

# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT



# Canopy Center

CASA of Dane  
& Columbia Counties

• Oasis • Parent to Child

about

# CANOPY CENTER

In 1977, a young mother who had experienced abuse as a child noticed the impact her past trauma was having on her own parenting. This led her to start a parent support group in Madison, and Canopy Center was born. Today, Canopy Center serves hundreds of people annually, providing trauma-informed therapy, advocacy, and support to children and families who have experienced neglect or abuse. We are proud to offer the highest quality human services with the vast majority of services provided free of cost to clients.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to help strengthen families and support children, teens and adults impacted by trauma and adversity.

## OUR PHILOSOPHY & BELIEFS

Every person has worth, dignity and potential for growth. Every person is unique and deserves to have a voice in identifying and addressing their needs. Every person needs positive social connections to fully develop their sense of self and community.

## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Canopy Center will provide equal services and not discriminate against clients or prospective clients on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, marital status, cultural differences, ancestry, physical appearance, political beliefs, arrest or conviction record, or military participation.

a letter from

# OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we near the end of 2022, I can't help but reflect on the unwavering commitment our agency has demonstrated in adapting to meet the evolving needs of families following adverse experiences. This was especially apparent to me, as I completed my first full year as Executive Director and Canopy Center celebrated 45 years serving our community.

The complex needs of the children and families we serve require dedicated support and our staff worked tirelessly to ensure each client received personalized service during this critical time in their life. The heart of our work is carried out through these programs: CASA of Dane & Columbia Counties, Oasis Sexual Abuse Treatment, and Parent to Child Supervised Visitation. Our mission to strengthen families and provide support to those affected by trauma and adversity is the driving force behind everything we do.

In 2022, we also took a significant step forward in growing our agency through the successful merger of the Canopy CASA program with Columbia County. This expansion will allow us to provide essential services to even more families in need.

What sets our work apart is the personalized nature of our approach. Parent to Child provides each child and family with an orientation so they understand what to expect, become familiar with the space and are set up for success. Oasis Therapists thoughtfully plan sessions - choosing a treatment room that will best meet the needs of each client (whether that be through play, meeting sensory needs or simply having a calm space to talk). CASA continues to offer services in-home, supporting dozens of volunteers who give their time to ensure each child has a voice in the courtroom.

I am privileged to witness the incredible dedication of our staff, volunteers, board, and supporters. Without their commitment, none of this would be possible, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

Thank you.



**MEAGHAN HENRY** Executive Director

2022 Numbers

# AT A GLANCE

350

CLIENTS SERVED

7,724

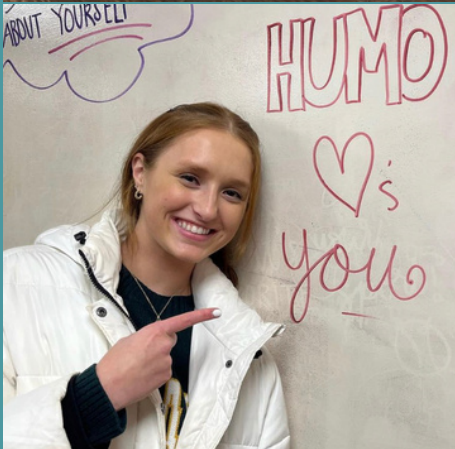
VOLUNTEER HOURS

3,025

SERVICE HOURS

\$336,006

IN DONATIONS




**CASA**

 Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**
**DANE & COLUMBIA COUNTIES**
**CASA**

of Dane &amp; Columbia Counties

## WHAT IS CASA (COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES)

CASA is a nationwide organization that was established by a juvenile judge who recognized the value of trained community volunteers in providing support for children and preparing reports for the court that would enhance a judge's ability to make informed decisions in juvenile cases. In Wisconsin, CASA is included in State Statute under Chapter 48, which permits judges to appoint a volunteer advocate in counties where a CASA program is in place. Currently, the Wisconsin CASA Network operates 10 programs that serve 13 of the state's 72 counties.

## DANE & COLUMBIA CASA PROGRAMS MERGE

Given the shared characteristics between the programs and administrative oversight necessary to maintain a thriving CASA program, Canopy Center and Columbia County CASA were a natural partnership. The merger, completed in 2022, allows CASA staff to dedicate more attention to the children they serve, thereby maximizing available resources for these critical services. As a result of this collaboration, CASA of Dane & Columbia Counties was able to serve 105 clients, providing them with a total of 2,774 hours of service. Furthermore, we trained and swore in 16 new volunteer advocates who are now serving both counties.

