



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

TULSA CASA, INC.



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OUR MISSION

Tulsa CASA, as authorized by Oklahoma law, is organized to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court by promoting and supporting volunteer representation for children in an effort to provide each child a safe, permanent, nurturing home.

Looking back at the unprecedented events in 2020 brings to mind a quote by Booker T. Washington, “You measure the size of the accomplishment by the obstacles you have to overcome to reach your goals.” The pandemic created many obstacles to the health, happiness and well-being of abused and neglected children in our community. I am proud to say our CASA volunteers overcame those barriers and found ways to continue to provide quality advocacy. Our volunteers worked on keeping the kids they serve connected to siblings, parents, and the outside world as well as ensuring the Judges had much needed information about their well-being.

Tulsa CASA’s overarching goal is to provide every abused and neglected child in Tulsa County with an advocate to speak for his/her best interests in court. Every year, for the past five years, we have moved closer to that goal by recruiting, training and supporting more CASA volunteers to serve more cases and advocate for more children. Over the last five years, we have increased the number of children served by 57% and cases by 34%. Our goals for 2020 changed drastically with the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety of our volunteers, kids and families became our top priority. We immediately moved to virtual visits, ensuring the children we served had adequate technology for communicating with our volunteers, their families and their classrooms. Tulsa CASA staff and volunteers worked together to increase visits with children and submitted monthly well-being updates to the court for every child guaranteeing no child or family was missed.

In 2020, we did not see the steady growth we are accustomed to see from year-to-year but our decrease from 2019 was minimal. Although we experienced a 5% decrease in children served and 3% decrease in volunteers trained from 2019, we still served more children and trained more volunteers than in 2018. More importantly, the quality of the advocacy for the abused and neglected children we served continued as strong as ever when it was needed the most. Our accomplishments last year were remarkable especially when measured against the obstacles we faced and overcame.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, the CASA volunteers, and the children and families we serve: thank you for your continued support of our mission as we work to provide quality advocacy to abused and neglected children in our community.

All the best,

Elizabeth Fisher
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATISTICS

211

ACTIVE
CASES

75

VOLUNTEERS
TRAINED

7,363

Volunteer Hours

48,272

Miles

\$210,140

Savings to the community*

*Based on the Independent Sector's value of a volunteer hour, \$28.54.

191

ACTIVE
VOLUNTEERS

426

CHILDREN
SERVED

AN ADVOCATE'S STORY

Ronda Marfechuk is a speech-language pathologist in the Department of Communication Disorders at The University of Tulsa. She has 25 years' experience working with children, and she's been at TU for 17 years. In her free time, she's an invaluable volunteer for Tulsa CASA. "Advocating for children is something I always wanted to do," said Marfechuk.

Having served as a CASA for nearly a decade, she's no stranger to the benefits of Tulsa CASA's program. "The most rewarding aspect of working as a CASA is finding a good placement for a child and knowing they have some kind of permanency. We would rather have the Cadillac, but we need the safety and permanency of the sedan."

In her most recent case, Marfechuk saw challenges on the path toward reunification. But by developing a relationship with the children and their father, Marfechuk was able to make

strides. "The father really opened up to me. He was dealing with trauma from his childhood, and he didn't get the resources he needed at that time." Today, thanks in part to Marfechuk's advocacy, the father is reunified with his children. He's working hard and he's in school. Furthermore, the foster mother serves as a resource for the father and his children to this day.

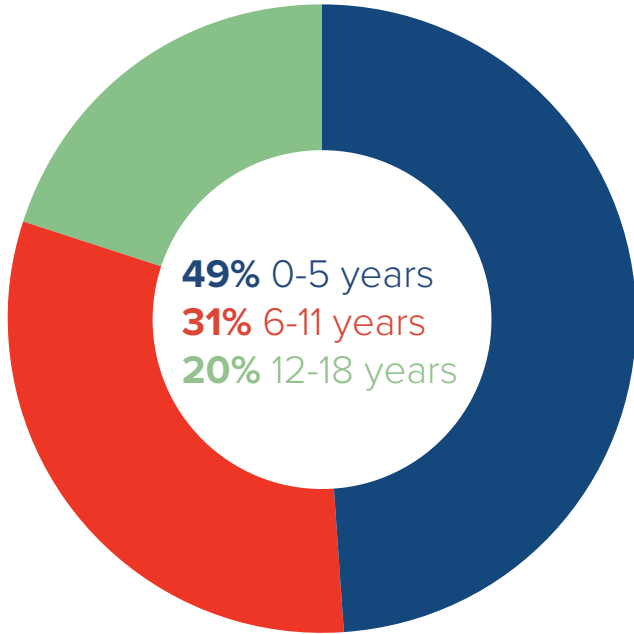
When asked about the challenges of advocacy during COVID-19, Marfechuk says it was hard at first. "You didn't really get to see the children." After the initial shutdown, Tulsa CASA started porch visits. The weather wasn't always ideal, though, especially in the chilly winter. Now, with safety precautions like masks, advocates are able to see their children in person and indoors.

