

What is CASA?

CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality intervention and advocacy services to abused and neglected children in Orange County. CASA provides training, supervision and on-going support to volunteers who work with children in the foster care system. Each volunteer is matched one-on-one with a child and acts as his or her mentor and advocate.

The Need

In our community, there are over 3,500 children who have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care due to chronic or severe abuse. Many of these children, ranging in age from infancy to 18 years old, will never return home again. Their only "crime" is that they have been victims, and they now face the possibility of becoming lost in an overburdened system. These kids need advocates to speak up on their behalf.

Our Volunteers

CASA volunteers are ordinary people with extraordinary hearts and the desire to make a difference. Advocates must be at least 21 years old and are asked to make a two-year commitment in order to ensure stability and consistency for the children we serve.

What do Advocates do?

A CASA Advocate visits with a child on a regular basis, interacts with all professionals involved in the case and makes recommendations directly to the court, ensuring the child's best interests are not overlooked. Volunteers make a commitment of 10-15 hours per month.



Our Programs

Mentor-Advocates

CASA's primary program in which volunteers meet two to four times per month with a child 5 to 18 years old. Emphasis is placed equally on mentoring and advocacy.

Infant-Toddler Advocates

A specialized program in which volunteers meet with a child 0 to 5 years old as needed. With an emphasis on advocacy, volunteers monitor the child's case and advocate on his or her behalf to ensure all physical and mental health needs are being met.

Emancipation Advocates

A specialized program in which volunteers meet two to four times per month with teens ages 15 to 18 who are preparing to emancipate from the system. Emphasis is placed on emancipation and building life skills.

Other Specialized Advocate Programs

- Educational Advocates
- CASA's On-Call
- Monitor-Advocates

CASA's Infant-Toddler Program is generously funded by The California Endowment

How Do I Become An Advocate?

The first step in becoming a CASA Advocate is to attend an Information Session to learn what the responsibilities are and how CASA will support you. A current Advocate will share his or her experiences and answer all of your questions. Sessions are given every month. Next, a 30-hour training series is required. We train six times a year and dates are provided at the Information Session. Call (714) 619-5155 for a schedule of upcoming Information Sessions.



How Else Can I Help?

CASA relies on an important group of individual, corporate and community partners to make our life-changing work possible. Financial support is always needed to help recruit, train and supervise new volunteer advocates. Please use the attached response form to make an investment in CASA's important work, or call us at (714) 619-5141 for more information.

Response Form

Yes. I want to Help!

- I would like more information on becoming an Advocate.
- I am interested in other volunteer opportunities.
- I would like to become a Voice of Hope partner by making a financial contribution.

Enclosed is my donation of:

- \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25
- Other amount \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "CASA of Orange County."
All gifts are tax-deductible.

First & Last Name: _____

Company (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please mail this form to:
CASA of Orange County
1615 E. 17th Street, Suite 100
Santa Ana, California 92705

Thank you so much for your interest and support!

You can make a difference in the life of an abused child.

CASA is a powerful model for breaking the vicious cycle of child abuse by speaking up for abused children who are lost in the system and guiding them into safe environments where they can thrive.

Today, hundreds of abused and neglected children in Orange County are waiting for a mentor and advocate. Partner with us and help make a life-changing difference for these special children.



On any given day, in Orange County

there are more than 3,500 children and teens in the foster care system who have been removed from their homes due to chronic or severe abuse – and there are continually hundreds of these children on CASA's waiting list in need of just one special person.

*"No matter what you do, you're giving these kids so much more than they've ever had."
Sue, CASA Advocate*

*"CASA advocates have, in many cases, proved invaluable to the children and are of great assistance to the court in determining what is needed for the child."
The Honorable Robert B. Hutson
Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court*

*"I feel safe with her. I was lonely, but now I am loved."
Chelsea, CASA Child*



Providing stability and hope to abused, abandoned and neglected children by being a powerful voice in their lives.



CASA
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FOR CHILDREN

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www.casaoc.org

