



2026

QUARTER 2 PROGRAM REPORT



www.casasouthms.org

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Hancock County Office

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Victim Services Coordinator

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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



403

Total Children in CPS Custody

59%

Were served by a volunteer
CASA Advocate

OUR CHILDREN

- Of the **403** children, **239** children in custody were assigned a volunteer advocate during this quarter.
- **15** additional children were assigned a volunteer advocate and maintained in their home of origin during this quarter.
- **164** children in **Harrison & Stone Counties** are still in need of a volunteer advocate.

ADVOCATE SERVICE

- **126** Assigned Advocates
- **118** Court Reports Written by Advocates
 - **446** Recommendations were made
 - **95%** Became Orders of the Court
- **8** New Advocates Sworn In
- **600** Hours of Training Completed



126

Advocates Provided

2,846

Hours of Service to Children



38

Children's Cases
Closed in the Reporting
Period

OUTCOMES

During this quarter, **38 children's** cases closed. Of these children, **92%** achieved permanent homes through:

- **22** Reunification
- **4** Adoption
- **9** Durable Legal Custody

Outcomes of the remaining 8% of children:

- **2** Children Turned 18/21 & were released from custody
- **1** Child Ranaway & was released from custody

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

416

Allegations
of Neglect

54

Allegations of Abuse:
1 Emotional
8 Sexual
45 Physical

HANCOCK COUNTY

OUR CHILDREN

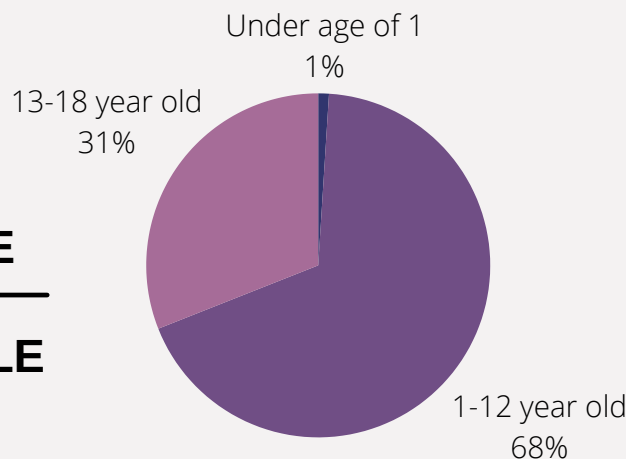
- 54 children were in CPS custody
- 54 children in CPS custody were assigned to an advocate
- 7 additional children assigned to an advocate were maintained in their home of origin.



