Did You Know?

THE COSTS OF ABUSE & NEGLECT

There are many forms of child maltreatment including physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, as well as neglect. These traumatic events are costly to individual victims and to our society as a whole.

The costs of child abuse and neglect can impact:

- **A Happy Childhood.** Abuse and neglect often lead to low self-esteem and hopelessness. A child’s cognitive and social skills may suffer.
- **A Future.** The impact of childhood trauma lasts a lifetime. There is a strong correlation between adverse childhood experiences and future health issues including depression, as well as increased incidence of physical health conditions.
- **Community-Wide Systems.** The negative cycles related to abuse and neglect tax our justice system. Implications also extend to our education and healthcare systems.

**INDIVIDUAL LOSS = UP TO 20 YEARS LIFE EXPECTANCY**
(CDC-KAISER ACE STUDY)

**NATIONAL COST PER YEAR = $428 BILLION**
(CDC FAST FACT 2015)

Ava and Malik’s Story

Ava and Malik* were born into a violent cycle of domestic abuse and substance abuse. They came to the attention of Child Protective Services after a series of over twelve visits to their home from law enforcement.

A CASA volunteer, Mike,* was appointed to ensure the children’s home was safe. During weekly visits with Ava and Malik, he observed the parent’s progress with Court-ordered services. He also proactively built intentional relationships with the children’s extended family.

In a heartbreaking turn of events, the children’s father died of an overdose and their mother experienced a mental health break. Thanks to Mike’s in-depth knowledge of their family, the children were quickly transitioned to live with relatives. Mike couldn’t shelter the children from loss. However, CASA prevented added anxiety and instability by helping them find a safe home.

*Names changed

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CASA works to strengthen families. We ensure supports are in place so that these children are safe in the present, and into the future, with their families.

When a child isn’t safe in their home, CASA speaks up for them within the foster care system, as well as the courtroom. We know that permanency is vital to their best interest.

Unfortunately, it is not safe for all children to be reunited with their birth families. We ensured that moving forward, these children were in safe homes with vital supports in place.

AT CASE CLOSURE
60% OF CHILDREN WERE WITH THEIR FAMILY OF ORIGIN

53 CASA CHILDREN WERE IN DSS CUSTODY

21 CHILDREN WERE WAITING FOR AN ADOPTIVE HOME

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