

# I am for the child™

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CASA for Children, Inc.  
407 Morton Ave. Moundsville, WV 26041  
1224 Chapline Street. Wheeling, WV 26003  
128 Main St, New Martinsville, WV 26155

## **Key Message**

CASA for Children, Inc. is a local, non-profit organization that trains community members to become Court Appointed Special Advocates who will speak up for the best interest of abused and neglected children in the Courts of Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel and Tyler Counties. CASA volunteers review records, research information and talk to everyone involved in a child's life and then present their recommendation to the court as to what they feel is in the best interest of the child. Judges rely heavily on this fact-based testimony to make a more informed decision on the child's future.

## **10 –Seconds More**

CASA is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by making sure a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving family.

The solution in an overburdened child protective services system begins with a single volunteer. Not a mentor or a —special buddy, but a court appointed special advocate, a CASA Volunteer—specially trained to know what is in a child's best interest, and how to get those interests met by the system. Who knows how to help a child through this time of great vulnerability and fear. And fight for each child until that child is in a place to thrive.

## **Key Facts About Our Cause**

- On average, a child is **moved at least 3 times** while in foster care—often more. Many are **separated** from their **brothers and sisters** during this critical time.
- Foster kids typically attend **9 different schools** by age 18.
- This is a fundamental failure of our community's most important responsibility. Every child has a right to be treated with dignity, to learn and grow, and thrive in the security of a loving home.

## **Key Benefits CASA volunteers**

- **95 percent of kids** with a CASA volunteer **stay out** of long-term foster care.
- **90 percent of kids** with a CASA volunteer **do not re-enter** the child welfare system.
- Kids with CASA volunteers are more likely to be **adopted**.
- We have an initiative called Fostering Futures, which provides specially trained CASA volunteers to youth ages 14-21. The program is built around the framework of the Fostering Connections to Success Act, to help youth identify supportive, lifelong adult connections, and to develop specific plans for their transition to become independent, successful adults.

**Lift up a child's voice. A child's life.™**

*Agency of the United Way of the Upper Ohio Valley  
Member of the National CASA/GAL Association*

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## Mission Statement

The Mission of CASA is to promote and support quality volunteer representation for abused and neglected children in the state foster care system, in order to provide each child with a safe permanent nurturing home. It is our goal to educate the community regarding its responsibility for abused and neglected children and to see to the best interests of the children we serve. CASA is herein referred to as "CASA".

## Vision Statement

It is our vision to provide an advocate and voice for every abused and neglected child in Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel and Tyler Counties.

## Organizational Values

In working to achieve our vision, we act on the following core values:

- Excellence in all our endeavors.
- Inclusiveness, diversity, respect for all cultures and ethnicities: for children, families, volunteers, staff, Board, and supporters.
- Empowering the community through strong screening, training, supervision and support of volunteers.
- Honorable and respectful involvement in the child welfare system, with the courts and all parties.
- Independent and educated recommendations, true to our understanding of each child's best interest, that prioritize children's safety and, wherever possible, preserving connections to their families.
- Responsible use of resources to maximize our positive impact on the child welfare system.

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