



IMPACT REPORT

CHILD ADVOCATES OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
Fiscal Year 2024-2025



EMPOWERING FUTURES:

THE IMPACT OF CHILD ADVOCATES' PROGRAMS ON YOUTH IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Welcome to the Child Advocates of Contra Costa County Impact Report, where we're proud to share our commitment to building hope and brighter futures for the youth we serve.

At Child Advocates, we are committed to being a lifeline for foster youth, ensuring they have a voice and access to the resources they need to overcome challenges. By offering vital support, we empower them to rise above their circumstances, make positive life choices, and pursue their dreams.

Through our partnerships with local agencies, educational institutions, and community organizations, we break down barriers and open doors to new opportunities.

Join us in celebrating the difference we've made and the inspiring stories of resilience and transformation showcased in this report.



OUR MISSION

The mission of Child Advocates of Contra Costa County is to provide programs to support abused and neglected children in foster care to help every child find a permanent home and complete their education.

To achieve its mission, Child Advocates of Contra Costa County adopts a multifaceted approach:

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program recruits, trains, and supports volunteers who serve as advocates and beacons of light for children and youth navigating the child welfare or juvenile justice systems, ensuring their voice is heard and their best interests are represented.

Tutor Program

Our Tutor Program provides high-quality, consistent, and accessible educational support to children and youth using volunteers trained in trauma-informed practices.

Reproductive Health

In partnership with the Contra Costa Health Services and Children and Family Services, we provide vital reproductive healthcare services to youth in foster care, empowering them with knowledge and support to make informed decisions and avoid unplanned parenthood.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear Child Advocates of Contra Costa County Supporter,

What a transformative year it has been!

We are proud to share that CASA of Contra Costa County is now **Child Advocates of Contra Costa County**. While our name and branding have evolved, our mission remains steadfast: to provide unwavering advocacy and support for children and youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems.

The CASA Volunteer Program continues to be the foundation of our work. The new name more accurately reflects the breadth of services we now offer—embracing a holistic approach that meets the complex needs of the children and youth we serve.

This year also marked significant leadership transitions. We celebrated the retirement of our visionary Executive Director, **Ann Wrixon**, whose strategic leadership expanded our services and deepened our community partnerships. We also bid farewell to long-time Board President **John Witascheck**, whose steady guidance and dedication helped shape the strong, resilient organization we are today. Their legacies inspire us to move forward with purpose and renewed energy.

In the past fiscal year, we served **over 280** current and former foster and justice-involved youth—through our CASA Volunteer and tutoring programs, reproductive health education, and teletherapy services. More than **200 dedicated volunteers** provided consistent guidance, advocacy, and stability—ensuring that every child has the opportunity to be heard and to pursue a brighter future.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the passion of our staff, the commitment of our volunteers, and the generosity of our supporters. Because of your belief in our mission, we continue to grow our impact and walk alongside children and youth navigating some of life's most challenging circumstances.

As you explore this annual Impact Report, we hope you feel pride in what we've achieved together. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. With your help, we will continue to create meaningful, lasting change—**one child at a time**.

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Katharine Mason".

Katharine Mason
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Johnson".

Jennifer Johnson
Board Chair

CHILD ADVOCATES' BLUEPRINT FOR LASTING IMPACT

Child Advocates' efforts and supports enable foster youth in Contra Costa County to navigate the transition to adulthood, achieving academic completion, fulfilling work experiences, working to heal past traumas, and nurturing positive relationships. Without a CASA advocate, foster youth who transition into adulthood have much lower outcomes.

In order to achieve this, Child Advocates provides the following programs:



Volunteer Advocates

CASA Volunteers are highly trained to act as a voice, an ally, and an advocate in the courtroom, the classroom, and the community for children and youth in the foster care system.

The CASA Volunteer Advocate Program has expanded to work with youth who are in the juvenile justice system. CASA Volunteers help youth to meet their probation requirements and to stay on track with their education.



Academic Tutoring Program

Child Advocates is dedicated to making sure that 100% of foster youth finish their high school studies to be better equipped to live a life free of poverty. In order to help 100% of our youth in foster care finish their education, we provide academic tutoring, provided by educators and tutoring specialists for grades K-12.