To Ronda and all Tulsa CASA volunteers, we thank you for your relentless service, particularly during this challenging time.

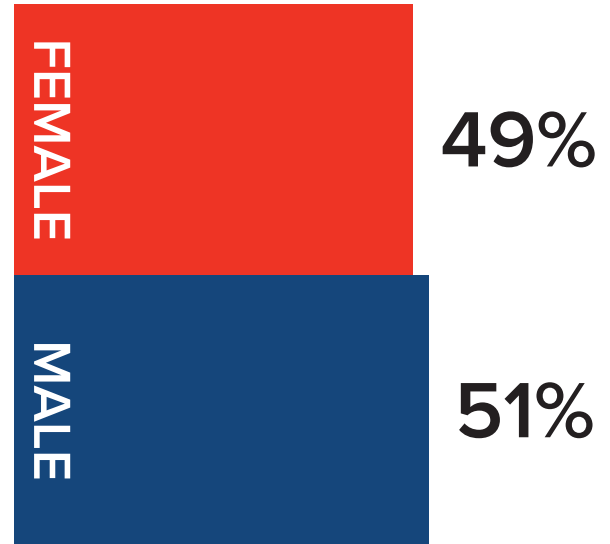


CHILD DEMOGRAPHICS

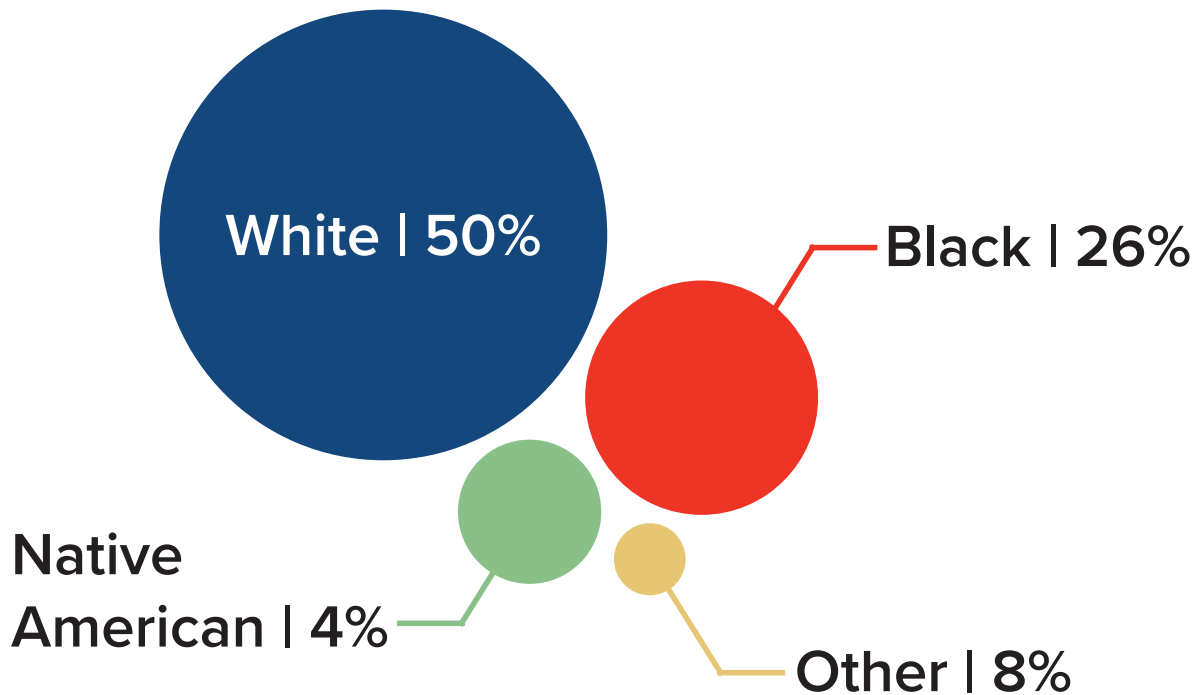
AGE



GENDER

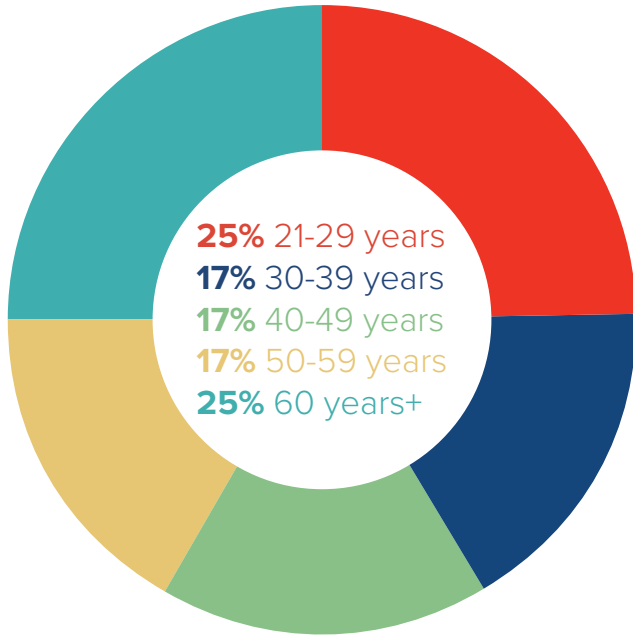


RACE

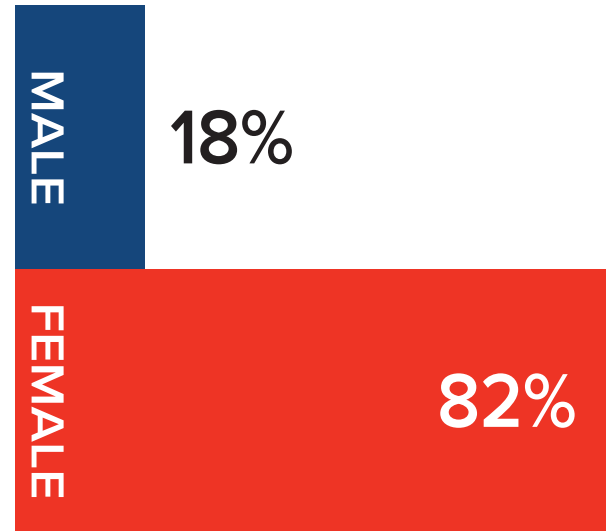


VOLUNTEER DEMOGRAPHICS

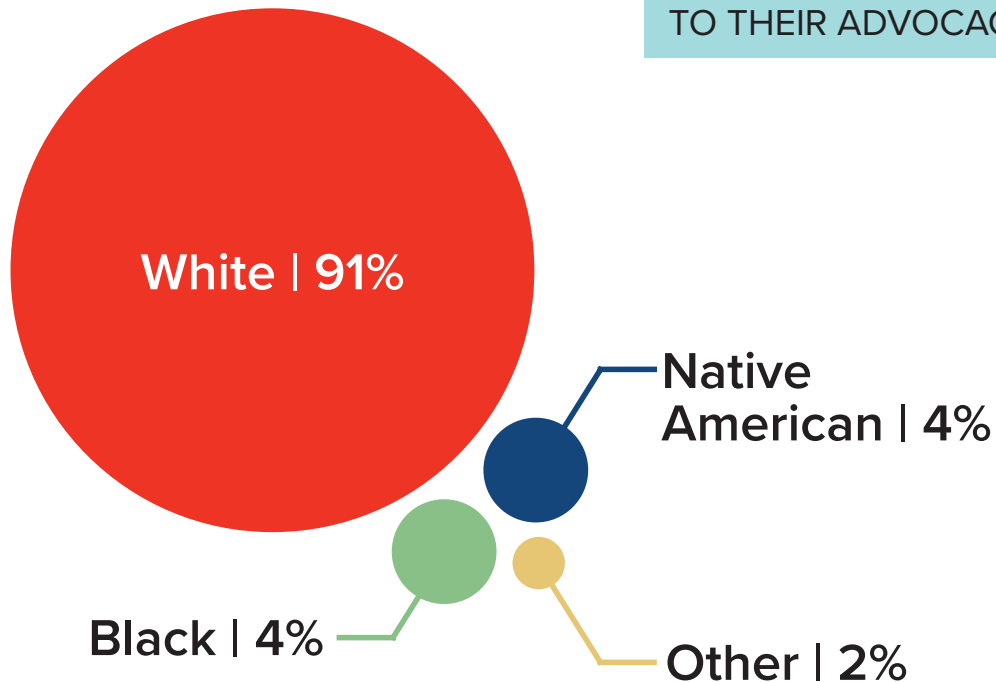
AGE



GENDER



RACE



DID YOU KNOW THAT 50% OF TULSA CASA VOLUNTEERS WORK FULL TIME IN ADDITION TO THEIR ADVOCACY?

FINANCIALS

EXPENSES



72% Programmatic
14% Administrative
14% Fundraising

REVENUE



28% Victims of
Crime Act
20% Oklahoma
CASA Association
17% Foundations
15% Tulsa Area
United Way
13% Events
4% Individuals
3% Other

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This list represents the generous individuals, foundations, corporations, and other entities who gave to Tulsa CASA between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. If you believe your name has been omitted from this list, please accept our sincerest apologies and contact Development Director Clifton Baker at clifton.baker@tulsacasa.org or 918.584.2272.

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Tulsa Area United Way
Victims of Crime Act

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TULSA CASA

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VOCA
VICTIMS OF
CRIME ACT