

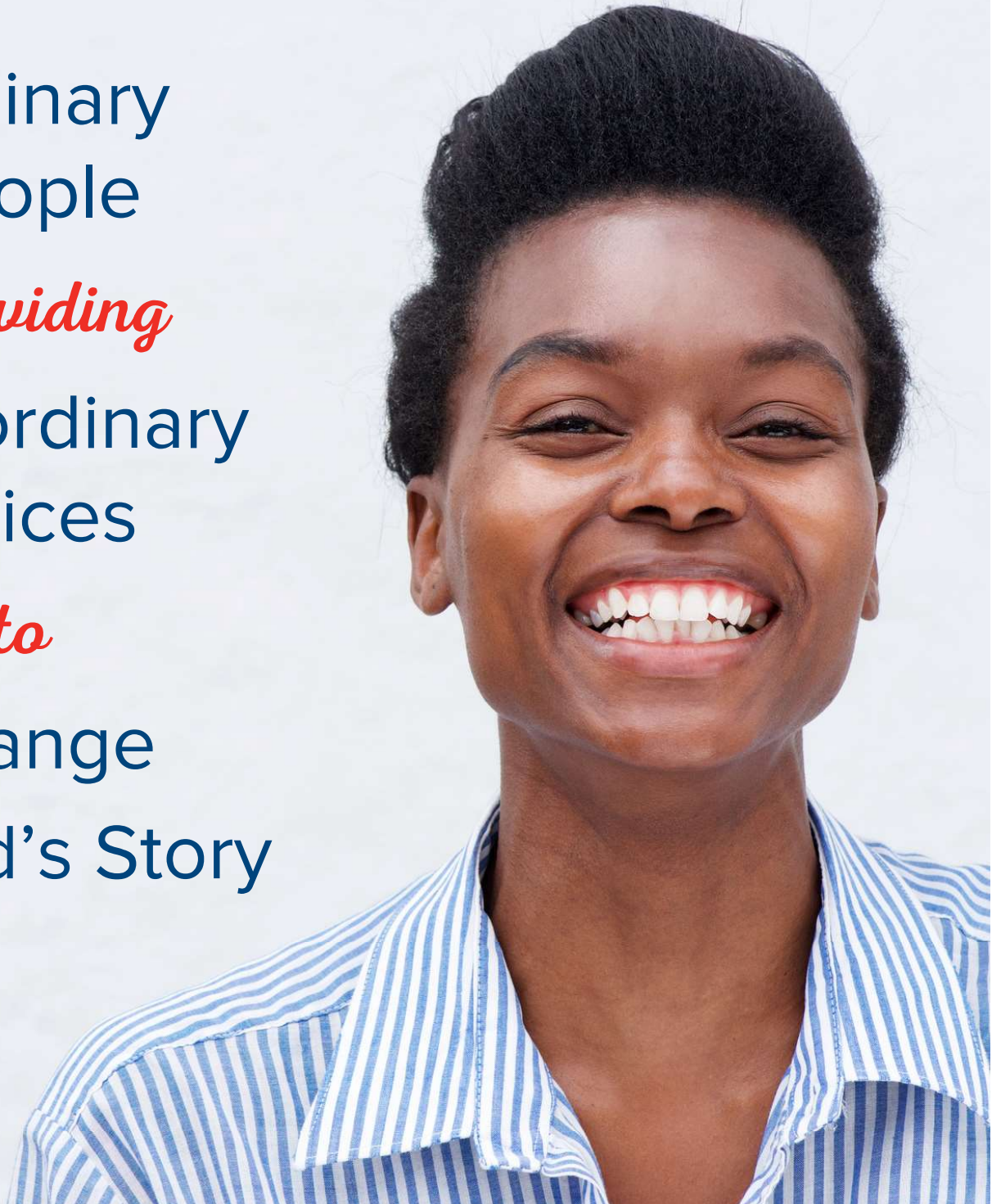
# 2022 - 2023

## ANNUAL REPORT



# WHAT IS CASA?

Ordinary  
People  
*providing*  
Extraordinary  
Voices  
*to*  
Change  
A Child's Story



**COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE**

MESSAGE FROM  
**BOARD CHAIR**  
SHARON WALKER



Dear Supporters and Friends of CASA of Forsyth,

I am honored to address you as the Board Chair of CASA of Forsyth and to present our Annual Report for 2022-2023. This report encapsulates the collective efforts and accomplishments of our dedicated team, advocates, volunteers, and supporters over the past year. Together, we have made a meaningful impact on the lives of the children we serve in our community.

