

Did You Know?

POVERTY IS AN INDICATOR FOR NEGLECT

Child abuse knows no racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic boundaries. That being said, poverty is often a common thread for families involved in the child welfare system. A lack of resources can contribute to neglect and makes it more difficult for a family to buffer other risks and obstacles. Living in poverty can be linked to deficient parenting and child outcomes such as:

- Low-income families are at a disproportionately high risk of child maltreatment;
- Children from poverty-stricken households are more likely to suffer from chronic health conditions and developmental delays; and
- Income instability is shown to be negatively associated with school engagement in adolescents.

A material percentage of Henrico CASA's cases over the past year have involved the following economic stressors:



36%

Housing Instability



34%

Economic Instability



5%

Homelessness

The high inflation rates we are all experiencing have significant impacts on families already struggling. Our volunteers work to connect families with community resources and supports. These connections are vital because a family's economic stability may directly translate to the safety and security of their children.

Torrie and Tanya's Story

When they met their CASA, Torrie and Tanya were living with their mother, a victim of domestic violence, in a dilapidated and insect-infested manufactured home. It was clear that their living environment was unsafe and unhealthy.

The girls were immediately moved to a relative's home. At the same time, their mother made the courageous decision to leave her abusive relationship and build a new life. She moved to a homeless shelter, but moving forward was a challenge... she lacked a job, savings, childcare, and credit history.

While advocating for the girls, CASA stayed in touch with their mother, connecting her to resources. Their mother secured employment and found a rental unit close to the relative that was caring for her daughters. She is now fully focused on reuniting with Torrie and Tanya.

CASA protected the girls' health and safety while their mother took necessary steps to create a safe, stable home.

*NAMES CHANGED

July 2022 - December 2022 UPDATE



213 CHILDREN SERVED BY HENRICO CASA
SINCE JULY 2022

20%

MORE CASES WITH
ECONOMIC / HOUSING
INSTABILITY

97

CASES IMPACTED
BY ECONOMIC
CHALLENGES

24

CHILDREN SERVED
WHOSE FAMILIES
WERE HOMELESS

Local families are facing growing economic challenges associated with inflation, high interest rates, and lack of affordable housing. Day-to-day struggles that often hinder families include:

- Inconsistent employment
- Poor (or no!) credit history
- Unreliable transportation
- Childcare expenses

These issues impact a caregiver's ability to focus on parenting and adequately provide for a child's needs.

CASA volunteers advocate for services that give children the security they need to thrive.

CASA ensures no child is left behind.

Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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