CASA OF SOLA (SOUTH LOUISIANA)

2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT

Court-appointed advocacy for children in foster care across Acadia, Lafayette, and Vermilion Parishes



Every child deserves a champion in court.

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

A year of progress and consistent advocacy



Kade D. Turner, MBA
Executive Director

Our mission

To address the cycle of child abuse and neglect and advocate for safe, permanent, nurturing homes.

Our vision

A future where every child in our community has a champion in court and an opportunity for a more hopeful tomorrow.

Dear Friends

The 2025-2026 year was one of meaningful progress, renewed commitment, and continued advocacy for children and youth experiencing foster care across Acadia, Lafayette, and Vermilion Parishes.

This year, CASA of SoLA served 121 children through the dedication of 61 active volunteers. Together, our volunteers contributed 1,471 hours of advocacy. We also welcomed eight individuals who completed pre-service training, with six new advocates receiving their first case assignments.

Behind every number in this report is a child navigating circumstances they did not choose and a volunteer determined to make sure that child is not overlooked. This year, 58 children reached case closure, including 32 who were reunified with their families and 14 who were adopted.

We were honored to be named the 2026 Nonprofit of the Year by the Junior League of Lafayette. This recognition belongs to every advocate, board member, staff member, donor, and partner who has invested in our mission.

As we look ahead, CASA of SoLA is entering a new chapter guided by our 2026-2029 Strategic Plan. We are committed to reaching more children, recruiting and supporting more volunteers, strengthening our presence throughout our three-parish service area, and building a sustainable future for this work.

Thank you for believing that every child deserves a champion in court and the opportunity for a more hopeful tomorrow. Your support makes that promise possible.

With gratitude,

Kade D. Turner, MBA
Executive Director

ANNUAL IMPACT

The year in numbers

A clear view of the people, time, and outcomes behind the work

121

children served

Every number represents a child whose voice, safety, and long-term well-being remained at the center of the case.

CASA volunteers brought consistency to children and useful information to the court.

61 active volunteers	**1,471** volunteer hours	**58** case closures
32 children reunified	**14** children adopted	**51** volunteers assigned

Advocacy stayed connected

Volunteers made 686 direct contacts with children while staff completed 750 case-related supervisory contacts. These touchpoints supported consistent, informed advocacy throughout the life of a case.

ACADIA • LAFAYETTE • VERMILION

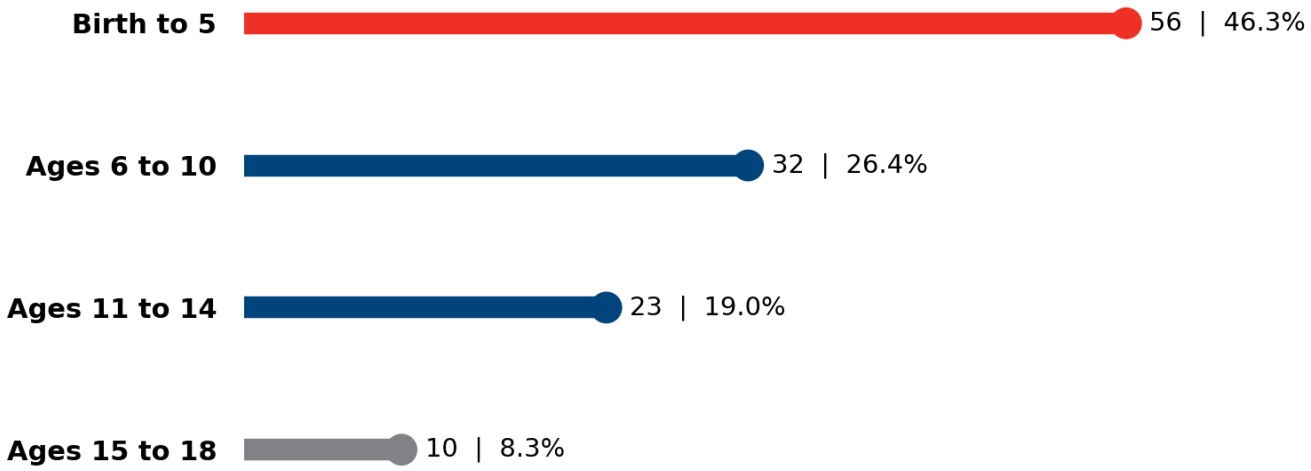
Three parishes. One commitment to children in foster care.