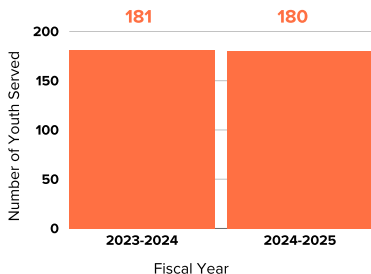
Reproductive Health Program

The Reproductive Health Program works in partnership with the Contra Costa Health and Children and Family Services to provide reproductive health care and education to foster youth. These youth often miss vital education which would allow them to more effectively take care of themselves and their bodies.

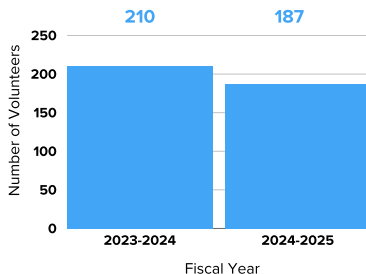
IMPACT OVERVIEW:

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVED ACROSS CHILD ADVOCATES' PROGRAMS

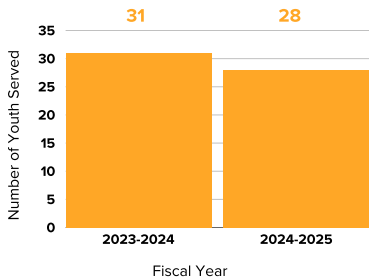
CASA Program
Children and Youth Served



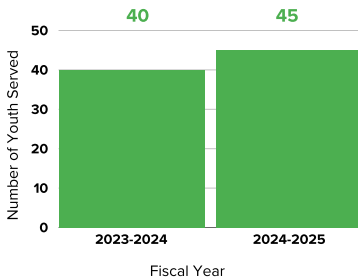
All Child Advocate's Volunteers



Academic Tutoring Program
Children and Youth Served



Reproductive Health Program
Children and Youth Served



MISSION MOMENTS



TUTOR PROGRAM

When retired math teacher and Child Advocates tutor, Jane, first started meeting with her 5th grade student Beth, she observed significant gaps in her math knowledge. In their second month of weekly meetings together, Beth quietly shared, "I didn't go to school for second, third, or fourth grade." Without any judgement or shame, Jane worked with Beth to introduce foundational concepts that

would have been taught during those school years, while also helping her understand her current coursework. Jane shared that balancing the two goals of filling in the gaps while also helping her stay afloat has been challenging but deeply meaningful.

As the school year came to a close, Jane and Beth planned to continue meeting together weekly during the summer and throughout her 6th grade year. Jane created a new summer math unit designed specifically for Beth, centered around her love of soccer. Jane's hope was to make learning more engaging and relevant to Beth's world, while continuing to build the foundational knowledge that she knows will be needed in middle school.

Jane shared "Beth has a fantastic work ethic and doesn't give up, even when the work is difficult for her. I absolutely adore her".



CASA PROGRAM

When Alex entered foster care, he made it clear he didn't trust adults, especially those connected to the system. He was convinced he could take care of himself and didn't need support from others. Like many youth with complex trauma, he spent much of his time absent from placement, avoiding services and keeping people at a distance. For seven weeks, he refused to meet with his new CASA

volunteer, despite repeated outreach attempts. Every week, on the same day and at the same time, the CASA volunteer showed up, speaking through a closed door, offering a steady reminder that someone cared and wasn't going anywhere.

Then, in the seventh week, the door finally opened. That small moment of trust turned into something meaningful: a car ride to grab a meal, a long conversation, and an unexpected breakthrough. Alex apologized, not only for refusing visits, but also for past behavior that had been hurtful. He talked about the pain of family conflict, the lies that kept him from people he loved, and the intense pressure he felt to manage school, appointments, and life as he approached adulthood. He shared how much he valued his current placement, saying he didn't want to move again. Before the visit ended, he asked if they could start meeting each other regularly. He even offered to confirm visits ahead of time to be respectful of the CASA volunteer's time and gas. As he got out of the car, he said, "I appreciate you, bro," before offering a hug.

