



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF FREESTONE & LIMESTONE
COUNTIES

2026



CHANGING
CHILDREN'S
STORIES—

Together.

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



FISCAL YEAR 2026

SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 – AUGUST 31, 2026



ONE CHILD. ONE VOICE. **ONE COMMUNITY.**



A LETTER FROM THE

Executive DIRECTOR



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF FREESTONE & LIMESTONE
COUNTIES



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2026, my heart is filled with gratitude.

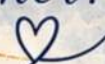
Since CASA of Freestone & Limestone Counties began in 2023, I have had the privilege of serving as Executive Director. This year also marks my 16th year working in the child welfare system. After all these years, I continue to be humbled by the needs of children and families in our child welfare system—and by the responsibility we share to ensure that no child has to face it alone.

Leading CASA has changed me in ways I could not have anticipated. Every child who enters the child welfare system carries a story, and every story reminds us just how great the need for consistent, compassionate advocacy truly is. Our CASA volunteers are the steady presence in the midst of uncertainty—showing up, listening, speaking up, and ensuring that each child's voice is heard in court.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our community. To our volunteers, donors, board members, judges, attorneys, county officials, partners, and friends—you are the reason we can do this work. Your belief in our mission, your generosity, and your unwavering support allow us to serve 100% of the children in substitute care in Freestone and Limestone Counties.

Together, we are creating a community where children are seen, heard, and valued. Where hope is stronger than adversity. And where children can move from surviving to thriving.

*We are changing
children's stories—together.*



With gratitude,

Ashley M. Gomez

ASHLEY M. GOMEZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CASA OF FREESTONE & LIMESTONE COUNTIES



16
Years
IN CHILD WELFARE

SERVING AS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SINCE 2023



*It has been the greatest
honor to spend my career
standing up for children
and strengthening families.*



Contents



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF FREESTONE & LIMESTONE
COUNTIES

A LOOK INSIDE OUR 2026 IMPACT REPORT

04

Who We Are

Our mission and the role of CASA

05

2026: Our Impact

The major fiscal-year statistics at a glance

06

Advocacy in Action

What CASA advocacy looked like this year

07

Our Volunteers

The people who show up and give children a voice

08

Changing Children's Stories

Permanency, outcomes, and the difference advocacy makes

09

Rooted in Community

Community engagement, partnerships, and outreach

10

Investing in the Mission

Funding, stewardship, and financial impact

11

Leadership & Governance

Board and organizational leadership

12

Our People. Their Passion.

Meet the CASA staff and community recognition

13

Stronger Together, Greater Impact

Supporters, funders, and community partners

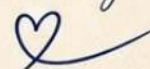
14

With Gratitude

A closing thank-you and brighter tomorrow



*Thank you for
standing with CASA.
Together, we change lives.*



WHO WE ARE



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**CASA OF FREESTONE &
LIMESTONE COUNTIES**

THE HEART OF CASA IS PEOPLE
who show up for children. ♥



MISSION

CASA of Freestone & Limestone Counties serves as an advocate for children in CPS custody and represents the child(ren) in court through trained volunteers in collaboration with key agencies, legal counsel, and community resources.

The goal of CASA of Freestone & Limestone Counties is to assure the *safety* of the child(ren) and achieve permanency that will allow the child(ren) to *thrive*.

*Every child.
Every voice.
Every chance.* ♥



2026: OUR IMPACT



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF FREESTONE &
LIMESTONE COUNTIES

Because every child deserves a voice. ♥

47

CHILDREN
SERVED

who were involved in
the child welfare system
in Freestone &
Limestone Counties.

16
REACHED
PERMANENCY

Thanks to the dedication of our
volunteers, partners and community.

4



REUNIFIED
with family



8



ADOPTED
by forever family



4



PERMANENTLY
placed with relatives



16 STORIES.
CHANGED FOREVER.

Permanency is more than a case closing.
It means a child has reached a safe, lasting place to belong—
through reunification, adoption, or permanent placement with family.

Changing today. Creating forever. ♥

Advocacy *in Action*



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**CASA OF FREESTONE &
LIMESTONE COUNTIES**

The work behind every outcome.
The commitment behind *every child.*



2,845

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Documented by CASA staff
and volunteer advocates.



1,841.06

SERVICE HOURS

Time invested in child-centered
advocacy and follow-through.



93

COURT HEARINGS

CASA was present when
important decisions were
being made for children.



WHAT ADVOCACY LOOKS LIKE

2,845 ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Advocacy happens far beyond the courtroom. CASA staff and volunteer advocates maintain contact with children, visit placements, communicate with parents and caregivers, collaborate with CPS and attorneys, participate in meetings, review case information, follow up on services and needs, and gather information to help ensure the child's voice and best interests remain at the center of the case.