**CASA served
100% of the
children in
CPS custody**

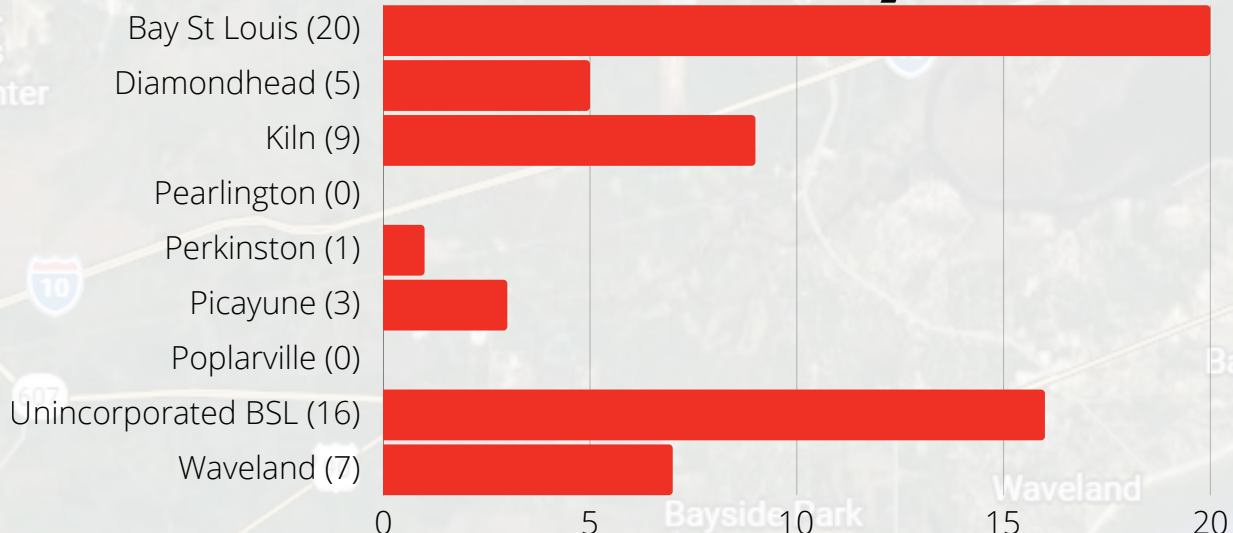
DEMOGRAPHICS

30 MALE
31 FEMALE



CAUCASIAN 89%
AFRICAN AMERICAN 5%
BI-RACIAL 6%
HISPANIC/LATINO 0%
ASIAN 0%

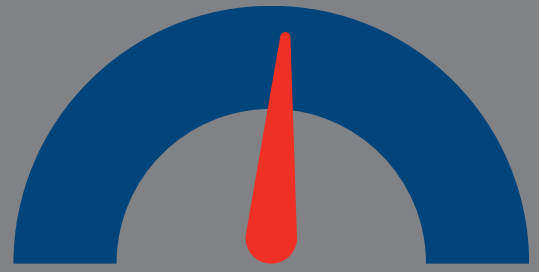
LOCATION OF ABUSE/NEGLECT



HARRISON COUNTY

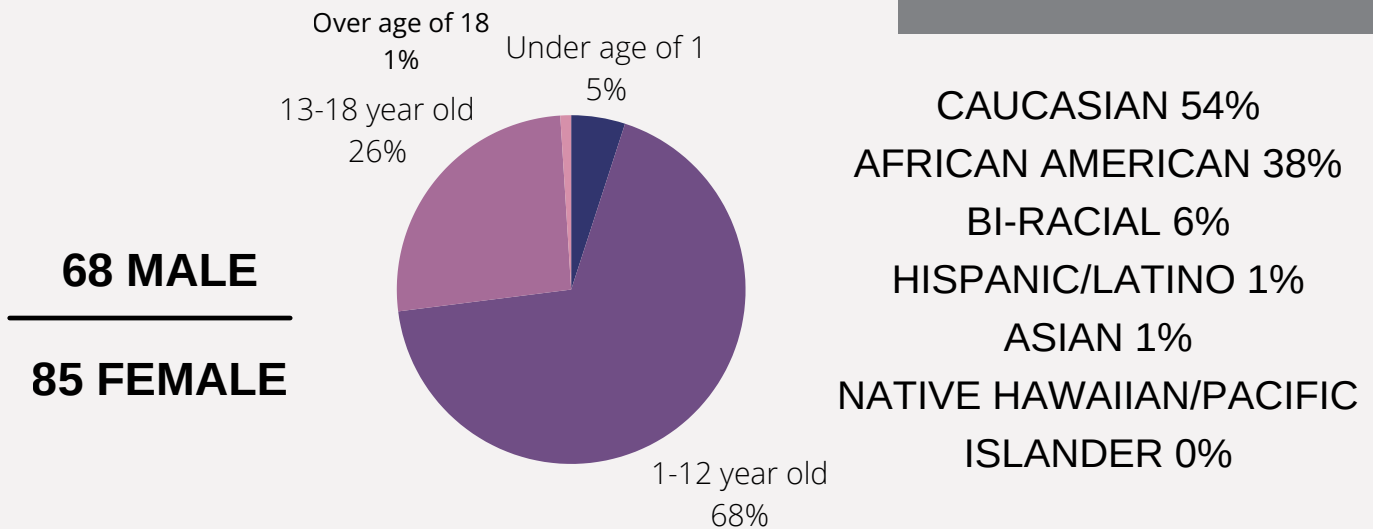
OUR CHILDREN

- 277 children were in CPS custody
- 145 children in CPS custody were assigned to an advocate
- 8 additional children assigned to an advocate were maintained in their home of origin.
- 132 children were unserved

