



2026

QUARTER 1 PROGRAM REPORT



www.casasouthms.org

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Kelly Blackmon
Community Outreach Coordinator

Joellen Williams
Administrative Assistant

Remi III
Courthouse Facility Dog

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OUR MISSION

To advocate for South Mississippi's abused and neglected children by supporting volunteers who promote safety, permanency, and resilience.

OUR VISION

A community where all children thrive in safe and nurturing families.



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www.CASAsouthMS.org

QUARTER OVERVIEW

414

Total Children in CPS Custody

266

Total Children Assigned to a
CASA Advocate

OUR CHILDREN

- Of the **414** children, **250** children in custody were assigned an advocate during this quarter.
- **16** additional children were assigned an advocate and maintained in their home of origin during this quarter.
- **148** children are still in need of an advocate at the end of the 1st quarter.

ADVOCATE SERVICE

- **138** Assigned Advocates
- **132** Court Reports Written by Advocates
 - **516** Recommendations were made
 - **97%** Became Orders of the Court
- **15** New Advocates Sworn In
- **837** Hours of Training Completed

138

Advocates Provided

2,862

Hours of Service to Children

46

Children's Cases
Closed in the Reporting
Period

OUTCOMES

During this quarter, **46 children's** cases closed. Of these children, 98% achieved permanent homes through:

- 25 Reunification
- 8 Adoption
- 12 Durable Legal Custody

Outcomes of the remaining 2% of children:

- 1 Child Turned 18/21 & was released from custody

OF THE CASES APPOINTED TO CASA WITHIN THE QUARTER, THERE WERE

482 Allegations
of Neglect

47 Allegations of Abuse:
1 Emotional
8 Sexual
38 Physical

HANCOCK COUNTY

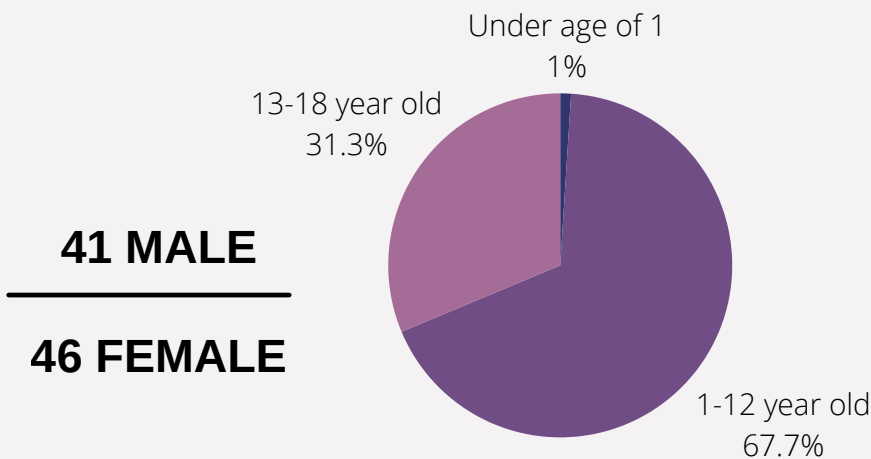
OUR CHILDREN

- 75 children were in CPS custody
- 74 children in CPS custody were assigned to an advocate
- 13 additional children assigned to an advocate were maintained in their home of origin.
- 1 child was unserved