1,841.06 SERVICE HOURS

These hours represent the time CASA staff and volunteer advocates invested directly in advocacy and case-related work—from traveling to see children and attending court hearings and meetings to communicating with the people involved in a child's life, documenting contacts, preparing court reports, identifying needs, and following through on concerns and recommendations.



VISIT



LISTEN



COLLABORATE



REPORT



FOLLOW UP



ADVOCATE



29,902.1

MILES DRIVEN – AND BEYOND

CASA staff and volunteers traveled across Texas and beyond to remain connected to children, attend hearings, participate in meetings, and advocate where children needed us most.

Our advocacy also took us by air to
Montana and *Washington*
to personally check on and advocate
for children placed far from home.



*Wherever a child is,
we will go.*



Our Volunteers

The Heart of CASA

Behind every child we serve is a dedicated volunteer who shows up, speaks up, and never gives up.

They are the heart of our mission.



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN



CASA OF FREESTONE & LIMESTONE COUNTIES



Learning. Connecting. Advocating. Together.



2026 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Honoring two exceptional advocates who go above and beyond to ensure every child has a voice and a champion.



Jamie Colvert



FREESTONE COUNTY

Thank you, Jamie, for your compassion, consistency, and unwavering dedication to the children and families of Freestone County.



Andrea Degnerova



LIMESTONE COUNTY

Thank you, Andrea, for your commitment, advocacy, and the powerful difference you make for children every single day in Limestone County.



OUR 2026 VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES

- ♥ Campbell Burroughs
- ♥ London Miller
- ♥ Natasha Busby

- ♥ Stacy Morris
- ♥ Roberto Gomez
- ♥ Michelle Slaughter

- ♥ Kelli Hall
- ♥ Kim Stevens
- ♥ Sarah Johnson

- ♥ Latoya Washington
- ♥ Keyosha Mack
- ♥ Anjela Wietzikoski
- ♥ Taylor Lenamond

To every advocate, thank you.

You give children hope, stability, and a future.



BEHIND EVERY NUMBER IS *a Child's Story*

FROM TRAGEDY TO THRIVING

A young child's life was changed forever in an instant. At just two years old, he and his one-year-old sibling were left unsupervised, and his younger sibling drowned.

In the aftermath of unimaginable loss, he was placed in foster care while his biological father worked the services required to provide a safe and stable home.

Throughout it all, CASA remained part of his journey—a steady voice for his best interests and a constant reminder that he mattered.

His father did the work.

He completed his services. He made the changes. He never gave up.

His dedication led to reunification, and today this little boy is surrounded by family—his dad, stepmom, and several older siblings who absolutely adore him.



This spring,
he turned four.



He started
school this year
and is
thriving.



He is bright,
curious, full of
personality, and—
as those who know
him would tell you—
cute as a button.

His story began with
profound loss,
**but that is not where
his story ends.**

Today, his story is
**one of family,
stability, belonging,
and a future filled
with possibility.**



CASA'S ROLE

EVERY STEP OF THE WAY



CASA advocated for his safety
and well-being from the moment
he entered care.



CASA ensured his **voice** was heard
in **court** and that decisions were
made in **his best interests.**



CASA monitored his **case**,
stayed **engaged**, and **supported**
his father as he worked toward
reunification.



CASA celebrated the day he was
able to **go home** to the family
he loves.

Because of advocacy,
perseverance, and hope,
his story changed.

*Sometimes changing a child's story
means helping them find their way home.*

ROOTED *in Community*

Because advocacy doesn't happen alone.



Showing up.
Building relationships.
Serving alongside
our community.

CASA is present where
our communities gather—
raising awareness,
strengthening relationships,
learning alongside partners,
and serving beside people
who care deeply about
children and families.



Two Counties.
One Community.



INVESTING IN THE *Mission*



Every dollar strengthens advocacy for children.

YOUR INVESTMENT. THEIR TOMORROW.

Community investment is what makes our mission possible. Your support empowers CASA of Freestone & Limestone Counties to recruit, train, supervise, and retain dedicated volunteer advocates who stand up for children in foster care.

It helps cover the essential costs of advocacy—travel to hearings and visits, time in staffings and meetings, and the oversight needed to ensure each case receives consistent, quality attention.

Most importantly, your investment ensures that every child in substitute care has a voice—someone committed to their well-being, their needs, and their future.

YOUR INVESTMENT DOESN'T STAY ON A BALANCE SHEET.

It becomes a visit.

A court report.

A trained advocate.

*A trip across Texas—
or across the country—
to make sure a child is seen.*

It becomes a voice
when a child needs
one most.