CASA of Forsyth has remained steadfast in its mission to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children, ensuring they have a voice in the complex and often overwhelming child welfare system. It is our privilege and duty to stand up for these vulnerable children, to champion their rights, and to provide them with the hope and support they deserve. This fiscal year, we have achieved significant milestones, and I am proud to share some of these highlights from our Annual Report:

- **Advocate Impact:** Our dedicated team of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) advocated for 214 children during the year, ensuring their well-being and representing their best interests throughout the court process.
- **Volunteer Growth:** We saw an increase in the number of dedicated community members who stepped forward to volunteer their time and talents as CASAs. This expansion of our volunteer base demonstrates the growing awareness of the critical role CASA plays in our community.
- **Outreach and Education:** We continued to engage in outreach and educational programs to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect in our community. Our efforts have led to a greater understanding of the issues at hand and a stronger commitment to protecting our children.
- **Funding and Support:** We are grateful for the support of our donors, partners, and the community at large. Your generosity has allowed us to expand our reach and make a positive impact on more children's lives.
- **Collaborations:** We strengthened our collaborations with local agencies, legal authorities, and child welfare professionals to ensure a coordinated and effective response to the needs of the children we serve.

Our successes are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our CASA volunteers, staff, and the unwavering support of our community. As we move forward into the coming year, we are committed to building upon our achievements and striving for even greater positive outcomes for the children in our care.

None of this would be possible without your support. Your continued generosity, advocacy, and belief in our mission drive us forward. We invite you to explore the details of our Annual Report to gain a deeper understanding of the impact your contributions have made on the lives of children in Forsyth County.

Thank you for standing with CASA of Forsyth. Together, we are making a difference.

***Sharon Walker***



# 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Sharon Walker | Board Chair**  
The Walker Group

**Jennifer Elwood | Chair Elect**  
Forsyth County Schools

**Rachel Marshall | Treasurer**  
Citizen's Bank of Georgia

**Barbara Vella | Secretary**  
Forsyth County Schools, Retired

**Lynn Jackson | Chair Emeritus**  
Northside Hospital Forsyth

**Brad Flack**  
Flacks Flooring

**Linda Hardie**  
Education, Retired

**Rudy Hampton**  
Education, Retired

**Sharon Hendricks**  
CASA Volunteer

**Brenda Howell**  
Billy Howell Ford Lincoln

**Leslie Marinelli**  
Forsyth County Public Library

**Debra Staecker Mollohan**  
FACMPE

**Adi Patel**  
Edward Jones

**Tom Patton**  
Forsyth County Sheriff Office, Retired

**Taylor Rice, Attorney at Law**  
Boling Rice LLC

**Adam Rodes**  
Northpoint Mortgage | Foster Parent

**Linda Schulte**  
Southern Oak Provisions

**Alison Smith**  
Horizon Christian Academy

**Pauli Wade, CPA**  
Wade Works Creative

# FORSYTH COUNTY CASA STAFF

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**Heidi Snarey**  
Executive Director

**Melissa Barnett**  
Finance Manager

**Tressa Mathes**  
Advocacy Program Director

**Wendy Wagner**  
Advocacy Specialist

**Alison Vigneault**  
Advocacy Specialist

**Taylor Losito**  
Advocacy Specialist

**Diana Verduzco**  
Advocacy Specialist

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## ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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**Paula Gault**  
Forsyth County Schools, Retired

**Sheriff Ron Freeman**  
Forsyth County Sheriff's Department

**Judi Jenkins**  
Forsyth County Schools, Retired

**Kevin Tallant**  
TallantHowell Attorneys at Law

**TJ Smith**  
Bagwell Insurance

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## OUR MISSION

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**We empower children and families in  
crisis to change their narrative forever.**

# ADVOCACY IN ACTION

CASA volunteers are ordinary people who become extraordinary voices for child victims of abuse and neglect both in the courtroom and in the community. CASA Volunteers stand in the gap between a child's challenging present and their promising future. This past year, our CASA Volunteers made a meaningful and significant impact on the future of children.



