

To give a child a CASA volunteer is to give them a voice.

To give them a voice is to give them hope, and to give them hope is to give them the world.

Pamela, a former foster child

Speaking Up for Abused and Neglected Children

CASA volunteers are specially trained people from all walks of life who advocate for the well-being of Georgia's children in foster care. They are appointed by the court to speak up for a child's best interests.

Providing compassionate, individualized attention to help each child find a safe, permanent home is a CASA volunteer's sole purpose. By meeting with teachers, doctors, lawyers, social workers, and foster parents, they improve the child's representation both in and out of court.

CASA volunteers are a stable influence in the life of a foster child whose whole world has been turned upside down due to abuse or neglect. They give a child hope, by giving them a voice.

Making a Difference

CASA volunteers bring a sense of urgency to getting a child's needs met by the foster care system, and their commitment makes a difference.

A child with a CASA volunteer is more likely to:

- ✓ Find a safe, permanent home
- ✓ Experience fewer foster placements
- ✓ Spend less time in long-term foster care
- ✓ Receive needed healthcare and educational support
- ✓ Participate in extracurricular and social activities
- ✓ Succeed in school
- ✓ Avoid re-entry into foster care

"Being in foster care is living in a constant state of flux. Homes, schools, families... everything is always changing, often suddenly and without warning. The only constant was my CASA volunteer. Without her I would have been lost in the system."

Melissa, a former foster youth

Advocating in Your Community

CASA serves over 90% of Georgia counties with local affiliate programs.

While serving as the eyes and ears of the court, each CASA volunteer:

- ✓ Establishes a consistent, one-on-one relationship with a foster child
- ✓ Gathers information from the child's teachers, foster parents, family members, physicians, etc.
- ✓ Ensures the child has access to needed medical, education, career and housing services
- ✓ Attends court proceedings (usually every 3 - 6 months)
- ✓ Provides an independent recommendation to the judge regarding the child's best interests
- ✓ Promotes safety, permanency and well-being in and out of the courtroom
- ✓ Remains involved until the case is permanently resolved

Visit gacasa.org to find a CASA program in your area.