## THE WORK OF A VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE

Volunteer advocates visit their assigned child(ren) weekly, often playing card games or building Lego creations. They also connect with schools, caregivers, therapists and other supports in the child(ren)'s life. Every 6-8 weeks the advocate writes a report to the court, updating the Judge on how the child is doing and if there are any ongoing concerns or needs for services. Through their reports, CASA volunteers give the Judge a unique perspective on the child's life.

Sometimes, the work of an advocate is building up a child's self-esteem. For one child this meant cooking some of the child's favorite foods during visits. As this went on, the child turned to the advocate and said:

*"Ten years from now you're going to eat at a restaurant. love the food. and ask to see the chef. Then. I'll come out of the kitchen and say. 'Look. I did it!'"*

*- A child served by the CASA Program*

# OASIS

## Sexual Abuse Treatment

The Oasis Program supports healthy functioning of families who have been affected by child sexual abuse through individual, family and group therapy. Oasis therapists help children and non-offending parents and caregivers reduce the short and long-term effects of sexual abuse, using evidence-based, trauma-informed practices to aid in the development of coping skills. In 2022, Oasis served 109 clients with 1,591 hours of service.

### SUPPORTING HEALING

Whether clients are served individually or in a group setting, treatment goals are similar. The program tracks improvement in proactive behaviors and self-esteem, as well as reduction in self-blame and trauma symptoms. Parents and caregivers have also reported increased knowledge on the impact of sexual abuse, and receive support on healthy parenting practices.



Oasis Summer Camp for elementary school-age girls | July 2022.

### WHAT IT MEANS TO BE TRAUMA-INFORMED

Trauma-informed care can't be summarized in a single word, it is a multitude of efforts to identify and avoid possible triggers that may cause distress. It is a care approach that aims to alleviate worries and concerns for the individual and recognize that their life experiences may have been unjust, unfair, and left them feeling unsafe. At Canopy Center, we go the extra mile to ensure that those seeking our care have a safe and comfortable environment to heal. We acknowledge the barriers that trauma survivors may face and provide assistance, when possible. This may look like gas cards or a cab service so clients can make it to appointments; the use of our on-site kitchen or grocery store gift card so families can prioritize their healing journey.

# PARENT TO CHILD (P2C)

Parent to Child (P2C) provides supervised visitation for families. This program allows parents and children to maintain and strengthen their relationships, during difficult times. Developed in 2015, in partnership with Dane County Department of Human Services, the purpose of the program is to provide safe, supervised visitation for children in the child welfare system and their parents/ caregivers, on nights and weekends. These are valuable times in the week for families to spend time together. In 2019, Parent to Child expanded and began offering this service to the community through private pay.



*1,434*  
**service  
hours**

Since its inception, we have been able to offer visits at our agency in a family friendly environment (play areas for all ages, a kitchen, etc.). We also have a beautiful outdoor space for playing with chalk, tossing a ball, or sledding, when the weather cooperates!



*136*  
**families  
served**

The program also facilitates an evidence-based Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP). NPP is a family-centered model designed to build positive parenting skills and improve connection between the parent and child through competency-based lessons.



*30*  
**interns  
& volunteers**

“Canopy makes the world a better, safer place. I cannot imagine a better parent supervision experience – the service that Canopy provides is irreplaceable. I am so grateful for the work Canopy does each day!”



board of  
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The Law Center S.C.

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Legal Counsel Attorney  
Palmersheim Dettmann

# STAFF

**Mollie Acker**, Parent to Child Case Coordinator

**Lindy Agate**, CASA Case Coordinator

**Marti Ager**, Associate Director

**Jennifer Barbian**, Communications Intern

**Brianna Bero**, CASA Case Coordinator

**Allison Dujua**, Parent to Child Case Coordinator

**Cheri Dvorak**, CASA Program Director

**Kate Essenburg**, Oasis Therapist

**Russ Faulkner**, CASA Case Coordinator

**Kelly Forman**, CASA Case Coordinator

**Meaghan Henry**, Executive Director

**Noelle Hoppe**, Parent to Child Intake Coordinator

**Nikita Kohli**, Oasis Therapist

**Ella Kowski**, Childcare Specialist & Receptionist

**Regan Kregness**, Volunteer & Fundraising Coordinator

**Emmy Lita**, Parent to Child Program Director

**Ryan Main-Luu**, Administrative Assistant

**Jim Nyenhuis**, HR & Volunteer Coordinator

**Amy O'Brien**, Oasis Therapist

**Sean Radcliffe**, Office & Financial Coordinator

**Lizzie Schneiderman**, Communications & Event Planning Assistant

**Nicole Wells**, Oasis Administrative Director

**Alisia Zaremba**, Oasis Therapist

# VOLUNTEERS

We couldn't do this work without the many amazing volunteers who support Canopy Center's programs each year. Because we provide services 14 hours a day, every single day of the year, we rely heavily on these volunteers to advocate for children, co-facilitate support groups, support a safe environment for family interactions, provide child care, help with special events and assist in the office. We are so grateful to each and every one of the below people.