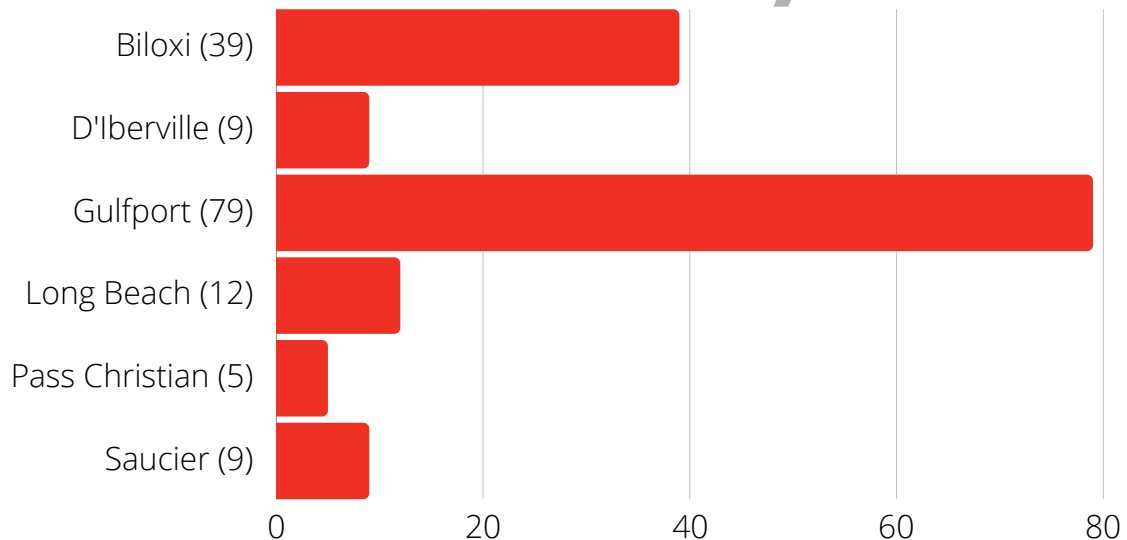


**CASA served
52% of the
children in
CPS custody**

DEMOGRAPHICS



LOCATION OF ABUSE/NEGLECT



STONE COUNTY

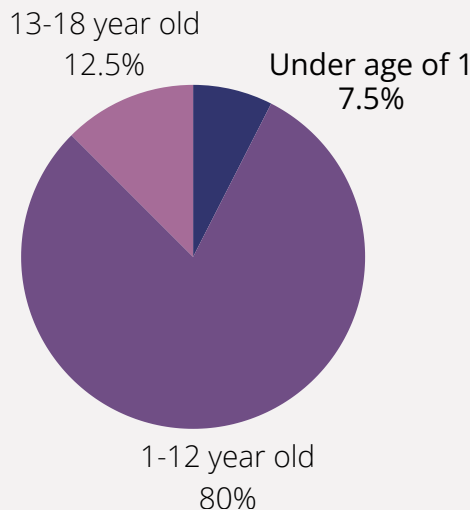
OUR CHILDREN

- 72 children were in CPS Custody
- 40 children were assigned to an advocate
- 32 children were unserved