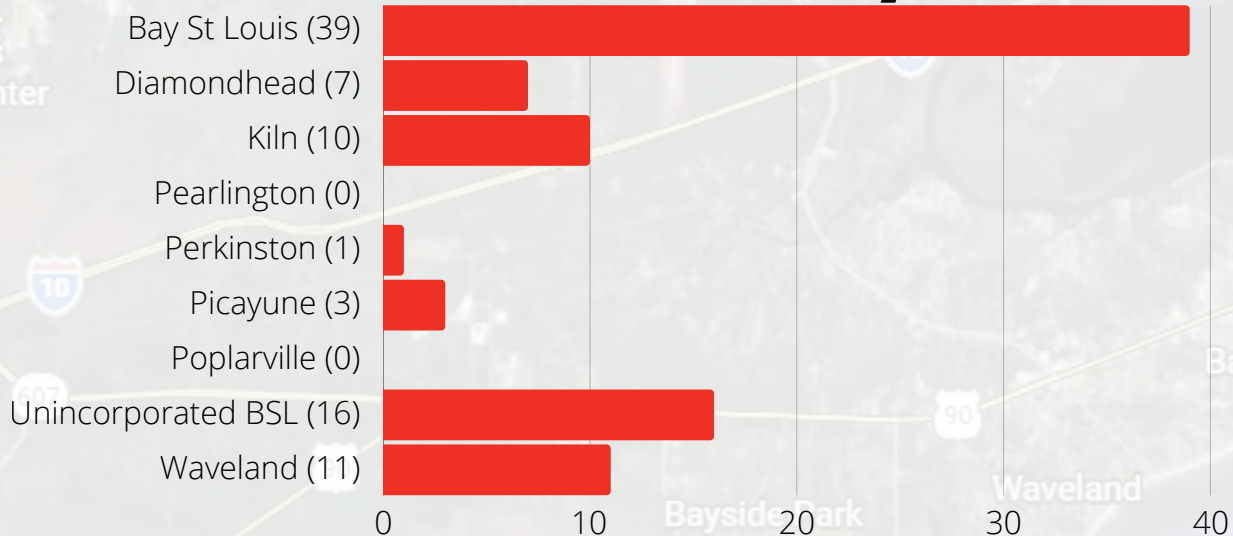
**CASA served
99% of the
children in
CPS custody**

DEMOGRAPHICS



CAUCASIAN 78%
AFRICAN AMERICAN 12%
BI-RACIAL 10%
HISPANIC/LATINO 0%
ASIAN 0%

LOCATION OF ABUSE/NEGLECT



HARRISON COUNTY

OUR CHILDREN

- 249 children were in CPS custody
- 138 children in CPS custody were assigned to an advocate
- 3 additional children assigned to an advocate were maintained in their home of origin.
- 111 child was unserved