|                        |                     |                    |                          |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Gracee Abeyta-DeDecker | Nicolet Davis       | Quinn Lodholz      | Hannah Sanders           |
| Mollie Acker           | Edna Dawit          | Heather Loomis     | Amy Sandow               |
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| Stella Braimllari      | Tyler-Serie Ganser  | Jessie Mooney      | Ariel Teal               |
| Talia Braufman         | Lacey Goerks        | Ru Nataraj         | Erin Tiedeman            |
| Nikki Bruss            | Anna Green          | Wendy Novitzke     | Nicole Trethewey-Rawling |
| Amanda Captain         | Julie Haag          | Andrea Patino      | Kowjue Vang              |
| Charles Chang          | Catherine Hazeltine | Amanda Patrick     | Kassie Walsh             |
| Dominique Christian    | Patti Herman        | Haley Pitman       | Wandel Weber             |
| Andrea Christofferson  | Harvey Hoon         | Mona Queoff        | Amberlee Webster         |
| Annalisa Chu           | Destiny Huven       | Chrissy Rea        | Allison Wold             |
| Ruth Chvojicek         | Jacquelyn Jackson   | Cat Reiffman       | Alyssa Wolf              |
| Amanda Colborn         | Katherine Johnson   | Grace Riedl        | Tiffany Yang             |
| Jessica Collins        | Abbey Kenaston      | Alice Ripberger    | Alisia Zaremba           |
| Clara Cownie           | Matthew Kenyon      | Andrew Rittenhouse | Karen Zenor              |
| Tim Culver             | Maria Khokhar       | Richard Rose       | Natalie Zitnak           |
| Clifford Cunningham    | Bailey Kusilek      | Richard Rosen      |                          |
| Clarice Danen          | Abigail Leasman     | Mallory Rudolph    |                          |

# FUNDING

## CONTRACTS & GRANTS

Dane County Clerk of Courts  
Dane County Human Services  
Portage Area United Way

Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center  
Wisconsin Dept. of Justice—VOCA

## BUSINESSES & FOUNDATIONS

Alliant Energy Foundation  
American Packaging Corp.  
Cedar Glade Condo Association  
Chipotle  
Columbia County Tavern League  
Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines  
Countryside Portable Buildings  
Fidelity Charitable  
Forward Madison  
John J. Frautschi Family Foundation  
Kappa Alpha Theta

Karma Children's Foundation  
Kiwanis Club of Portage  
National Christian Foundation  
Orange Tree Imports  
Roots & Wings Foundation  
The Scott Richards North Star Charitable Foundation  
The University of Wisconsin - Madison  
Thomas S. Kemp Foundation  
United Way of Dane County  
Wines for Humanity, LLC  
Yola's Cafe

