

childadvocates®

Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2023



About Us

As Harris County's Court-Appointed Special Advocate program, Child Advocates provides life-saving advocacy to children who have experienced abuse or neglect in the Houston-area. We recruit, train and support volunteers who voice the best interests of a child in the foster care system. An advocate is a constant in this child's life, amid frequent changes in the child's home placement, caregiver, school and day-to-day life. Unlike caseworkers and court appointed attorneys who juggle large caseloads, our advocates represent just one child or sibling group at a time. From their personal relationship with the child, they testify in the courtroom and make recommendations to help guide the child into a safe, stable home. Their advocacy makes sure that no child falls through the cracks of our overburdened child welfare system and helps break the vicious cycle of abuse.

In the last 40 years, Child Advocates has trained over 6,800 volunteers who have helped more than 29,000 children in the Houston-area. We continue to grow and evolve each year to meet the changing needs of children and families in the child welfare system.

In 2023, we helped 1,276 children with 563 active advocates and raised \$5.6 million.



With much gratitude to our volunteers, board, donors and incredible staff, I am delighted to share the highlights and achievements of Child Advocates for 2023. Despite the challenges we faced, our dedicated team and community of supporters have demonstrated unwavering commitment to our mission of advocating for children in the foster care system.

Throughout the year, we have witnessed the transformative impact of our collective efforts. Together, we have provided vital support and advocacy for 1,276 children, ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs are met. Each story is a testament to the volunteers who give tirelessly to help these children. I am deeply grateful to all who have played a role in our achievements this year. Whether you are a court appointed advocate, have generously donated or advocated for our cause, your contributions have made a significant and meaningful difference in the lives of the children we serve.

As we look to the future, let us continue to work together to help those that need it most – our children.

Sonya Galvan

Chief Executive Officer, Child Advocates



HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

SUSPECTED ABUSE
OF A CHILD



REFERRAL MADE TO CPS



CPS INVESTIGATION



If allegations are validated
and risk is indicated, then...

COURT SYSTEM BECOMES INVOLVED



CHILD ADVOCATES APPOINTED



COURT PROCEEDINGS
& FINAL TRIAL

HARRIS COUNTY STATISTICS

In 2023, Harris County had 5,903 victims of abuse or neglect. 758 children were removed from their homes. 2,612 children were in the custody of DFPS. ^[1]

Our Programs

Child Advocates receives referrals from Harris County judges and is appointed to cases in 10 different courts. In 2023, 55% of the children we helped were in Temporary Managing Conservatorship, while 45% were in Permanent Managing Conservatorship. With our other specialty programs, we helped 188 children with Collaborative Family Engagement, 21 children who were in Dual Status and 14 children who were involved in the Drug Court program. **The nature of our work across these different case types and programs varies slightly, but ultimately, our goal is always to advocate for a child's best interests given their unique circumstances.**

TMC

Temporary Managing Conservatorship

Children who have endured life-threatening abuse or neglect are removed from their homes by Child Protective Services (CPS), and they are temporarily in the custody of the state.

During this time, a child may live in placements like a foster home or with relatives until a Harris County judge decides where the child will live permanently. State law requires that a decision must be made about the child's permanent placement within 12 months of the date of removal, with the possibility for two six-month extensions.

Advocates appointed to these cases visit the children monthly, attend court quarterly, and search for a permanent home that is in the children's best interests. They provide constancy to the children throughout all of the changes they experience while in foster care.

PMC

Permanent Managing Conservatorship

When children are not returned to their parents and have no other options, the state becomes their permanent conservator. These children stay in foster care long-term with the state acting as their parent. In some cases, one or both of the child's parents still have limited rights, but in other cases, the parents' rights have been terminated.

Advocates appointed to these cases visit the children monthly and attend court quarterly to report on the welfare of the child. In the absence of a parent, an advocate is closely monitoring the child's educational, psychological and medical needs, while also helping plan for the child's future when they age out of foster care.

CFE

Collaborative Family Engagement

Children in TMC or PMC may be assigned a Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE) team. This team is a joint effort between Child Protective Services and Child Advocates that solely focuses on finding family members or fictive kin for a child to establish relationships with. While family finding is common across most CPS cases, this formalized and dedicated approach takes family finding to another level. This team searches wide and far to find relatives for the child so that they can build a network of support and establish lifelong connections. Whether it's a distant cousin or a long-lost uncle, these connections can help provide a child a sense of family and belonging.

Drug Court

While substance abuse can be a common factor among parents involved in CPS, Drug Court (Family Intervention Court/Infant Toddler Court) is a specialty court with an intensive program for parents who are committed to recovery and desire reunification with their children. Drug Court uses a team-oriented, holistic approach to help parents overcome their addiction and fully rehabilitate themselves to care for their children. Breaking the cycle of addiction and overcoming concurrent challenges often requires a variety of professionals and ongoing accountability, which this program provides.

Advocates on these cases attend monthly hearings and visit the children once per month. Because these children are often returned home to their parents sooner than the average case, advocates have more frequent check-ins and meetings with the team to assure that reunification is in the child's best interests.

Dual Status

This program focuses on "dually involved" youth— those concurrently involved in the child protective and juvenile justice systems. The youth in these cases can sometimes require more attention than in a typical case since they have committed a juvenile offense.

Advocates on these cases maintain their regular duties while also keeping in communication with the youth's probation officer and attorney ad litem, as well as attending additional hearings for juvenile matters. There are more people to collaborate with, and additional care is needed to help our dual-status youth get back on track and find a stable home.