**CASA served
55% of the
children in
CPS custody**

DEMOGRAPHICS

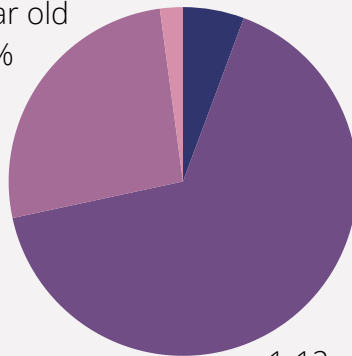
Over age of 18 Under age of 1

2.1%

5.7%

13-18 year old

26.2%



60 MALE

81 FEMALE

1-12 year old
66%

CAUCASIAN 57%

AFRICAN AMERICAN 35%

BI-RACIAL 6%

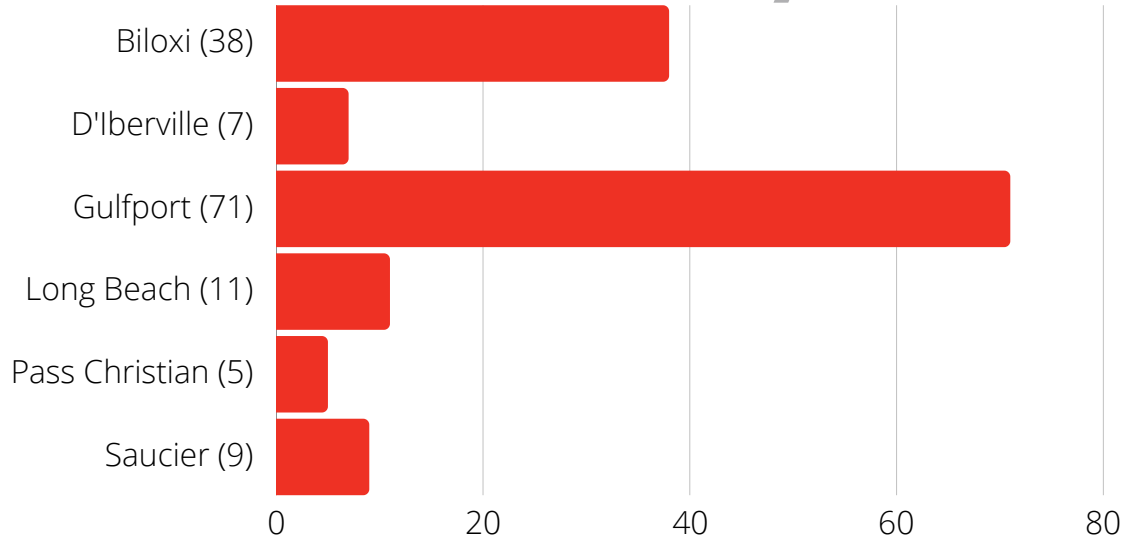
HISPANIC/LATINO 1%

ASIAN 1%

NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC

ISLANDER 0%

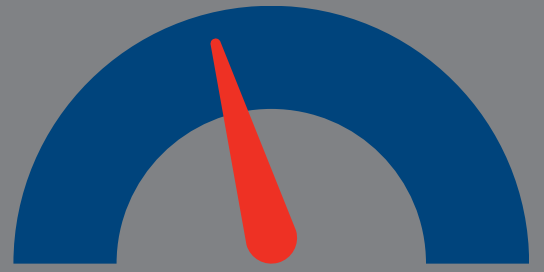
LOCATION OF ABUSE/NEGLECT



STONE COUNTY

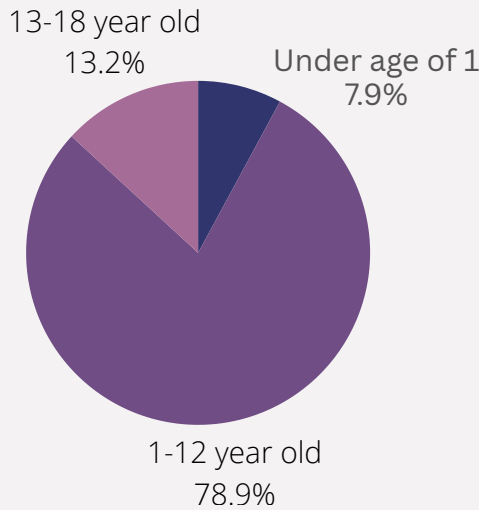
OUR CHILDREN

- 90 children were in CPS Custody
- 38 children were assigned to an advocate
- 52 children were unserved



