

CASA of Middlesex County

FY 2022 Annual Report



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

Ellen Clarkson,
Vice President

Dennis Doll,
Treasurer

Amy Jumbelic,
Secretary

Susanne Peticolas,
Member-at-Large

Board Members

William Berlin

Edina Brown

Andrea Conklin Bueschel

John Downs

Alton Kinsey

Board Members Emeritus

Midge Golin

Gerald Pomper

Board Liaisons

Betsy Capp

Judith Martin Waterman

Staff Members

Stephanie Brown,
Executive Director

Colette Scozzafava,
Program Coordinator

Shanelle Bailey,
Program Coordinator

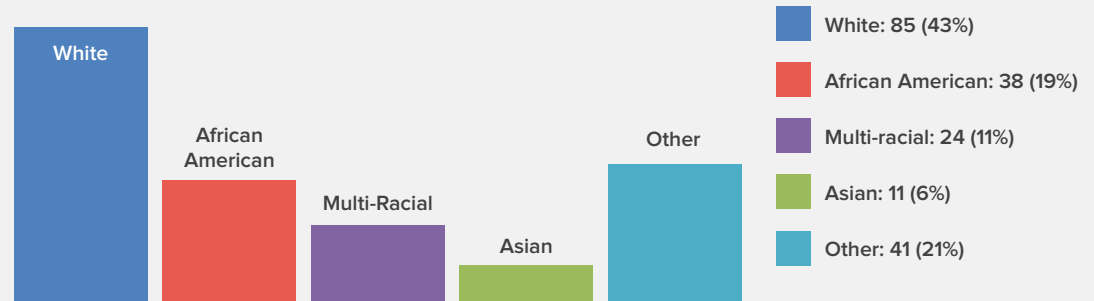
Edith Dunn,
Program Coordinator

Lauren Sikora,
**Administrative and
Community Outreach
Coordinator**

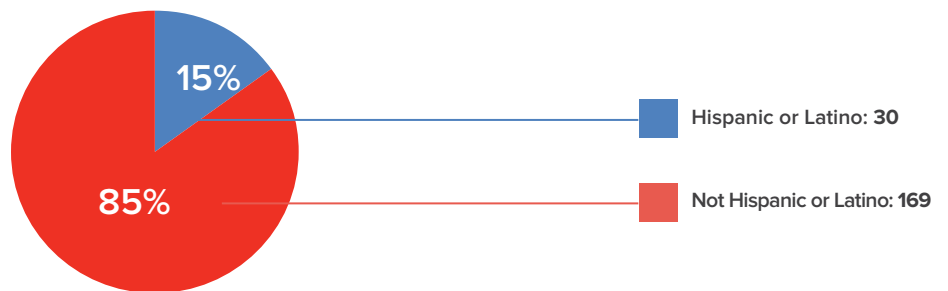
The Children

CASA served 199 children in FY 2022, which equates to 57% of the 348 children from Middlesex County who were in foster care during that time.

