

Your Support Makes a Difference

Douglas County CASA is a non-profit organization, receiving financial support from the United Way, Douglas County, the City of Lawrence, and many individuals, foundations, friends, and business sponsors. Your donations help support CASA's volunteer services to abused and neglected children.

Thanks to your contributions, Douglas County CASA also provides:

- A special clothing fund for CASA kids.
- "My Stuff" Bags: backpacks and totes filled with toiletries, blankets, books, and age-appropriate items for CASA kids.
- Summer Scholarships for at-risk youth to attend community day camps (major funding provided by the Ethel & Raymond Rice Foundation).

CASA also relies on community support for our annual Casa4CASA Playhouse Benefit where a lucky winner gains a custom-designed child's playhouse every year.

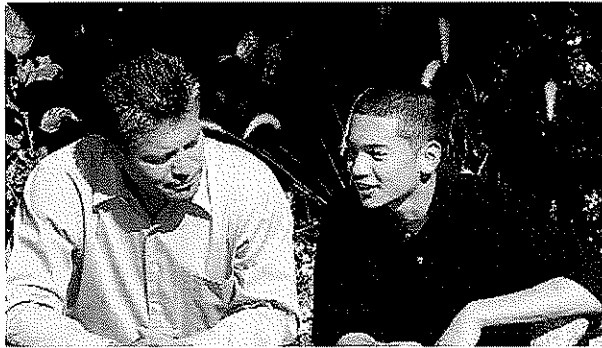
Every child deserves a safe and loving home; your tax-deductible gifts provide the link to get there.

Please send your gift to:

Douglas County CASA
1009 New Hampshire, Ste B
Lawrence KS 66044
785-832-5172 FAX 785-856-1279
website: dccasa.org

"One option is to wait for someone who has all the answers to miraculously show up, but that person doesn't exist. The other choice is to ask, 'If not me, who?' And it turns out that one of the great human gifts is to be able to say, 'With whatever abilities and knowledge I had, I stopped and did my best.' Or as Garrison Keillor said, 'Nothing you do for children is ever wasted.'"

Douglas County CASA Volunteer

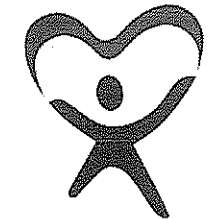
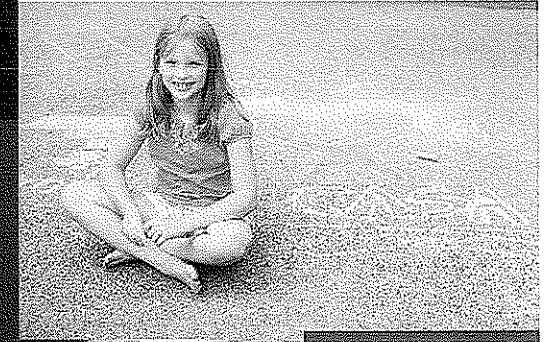


"Although I have been a CASA for only a short time, it has been one of the most rewarding jobs I've had...CASA's lesson for us all is that every child in need is worth helping."

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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

DOUGLAS COUNTY CASA, INC.

"A powerful voice in a child's life"

The History of CASA

In 1976, Seattle Judge David Soukup saw a recurring problem in his courtroom: "When you're involved with a child and you're trying to decide what to do to facilitate that child's growth into a mature and happy adult, you don't feel like you have sufficient information to allow you to make the right decision." To ensure he was getting all the facts and the child's long-term welfare was fully considered, he came up with an idea that would change judicial procedure and thousands of children's lives. Judge Soukup obtained funding to train community volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) who would represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom. This unique program was implemented in 1977 and was replicated across the nation.

There are now more than 950 CASA programs nationwide, with 24 of those programs in Kansas. Douglas County CASA, Inc. was established in 1991, thanks to the efforts of Judge Jean F. Shepherd.

Douglas County CASA

Each year, many children in Douglas County are thrust into the court system through no fault of their own. Some are victims of violence, psychological torment or sexual abuse. Others have been neglected or even abandoned. Most of them are frightened and confused, uncertain of their futures.

Douglas County CASA is an organization dedicated to making sure that these children receive the thorough, detailed attention that they deserve. CASA helps children find safe, permanent and loving homes.

How do I become a CASA volunteer?

Volunteering for CASA provides a unique opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of a vulnerable child.

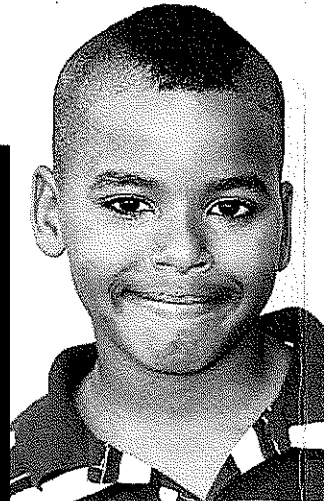
CASA volunteers must:

- Be at least 21 years old
- Submit an application, including references
- Pass background checks
- Interview with CASA staff
- Complete 30 hours of training
- Adhere to all CASA policies
- Commit to one full year of service



"For over fifteen years, Douglas County CASA volunteers have made incredible commitments to many vulnerable children, and they have provided me with invaluable information about those children and their situations to aid me in my decision-making."

Judge Jean F. Shepherd



What do CASA volunteers do?

A CASA volunteer is appointed by the Court to advocate for the best interests of the child in need of care.

CASAs are expected to:

- Establish a one-on-one relationship with the child by spending time with that child regularly, establishing trust and rapport, serving as a friend, mentor and advocate.
- Investigate the facts about a child's circumstances through interviews and visits with the child, the child's family, caregivers, teachers, lawyers, therapists, social workers, and others.
- Monitor services to the child and family to ensure compliance with court orders, including services to meet the child's physical, educational, medical and emotional needs.
- Report factual information to the judge, including thoughtful, objective recommendations pertaining to the child's future in a written report, allowing the judge to make informed decisions.
- Bring stability to the life of a child by staying with the child until their case is officially closed, and the child has a stable, safe home.

CASAs receive ongoing guidance and support from a dedicated staff, including a professional team of Volunteer Supervisors.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Other volunteer opportunities include assisting with special projects and fundraisers, and our Support CASA program. A Support CASA is the spouse of a CASA volunteer who has agreed to serve in a supportive role to an active CASA on their case. They may accompany their spouse on outings with a CASA child. Support CASAs have many of the same requirements as a regular CASA, but fewer training hours are required.