**CASA served
42% of the
children in
CPS custody**

DEMOGRAPHICS

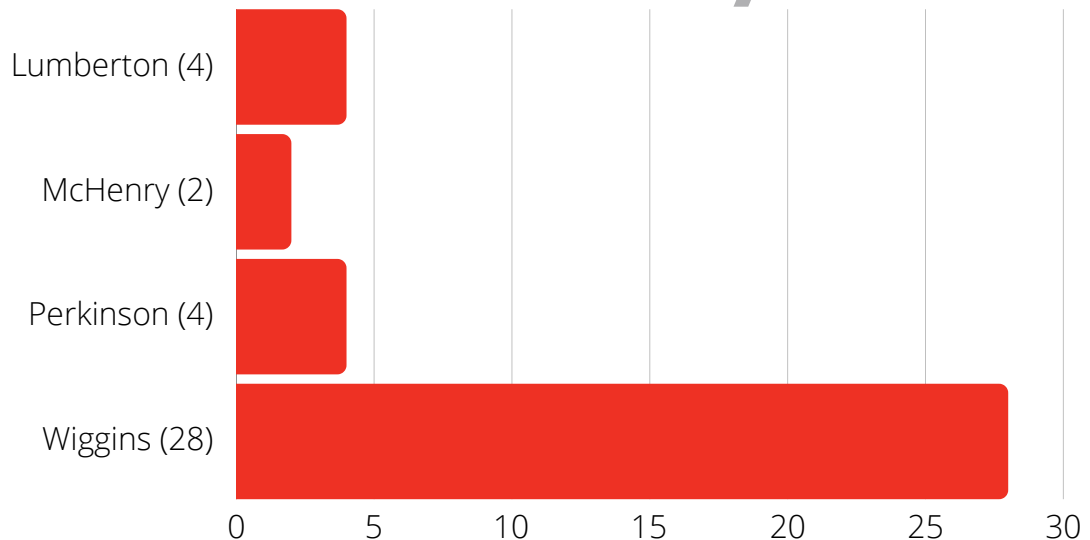


17 MALE

21 FEMALE

CAUCASIAN 82%
AFRICAN AMERICAN 5%
BI-RACIAL 13%
HISPANIC/LATINO 0%
ASIAN 0%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER 0%

LOCATION OF ABUSE/NEGLECT



HOW TO HELP



1 Become a CASA Volunteer

In 2026, CASA is committed to recruiting **45 new volunteers to serve children in foster care**. The need for volunteers is urgent. We need you! Schedule an hour-long informational session now to find out more by visiting www.casasouthms.org/info or sending an email to lauren@casasouthms.org

3 Support Our Program Financially

Become a CASA Anchor--an individual who believes in CASA's mission & contributes monthly as a sustaining donor for as little as \$10/month. Scan the QR code below to donate as a CASA Anchor:



2 Connect Us to Your Organization

Connect us to your community organization, club, or church to let a CASA staff member come and share about our program in order to raise awareness about the needs of children from your community.

4 Report Child Abuse or Neglect

In accordance with Section 43-21-353 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, "any other person having reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a neglected child or an abused child" shall make a CPS report as soon as possible.

The number to make a report is

1-800-222-8000

or you may file an online report here:
reportabuse.mdcps.ms.gov

OUR ADVOCATES

Hancock County

Adam, Margaret (11)
Alexander, Marybeth (2)
Altsman, Diane (9)
Bailey, Sarah (13)
Bair, Anne (2)
Baughman, Jackie (9)
Berry, Julie (7)
Bloom, Cheryl (10)
Bourgeois, Brooke (4)
Brdecka, Brittni (4)
Brdecka, John (3)
Breeze, Stacie (2)
Cannon, Julie (16)
Chargois, Victoria (4)
Coleman, Joan (6)
Cuevas, Janine (10)
DeBardleben, Evelyn (3)
DeHaan, Laura-Michel (5)
Dollar, Beverly (10)
Ehrich, Alan (4)
Ehrich, Trudy (4)
Ferry, Jude (4)
Fulwiler, John (8)
Fulwiler, Madeleine (8)
Grapusa, Christine (9)
Greene, Carol (1)
Hamil, Cynthia (2)
Hess, Allison (5)

Hilliard, Larry (3)
Hilliard, Terry (3)
Hutchison, Michael (1)
Jackson, Jessica (3)
Jackson, Lorenzo (3)
Keller, Kathi (2)
Lawler, Robinette (11)
Manko, Rodney (5)
McKenzie, Nancy (10)
Meyer, Marcella (10)
Montjoy, Betsy (5)
Mumme, Susan (11)
Murana, Kimberly (3)
Murray, Joseph (9)
Necaise, Kimberly (2)
Nichols, Lylie (11)
Ortiz, Tish (2)
Parker, Andy (1)
Richardson, Joy (11)
Riviere, George (7)
Riviere, Robin (8)
Shiyou, Carol (12)
Taylor, Griselda (3)
Taylor, Marilene (7)
Taylor, Vickie (1)
Van Stelle, Christy (9)
Wallace, Susan (6)
Young, Anne (3)

