

CASA OF CHEROKEE COUNTRY

In Review

January, 2019 – June, 2020



201 E. Delaware St., Tahlequah, OK

. . . 2020 marks 25 Years of Service to Abused & Neglected Children . . .

COURTS SERVED BY CASA OF CHEROKEE COUNTRY

- ~Adair County District Court
- ~Cherokee County District Court
- ~Cherokee Nation Tribal Court



THE CHILDREN WE SERVE



Children are like wet cement.
Whatever falls on them makes an
impression.

- *Dr. Haim Ginott*

A torn jacket is soon mended;
but hard words bruise the heart
of a child.

- *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

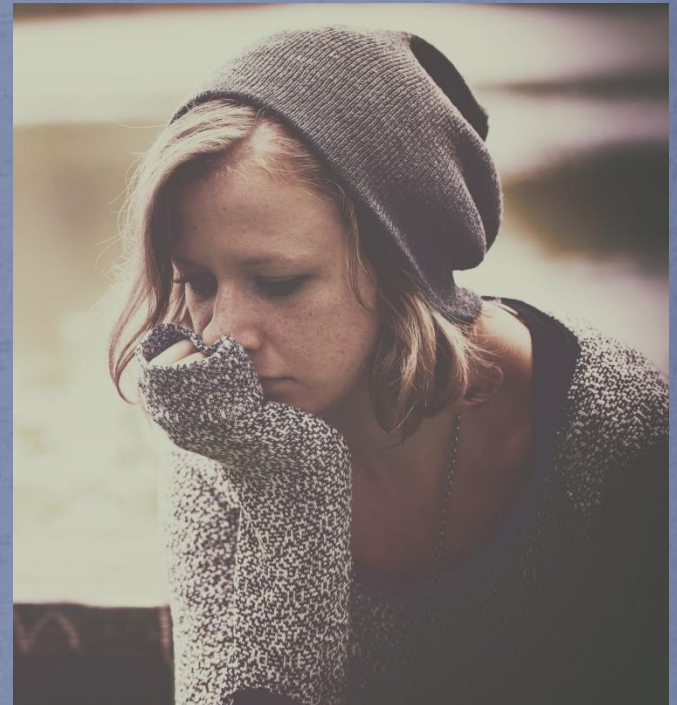


NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED

84

TYPES OF ABUSE

- Neglect - 64
- Physical Abuse - 16
- Sexual Abuse - 4



DEMOGRAPHICS

Total number of children served in 2019 – 2020 : 84

Male: 49

Female: 35

African American: 1

Caucasian: 20

Native American: 63



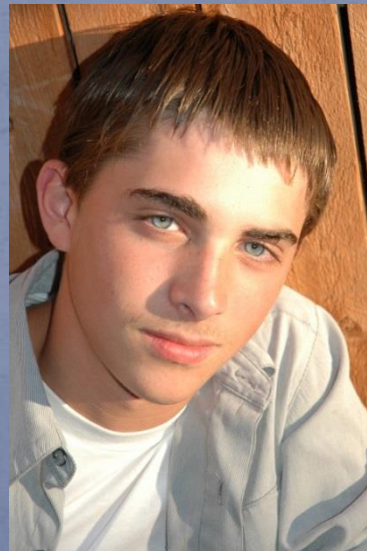
Demographics, cont.

Ages

Birth to 5 - 38

6 to 11 - 33

12 to 17 - 13



CLOSED CASES

Number of children whose cases closed: 59

Reunification: 28

Adoption: 27

Guardianship: 3

Aged out : 1



CASA Volunteer Advocates





VOLUNTEER DEMOGRAPHICS

- Male – 2
- Female – 22

- Caucasian - 13
- Native American – 9
- African American - 2



Volunteer Demographics, cont.

