

**Want to
change the life
of a foster child?**

**You've come to
the right place.**



A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA for short) is a volunteer who acts as an advocate, mentor, and consistent source of support for a child or youth who is in the foster care system. It's a big role, with big rewards.

A CASA'S ROLE

- Establishing and maintaining a one-on-one relationship with a youth who is assigned to you by the Juvenile Court
- Communicating and coordinating efforts with your child's social worker, lawyer, teacher, caregiver, and other professionals
- Ensuring that your child has access to relevant medical, mental health, and educational resources
- Supporting the child in developing and maintaining healthy relationships
- Helping your child understand court proceedings related to their case
- Making recommendations to the court regarding the best interests of your child

Your ultimate goal is to increase the likelihood that your child is placed in a safe and loving permanent home.

A CASA'S REWARDS

- ✓ Gaining knowledge of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems
- ✓ Knowing that you could help to shorten the time a child spends in foster care
- ✓ Making a lasting positive impact on your foster child's life and future



“I believe all children in the foster care system deserve to have an attentive and involved person in their life to advocate for them.

As a caring person you could have a tremendous impact on a vulnerable child.”

— Brad, a CASA volunteer



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“It’s not always easy. Sometimes I have to accept that these situations with children are complicated, yet I know I am still making a difference with the small steps.”

— Current CASA

REQUIREMENTS & COMMITMENT

CASA volunteers range from young adults to retired professionals, and come from all walks of life. You can be a CASA as long as you can:

- Make a one-year commitment (minimum), spending 10–15 hours per month on your CASA case.
- Pass our screening requirements (application, autobiography, interview, reference check, and background screening).
- Complete a comprehensive 30-hour training program (during a period of up to 5 weeks) to prepare you for your role.
- Attend twice-yearly Report and Review court hearings on behalf of your child.
- Complete at least 12 hours of continuing education each year of assignment.

“The ACCASA organization is filled with talented and supportive staff who support the CASA volunteers 100%.”—Current CASA

STEPS TO BECOMING A CASA

- Submit an application, which includes an autobiographical statement and references
- Interview with a Case Supervisor
- Get a fingerprint screening
- Acceptance into the training program

“My advice to new CASA volunteers is stay flexible. Remember that you are walking right into a child’s real life, so be patient, don’t assume anything; allow the child to express their true feelings and meet them where they are.

The time will eventually come to guide them in a different direction. Never give up, enjoy your child, and have fun with them.” —Experienced CASA

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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A CASA

CASA: John, a 30-year-old accountant

Youth: Xavier, a 10-year-old boy living in a foster home

MONDAY

Text note to the foster mother and Xavier, reminding them that I will pick up Xavier tomorrow for our weekly outing.

TUESDAY

Pick up Xavier and take him to the park. Talk with him about his teacher, his homework, and what he’s been thinking about this past week. Find out that he is really worried about the math test coming up next week. We end our visit with an icecream cone.

WEDNESDAY

Meet with Xavier’s teacher and school counselor. Come up with a plan to help Xavier prepare for the math test. Follow-up with two tutors they recommended. Check in with my ACCASA case supervisor.

THURSDAY

Send my monthly update email to Xavier’s social worker and attorney, letting them know how he’s doing. I update them on my ongoing work with his teacher. The social worker emails me back with an update on Xavier and his mom’s next steps in her case plan.

FRIDAY

I call Xavier and check in with him again about his upcoming math test. I’m glad to hear he’s feeling more confident.