Our Children

1,276 CHILDREN HELPED

From babies who are days old to teenagers who are on the cusp of aging out of care—children all across the Greater Houston area experience abuse or neglect, often at the hands of someone they love and trust. **In 2023, we provided an advocate to 1,276 of the 2,612 children who were in foster care throughout the year.**

A child's time in care can be particularly unstable and challenging, as they often experience much change in their day-to-day life. On average, a child has three to four different placements during their time in foster care and is in foster care for 33 months.^[1] With an advocate, a child has a constant person they can rely on.

GENDER

Male	54%
Female	46%



ETHNICITY

African American	47%
Hispanic	34%
Anglo	15%
Multiracial	2%
Other	2%



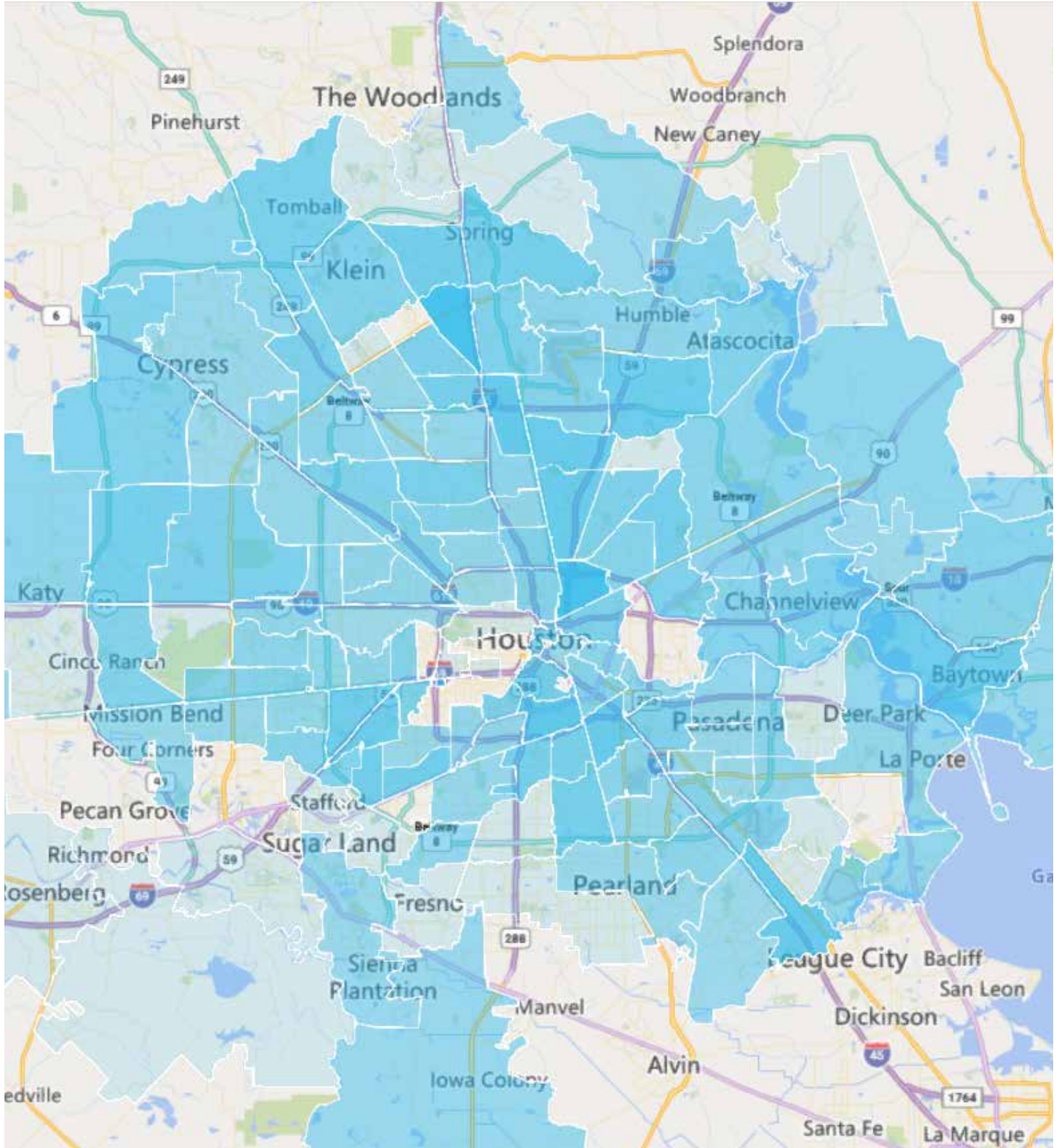
AGE

0-5 yrs	42%
6-11 yrs	23%
12-15 yrs	18%
16-17 yrs	11%
18+ yrs	6%



ZIP CODE

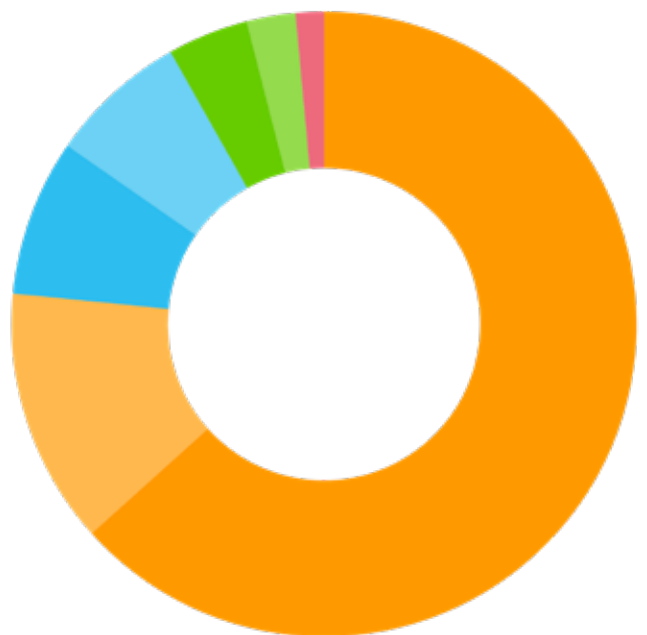
Harris County spans more than 1,700 square miles. In 2023, we served children who were removed from homes all across the Houston-area. The vastness of Harris County makes it more challenging, as advocates may have to travel far distances to see their children. Darker blue saturation indicates more removals from a zip code.