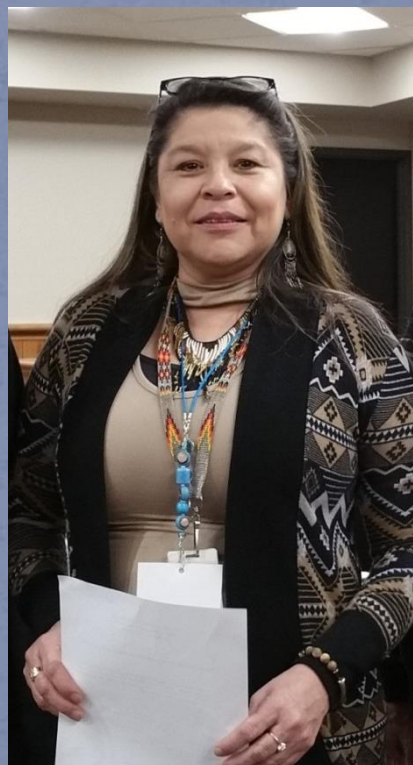
- Retired - 8
 - Employed Full-time - 12
 - Employed Part-time - 2
 - Unemployed - 2
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Age

- 21-29 - 3
- 30-39 - 2
- 40-49 - 4
- 50-59 - 4
- 60 + - 11



WINTER, 2019, TRAINING CLASS



Rae Wacoche

SUMMER, 2019, TRAINING CLASS



L. To R. Sherelene Pratt, Judge Crosslin, Charlene White

Spring, 2020, TRAINING CLASS



L. To R.: Jennifer McCann, Vickie Hanvey, Connie Sinclair

CHEROKEE HERITAGE CENTER



To increase prospective volunteers' diversity understanding, the CASA trainer takes prospective advocates to the Cherokee Heritage Center to tour the Cherokee Village and Museum.

This historic perspective is important for child advocates who serve Native American children in a case.

BROWN BAG

CONTINUING ED LUNCHEES

- OKDHS Investigation and Permanency Caseworkers
- United Methodist Children's Home/Circle of care
- OKDHS - CASA attending Adoption Criteria meetings
- Cherokee Co. ADA - testifying at TPR
- CREOKS- Children Services
- McIntosh Home Foundation - Foster Care
- ICWA Indian Child Welfare Act
- CN- J.A. Ketcher Youth Center
- Case discussion
- OKDHS Care Portal Resource

OTHER CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Annual OK CASA Conference (2 days)
 - Tribal & State Collaboration to maximize outcomes. (1 day)
 - OK Indian Child Welfare Association Conference (2 days)
 - Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment (1 day)
 - Child Abuse Prevention Conference (1 day)
 - Court Improvement Project (2 days)
 - Unconscious Bias (2 days)
 - Human Trafficking (1 day)
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- Continuing education hours *required* each year: 12
 - Total continuing education hours offered: 106

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



&

FUND RAISERS

(CASA fund raising events = 20% of total annual budget)

Masons Spaghetti Supper to Benefit CASA

- January -



Rally Against Child Abuse

- April -



CASA FOR KIDS PLAYHOUSE

Drawing for winner: 1st Sat. in June



Each year during the month of May, raffle tickets for the CASA playhouse are for sale at Reasor's grocery store, the CASA office, and by the CASA Board of Directors. This is CASA's most lucrative annual fund raising event.

LADIES FORE CASA GOLF TOURNAMENT

- *Fri. after Labor Day* -



On Sept. 6, 2019, the 16th annual Ladies Fore CASA golf tournament was held at the Cherokee Springs Golf Course in Tahlequah.

Fifty-eight lady golfers came out to support CASA while having fun playing on a favorite course.

Holiday Evening with CASA

- Early November -



END - OF - YEAR NUMBERS

- Number of Children Served: 84
- Number of Cases Served: 24
- Number of Active Advocates: 19
- Number of New Advocates Trained: 6

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- Hours donated by child advocates: 1,957.65
 - Miles traveled by child advocates: 30,596

END-OF-YEAR NUMBERS, cont.

Number of children in 3 courts not served by a
CASA volunteer advocate: **213**



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of CASA of Cherokee Country is to be a voice for children who come into the court system as a result of abuse and/or neglect by providing trained volunteer advocates who speak independently for the best interests of the children.

Memberships

- Oklahoma CASA Association
- National CASA Association
- Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association
- National Indian Child Welfare Association
- Lake Area United Way