

ATLANTA CASA

2019 BY THE NUMBERS



Over **400 Fulton County foster children** had a voice thanks to our CASAs.



Total CASA volunteers **increased by 17% to 220** - ~40% of our goal of 600.



CASAs **saved Fulton County taxpayers \$1.2 million** in personnel costs.

The Facts

- More than 400,000 children in the United States are currently in foster care.
- CASA volunteers reduce children's time in care by nearly 8 months.
- Over 90% of children with a CASA do not reenter the foster system.
- In 2019, approximately 1,050 Fulton County children entered foster care.
- Atlanta CASAs contributed 51,000 volunteer hours in 2019.

A LOOK BACK

2019 was a year of wonderful, exciting growth. We provided CASA advocacy for nearly 40 percent of Fulton County foster children, ensuring that their voice was heard and their best interests top priority.

We saw a significant jump in CASA numbers - up to 220 at year's end versus 188 in the previous year, indicating that volunteer numbers are on the rise.

Those 200+ volunteers provided over 50,000 hours of service to Fulton County, saving the county well over \$1 million in labor and payroll expenses. We are proud of our impact and the contributions our CASAs make every day.



The CASA staff is also growing! As our roster of volunteers expands, so too do our personnel needs. In 2019, we began the process of bolstering our training and recruitment departments to better serve current and potential CASAs.

Perhaps most exciting, in 2019 we began the move to change our name from Fulton County CASA to Atlanta CASA. Our mission remains unchanged, as does our commitment to Atlanta's foster children. We completed the change in early 2020, our 25th anniversary year, and have celebratory events and initiatives planned throughout the year. You can read more about the decision to change our name on our website (AtlantaCASA.org).

CONNECT WITH US!



ATLANTA CASA
ADVOCATES FOR FULTON COUNTY'S
ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN



2019 EVENTS & INITIATIVES

COUPLES FOR CASA

In response to our volunteers' desire to volunteer with a spouse, last year we launched Couples for CASA. The program indicates that when couples advocate together, they can serve more children in foster care as well as provide a second advocate for a child in need.

FENCING FOR FOSTER CARE

As part of our community outreach and volunteer recruitment efforts, we launched Fencing for Foster Care in honor of foster care and foster parents. We're excited to make this an annual event and a unique way to share info about our organization.

THE SANCTUARY MODEL

Implemented in 2019, the Sanctuary Model is a tool that helps us redefine our organizational culture, better support our volunteers, and enable CASAs to more effectively serve children in foster care. It represents a theory based, trauma-informed approach with a clear, structured methodology.

HOLIDAY GIFT WRAP

Our annual gift wrap is always a major success and 2019 was no different. Our offices were filled to bursting with gifts and wrapping paper from our many generous and loving donors - all so that Fulton County foster kids could have a merry Christmas.

COMING UP

ONLINE TRAINING

Recognizing the need for flexible training options, in 2020 we're launching online info sessions and training for potential CASAs. Attendees will register via Eventbrite and then log on through a web-based video platform to complete the requisite training hours and become an Atlanta CASA volunteer.

Being a CASA is a challenging but rewarding experience. Here's how to get started!

- Attend an information session.
- Submit an application.
- Complete an interview with CASA staff.
- Finish 40 hours of pre-service training.



LOOKING AHEAD

Following last year's growth, Atlanta CASA is looking forward to a bright and exciting future. Plans are in the works to grow our staff, increase our volunteer base, and attract new donors and supporters. Every day, we are embracing opportunities for innovation and finding new ways to be a source of inspiration and support for both our CASA volunteers and our community. As we move into our 25th anniversary year and beyond, Atlanta CASA remains dedicated to serving and advocating on behalf of Fulton County's abused and neglected children; to providing a voice to voiceless; and to offering hope and stability to foster kids in need.

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