



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

WASHINGTON, D.C.



CASA for Children of DC recruits and trains community volunteers to advocate for children and youth in foster care in the District of Columbia. Since 2002, almost 700 people from the Washington metropolitan region have completed training to join DC's movement on behalf of children that have been abused and neglected. Nearly 500 children have been served by these extraordinary volunteers.

CASA DC's four major initiative areas are:

1. Family Treatment Court: Through this partnership with the court, CASA works with children and their mothers who have been charged with neglect, often due to treatable substance abuse or mental health problems. Because of their unique role, CASA volunteers are able to provide the Family Treatment Court Judge with an unbiased perspective on the families of foster children with a focus on their level of functionality and continuing service needs.

2. Preparing Youth for Adulthood Initiative: This program is a collaborative effort with the DC Family Court and DC Child Family Services Agency. It was established for foster youths who are transitioning to adulthood or about to 'age out' of the foster care system. CASA volunteers help them prepare for independent life and enhance coordination among agencies and organizations providing services to these adolescents.

3. Dual-Jacket Initiative: A CASA volunteer in a dual-jacket case advocates on behalf of a foster youth who has been placed in the child welfare system because of abuse or neglect, subsequently arrested for a crime, and then placed in the juvenile justice system. CASA volunteers enhance coordination among agencies, organizations, and individuals providing services to these youths. Their findings and recommendations are presented to the court for adjudication.



4. LGBT Youth Initiative: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender foster youth in the child welfare system are carefully paired with a CASA volunteer. These youths benefit tremendously from a caring supportive adult in their lives. This program is designed to assist foster youths in navigating through the court system while building a positive and healthy identity. The volunteers provide advocacy, support, information, resources, guidance, and positive role-modeling.

Contact us Today to Make a Difference!

CASA for Children of DC

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