TYPES OF ABUSE

Neglectful Supervision	1,000
Physical Abuse	209
Physical Neglect	128
Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibility	113
Sexual Abuse	66
Medical Neglect	40
Abandonment	23



Many children enter foster care because they experienced multiple types of abuse.

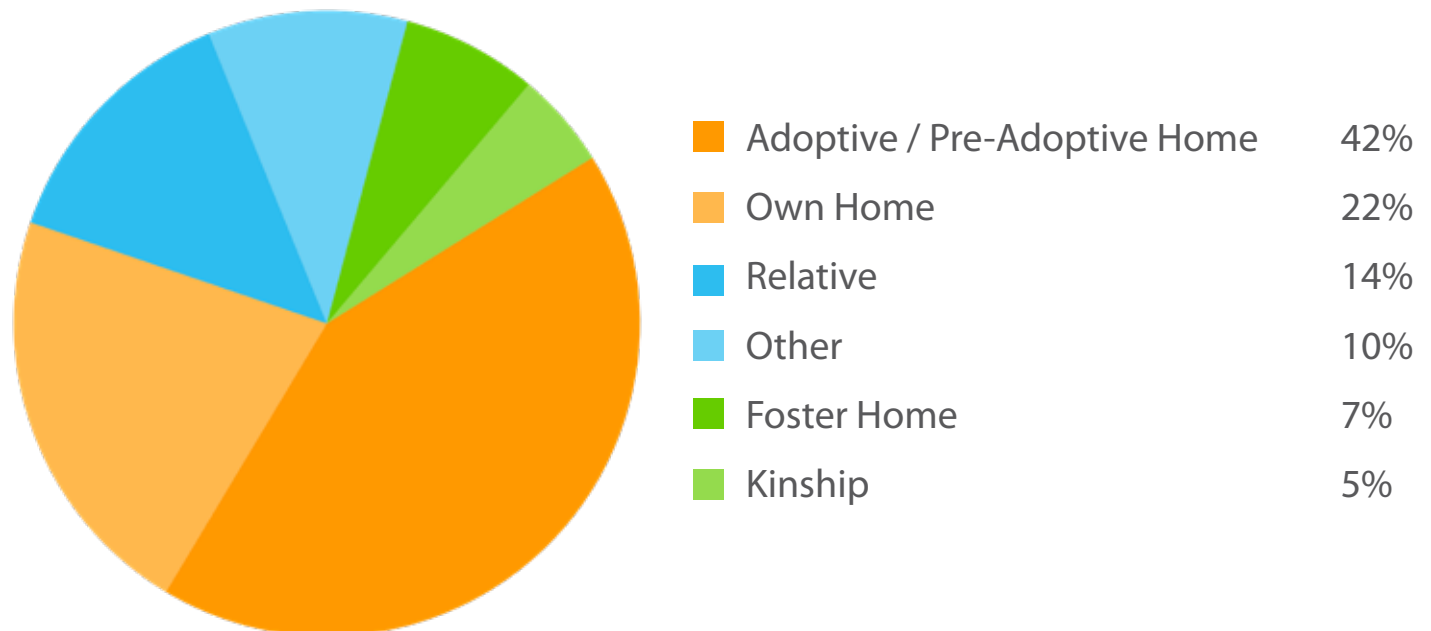
OUTCOME OF CLOSED CASES

PMC to State with Termination	37%
Nonsuit / PMC to Parent	18%
PMC / JMC to Relative / Kinship / Foster	14%
Aged Out	10%
Adoption	9%
PMC to State without Termination	6%
Other	4%
AWOL	2%



Our goal is that these children will find a safe and permanent home that allows them to grow and flourish in their childhood. Depending on the circumstances, sometimes this means reunification with their parents, but other times this means a new home. At case closure, 83% of the children Child Advocates served in 2023 were in permanent placements, either in an adoptive or pre-adoptive home, their own home, with a relative or in a kinship placement.

PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN AT CLOSE OF CASE



A NEW FOREVER HOME

Lili came into foster care as soon as she was born. Her mother was serving time in jail for child endangerment charges and therefore could not care for her newborn baby. The mother was involved with CPS for her three older children because of physical abuse allegations and eventually had her parental rights to those children terminated.

Cheryl was assigned as Lili's advocate—someone to look out for the best interests of this innocent baby while she was in the foster care system. Cheryl went to visit Lili at the foster home she was placed in. Lili looked happy and healthy as the foster parents would take turns holding her throughout the visit. They gave Lili their undivided attention and made it known from the beginning that they would want to adopt her if the situation arose.

During this time, Lili's mother and father were given a family plan of service to complete if they would like to reunify with her or keep their parental rights. A few months into the case, the mother pled guilty to her charges and was given deferred adjudication with probation of six years. Once she was released from jail, the mother was engaged and made efforts with her services by showing up to biweekly visits with Lili, submitting to drug tests, gaining employment and attending parenting classes. On the other hand, the father stopped showing up for visits and was not making progress on his services.