## EVENT SPONSORS

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thank you to our

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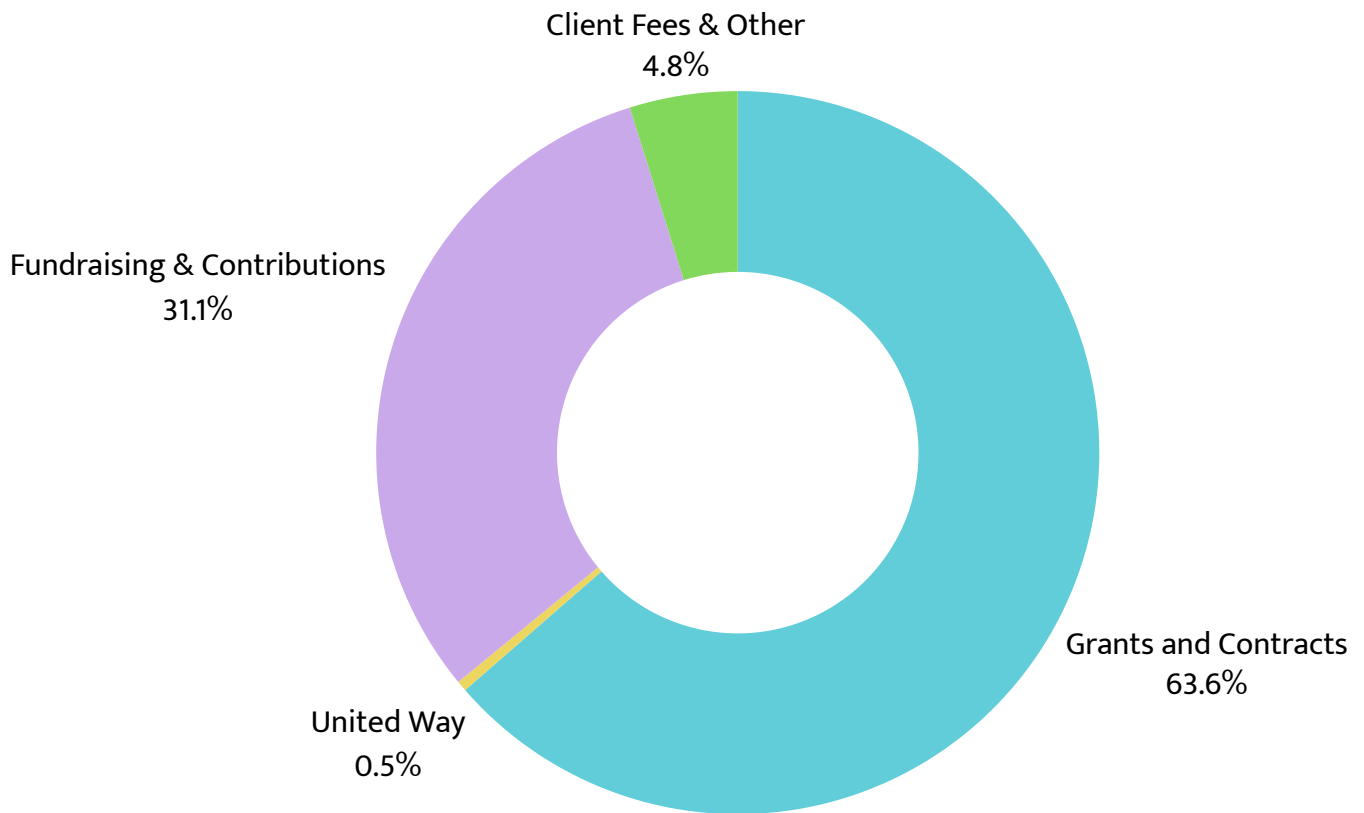
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Popeye's on Lake Geneva  
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Portillo's  
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Willy Street Co-op  
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Working Draft Beer

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

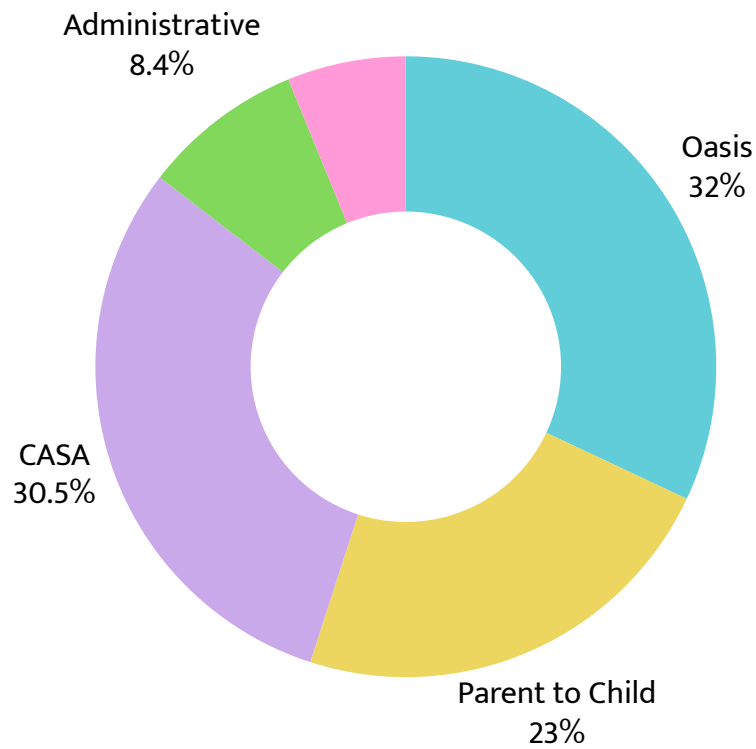
## SUPPORT AND REVENUE



- Grants & Contracts: \$800,305.
- United Way: \$5,910
- Fundraising and Contributions: \$391,525
- Client Fees & Other: \$60,717

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## EXPENSES



- Oasis: \$320,017.
- Parent to Child: \$229,918
- CASA: \$304,667
- Administrative: \$83,848
- Fundraising: \$61,782



To obtain a free copy of this report,  
contact Canopy Center or visit  
canopycenter.org to download.

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*Canopy Center*

CASA of Dane  
& Columbia Counties • Oasis • Parent to Child



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