

## ***News and noteworthy -***

CASA was featured in The New York Times Holiday Gift Guide! Since 2009, Nicholas Kristoff has made recommendations to help raise the profiles of organizations that work on issues that change their communities. Kristof's annual "holiday gift guide" has become well known for bridging a philanthropic gap between readers who wanted to help but did not know how, and heroic individuals and organizations who desperately needed resources but did not have the national level of awareness. The column has helped raise the profiles of organizations that work on the very issues he covers in his journalism—health, education, human rights and women's rights, both domestically and abroad. This year, CASA was identified as one of five organizations that Kristof featured in his holiday gift guide column.

"My other volunteer recommendation is Court Appointed Special Advocates or CASA which supports foster youth in nearly every county in the country. I recommend CASA because America's foster Care system is broken, and our 400,000 foster kids need help."

Mr. Kristoff explained that only 58 percent of foster kids graduate high school by age 19, and one fifth are homeless within a year and a half of turning 18 and aging out of the system. By the age of 26, a majority of these young women and men have been arrested. Kristoff described how CASA volunteers provide support and advocacy for children who sometime have no one else to trust while helping them navigate the foster care system bureaucracy.

This article supports our efforts to recruit more volunteers to aid children in our community who do not yet have an advocate.

### ***Choose a Gift that Changes Lives. Nicholas Kristof***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/21/opinion/sunday/charitable-holiday-gift-guide.html>

