



ONE OF O.C.'S TOP THREE  
BEST PLACES TO VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES  
Voted by Orange County Register Readers 2005, 2006, 2007 & 2008  
COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES OF ORANGE COUNTY (CASA)



CASA of Orange County

## Fact Sheet

**Providing trained, volunteer advocates from the community  
to give one-on-one support to an abused, abandoned and/or neglected child.**

70,000 volunteer hours  
will be devoted to  
children in 2009.

80% of funding is used to  
train and support  
volunteer Mentor-Advocates.

Every hour of paid program staff time  
generates FIVE hours of  
direct support for a child.

- **Hope in the eyes of a CASA child is a person you can count on to respond to your most basic needs for love, for comfort, for guidance and for representation in times of extreme uncertainty.** A CASA child is a child of our community who has been severely abused. A CASA child has been taken from his or her birth parents because of that abuse. A CASA child has an almost guaranteed uncertain future in terms of love and family, education, living situation – every important element of his or her life.
- **The only organization of its kind in Orange County.** After these children have been removed from their families, they are supported by the network of social service, judicial, placement and other agencies that assist children in crisis. There are almost 3,000 children currently in this network, each confronting extraordinary challenges at a very young age – from “crack” babies to abandoned and terrified teens. CASA is the only organization dedicated 100% to helping the most severe of these cases by providing court-appointed volunteer advocates for these kids.
- **This year, 2009 – more than 600 trained volunteers will devote 70,000 hours to helping over 750 children.** Each CASA volunteer receives 30 hours of training and is appointed by a Dependency Court Judge to a CASA child. CASA volunteers spend at least three to six hours every other week with that child in an effort to provide the continuity of support necessary to embrace the child with love and friendship and to represent the child’s interests among the various agencies and entities involved in care and education.
- **In the past 24 years – more than 2,000 trained volunteers have given almost 1,000,000 hours to helping 3,000+ kids.** CASA delivers at “ground level”...where the needs really are, where the kids are confronting real life with no family and few resources. The life-changing benefits to the children are obvious. Our volunteers, our program managers and our financial supporters all become engaged in this critical issue. They share that commitment with family and friends. And thus, the number of people involved in helping these children increases every day.
- **Today – over 150 abused kids are on the “waiting list” in Orange County.** CASA is a critical resource for the court and judges who refer the most severe cases of abuse – the top 20% of children most needing special support. CASA is in demand and cannot meet that demand with its current resources. The CASA formula is simple: additional funding means the capacity to recruit, train and support more volunteers. TODAY, CASA needs another 100+ volunteers to meet current demand.
- **Over 80% of funding is used to train and support volunteer advocates.** We spend money to recruit, train, support and keep volunteers. That is our priority. The balance of our effort is in raising money.
- **96% privately funded.** Individuals, corporations and foundations comprise 96% of CASA’s funding.
- **EACH HOUR of CASA program staff time generates FIVE VOLUNTEER HOURS of direct support to a child.** CASA’s “leverage” is unique: the more capital, the more volunteers from the community...the more trained volunteers, the more children served...the more children served, the better the lives of those children and the lives of all whom they will touch in their lifetime. CASA is an investment in OUR future.