

# LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY? BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER!

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASA volunteers are everyday citizens, from all walks of life, who are trained and appointed to advocate for the best interests of children who are victims of abuse and neglect.

CASA volunteers frequently become the most consistent adult presence in the child's life, due to the demanding case-loads of the other court-appointed professionals.

What does a CASA volunteer do?



## OUR HISTORY

In 1977, the first CASA/GAL program was launched by Seattle's Honorable Judge Soukup. He believed children who had experienced abuse or neglect needed trained volunteers speaking up for their best interest in the courtroom. Since then, approximately 1,000 programs have launched across the U.S.

## OUR MISSION

Our team works to train and support Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers and guardians ad-litem.

This work is essential to our core mission that every child who has experienced abuse or neglect should have a voice, a safe and loving home, and the opportunity to thrive.

## VOLUNTEER QUALIFICATIONS

CASA volunteers are community members from all walks of life who have been rigorously screened and trained.

Volunteers receive at least 30 hours of pre-service training and complete an in-court observation before they receive their first case and are Ohio Revised Code Rule 48 compliant. On top of that, volunteers complete an additional 12 hours of required continuing education every year.

Volunteers also receive ongoing staff support to walk with them and help them advocate effectively on a child's behalf.

To volunteer, or for more information



Advocates for Families CASA

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# Free Upcoming CASA Volunteer Pre-Service Training Fall 2024!

## Be a voice for a child in your community!

### What is a CASA?

Court Appointed Special Advocates are trained volunteers appointed by the court to provide advocacy for children who are under the jurisdiction of the courts due to abuse, neglect or dependency. The CASA serves as the "eyes and ears" of the court.

### What are the qualifications?

- You must be at least 21 years of age
- Successfully pass screening requirements
- Must be able to pass a background check
- Complete the written application
- Complete the personal interview
- Complete the 30-hour pre-service training

### What is the role of a CASA volunteer?

Meet with the child monthly. Investigate and monitor case progress. Advocate for the child's wishes during court proceedings.

### How does a CASA investigate a case?

To prepare a recommendation for the court, the CASA talks with the child, parents, family members, caseworkers, school personnel, health providers, and others who are knowledgeable about the child's history. A CASA will then make written recommendations to the court.

### What is the time commitment of volunteering?

The time commit is approximately 10 hours per month for the duration of one specific case. Cases can last one to two years.

### How do I apply?

#### CASA Volunteer Application:

<https://oh-ashland.evintosolutions.com/volunteerapplication>

**Thank you for your interest in helping our area's most vulnerable Children!**

### For more information, please contact:

**Nature McPeck Knox County CASA Coordinator**

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