CHILDREN SERVED

Who CASA volunteers supported

Demographic profile of the 121 children served during the fiscal year

Age



Gender

female	male
66	55
54.5%	45.5%

Ethnicity

3 **children identified as Hispanic**

Ethnicity is reported separately from race.

Race

Caucasian **66** 54.5%

African American **50** 41.3%

Multiracial **5** 4.1%

What the age profile shows

Nearly half of the children served were age five or younger. Advocacy is tailored to each child's age, communication needs, school experience, placement, and permanency plan.

VOLUNTEER IMPACT

Time, training, and a steady presence

How 61 advocates supported children and stayed connected to their cases

1,471

hours of advocacy

Volunteer time included child visits, court preparation, record review, communication with case partners, and documentation.

686	750
volunteer-child contacts	**supervisory contacts**

Experience matters

Twenty active volunteers had served for five years or more. The longest current volunteer tenure was 17 years.

New advocates

Eight people completed pre-service training, and six received their first case assignments.



In Their Shoes training

Training supports quality

Pre-service and continuing education prepare volunteers to understand the court process, document their work, recognize child and family needs, and communicate clear recommendations.

Volunteer community

51 women • 10 men

27 volunteers age 60 or older

45 Caucasian • 13 African American

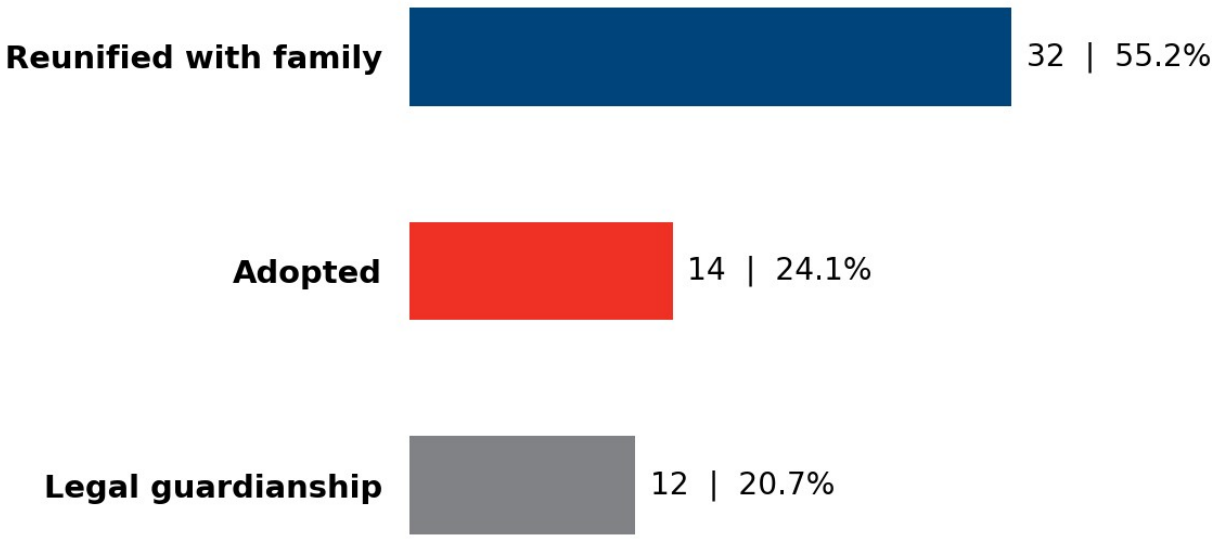
PERMANENCY OUTCOMES

58 children reached case closure

Final outcomes recorded from July 2025 through June 2026

58 children reached a legal outcome

Fifty-four of those children had an assigned CASA volunteer when their case closed.