Cheryl and the other parties on the case were always kept well informed by the foster parents of any new developments in Lili's life—sitting up on her own, rolling over, enjoying bath time and dancing to her favorite songs from Aretha Franklin and Elton John. They were always sending sweet photos of her on their adventures together. With Cheryl's monthly visits to see Lili in their home, she saw just how much the foster parents loved and nurtured this baby girl, embracing her as their own.

From the start of the case, an option considered for Lili's permanent placement was with maternal relatives in California who adopted the mother's three older children. This home had six children who were all under five years old. About a year into the case, CPS had an approved relative home study for this family, and CPS' goal for the case changed to fictive kin adoption. This came as a surprise to Child Advocates and Lili's attorney ad litem. The information in the home study was outdated and had not been redone from when the mother's previous children were adopted. At this point, Lili had been in her foster home for over a year and she was clearly flourishing there. While Lili's mother had completed her services, she was still on probation for child endangerment charges, and she wanted to relinquish her rights so that Lili could be adopted by the foster family.

A few months later, they had their final trial for Lili's case, and Cheryl testified to how Lili was thriving in her placement with the foster parents and that it would be in her best interests to stay there. Accordingly, the judge granted sole managing conservatorship of Lili to her foster parents.

The foster parents finalized their adoption of Lili at the beginning of 2024. It was a joyous day in court for this new family. While both of the biological parents' rights were terminated, Lili's adoptive parents are still in contact with her biological mother.



ADOPTION WITH HEART SHAPED DONUTS

Kasen came into foster care when he was six years old. He and his mother were staying at a shelter when she became aggressive and started physically assaulting the other residents. When police came, she used Kasen as a shield to avoid being handcuffed. Kasen was placed in a foster home because there were no relatives to place him with at the time.

When he was first placed in the foster home, Kasen had mild behavioral issues but was a sweet, polite kid who was “a delight to have.” Shortly after, Kasen was assigned an advocate, Stacy, who would be with him throughout his case and help ensure he found a safe, loving home. Stacy formed a very special relationship with Kasen. She would visit him frequently, usually several times throughout the month. They loved doing activities together, like riding bikes, playing card games, playing lacrosse and doing arts and crafts. Stacy described Kasen as a “wonderfully social, athletic and smart boy.” She was proactive and involved in Kasen’s life, constantly checking in with his foster mom, biological parents, caseworker, teacher and therapist.

Before coming into care, Kasen lived in an unstable environment, often moving and bouncing around from place to place with his mother—they never stayed in one place for too long. It wasn’t until he came into foster care that he consistently went to school. As a first grader, Kasen could not read or write and was behind academically. Still, he made great strides in school and became an excellent student who loved learning.

Once Kasen came into foster care, his mother moved back to Mississippi, where Kasen’s father also lived. His mother had a CPS history, long-term drug abuse, mental health issues, as

well as criminal history. She had six other children, none of whom were still in her custody or care. His father also had a CPS history, long-term drug abuse and a criminal history. They were each given a Family Plan of Service, which they would have to complete to get Kasen back in their care. The father showed up for virtual visits with Kasen but did not work his services. The mother was slow to start her services, but about eight months into the case, she moved back to Houston to be closer to Kasen and focus on her plan. She stayed at a shelter, and started submitting to drug tests. She was more engaged in her visits, worked her services, had a job and took classes for a job certification. The mother was doing well for about four months and looked to be on a good path. Then she returned to Mississippi, started using drugs again, and had another criminal charge against her.

Throughout the case, multiple relative options were considered for Kasen’s long-term placement. The most promising option was with a maternal uncle and his family in Illinois. Kasen lived with this family for a few weeks, but it was not a good fit. Kasen was moved back to Houston with no other relative options, so they started looking into non-relative adoption options.

Stacy was influential in practically every aspect of the case, but she was especially influential in finding a family to adopt Kasen. This couple had been married for 15 years, had three adult children and always wanted to adopt a child. They started spending time with Kasen and quickly recognized that he was a special boy. Kasen began opening up to this couple in a way he had never done with anyone else. He shared with them what it was like when he was younger and the trauma he experienced. He felt safe with them.



Even before living with them, Kasen started calling them his “parents” and enjoyed their time together.

Both of Kasen’s biological parents’ rights were terminated, and DFPS was named the Permanent Managing Conservator (PMC). At this time, Kasen moved in with the couple, who would have to foster him for six months before adopting him. After having Kasen live with them for a while, they said he was even more special than they had thought. The transition was not without hiccups, but the couple was very nurturing and patient. Kasen disclosed to them that he experienced more abuse beyond what was initially reported in his early years of life. The couple was heartbroken to hear the weight of what he experienced but were grateful that Kasen felt safe enough in their home to share these traumatic experiences. They helped him get the resources he needed to work through and heal from this trauma.

After being in foster care for three years, Kasen was adopted and found his new forever home on February 14, exactly one year after first meeting his adoptive parents. They celebrated with heart-shaped donuts! His advocate, Stacy, was there through all the ups and downs throughout his time in care. She advocated for Kasen every step of the way until he found a safe, loving home.

Our Advocates

563 ACTIVE ADVOCATES

Year after year, individuals across Houston make the incredible commitment to become an advocate. In 2023 alone, 125 new individuals completed their 30 hours of training and background checks to become an advocate. Being an advocate is not your typical volunteer role. It is an ongoing commitment that requires great resilience, heart and generosity of time, but one that can make all the difference in a child's life.

