Katie & Brian Burgess
Ken Hart & Family
Knossos Foundation
Korynne Wright
Lanine & Matthew Lange
Larry Engel & Kate Battuello

Matt & Kim Teagarden
Mei & Dr. Andy Shih
Midori Sagara
North Star Charitable Foundation
Quackenbush Family Fund
Page Perey
Polly Lenssen
Rachel Caufield
Verónica Quiñónez

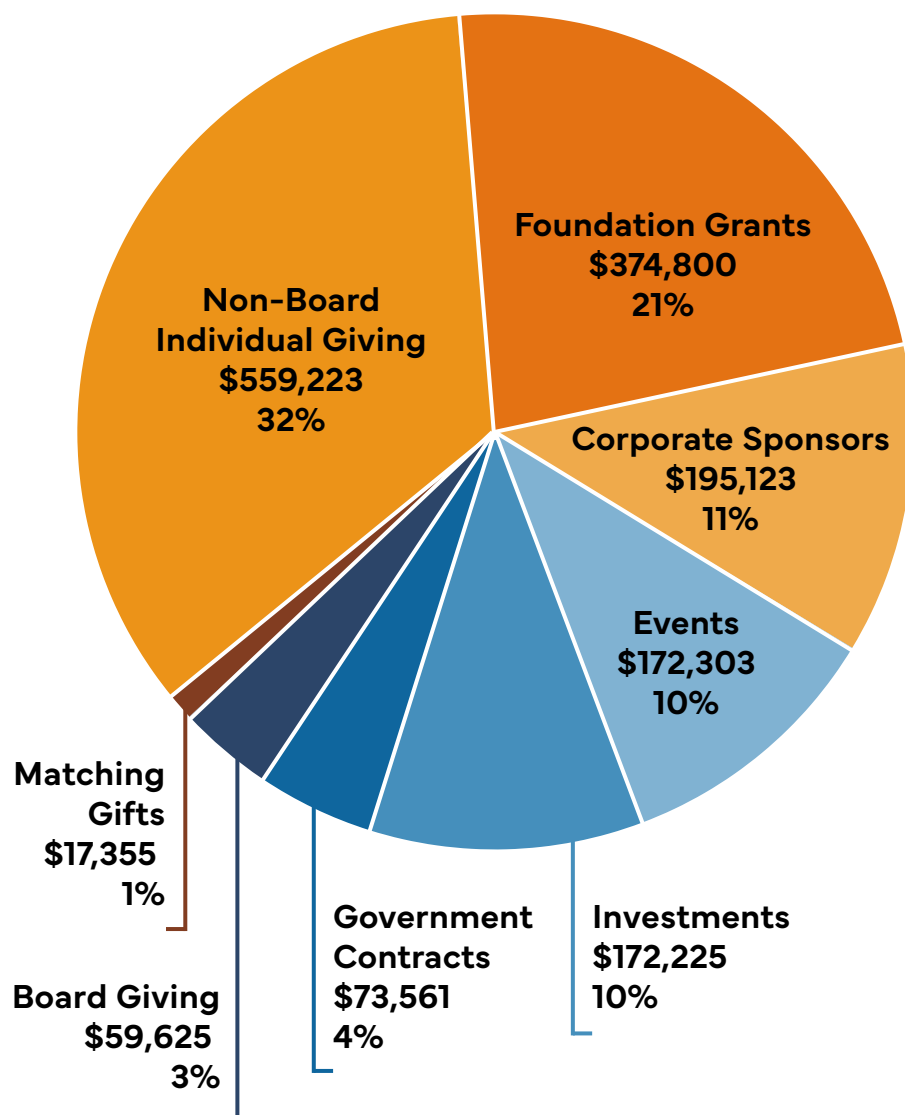
Bridge to Justice offers a practical opportunity to leave durable family justice infrastructure in King County. We invite you to join Family Law CASA in this critical work with a multi-year, unrestricted campaign pledge.

FamilyLawCASA.org/Bridge-to-Justice



Revenue

Total Revenue: \$1,756,265



**Total In-Kind
Volunteer Hours**

\$337,013*

**Not Included in above chart*

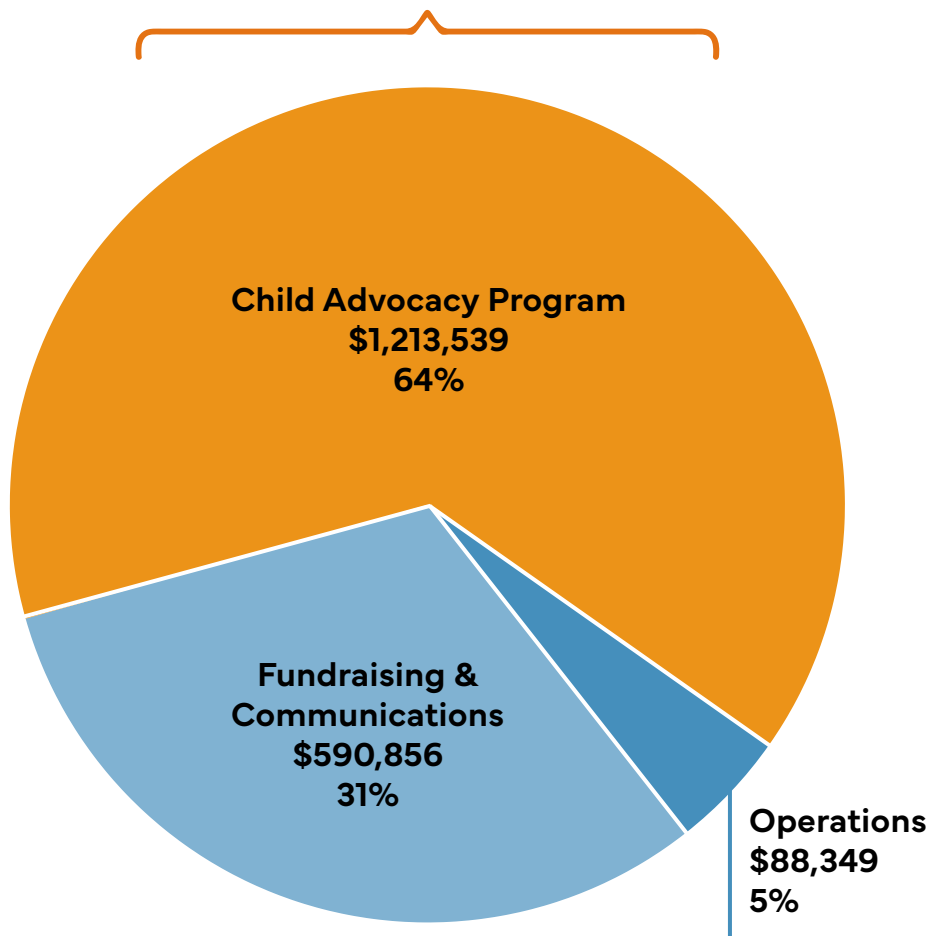


Expenses

Total Expenses: \$1,892,744*

**inclusive of in-kind hours*

Direct Expenses



Core Mission Support

This is the essential infrastructure that enables Family Law CASA to effectively fulfill our mission and ensures sustainability for our child advocacy program.



A Year in Snapshots

Thank You to Our Community