Harrison County

Acosta, Deborah *
Anderson, Chalisa*
Barnes, Rebecca (2)
Beck, Bridget (1)
Beck, Maria (1)
Benefield, Debbie (8)
Bignoli, Joan (5)
Bonck, Patrick (12)
Borecki, Henry*
Brown, Demetria (1)
Colby, Jaime*
Conner, Heather (1)
Davis, Adrienne (1)
Dismuke, Tabitha (1)
Dosch, Day (1)
Eady, Melissa (2)
Ellingson, Sherry (1)
Ezell, Rebecca (2)
Fennell, James (1)
Gatewood, Carol (1)
Graves, Artina (2)
Heath, Janae (1)
Horton, Karen (1)
Howard, Sandi (2)
Jenkins, Veronica (1)

(#) indicates years of service
*New Advocates in 2026



OUR ADVOCATES

Jennings, Valaresia (1)
Kaiser, Elizabeth (4)
Keeney, Sharon (8)
Koenenn, Heather (1)
LaCour, Louis*
Langham, Hannah (4)
Langham, Mark (4)
Leatherman, Isabel (1)
Lewis, Anita (13)
Maisonneuve, Caryn (1)
Matthews, Donna (5)
Mills, Mike*
Moore, Diane (6)
Nicholas, Katina (3)
Perez, Laura*
Rafferty, Jimmy (1)
Reaver, Anne (3)
Reilly, Kim (7)
Relaford, Jenee (5)
Renner, Melissa (2)
Reno, Skylar*
Richards, Brooke (2)
Rush, Cathleen*
Rush, Diane (2)
Ryan, Elizabeth*
Saldana, Maria (3)
Shaw, Cindy (14)

Sheehan, Jay (1)
Shirk, Linda (4)
Shull, Scott (1)
Simpkins, Amber (3)
Thomas, Kaycee (4)
Tilquit, Taylor (1)
Tubertini, Kathy (1)
Vann, Theresa (1)
Vennon, Amy (1)
Vitale, Bernadette (2)
Waller, Patricia*
Waltman, Jeff (1)
Waltman, Leann (1)
Walton, LeAyn (1)
Ward, Thersa (1)
Warran, Alisha (8)
Wilder, Ruthie (14)
Williams, Jenny (5)
Yates, Bryan*
Yates, Suzanne*
Young, Corinne (1)

Stone County

Cater, Kiersten (5)
Cobb, Cynthia (4)
Forrest, Brad*
Forrest, Brandy*
Harrell, Allan (2)
Harvey, Charles (2)
Hildestad, Lawrence (2)
Hildestad, Lori (2)
Murphy, Lynn (1)
Overstreet, Emily (1)
Shelton, Taryn (2)
Smith, Monica (1)
Thames, Johnene (1)
Walters, Heather (1)
Williamson, Keith (1)
Williamson, Stephanie (1)

(#) indicates years of service
*New Advocates in 2026



CHILD WELLBEING PROJECTS

REMI THE COURTHOUSE FACILITY DOG

Remi, the Courthouse Facility Dog, received extensive training from Canine Companions®. Facility dogs like Remi are selected for their ability to calmly interact with people in a high stress environment. Remi goes to work daily alongside her primary handler Naomi Strawhorn & secondary handler Linda Perkes at CASA of South Mississippi. While Remi primarily attends Youth Court with child victims, she may also accompany children to meetings with prosecutors or forensic interviews to enhance the fact-finding process. Off hours, Remi goes home with her handler and is a normal pet.

Visit www.casasouthms.org/remi for more information about Remi, the Courthouse Facility Dog. Visit www.canine.org to find out more about the Canine Companions program.

“Remi made a real difference with the victim and I could tell the calming influence she had during a very difficult conversation.”