With a coordinator from our staff to guide them, they review extensive case files and start visiting the child or set of siblings they have been assigned. They make monthly visits to see the child and gather information from anyone who has knowledge about the child, including relatives, teachers, medical professionals and everyone in between. Throughout the case, they testify in court to their observations and make recommendations for what is in the child's best interests so that they find a safe, stable home where they can thrive. But that's not all. An advocate serves as a constant person in this child's life through all the ups and downs. For all the exciting things like birthdays, graduations, adoptions, reunifications and college acceptances, but also for moments of trial, rebellion or hopelessness, an advocate is there. **When nothing else in the child's life stays the same or when other people walk out, an advocate stays.**

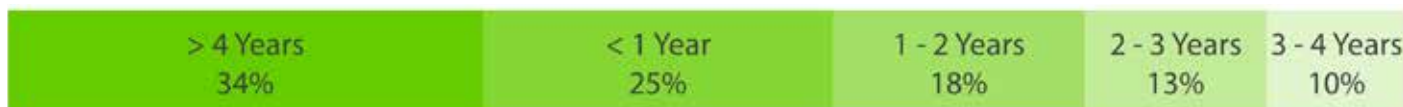
AGE

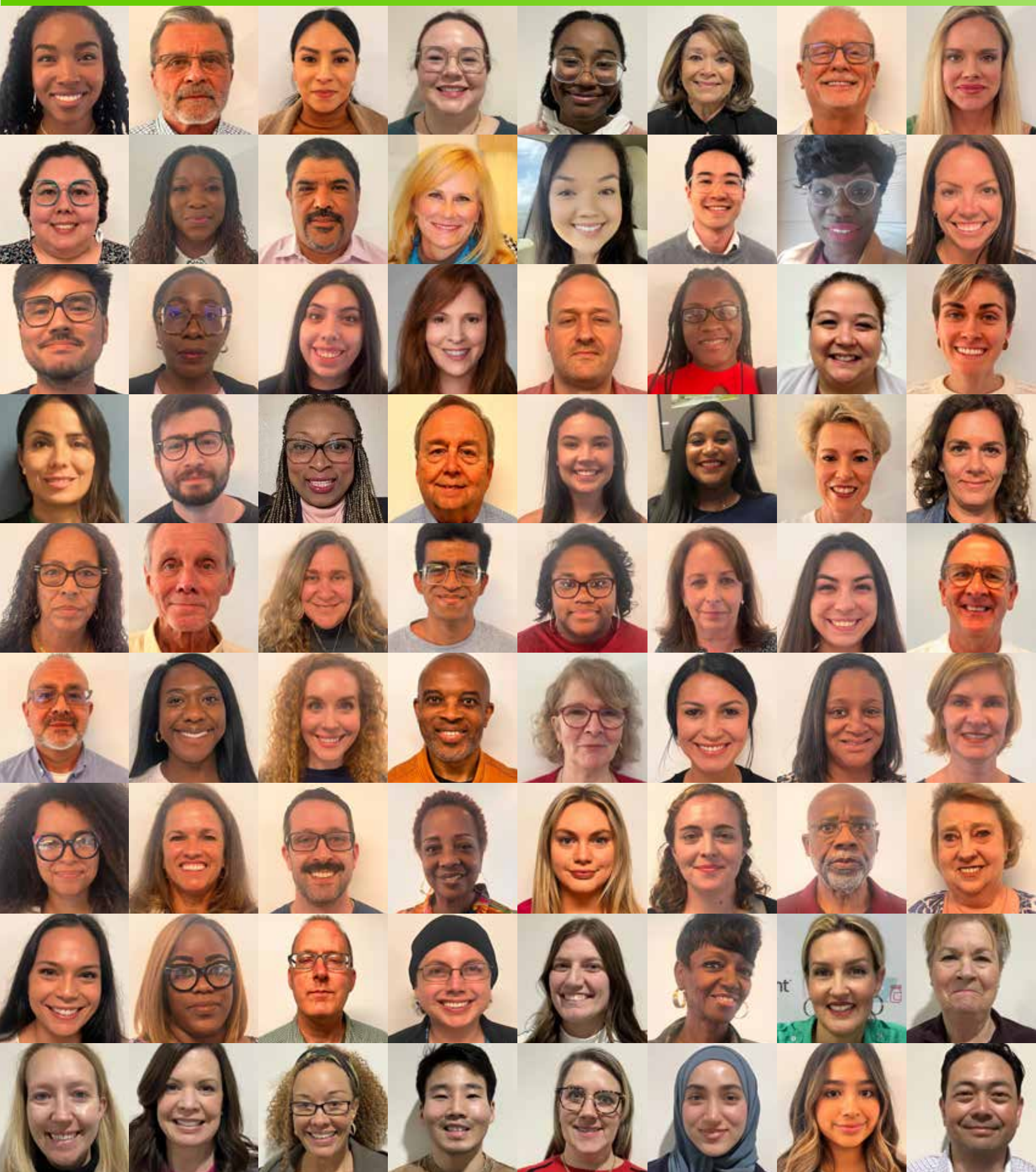


ETHNICITY



TENURE







Diane Mayes and Brenda Jones with their awards at the Volunteer Appreciation Event.

JAMES A. GWINN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Diane Mayes became an advocate in 2017, and for the past seven years she has been diligent in her advocacy for seven children. She has a remarkable way of connecting with each of these children, being present in their lives and consistently showing up for them. The strong relationship and bond she builds with the children is evident in many of them affectionately calling her their grandmother.

For her most recent case, she worked with two boys who were eight and ten years old. Diane was a consistent and trusted adult for these two boys to rely on throughout their time in care. She was frequently in contact with the children's school, therapists, foster parents and many more personnel to make sure the boys were on track and receiving all of the support they needed.