This moment is the heart of our mission. Showing up, building trust, and being a constant for youth who've had little reason to believe anyone would stay. It's a powerful reminder that persistence, compassion, and consistency can open doors that once seemed permanently closed.

ADVOCACY PLAN

The advocacy plan offers a groundbreaking way to evaluate the impact of our work. In the past, we shared individual success stories, but now, this plan introduces a data-driven, systematic approach to track each child's progress.

Key Features:

ONGOING PROGRESS MONITORING

This framework regularly assesses a child's well-being, development, and unmet needs every six months, allowing real-time tracking of progress.

DATA-DRIVEN INSIGHTS

The plan moves beyond qualitative stories to gather concrete data on physical health, emotional well-being, education, and long-term independence, providing measurable results.

HOLISTIC APPROACH

It evaluates all aspects of a child's life, ensuring that Child Advocates addresses the full spectrum of their needs and tracks changes over time.

PERSONALIZED ADVOCACY

Child-specific reports allow CASA volunteers to adapt their strategies, ensuring more effective support for each child's development.

PROGRAM-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS

Aggregated data offers insights across all cases, helping to identify trends and improve overall service quality.

In short, the advocacy plan transforms how Child Advocates measures success, turning abstract outcomes into measurable, actionable insights that enhance advocacy efforts and improve children's lives.

Outcomes of system-involved youth served by the CASA program of Contra Costa County in fiscal year 2024-2025



95%

graduate from
high school or
earn a GED



62%

attend college
or other
post-secondary
education



95%

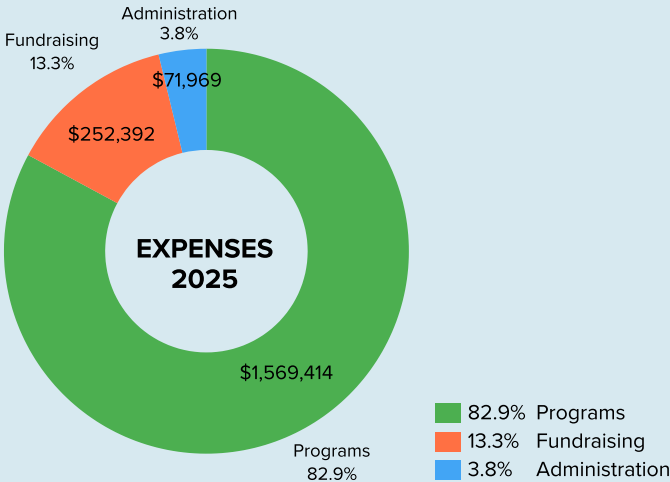
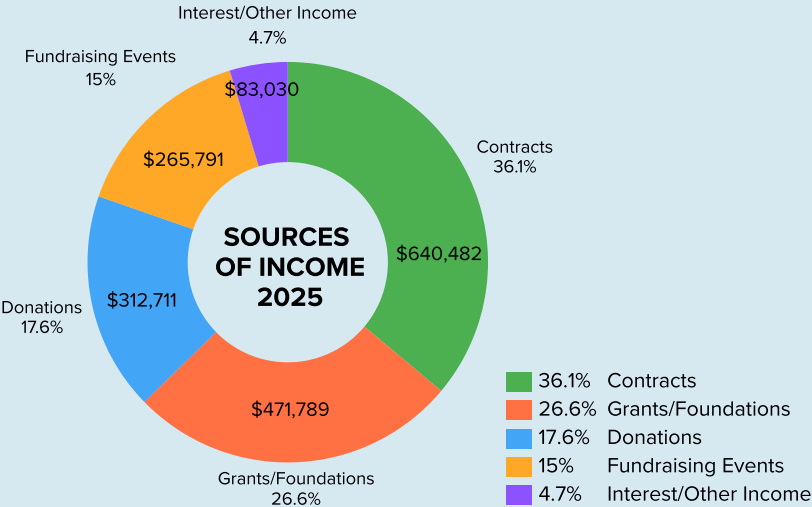
see a doctor
annually



91%

see a dentist
annually

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