*It changes
everything.*



FY26 SUPPORT AT A GLANCE

The resources below power every step of advocacy.

VOCA	HHSC	LOCAL FUNDRAISING	OVAG
\$125,271	\$80,860	\$45,600	\$49,298

Freestone County

\$18,000

Limestone County

\$15,000

Raymond Alford Trust

\$30,000



*Carl C. Anderson Foundation support begins in FY27
and is not included in FY26 totals.*

GOOD STEWARDSHIP. POWERFUL RESULTS.

Every dollar is stewarded with integrity and purpose to ensure children have consistent advocacy, stronger connections, and the best chance at a safe, permanent future.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP IS PART OF ADVOCACY.

*Thank you for investing in children.
Thank you for believing in a better tomorrow.*



LEADERSHIP & Governance

Strong advocacy begins with strong leadership.

Our Board of Directors provides governance, fiduciary oversight, and community leadership that helps keep CASA focused on its mission and accountable to the children and communities we serve.



BOARD LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY

Board Leadership

Stacey Bush — *President*
Dianne Masters — *Vice President*
Marquise Lee — *Treasurer*
James Robertson — *Secretary*

Board Members

Andrea Cromeens
Arthur "Chunky" Busby
Jo Farris
Erica Carroll

Executive Leadership

Ashley M. Gomez —
Executive Director
Serving CASA since 2023 •
16 years in child welfare

GOVERNANCE IN ACTION

Mission Oversight

Fiscal Stewardship

Community Accountability

Strategic Leadership

Leadership is a commitment to the mission.

OUR TEAM

Our People. THEIR PASSION.

A dedicated team. A shared purpose.
A stronger tomorrow for *every child.*

*Behind every
advocate is a team
that believes in
a brighter future.*



Different
roles.

Same mission.

*Brighter
futures.*



PJ

PAMELA JOHNSON
Advocate Supervisor

- ♥ Volunteer supervision
- ♥ Training and coaching
- ♥ Case support
- ♥ Child-focused advocacy oversight

KM

KEILA MONTOYA
*Recruitment & Community
Engagement*

- ♥ Volunteer recruitment
- ♥ Community outreach
- ♥ Partnership building
- ♥ Community awareness efforts

AG

ASHLEY M. GOMEZ
Executive Director

- ♥ Strategic leadership
- ♥ Program direction
- ♥ Community collaboration
- ♥ Active CASA advocacy

CK

COURTNEY KIRVEN
*Advocate Supervisor &
CFE Lead*

- ♥ Case supervision
- ♥ Program quality
- ♥ CFE coordination
- ♥ Advocate support

Community RECOGNITION

This recognition belongs to everyone who walks alongside CASA and helps create brighter futures for children in Freestone and Limestone Counties.



Nonprofit of the Year

We are honored to have been named Nonprofit of the Year—a reflection of our staff, volunteers, community partners, and supporters who believe in this mission.

*We are honored to walk alongside children,
families, and volunteers every step of the way.*



Your support. Our people.
Brighter futures.



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

FREESTONE & LIMESTONE COUNTIES

CHANGING
CHILDREN'S
STORIES

Together

Stronger Together, GREATER IMPACT



TOGETHER, WE CHAMPION CHILDREN.
TOGETHER, WE BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

We are deeply grateful to our supporters, partners and community leaders who stand with CASA of Freestone & Limestone Counties to ensure every child has a voice, support and a chance for a brighter future.

Thank you ♥

SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS



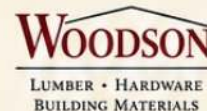
RAYMOND
ALFORD
TRUST



GENEROUS PARTNERS



Brookshire's



ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS



*Stronger
Communities.
Brighter
Futures. ♥*

Because of you, we can show up for children and families every day.

You make the difference. ♥

ADVOCATE.
SUPPORT.
EMPOWER.
CHANGE LIVES. ♥

ADVOCATE.
SUPPORT.
EMPOWER.
CHANGE LIVES. ♥

WITH *Gratitude* ♥

FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

♥

To our volunteers, board members, staff, funders, partners
and community — *thank you.*

Your belief in children, your commitment to our mission, and your
continued support make this work possible. Together, we are creating
stronger families, safer communities, and brighter futures for the
children of Freestone and Limestone Counties.

*Changing
Children's
Stories
Together.* ♥

*"A Brighter
Tomorrow
is Possible."*



SAME
CHILDREN.
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS.



Thank you for being the difference. ♥



254-600-9909



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www.casafreestonelimestone.org

CASA OF FREESTONE & LIMESTONE COUNTIES

A Stronger Tomorrow. Together. ♥