Two years into her work on the case, Diane took a brief break to deal with unexpected personal hardships. Without missing a beat, a few months later, she stepped right back into her role as an advocate. Seeing this case through completion and ensuring these children found a lifelong, forever home was a goal of hers. And this goal was achieved when the children were adopted in 2023 by a loving family.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Brenda Jones graduated from Advocacy University in February of 2023 and took her first case just a few days later. She was assigned to a little girl who came into care at just three months old because of allegations of neglectful supervision of the child by her mother.

Brenda was always on top of her duties as an advocate, but what really set Brenda apart was how well she testified in court. She was detailed, eloquent and knew her case backwards and forwards. She responded effectively to questions from the attorneys on all sides. After one hearing in particular, the attorney ad litem and county attorney gave Brenda praise for her compelling testimony and her work on the case.

Typically, a new advocate will only work on one case at a time. But after just a few months of being an advocate, Brenda took on another case with a six-month-old little girl. This little girl's mother had a history of drug use, domestic violence and criminal history. Brenda has worked diligently and passionately on these two cases simultaneously, making sure that both of these baby girls are developmentally on track and receiving all of the love in this world. She is passionate about safeguarding these babies and making sure that they find a safe and loving home.

COMMITTED THROUGH THE YEARS

Committing to a single case and seeing it through to completion is an incredible feat, but these advocates have gone above and beyond. They have been devoted to the advocate role for five years or more and have played key roles in the lives of countless children across the Houston area. We are grateful to these extraordinary individuals for their continued service as an advocate.



20 YEARS+

Andrew Chu
Zack Coapland
Renee Kariv
Duane King
Dawn Rodriguez
Frank Rosie
Les Schmaltz
Wanda Williams

15 - 19 YEARS

Marcus Chery
Kathi Davis
Erika De La Garza
Pamela Fazzone
Dave Gutacker
Rita Irani
Bridgett Matthes
Jane Middlebrooks
Cheryl Powers
Diane Rifai
LaTasha Rothschild
Lyn Schmaltz
Victoria Varner
Scott Washburn

10 - 14 YEARS

Clarinda Bell-Fletcher
Judy Blissard
Suzanne Byerley
Avery Carson
Kim Carter
Cheri Castillo
Maira Castro
Beresford Clarke
Kevin Cline
Brandy Copley
Mabel Delgado
Madeline DiFraia
Ashley Dominguez
Nancy Epstein
Kristi Gollwitzer
Terry Gray
Robert Heine
Linda Heitzer
Traci Jensen
Kalsey Jurick
Suzette Kelly

Pam Knox
Alicia Lee
Jeff Manley
Ginny Price
Susie Pummill
Audrey Seals
Jennifer Sizemore
Sonia Sonnier
Ozzie Terry
Maude Trottie
Jolyn Welsh
Coy Wheeler
Zona Williams
Deidra Wright

5 - 9 YEARS

Elizabeth Abels
Matthias Abke
Damar Adhock
Nneka Akpotare
Roopal Amin
Sarah Andrews
Julie Antrich
Daniela Armenta
Dawn Armstrong
Nay Armstrong
Denise Bailey
Missy Balleza
Catherine Barrett
Diane Barthlow
Sherry Beatty
Brenda Becker
Ranjana Bedi
Nancy Belding
Encarna Bermejo
Sheryl Bieniawski
Geri Bishop
Marie Blackmore
Braelyn Blair
Lindsay Bottger
Diana Bourgeois
Barbara Brennan
Sandra Bretting
Roxanna Brom
Jennifer Bruton
Diane Burgess
Deniece Bushell
Sonya Byers



Kym Cabaniss
Fallon Campbell
Kellie Carney
Ignacio Carrion
Leslie Casey
Ashley Causey
Mayra Cerda
Andrea Chacin
Sylan Chang
Camille Chappell
Kathryn Childers
Chilonda Clebourn
Mathilda Cochran
Cathleen Collins
Michaela Conner
Julie Copple
Monica Cordova
Jaclyn Cribley
Nicole Cunningham
Andrea Curran
Jennifer Daly
Vernicessa Darbonne
Leslie Davidson
Angele Davis
Joy Davis
Marielba Diaz
Rebecca Douglass
Robyn Drake
Betsy Dupree-Kyle
Renee Edwards
Valerie Edwards
Chip Evans
Barbara Feig
Jan Ferrell
Patricia Fiess
Laurel Finger
Steve Flores
Evelyn Fluellen
Samantha Ford-Tanyingu
Angela Fountaine-Key
Jami Fowler
Carolyn Gee
Laura Godbold
Jonathan Gonzalez
Tabatha Gradnigo
Cristina Green
Pam Green
Kathryn Gunther
Stephen Hallows
Dever Hanchera
Ashlyn Hargraves
Catherine Hauck
Kate Hays
Matthew Heckel
Madelyn Herman
William Hill
Anita Hochman
Gina Holder
Bobbi Hoyt
Melanie Hutchinson
Olinda Johnson