**44,277**

**VOLUNTEER  
MILES  
DRIVEN**



**6,002**

**VOLUNTEER  
HOURS  
RECORDED**



**78**

**CASES CLOSED  
& PERMANENCY  
ACHIEVED**



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**OUR VISION**

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WITH GRATITUDE AND THANKS,  
WE RECOGNIZE THE SELFLESS EFFORTS OF OUR

2022 - 2023

## CASA VOLUNTEERS

### 10+ Years of Service

Barbara "Barb" Taylor  
Paula Hand  
Mary "Molly" Hevia  
Connie Eldridge  
Desiree Carlisle  
Kathy Zwicker  
Robbin Plesher  
Stephanie Mau  
Catherine Thille  
Sharon Reid  
Bridgett Milam-Crooks  
Michele Thomas  
Sylvia Anderson

### 5+ Years of Service

Wendy Cates  
Kim Sherman  
Kathleen Gizzi  
Sheila Gunby  
Jean Cain  
Sharon Hendricks  
Carol Foltz  
Sandy Hughes  
Joanne MacAdam  
John Cosgrove  
Tammie Schmid-  
Thompson  
Ann Sestrich  
Isadora Carvalho

### 5+ Years of Service (cont)

Jennifer Howell  
Walter "Ed" Jones  
Berto "Bert" Boudet  
Kimberly Petersen  
Lori Gillman  
Robert "Bob" Almand  
Shelly Hipps  
Kimberly "Kim" Boudet  
Jan Nourollahi  
Katherine "Katie" Anderson

### 1-4 Years of Service

Stacie LeCompte  
Carole Pittman  
Deborah Cox  
Christina Catchpole  
Laurie Ferry  
Sherri Harris  
Ashli Siddall  
Dari "Dee Dee" Rousseau  
Susan Stachura  
Amy James  
Jennifer Wilson  
John Cannady  
Kristin Miller  
Leigh Ann Cannady  
Sheila Castelein  
Steven Castelein  
Andrew Claxton

### 1-4 Years of Service (cont)

Carolyn Reed  
Cynthia "Cindy" Hatcher  
Diana Arnold  
Margot Harris  
Marybeth Leamer  
Holly Needham  
Jennifer "Jeni" Smith  
Leslie Stoner  
Melva Payne  
Patti Ann Allen  
Kimberly "Kim" Painter  
Amy "Elli" Reidinger  
Kimberly "Kim" Strauss  
Lisa Hickenbottom  
Danielle Smith  
Debra "Debbie" Wallace  
Diane Janson  
Emma Mazer  
Mark Najjar  
Susan Brake  
Tracy Douchy

### Sworn in 2023

Alec Menoni  
Jacquelynn "Jacque" Edmonds  
Jody Glude  
Judith "Jodi" Phillips  
Leslie Jarrard  
Susan Simmons-Stevenson  
Alisa "Alisha" Farr  
Emily Stowers  
Hannan Tami  
Kavitha Rethinam  
Lina Vergara Martinez  
Sarah Azizi  
Shannon Boudreaux  
Carlton "Carly" Pace  
Christina Daniels  
Jennifer Giacobbe  
Jill Dell  
Kathryn "Katie" Magers  
Priya Narasimhan

