



"Being a CASA volunteer is very rewarding, and it gives me a sense of purpose outside of all the other purposes I have."



"If I don't get involved, who else is going to do it?"

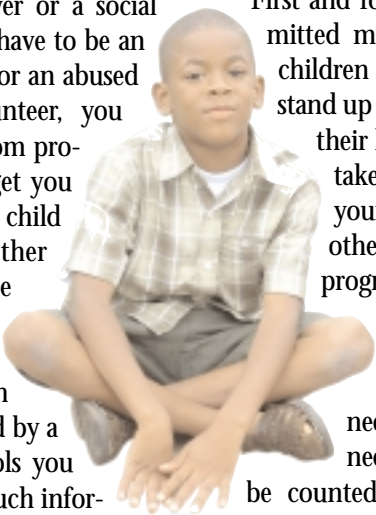


What Is A CASA Volunteer?

A CASA volunteer, is a court appointed special advocate, sometimes called Guardian ad Litem (GAL), who is appointed by a juvenile or family court judge, to provide consistent and caring support on behalf of an innocent child going through a tough personal legal process due to his/her parent/s or guardian's abuse or neglect.

The Role Of A CASA Volunteer:

You don't have to be a lawyer or a social worker to qualify; you just have to be an adult willing to stand up for an abused child. As a CASA volunteer, you receive official training from professionals in the field to get you familiar with the court and child welfare systems, and other important aspects of the case including child development, interviewing techniques, and abuse and neglect. You are then qualified to be court appointed by a judge. You'll be given the tools you need and asked to gather as much information as possible about a child to achieve an objective viewpoint of his/her welfare. You'll review the case to become familiar with the background, gather new data and then develop a report with your recommendation that is shared in the courtroom, verbally or written. It becomes one of several important pieces a judge considers when making his/her ruling on behalf of the child.



Who We Need Most:

First and foremost we need dedicated, committed men and women who care about children and are willing to confidently stand up for them and make a difference in their lives. Ideally we would like you to take on one or two cases a year, but if your time doesn't allow, there are other ways to help. The local CASA program will be willing to find alternative ways to get you involved. With more than 50 percent of the African-American children in need being boys, we have a special need for more men to stand up and be counted as an everyday hero and role model in the lives of these future men.

How Do You Qualify To Be A CASA?

- ▶ Willing to commit for at least a year
- ▶ Able to interview a variety of sources and remain objective in your recommendations
- ▶ Effectively communicate orally and written
- ▶ Willing to go through a in-depth training class
- ▶ Pass a background check

How To Get Involved:

For more information, visit the National CASA Association at www.nationalcasa.org, and also click on the African-American Volunteer Recruitment Program link. Call our toll-free hotline at 1-888-805-8457 to get more information mailed to you. We have more than 950 programs throughout the country, so there's probably one near you.

"I have been with CASA a little over 4 months in training. I am trying to give back. I love children, and I just want to help kids and let them know they do have a voice and there are people who care about them."



1-888-805-8457
www.nationalcasa.org
African-American Volunteer
Recruitment Program



A POWERFUL VOICE
IN A CHILD'S LIFE.



A POWERFUL VOICE
IN A CHILD'S LIFE.

S T A N D U P F O R A N A B U S E D C H I L D

I think you can make a lifelong difference in a child's life. Recognize the everyday hero inside of you, and stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves. Become a CASA volunteer.

I think you can make a lifelong difference in a child's life. Recognize the everyday hero inside of you, and stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves. Become a CASA volunteer.



"Far too many of our children (39 percent of all cases) are reported abused and neglected or worse."

It takes all of us, every day people, to stand up and commit to making a meaningful difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. And it starts very simply with one volunteer at a time.

Far too many of our children (39 percent of all cases) are reported abused and neglected or worse. We hear about many of these sad situations throughout the nation in the media. In many cases, when they survive their abuse, they are taken away from their parent/s or guardian or caregiver and enter the juvenile court system and in some cases, placed in foster care. With so many organizations responsible for a piece of the child's welfare, it's rare that one organization or person really knows the child and what will help to ensure he/she will be placed in a safe, permanent home as soon as possible.

That's where the National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association steps in with more than 60,000 CASA volunteers who are trained by local programs throughout the nation, and appointed by the juvenile or family court judge to objectively speak up in court in the best interest of the child. It is the ONLY organization that empowers volunteers as appointed officers of the court to stand up and advocate for an abused child.

By becoming a CASA volunteer, you become a hero to a child who needs you most, and an everyday hero in your community for doing your part in collectively raising our children and ensuring their safety. Your involvement will make an impact for a lifetime and for generations to come. We invite you to learn more and join us in standing up for abused and neglected children.

The Honorable Judge Glenda Hatchett
(Judge Hatchett's Signature)

AN EVERYDAY HERO



IS INSIDE ALL OF US



A POWERFUL VOICE
IN A CHILD'S LIFE.™

National CASA Association thanks the CASA volunteers and their families for their time and commitment to making this brochure possible.