Tyeisha Johnson
Abigail Jones
Camille Jones
Kevin Juengst
Barbara Keine
Suvon Kelley
Andrea Kendrick
Karina King
Susan Knoblauch
Dawn Knoble
Leah Knox
Brenna Kody
Marc Kutner
Ana-Maria Lafuente
Renee LeBas
Ivy Li
Janet Lindley
Bonita Lockings
Pat London
Cherylann Long
John Luu
Tanya Macedo
Laura Mahaney
Andrea Marquina
Esmie Martinez
Esteban Martinez
Veronica Mauricio
Diane Mayes
Ayse McCracken
Jency Medrano
Stacy Medrano
Imelda Mejia
Juan Mendez
Maria Elena Mendez
Mark Midani
Jamie Miller
Christine Milliner
Lannie Milon
Judas Mireles
Tiffany Montano
Sarah Mouton
Erin Nelson
Azmine Nimji
Robin Noser
Monica Ochoa
Olivia Orlando
Mimi Peters
Chloe Pleasant
Rajeanna Podraza
Shabana Qureshi
Colleen Randall
John Rangel
Jo-Ann Reilly
Jacquelyne Rocan
Oneida Rodriguez
Hardy Roper
Jo Ann Rothfelder
Richard Rothfelder
Carolyn Royal
Steven Ruderman
Debra Ruehlen

Daria Russell
Alice Rust
Nancy Saad Attra
Rabia Samji
Tamira Samuel
Meghan Sankowski
Titi Sanusi
Jennifer Saucer
Aart Schenau
Rebecca Schlosser
Herman Schopman
Tanisha Scott
Imani Segura
Judith Seigal-Paine
Suzi Shaber
Ekta Shah
Celia Sims
James Smith
Robin Smith
Deborah Socorro
Jeanne Sommerfeld
Sandra Sosa
Lisa Speckert
Nina Spencer
Hannah Steen
Femke Struiksma
Norma Sutton
Patricia Sutton
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Paul Sykes
Kelsee Tedder
Sara Tirado
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Casper VanWoerden
Vincent Velasquez
Monique Velazco
Michael Verinder
Michele Vervoort
Marcia Vilas
Juliana Villacorta
Cheryl Vital
Jessica Wachel
Jillian Waldo
Eshana Watson
Shatavia Weaver
Brittany Weissner
Anne Wheeler
John Williams
Simetah Williams
Lauren Winfield
Robyn Wolverton
Kate Wright
Kristen Wright
Shari Wright

as of 12-31-2023





Our Donors

\$5.6 MILLION RAISED

With the help of over 1,200 donors, Child Advocates raised over \$5.6 million to help support children in foster care. **Thank you for your generosity and believing in our mission.**

Barry Abrams
Alisa & Michael Absmeier
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Billie Adams
Karen Adams
Kimberly Adams
Avery Addison
Kathy & Kurt Adkins
Judy & Richard Agee
Adrienne Agee
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Orlando Alvarado
Alvarez & Marsal
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AmazonSmile Foundation
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American Bank
American First National Bank
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Bank of America
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Camille Barreto
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Heather Beken
Heather Belcher
Barbara & Marshall Bendalin
Abbey Bennett
Virginia & Chris Benwell
Kristen & John Berger
Charles Berry
Sheryl Bieniawski
The Bill and Helen Crowder

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Kristine Bird
Birlasoft
Geri & Scott Bishop
Kate Black
Tiffany Black
Darrin Blair
Wayne Blease
Judy Blissard
Sandra Block
Kevin Blodgett
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
Mary & David Bock
Boeing Co.
Charner Bolin
Mary Boone
Jacqueline Booth
Krista & Dan Borgen
Diana & Danny Bourgeois
Patricia Bournalon
Nadine & Stephen Boutros
Sharon Boutwell
Hang Bower
Michael Bradley
Hayley & Dane Branch
Charlene Brandau
Mary H. Bratton
Christopher Braziel
Ana Briceno
John Brodie
Dolores & Craig Brooks
Dolores Brooks
Rachel Broussard
Cathy Brown
The Brown Foundation
Jane & Ron Brownlee
Iris & Larry Brownstein
Merrie Brucks & Richard Snodgrass
Jo Brueggeman
Kimberly & Peter Buettgen
Building New Foundations
Brian Burke
Sally & Vince Burkett
Wendy & Cade Burks
Kelly & Ricky Burnett
C. Wayne and Patricia J. Miller
Foundation
Kym & Joseph Cabaniss

Carolyn Campbell
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Jessica Casper
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Allison & Cy Cattani
Chris & Bill Caudill
Ana Cavatore
Dolores Cavatore
Forrest Cebold
CenterPoint Energy
Francesca Cerrato
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Chapelwood United Methodist
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Lisa Chapman
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Charity Guild of Catholic Women
Caroline & Samuel Chase
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BERNIE POWELL LEGACY SOCIETY

Bernie Powell has served more children as an advocate than any other volunteer in our history. Supported by her loving husband, Ed, Bernie advocated for more than 170 abused and neglected children over two decades. Whether making 10 to 20 calls a week to therapists, attorneys, caseworkers and relatives, or holding a girl's hand as she faces surgery to repair the wounds of abuse, Bernie exemplified the commitment required to ensure children enjoy the bright futures they deserve.

The Bernie Powell Legacy Society gives donors the opportunity to make gifts from your estate to ensure Child Advocates can provide a legacy of high-quality advocacy for generations to come. As a member we will respect your wishes for participation, recognition or anonymity, and any details of your gift will be held in the strictest confidence.

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Our Events

PULL FOR KIDS CLASSIC

Records were broken at our signature fundraising event with \$850,000 raised! Donette and Jeff Manley chaired the event that honored longtime supporters Traci and Derrick Jensen along with Quanta Services. After the morning sporting clays tournament, over 500 guests dressed in their best blues and enjoyed dinner, entertainment, a live auction and a touching story from an advocate and the family they helped. The event truly “painted the town blue” and was a hopeful close to Child Abuse Prevention Month.