### WITH SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO:

*Jane Fullam.....17 years*

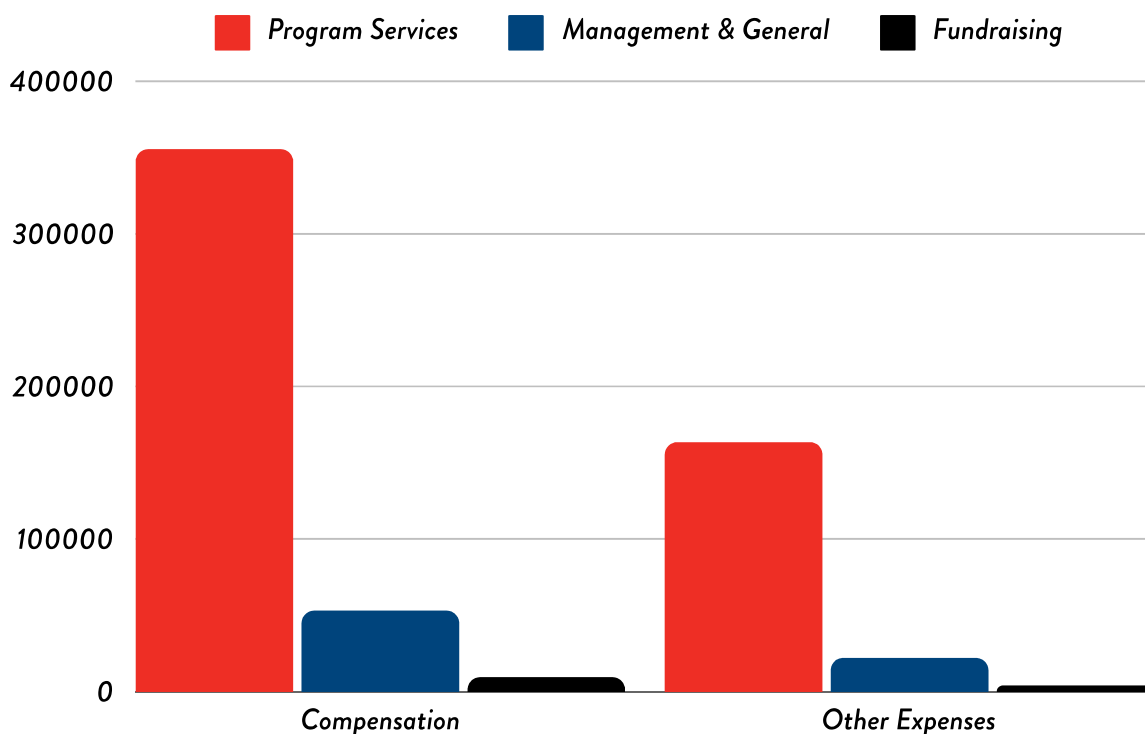
*Antonia "Toni" Flowers.....21 years*

*Carolyn Burruss.....22 years*

We provide compelling advocate voices and promote meaningful  
community connections for our vulnerable children and families.

# FY22-23 FINANCIALS

CASA of Forsyth County prides itself on prudent financial practices and transparency, and we are proud to announce our organization has received a **PLATINUM TRANSPARENCY** designation from Candid GuideStar. The following is a condensed summary of the financial activities and is reflective of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 as audited by an independent CPA Firm. A copy of the full financial statements and audit reports are available upon request.



Total expenses for the period ended June 30, 2023 were \$610,813.

## FY 22-23 DONORS AND FINANCIALS

*Our community bridges the gap in advocacy for kids in foster care. Donations from corporate, civic, and individuals totaled \$207,349 which is roughly 32% of our yearly funding. We would like to specifically thank these amazing partners and their financial contributions to CASA of Forsyth County.*