**CASA served
56% of the
children in
CPS custody**

DEMOGRAPHICS

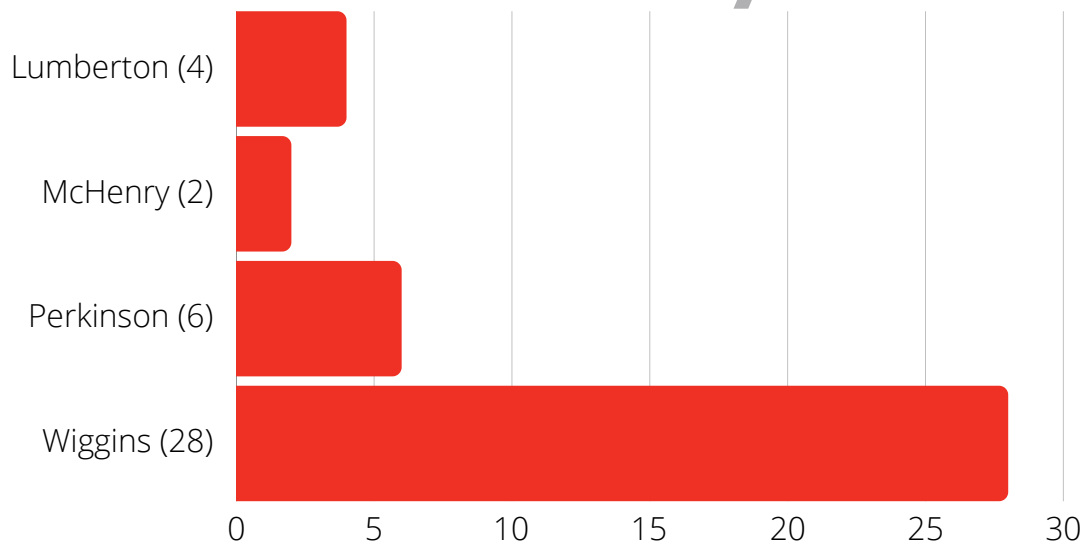


17 MALE

23 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)
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)
DeBardeleben, Evelyn (3)
DeHaan, Laura-Michel (5)
Dollar, Beverly (10)
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)
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)
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)
Hart, Meshayonia*
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)
Lewis, Jesse*
Maisonnette, Caryn (1)
Matthews, Donna (5)
Mills, Mike*
Moore, Diane (6)
Perez, Laura*
Rafferty, Jimmy (1)
Reaver, Anne (3)
Reilly, Kim (7)
Relaford, Jeneé (5)
Renner, Melissa (2)
Reno, Skylar*
Richards, Brooke (2)
Rush, Cathleen*
Rush, Diane (2)
Ryan, Elizabeth*
Sanderson, April*
Shaw, Cindy (14)

Sheehan, Jay (1)
Shirk, Linda (4)
Shull, Scott (1)
Simpkins, Amber (3)
Smith-Pierce, Geraldlynn*
Taylor, Daniel*
Thames, Andrea*
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)
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*
Gaworski, Alicia*
Harrell, Allan (2)
Hildestad, Lawrence (2)
Hildestad, Lori (2)
Murphy, Lynn (1)
Overstreet, Emily (1)
Shelton, Taryn (2)
Smith, Monica (1)
Thames, Johnene (1)
Thompson, Ashley*
Walters, Heather (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



28

Number of child victims served by Remi YTD

28.25

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.



415

Professionals Trained
in TBRI® YTD

22

Caregivers trained in TBRI
Caregiver class YTD

ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT



Adrienne Davis
1 Year of Service
3 Children Served



Vickie Taylor
1 Year of Service
3 Children Served



Corinne Young
1 Year of Service
3 Children Served

CASA IN THE COMMUNITY



04/28/26: Executive Director, Cynthia Chauvin & Program Director, Lauren Saucier with local law enforcement and assistant district attorney at the 2nd Circuit Court District for National Crime Victim's Rights Candelight Ceremony.



05/07/26: Advocate Supervisor, Shannon Dumitrescu with The Mystic Krewe of Seahorse members at a check presentation for CASA at their May Meeting.

In this Quarter, CASA Conducted

- 16 Presentations
- 6 Newsprint Articles/2 Digital
- 12 Booth Events
- 5 Television Appearances
- 237 Radio PSAs Aired
- 8 Local coffee shops partnered to share our CASA mission



06/20/26: CASA Staff, Board, & Volunteers at the CASA table with Representative Kevin Felsher at his Beacon Fundraiser, Burgers & Bushwackers at Coastal Daiquiri Bar & Grill.

FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

CASA GRANTS



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



HisWay, Inc.



CASA MS, Inc.
Growth Initiative
Grant



Administered via
State of Mississippi Judiciary
Administrative Office of Courts



In Partnership with the
Gulf Coast Community Foundation



danos

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



IN-KIND DONORS

Special thanks to these partners for donating time & services:

Butler Snow

Edrington Landscaping

MISSION PARTNERS

FOUNDER'S CIRCLE



Mississippi Power
F O U N D A T I O N

CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS



CHILDREN'S PROTECTORS



CHILDREN'S ADVOCATES



HOW YOU CAN HELP

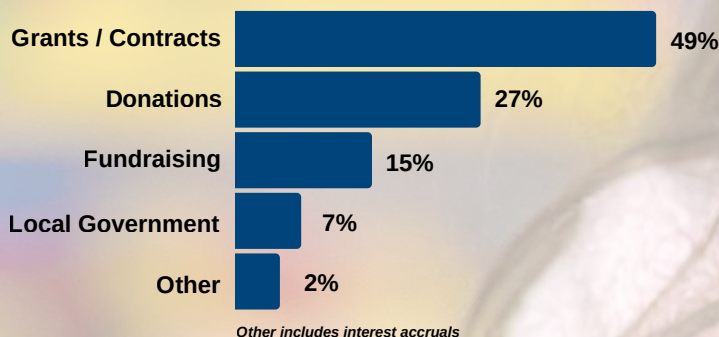
DONATE & CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY

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



Percentages based upon Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Estimates

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.

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