Adoption details

Eleven children were adopted outside their family of origin, and three were adopted by a relative or family member.

What permanency means

A closed case marks a legal outcome, but the path to permanency is different for every child. Advocacy remains focused on safety, stability, and long-term well-being.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Ellen Deaton kept showing up

Five years of steady advocacy and ten children supported on the path to permanent homes



Ellen Deaton receives the CASA of SoLA Advocate of the Year award with Executive Director Kade Turner.

A consistent adult when consistency matters most

For five years, Ellen Deaton has poured her heart into serving children through CASA of SoLA. From day one, she has consistently shown up, spoken up, and stood strong for children who needed someone in their corner.

During her service, Ms. Ellen has made a lasting impact in the lives of 10 children as they found safe, permanent homes and brighter futures. Her compassion, commitment, and willingness to be a steady presence reflect the heart of CASA advocacy.

We are proud to recognize Ellen Deaton as our Advocate of the Year and grateful for the example she sets for advocates throughout our community.

5

years of CASA service

10

children supported

as they found permanent homes

Showing up, speaking up, and standing strong for children who need a voice.

Milestones that strengthened the mission



2026 Nonprofit of the Year

Recognized by the Junior League of Lafayette

CASA of SoLA was named the 2026 Nonprofit of the Year. The honor reflects the work of advocates, staff, board members, donors, and partners across the three-parish service area.

A community recognition rooted in service



New advocates

Eight people completed pre-service training, and six received their first case assignments.



Training through experience

In Their Shoes helped volunteers consider the decisions families face while navigating the child welfare system.

Other milestones

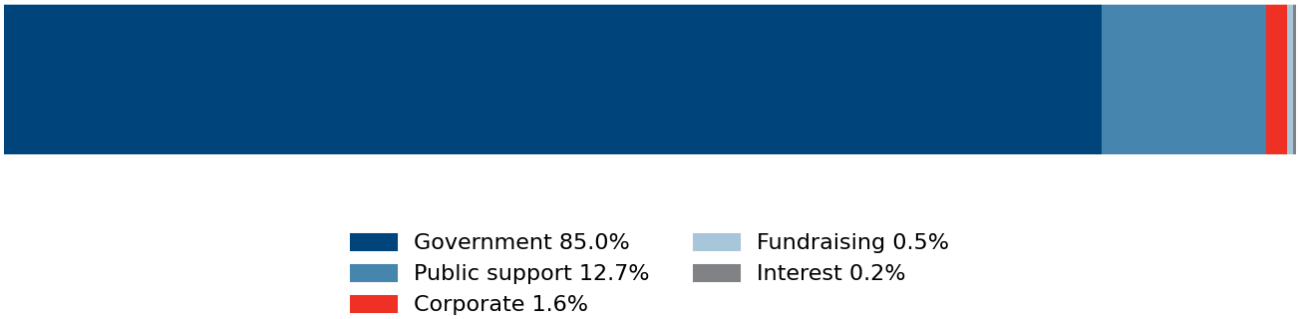
The board approved the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan in February. The 2025 CASA Social brought supporters together at Creme de la Creme, and four spring interns contributed to organizational development.