### Legacy Leaders

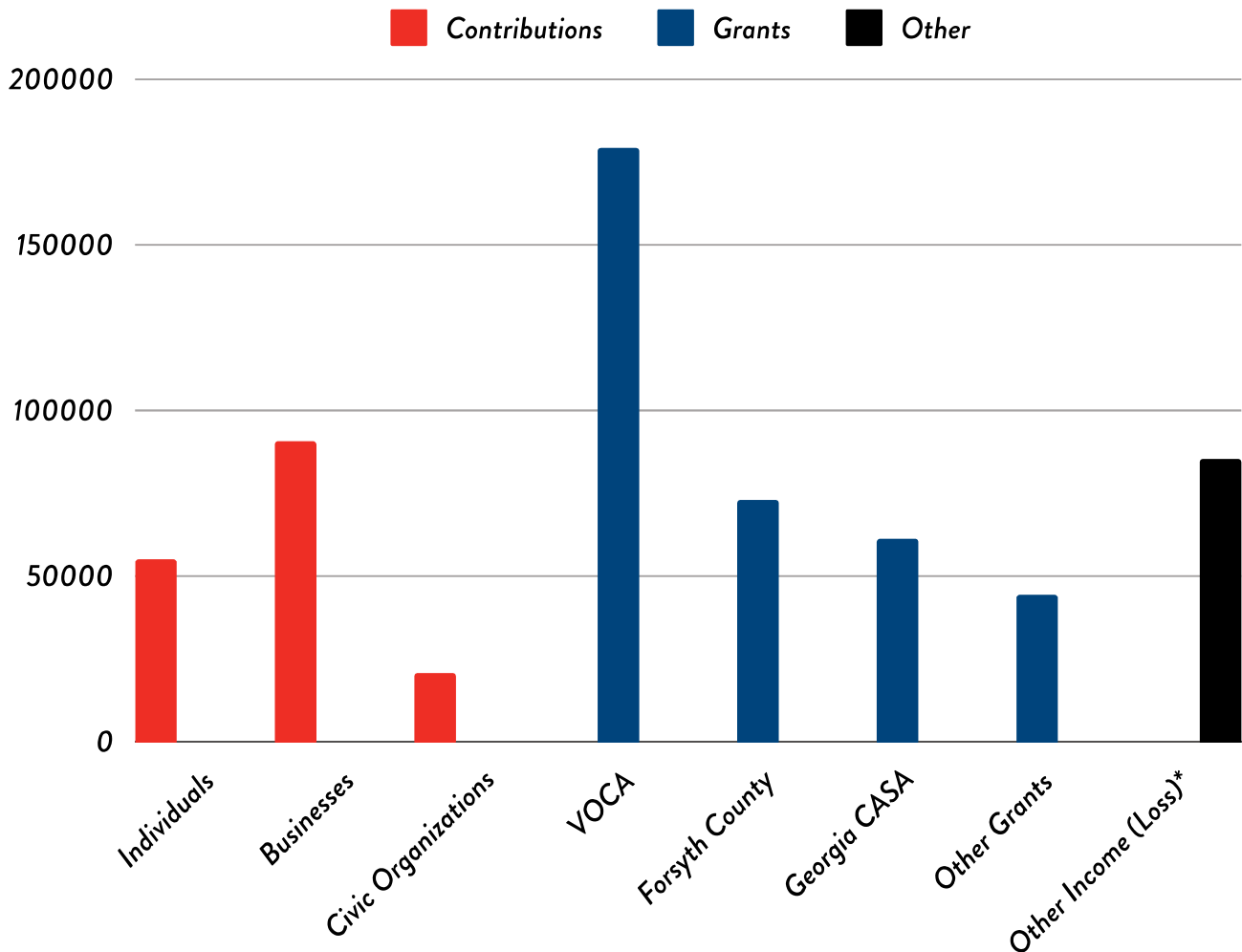
Bettina Hammond  
Automation Direct

### Life Changers

Lanier Forsyth Rotary  
Flacks Flooring  
Northside Hospital Forsyth  
North Georgia Community  
Foundation  
Billy Howell Ford Lincoln



# FY22-23 FINANCIALS



**Total support and revenue for the period ended June 30, 2023 was \$650,521**

\*Other income (loss) includes donor restricted funds of \$66,000 received from United Way, unrealized investment income of \$24,420, and other income of \$946.

