

CASA of Middlesex County

FY 2021 Annual Report

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Our Mission, Vision and Values:

CASA of Middlesex County is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving abused and neglected children who are living in out-of-home placements. CASA recruits and trains volunteers to advise the courts and advocate for the children's best interests.

Our Vision:

All children deserve a safe, permanent home. *To that end, we value:*

- **Commitment –** We are committed to having a positive impact on the children we serve.
- **Quality –** We strive to achieve innovative and tailored advocacy for children and excellence in everything we do.
- **Collaboration –** We communicate and collaborate with advocates, children and families, stakeholders, and our governing board, while protecting and maintaining confidentiality and privacy.
- **Inclusiveness –** We ensure, to the greatest extent possible, an inclusive and equitable environment for the children and families we serve, advocates, staff, and the governing board. We treat everyone with dignity and respect.

Who We Are

Board Officers

Sharon Hoffman-Manning, **President**

Suzanne M. Sicora-Ludwig, **Vice President**

Jacqueline Rivera, **Secretary**

Dennis Doll, **Treasurer**

Ellen Clarkson, **Member-at-Large**

Board Members

William Berlin

Edina Brown

John Downs

Amy Jumbelic

Alton Kinsey

Susanne Peticolas

Tracie Stewart

Board Members Emeritus

Midge Golin

Gerald Pomper

Board Liaisons

Betsy Capp

Judith Martin Waterman

Staff Members

Stephanie Brown, **Executive Director**

Colette Scozzafava, **Senior Program Coordinator**

Alba Holguin, **Program Coordinator**

Shanelle Bailey, **Program Coordinator**

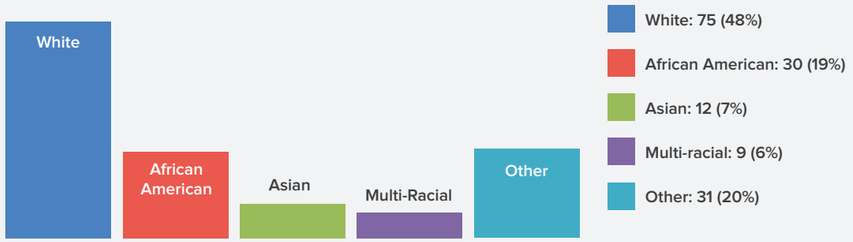
Paul Baker, **Outreach Coordinator**

Lauren Sikora, **Administrative Assistant**

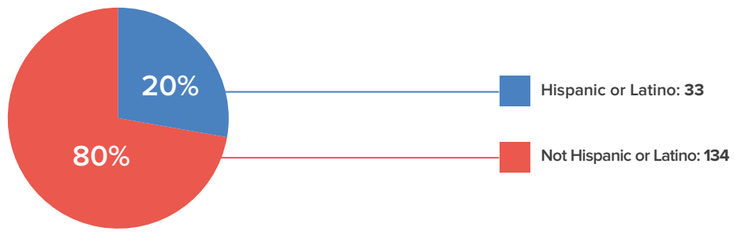
The Children

CASA served 167 children in FY 2021, which equates to 50% of the 335 children from Middlesex County who were in foster care during that time. This represents a 6% increase from the number of children served during the prior year.