Resources directed toward advocacy and support

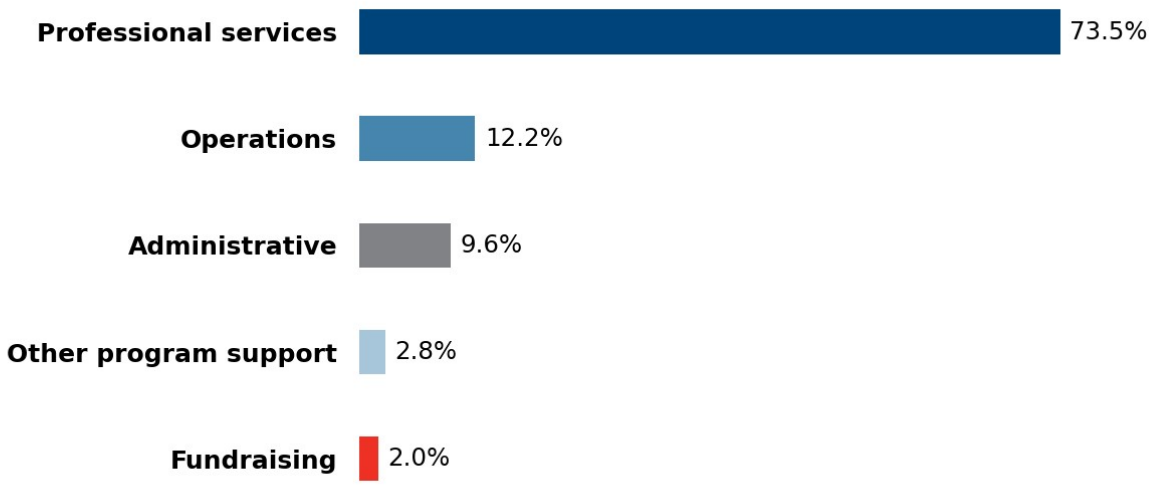
Internal financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026

$316,328	$318,011	-$1,683	$194,042
revenue	**expenses**	**net result** 0.53% of revenue	**total assets**

Revenue sources



Expense distribution



Government grants supplied 85.0% of revenue. Professional services, including contracted salaries and related benefits, represented 73.5% of expenses. The year ended near break-even with a $1,683 deficit.

Based on internal financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Focused growth with quality at the center

Four priorities guide CASA of SoLA's next chapter

01	**Reach more children**	Increase the number and share of children in foster care who have an assigned CASA volunteer.
02	**Recruit and retain advocates**	Build a reliable pipeline of new volunteers while supporting experienced advocates in sustained service.
03	**Strengthen three-parish presence**	Deepen awareness, referrals, partnerships, and volunteer recruitment in Acadia, Lafayette, and Vermilion.
04	**Build a sustainable organization**	Align staffing, funding, board leadership, technology, and community investment with responsible growth.

Strategic targets for 2029

35%	**105+**	**75**
of children in care reached	**children served**	**new advocates across three years**

The promise behind the plan

Growth will be measured by the quality and consistency of advocacy, not only by larger numbers. Expansion must protect volunteer support, child confidentiality, court readiness, and community trust.

Current leadership and staff

Board roster for 2026-2027 and staff serving the 2025-2026 fiscal year

Current leadership

Shyra Moran
President

Tessa Brown
Vice President

Jo Helen Eaton
Treasurer

Tina Thornton
Secretary

Blase Inzina
Past President

Ruben Henderson III
United Way of Acadiana Representative

Badar Hamdani
Board Member

Ashley Moore
Board Member

Amber Bessard
Board Member

Raven Taylor
Board Member

Board roster current for 2026-2027.

Staff

Heather Blanchard
President and CEO, United Way of Acadiana

Kade Turner
Executive Director

Kabrina Bland
Program Coordinator

Andrané Tauriac
Volunteer Coordinator

Shanel Jackson
Advocate Supervisor

Shelby Kander
Advocate Supervisor

A shared commitment

Board members and staff protect program quality, support volunteers, steward resources, and keep the needs of children at the center of every decision.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Thank you to our sponsors and partners

Local investment strengthens volunteer advocacy across South Louisiana

We are grateful to the organizations that supported recruitment, training, volunteer resources, community awareness, and the day-to-day work of advocacy.

United Vision Logistics	Hancock Whitney	United Way of Acadiana
Little Blessings Childcare and Preschool	Rosa's Angels	



Help the next child have a champion

Your time, voice, and investment help CASA of SoLA recruit advocates, support volunteers, and provide consistent advocacy for children in foster care.

Volunteer • Give • Partner • Share

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