

## 2018 Women's Fund El Dorado Site Visit Committee Report

### Court Appointed Special Advocates El Dorado

Since the Impact Grant award in July 2017, CASA has experienced a change in leadership. Site Visit Committee Chair Claudia Taylor and committee members Avis Jolly, Helen Walsh, Jamie Hartshorn, and Paula Grady met on March 8, 2018 with Interim Director Mayeth Loriaux. Kathryn L. Mathews is the new CASA Executive Director.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) El Dorado is assigned approximately 400 abused and neglected children by a Judge from the Superior Court. CASA matches each child with a specially trained volunteer who will advocate for them in court and mentor them in life. Only about 75% of the children are matched with a volunteer due to a shortage of volunteers.

CASA was awarded a \$6,000 Human Services Grant for the "Five by Six": Wait List Project. The goal of the project was to reduce the wait list by five children by recruiting and training more volunteers. The grant proposal outlined the process of the additional children to be served which includes services received, placement stability, educational progress and outcome data such as reunified with the family, adoption, guardianship or other kinship care.

Due to the recent change in leadership, an update on the status of our grant award was not available to the committee at the time of the site visit. Ms. Loriaux did share during our visit that CASA El Dorado has served 20-30 more cases than the previous year.

Given that Impact Grant recipients are not required to provide a formal Interim Report, it is the committee's belief that once the CASA Final Report is submitted to the Women's Fund El Dorado this July, the projected outcomes of their grant proposal and award will be met.

The committee felt CASA provides an extremely valuable service for El Dorado County. Trained volunteers, with the support of case coordinators, create a positive, long-lasting figure in the child's life.