## Dream Maker

Altrusa  
 Bagwell Insurance Group  
 Children's Healthcare of Atlanta  
 DAV Venture Trust  
 Forsyth Academy of Performing Arts  
 Jay Kirchoff  
 Keller Williams Realty Community Partners  
 Marybeth Leamer  
 Northpoint Mortgage  
 Paula Gault  
 Wade Works Creative  
 Valuzzia Partners  
 The Walker Group  
 Southern Oak Provisions  
 State Farm

## Dream Maker (cont)

Benjamin F. Brady Charitable Foundation  
 The Hardie-Hughes Family Fund  
 United Way of Forsyth County  
 Beaver Toyota  
 Forsyth County, Georgia

## Hope Giver

Acopia  
 Atlanta Oral & Facial  
 Bald Ridge Chapel Trustees  
 Boling Rice LLC  
 Canouse Family Charitable Trust  
 Carper Wealth Management  
 CL Burks Construction  
 Forsyth Cumming Optimist Club

## Hope Giver (cont)

Georgia CASA  
 Hajoca Corporation  
 Lawton Boxer, LLC  
 Piedmont Bank  
 Rotary Club of Forsyth County  
 Sawnee EMC  
 Unity Class of 1st Baptist Church

## Super Hero Supporter

Forsyth County Ladies League  
 Jason Taylor Moving & Storage  
 Judith Jenkins  
 Magical Mouse Adventures  
 North Georgia CFO's



## CLOSING NOTE FROM **THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** HEIDI SNAREY

As we reflect on the past year, we are honored to share the impactful journey we've undertaken in our mission to provide compelling advocate voices and promote meaningful community connections for our vulnerable children and families. Your unwavering commitment to CASA of Forsyth County has been the driving force behind our achievements. As Director of CASA, I love sharing about what CASA does and educating the community on how important a CASA volunteer is. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. We recruit, train, and support community volunteers who serve as advocates for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. When families enter the child welfare system, the Juvenile Court Judges appoint a CASA to be the voice of best interest -someone to get to know the children and families, to gather information, and to make recommendations to the court about what should happen in their lives.

There are no words that can express gratitude for the amazing hard work both our staff and volunteers do daily. They are truly special, kind, giving, and make a huge impact on our children, families and community. Our volunteers often juggle their own families, jobs, and responsibilities while serving in this time consuming and emotionally taxing role. CASA responsibilities include meeting with their assigned children every month; interviewing families, teachers, and service providers; gathering records; and attending any relevant meetings to gain the best understanding of the child's situation and compiling that information with recommendations into a formal court report. Our volunteers work diligently to be "the eyes and ears of the Court," and take advocating for these children very seriously.

The CASA office has just seven staff, including myself. CASA staff see their most important role as serving the volunteers by giving support and guidance. Our staff pour themselves into this role by being there every step of the way for our volunteers throughout the life of the case.

### ***The Impact of a Casa Volunteer***

National CASA research shows children with a CASA volunteer do better educationally, change foster homes less often, spend less time in foster care, and achieve a permanent home more quickly as compared to those without a CASA. This data only confirms what I have seen in practice, a CASA volunteer has a huge impact on children who have experienced abuse or neglect as well as their families. CASA volunteers are a consistent, caring adult investing in a relationship with the children after and during a very difficult time.

### ***The Community***

Financially, we are grateful for the generosity of our donors enabling us to ensure funds go towards essential resources, training for our advocates, and the development of new initiatives to enhance our impact. As we move forward, our commitment to advocacy and the well-being of every child who has experienced abuse and neglect remains our focus. We look forward to the continued support of our community to ensure no child faces the challenges of abuse alone. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of the children and families we serve. We could not do this work without your support. Thank you for being a part of this organization and walking with us on this journey.

Thank you for changing a child's story.

***Heidi Snarey***

# CELEBRATING ADVOCATES

On April 27, 2023, CASA of Forsyth County held the **Light of Hope** event at Browns Bridge Church to honor and recognize individuals whose unwavering dedication has been a beacon of hope for children facing crises in Forsyth County.

## *Distinguished Honorees 2023*

**Heather Powell | Kathleen Edelman | Rudy Hampton | Steve Kirby | Cindy Mills |  
Brynn Arseneau | Chris Millsaps | Adria Koester | Sharon Hendricks | Paula Malmfeldt**



*A final thank you to these organizations and their continued partnerships that enable us to truly make a difference in the lives of children in **Forsyth County***





*“ To give a child a CASA is to give them a voice. To give them a voice is to give them hope. And to give them hope is to give them the world. I believe that with all my heart. ”*

PAMELA BUTLER  
*Volunteer*