



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

HALL-DAWSON  
CASA PROGRAM, INC.

# THE GUARDIAN

● VOICES OF ADVOCACY

● STORIES OF HOPE

● UPDATES FROM CASA

**February 2026**

**CASA**  **DAY**

**at the Capitol**



**Left to Right:**  
Seth Vining, Senator Drew Echols, (Chairman Economic Development & Tourism), Cathy Vining

Our team had the honor of participating in CASA Day at the Capitol, joining Georgia CASA and fellow affiliates from across the state to advocate for children in foster care at the state level. Standing alongside CASA programs from across Georgia was a powerful reminder that while our work happens locally, we are part of a strong statewide network working toward the same mission.

This year, Georgia CASA is championing an important initiative to strengthen support for high-volume affiliates serving large numbers of children. As part of this effort, a \$1 million funding request has been presented to help ensure that programs with the greatest caseload demands have the resources needed to recruit, train, and support volunteer advocates. This initiative reflects a proactive investment in children, ensuring communities can continue to meet growing needs.

We are grateful for the opportunity to meet with legislators, share the impact of CASA's work, and highlight the importance of continued support for children and families across Georgia.



**Left to Right:**  
Seth Vining, Emory Dunahoo Jr., (Representative District 31), Cathy Vining



Left to Right:  
Joy Green, Cathy Vining,  
Seth Vining



Left to Right:  
Cathy Vining, Matt Dubnik,  
(Chairman Appropriations, Education), Seth Vining

[VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#)

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## Help Us Share Our Story

Hall-Dawson CASA welcomes opportunities to share how trained volunteers are making a meaningful difference for children in foster care in our community. Our presentations highlight the vital role of CASA advocacy and how one caring adult can truly **Change A Child's Story**.

If you're interested in hosting a presentation or inviting a CASA speaker to your next meeting or event, we'd be honored to connect.



## Looking for a Speaker?

We'd love to connect with your group!

CONTACT

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CHANGE A  
CHILD'S STORY.™

[GET MORE INFORMATION](#)

# From Advocacy to Permanency

Permanency is central to our mission at Hall-Dawson CASA.

We are pleased to share that in January, seven children achieved safe, permanent homes with the support of our volunteers.

7

CHILDREN  
ACHIEVED  
PERMANENCY



Thank you to the following CASA volunteers appointed to seven children who achieved permanency in January 2026:

Wanda F. – 1 child- Reunification  
Fatima S. & Mo R. – 1 child- Reunification  
Beth A.- 1 child- Reunification  
Gregg H. – 1 child- Reunification  
Rita J. – 1 child- Reunification  
April P. – 2 children- Family Preserved

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## Be Part of the Wonder

Women Working Wonders (WWW) welcomes women who are passionate about making a

meaningful difference for children in our community.

If you're interested in learning more about WWW or becoming involved, we'd love to connect with you.



AN AUXILIARY GROUP OF HALL-DAWSON CASA

**EMPOWER WOMEN. SUPPORT ADVOCATES. CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY.**

Women Working Wonders is a dedicated auxiliary group whose support helps strengthen the mission of Hall-Dawson CASA in meaningful ways. Through their generosity and commitment, WWW provides funding for direct needs that are not covered by other sources – ensuring children experiencing foster care due to abuse or neglect have access to experiences and resources that matter.

Because of WWW, children served by Hall-Dawson CASA have been able to attend summer camps, purchase prom dresses, celebrate graduations, and receive support for tuition and other milestone moments. We are deeply grateful for their advocacy, generosity, and the tangible difference they make in the lives of children in our community.

[I'M INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP](#)

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## Meet Our New Board Members



**Matt Crow**

Matt is a lifelong resident of Hall County. He grew up in South Hall where he still lives with his wife Jaclyn and their two boys. Matt is an active member of the Hall County Chamber of Commerce and participates in South Hall Business events through the Chamber. He has strong ties in South Hall and will be an asset as we spread our donor and volunteer base throughout the county.

Matt's wife is the lead Social Worker for Hall County School Systems and has worked with many CASA volunteers throughout her career.

Chief Jay Parrish is a lifelong resident of Hall County and a graduate of North Hall High School. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from North Georgia College and State University and a Master of Public Safety Administration from Columbus State University. Jay honorably served six years in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Chief Parrish began his career with the Gainesville Police Department in 2000 and has served in numerous leadership roles throughout his tenure. He was appointed as the 35th Police Chief of the Gainesville City Police Department in January 2019 and remains actively engaged in the community through service on various boards, committees, and civic groups.



**Chief Jay Parrish**



## Bret Clark

Bret is a lifelong resident of Hall County and currently lives in Gainesville with his wife, Jennifer. They have been married for 27 years and are proud parents of three adult children — twin daughters, age 25, and a 20-year-old son. They are also excited to be new grandparents to a four-month-old grandson.

A 1988 graduate of Johnson High School, Bret began his career at SKF Manufacturing, where he worked for 10 years. Since 1996, he has been active in the real estate investment and development industry.

Bret and Jennifer attend North Hall Church and are grateful to call Hall County home. As former CASA volunteers, they have a unique understanding of and appreciation for the organization's work and mission.

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# Volunteer Spotlight



**Tamila D.**

## Meet Tamila

When asked to describe CASA volunteering in one word, Tamila chose **equitable** — a reflection of her deep belief that every child deserves fairness, advocacy, and a voice.

A retired pediatric nurse, Tamila was looking for a way to continue serving children in our community after retirement. CASA gave her that opportunity — a way to give back while standing beside children who need someone in their corner.

One of her most memorable moments is on adoption day, as the judge spoke and a letter from the family was read aloud, she saw firsthand how every meeting, every report, and every hard conversation had led to something beautiful — a permanent, loving placement. It was a powerful reminder of why this work matters.

Tamila has been serving as a CASA volunteer for 2 years and 8 months, and during that time she has gone above and beyond for her families. As her supervisor Lisa shares:

*"Tamila goes above and beyond for her families. She truly has a heart for this and does whatever she can to ensure the support and success of her families.*

*She is compassionate and a fierce advocate."*

-Lisa Sexton, Advocate Supervisor

**We are so grateful for advocates like Tamila who continue to show up for our community's most vulnerable children.**

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## New Date: Celebration of Hope

The **Celebration of Hope** will be held on  
**April 28<sup>th</sup> 2026**



More details to come.



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