District Attorney



14

Number of child victims served by Remi YTD

7.5

Hours of direct service to child victims YTD

CHILD WELLBEING PROJECTS

TRUST-BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION®

Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI) is a trauma-informed intervention designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. As Mississippi's designated TBRI Ambassador Organization, CASA continues to coordinate statewide TBRI efforts to assist children, families, and organizations in providing trauma-responsive care by establishing high levels of connection, felt safety, & regulation.

In consultation with the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at TCU, CASA supports a network of TBRI Practitioners who serve in sectors including the child welfare system, mental health, schools, courts, juvenile justice, caregivers, residential settings, and more.



192

Professionals Trained
in TBRI® YTD

7

Caregivers trained in TBRI
Caregiver class YTD

ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT



Cheryl Bloom
10 Years of Service
14 Children Served



Anne Reaver
3 Years of Service
5 Children Served



Becky Ezell
2 Years of Service
3 Children Served

CASA IN THE COMMUNITY



01/06/26: Executive Director, Cynthia Chauvin & Program Director, Lauren Saucier at the Danos Headquarters receiving a grant to support advocate volunteer training and retention in 2026.



02/07/26: Advocate Supervisor, Tyree McDonald, Community Outreach Coordinator, Kelly Blackmon, & Stone County Advocate, Allan Harrell at the Pine Hill Social Recruitment Tent in Stone County.

In this Quarter, CASA Conducted

- 7 Presentations
- 4 Newsprint Articles/2 digital
- 8 Booth Events
- 2 Television Appearances



03/11/26: CASA Staff & Volunteers attended an all-day Multidisciplinary Training hosted by Judge Favre about the Science of Addiction & Therapeutic Interventions

FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

CASA GRANTS



Mississippi State Department of Health
Office Against Interpersonal Violence
Victims of Crime Act Grant | State Victim Services Grant



CASA MS, Inc.
Growth Initiative
Grant

Made Possible by

The Members of Coast Electric



HisWay, Inc.



Administered via
State of Mississippi Judiciary
Administrative Office of Courts

In Partnership with the
Gulf Coast Community Foundation

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



IN-KIND DONORS

Special thanks to these partners for donating time & services:

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Edrington Landscaping

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CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS



CHILDREN'S PROTECTORS



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Schedule your appointment to get a complimentary market evaluation.

CHILDREN'S ADVOCATES



HOW YOU CAN HELP

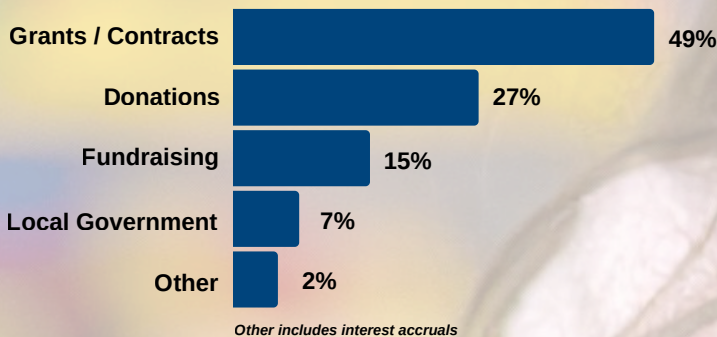
DONATE & CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY

CASA is a 501c3 charitable organization and relies on community support. Your gift is tax deductible and makes a big difference in the life of an abused or neglect child. Donations can be made by check, online through our website, Venmo, or PayPal for a one-time donation or to become a CASA Anchor with recurring donations.

Visit www.casasouthms.org/donate or use the QR codes below:



CASA'S DIVERSE FUNDING



CASA of South MS actively pursues funding from a variety of sources to enhance financial resilience. Through diversification of funding streams and a strategic approach that avoids overdependence on one specific source or tactic, we can better navigate fluctuations and recover from any unforeseen challenges.

Percentages based upon Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Estimates

This project is supported by federal grant number 15POVC-22-GG-00770-ASSI, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

This project is also supported by the MS State Department of Health, Office Against Interpersonal Violence, state administering agency for the MS State Victim Service Grant. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the state.