SUPERHERO RUN

It was a beautiful fall morning for the 5K and 1K fun run at CITYCENTRE Houston! More than 900 runners of all ages joined us, dressed in their best superhero costumes. We are incredibly grateful to our Presenting Sponsor, MRE Consulting, and our Post Race Sponsor, Stewart. Along with countless other sponsors and all of our runners, we raised \$140,000. A special thank you to Angie Parker and MRE Consulting who have been dedicated to this event since its inception.

ANGELS OF HOPE

Over 500 guests gathered at the Royal Sonesta hotel for a dreamy fashion show and luncheon that raised over \$380,000. Led by chairs Aileen McCormick and Michele Holbrooke, the luncheon honored Joy Posoli for her longtime dedication to the organization. The 25th anniversary of the luncheon was one to remember with an inspiring story from an advocate and for the first time ever, a pop-up shop exhibition!



THIRD PARTY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Organizations of all sizes throughout the community choose to support Child Advocates and contribute critical funds to our mission. In 2023, third-party organizations raised over \$230,000 through their own charitable events and initiatives. We are always grateful to be selected as a beneficiary for third-party events, no matter how big or how small. In addition to the financial contribution, these events increase awareness of Child Advocates across the Greater Houston community.

DEACONS OF DEADWOOD

The Deacons of Deadwood are a respected motorcycle club in Houston that supports local children's charities. We are always thankful to be selected as a beneficiary of their annual Charity Ball. In 2023, they donated \$7,500 to our mission.

NIGHT COURT

Night Court is an annual charity show that is entirely put on by lawyers and raises funds for numerous local nonprofits that provide free legal services to populations in need. Thanks to the talents and hard work of so many, they entertained crowds and donated \$20,000 to our mission.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN OF THE INDUSTRY

This networking group for women in commercial real estate hosts several events throughout the year that Child Advocates was a beneficiary of. From their 'Designer Purse Bingo' in the spring and 'Halloween Party' in the fall, they raised \$46,000 for our mission.

WEATHERFORD WALKS

Annually, Weatherford hosts a charity walk through the Houston Zoo and contributes to a variety of local nonprofits. For the second time, Child Advocates was selected as a beneficiary of this event and received over \$125,000. Beyond this generous contribution, Weatherford has lent the talents of dedicated individuals to help with marketing and branding for Child Advocates. We are so grateful for Weatherford's support.

Thank you to all of the third-party fundraisers and events for supporting Child Advocates in 2023!



Our Finances

REVENUE

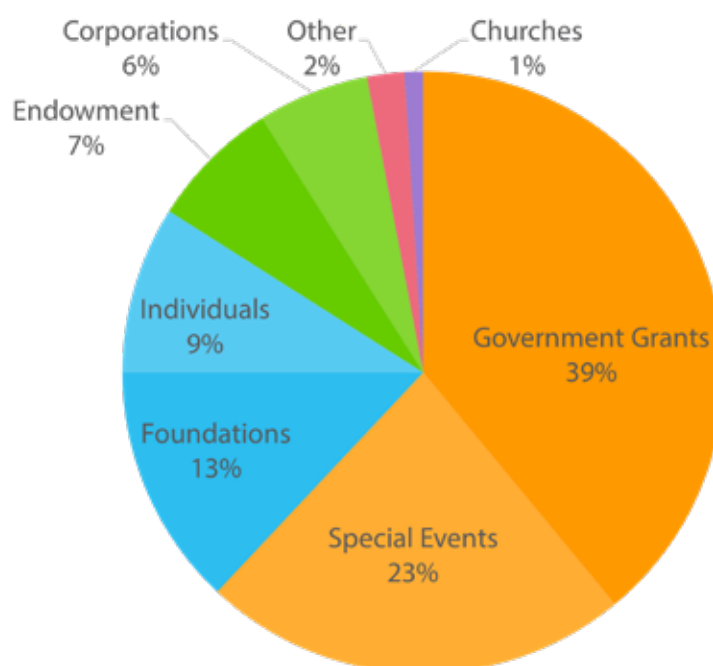
Contributions	\$	2,157,309
Federal & State Government Grants	\$	2,179,014
Special Events	\$	1,286,037
Net of \$242,232 in event expenses		
Other Income	\$	28,220
Total	\$	5,650,580

EXPENSES

Advocacy Services	\$	(3,771,859)
Advocate Education & Training	\$	(634,197)
Fundraising	\$	(509,147)
General & Administration	\$	(757,303)
Total	\$	(5,672,506)

NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$	(21,926)
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SELECTED CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)



REPORT SOURCES

[1] Child Protective Services (CPS) Data and Statistics - DFPS, www.dfps.texas.gov/About_DFPS/Data_Book/

All data and content as of 12/31/2023.

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“Our organization’s greatness lies in our unwavering dedication to advocating for every child’s right to a safe and nurturing environment. Through the collective efforts of our volunteers, staff and supporters, we are making a profound impact on the lives of vulnerable children, ensuring they have a voice and a path to a brighter future.”

Kelly Hawkins,
2024-2025 Board Chair

Why support us?

The children. Studies have shown that children with an advocate do better than those without one, and with your help, we can provide an advocate to more children in our area.

Our reputation. Since our start, we have built a solid reputation as a community partner, friend and diligent steward of your funds. Our cost-effective volunteer advocacy model allows us to provide necessary services to children in custody at a very low cost.

Our need. Child Advocates is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, and a member of Texas and National Court Appointed Special Advocate associations. We do not charge a fee for services and rely solely on support from caring individuals, organizations and foundations.

How can I get involved? Any way you can contribute is appreciated, whether it is by becoming an advocate, through a donation or by volunteering at a special event. Call us or visit us online to learn about volunteer and giving opportunities.



childadvocates®

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