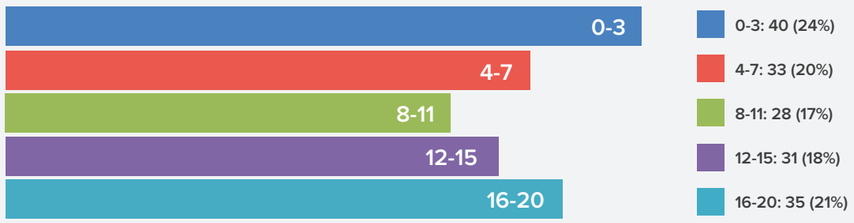
Race of Children



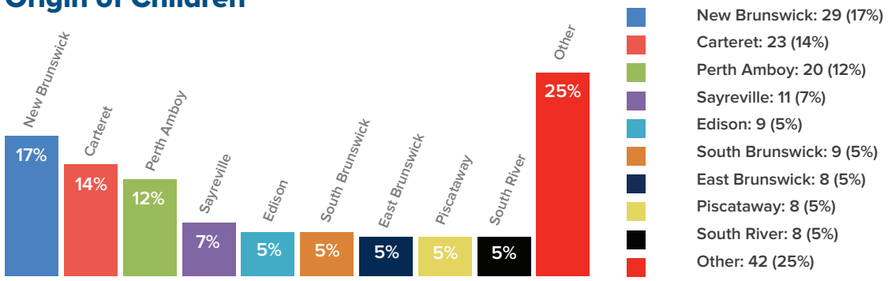
Ethnic Origin of Children



Age of Children



Origin of Children



Major Fundraisers

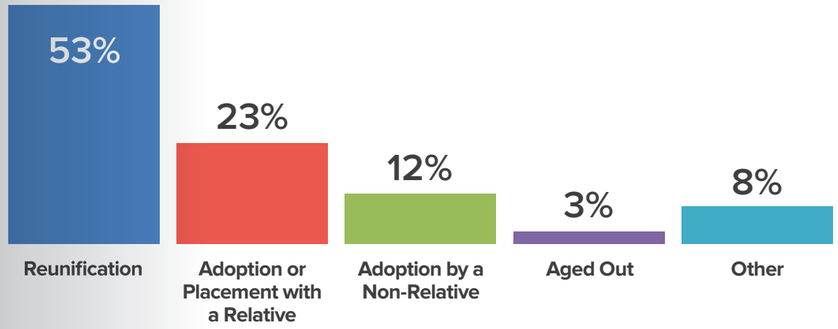
Holiday Ask: The Holiday Ask raised $20,454.

Toast: The Toast, honoring John E. Harmon, Sr., was held virtually. It raised $28,783.

The Volunteers

CASA worked with 88 volunteers appointed to 167 children during the year. Volunteers donated a total of 4,618 case-related hours valued at $145,051. They also drove 9,792 miles to visit children and gather information about them.

Closed Cases (35 total)



A few words from our constituents

"I had a CASA worker in our life. She's one of the most awesome people I've ever met. She just does so much for Jayden. You can tell she has a heart of gold. Barbara (CASA advocate) has been consistent in his life from the moment she was assigned to his case...The one thing I've learned from Barbara and the rest of the CASA team is not to lose hope or faith and you need to fight for these kids."

— Sandra, Adoptive Parent

"You don't realize what is going on in your local community or what it takes to go through the family reunification process until you see it. So, to now understand what the plight is for children in situations like this has been really eye-opening."

— Saadia Malik, CASA Advocate

Top Middlesex Donors:

Alton & Linda Kinsey

Amy Jumbelic

Amy Mansue

B'nai B'rith Food Industry Lodge

The Calvary Korean United Methodist Church

Chanel Jordan

Claudia Dolan

Contract Leasing Corporation

Dennis & Barbara Doll

Charles & Ellen Clarkson

Greg & Nicole Ong

Harry & Caroline Pozycki

Humbled By Your Service

John Harmon

Kenneth Mergen

New Brunswick FMBA Local 17

Olive Bryan

Saiful Khandker

Sayreville Middleschool PTO

Sharon Hoffman-Manning

Steve DeMicco & Jeanne Fox

Susan Hoyt

Susanne Peticolas

Suzanne Sicora-Ludwig

Wanda Blanchett

William & Kathleen Hoffman

Devon and Deja Stay Connected



Devon and Deja are siblings who have spent over half of their childhoods in the child welfare system. While much of that time was spent apart, and each child was adopted by a different family, the children have maintained their connection, in part through the advocacy of their CASA volunteer, Audre.

When Audre noticed that Devon had taught himself the keyboard from YouTube videos, she advocated for him to receive piano lessons. Similarly, while Audre was not always able to stop Deja from being moved into different resource homes, as many as five in one year, she was able to successfully advocate for Deja to stay in the same school.

The siblings remained connected first through visitations, advocated for by Audre and strongly supported by the judge. Eventually, the siblings' adoptive families spent time together as well. This continues up to this year, when Devon spent the night of Christmas Eve with Deja's adoptive family, allowing the two to spend Christmas together for the first time in years

Sources of Income