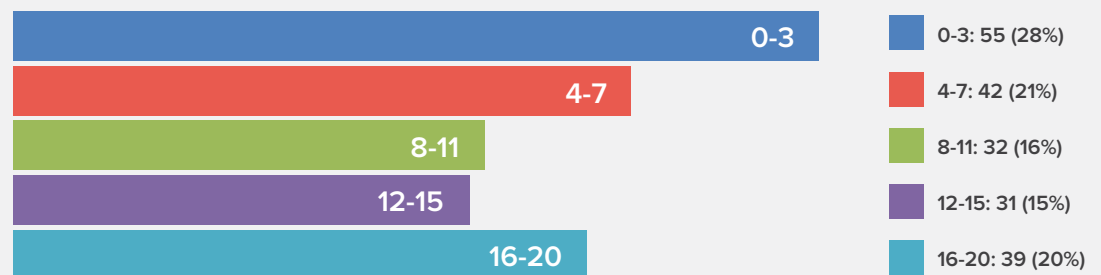
Race of Children



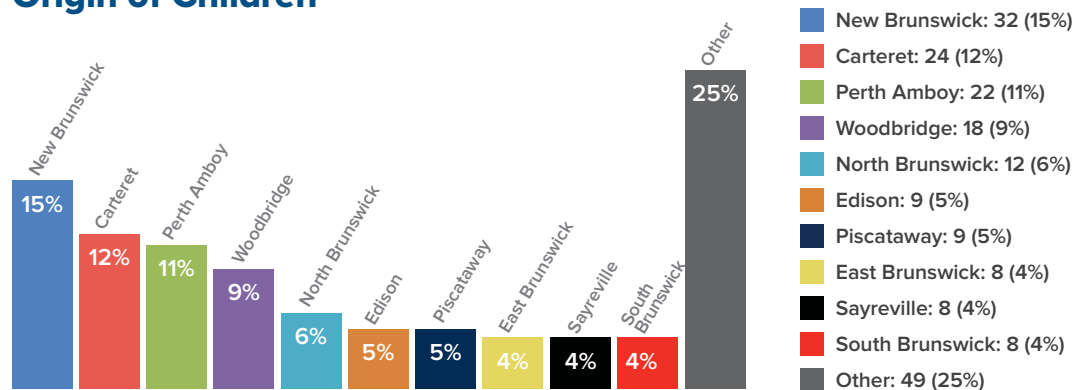
Ethnic Origin of Children



Age of Children



Origin of Children



Major Fundraisers

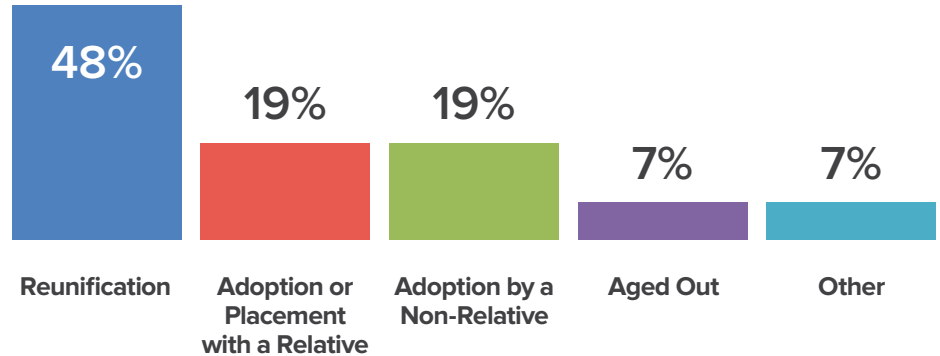
Toast: The Toast, honoring Frank Luna, was held virtually. It raised **\$39,963**.

Holiday Appeal: The Holiday Appeal raised **\$13,362**.

The Volunteers

CASA worked with 102 volunteers appointed to 199 children during the year. Volunteers donated a total of 3,998 case-related hours valued at \$129,495. They also drove 17,594 miles to visit children and gather information about them.

Closed Cases (53 total)



FY2022 Impact Highlights

- CASA represented **199** children in Court
- **98%** of CASA's recommendations were accepted by the Court
- CASA served all **20+ communities** in Middlesex County, New Jersey
- CASA of Middlesex County is part of a national association of nearly **1,000 CASA programs**
- As of June 30, 2022, CASA reached **64%** of Middlesex County youth in foster care – a percent that grows each year
- Last year CASA of Middlesex County grew by **19%**. We will continue to grow until we serve every child in our community who is in need of a CASA.

A few words from our constituents

“Being separated from your parents is traumatic and terrorizing for children. I try to make it less so. Standing up for children is very rewarding. When a child hugs you or gives you that look, it humbles you greatly.”

— Toni Hendrix, **CASA Advocate**

“To let a child know someone is there for them. When you have a child begin to trust in themselves and in adults that are there to protect them you see a change, and it feels good. At that point you know helping one child can hopefully change their trajectory and will benefit many others.”

— Melody Smith, **CASA Advocate**

Alison's Story



Alison and her family have been previously known to DCPD due to cases of abuse and neglect. Most recently, Alison was removed from her home due to an alleged sexual assault by her biological mother's paramour. Alison and her siblings were placed in a non-relative resource home.

CASA advocate Suma was able to visit with Alison and her siblings and take them across the street to the park where they could speak freely. She was told that the children wished to live with their aunt and were not happy in their current placement due to bullying by the placement parents' biological children. Suma also

discovered that Alison was having some trouble in math at school.

Suma was able to successfully relay the children's situation and wishes in her court report and recommendations. Alison and her siblings were then placed with their aunt with great success. CASA was also able to advocate for educational assistance for Alison at school as well as therapy sessions to assist in her mental wellbeing. Over time, Alison was able to raise her grades.

Sources of Income

\$141,032 / Federal grants

\$124,078 / State grants

\$78,911 / Fundraising events

\$36,100 / County grants

\$22,137 / Individual donations

\$173,399 / Donated services