

## Help Serve Every Child in Foster Care in Georgia

## Georgia CASA

Bringing Out the Best for Children in Foster Care

### You Can Help!

#### VOLUNTEER

Bring out the best in yourself by bringing out the best for a child in foster care.

You will be trained and empowered to help ensure their essential needs and best interests are being met.

#### **DONATE**

Your tax-deductible donation is a wise investment in the future of our children.

A year of CASA advocacy costs less than one month of foster care and brings us closer to serving every foster child in Georgia.

#### **GET INVOLVED**

Even if you can't volunteer, you can still help.

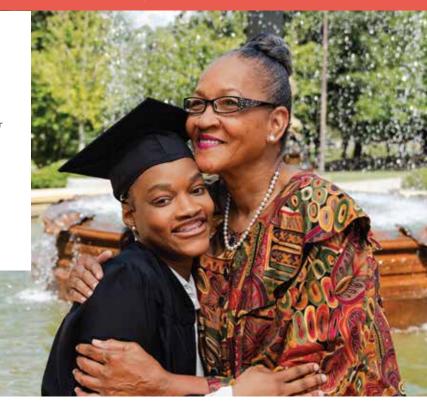
Follow us on social media. Connect with us online and we'll share other ways you can get involved in your community.

> Visit gacasa.org to learn more.





Every day, children who have been abused or neglected enter foster care in Georgia. CASA volunteers are from all walks of life and advocate for the best interests of children experiencing foster care. With a CASA volunteer, a child is less likely to linger in foster care.



CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates

A volunteer-powered network of everyday people committed to ensuring children who experience abuse or neglect have the

opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential with the

support of permanent connections to family.

You can be your best self by helping children in foster care in your community.

To learn more, contact us:









104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 600 Atlanta, GA 30303



"My CASA volunteer always listened and was there for me. I truly don't know if she understands how much it meant that she was always in my corner and cared about what I wanted."

Destiny, a former foster child

# Advocating for Children

CASA volunteers are specially trained people from all walks of life, appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interests of Georgia's children in foster care.

Providing compassionate, individualized attention to help each child find a safe home with permanent connections to family is a CASA volunteer's sole purpose.

By meeting with teachers, doctors, lawyers, social workers, and foster parents, they improve the child's representation both in and out of court.

A CASA volunteer brings urgency to each child's case and serves as a trusted, committed adult for a child throughout the time spent in foster care.

# Making a Difference

CASA volunteers bring a sense of urgency to getting a child's needs met by the foster care system, and their commitment makes a difference.

## Some positive correlations with the involvement of CASA volunteers:

- ✓ Find a safe, permanent home
- Experience fewer foster placements
- ✓ Spend less time in long-term foster care
- ✓ Receive needed healthcare and educational support
- ✓ Participate in extracurricular and social activities
- ✓ Succeed in school
- ✓ Avoid re-entry into foster care

"A CASA volunteer provides ease and structure to the lives of the children they represent by playing the role of a bridge. CASA volunteers meet and gather information from the child, family members, teachers, doctors, and more. The information collected adds support to the child and strength to the case. By connecting all involved, the bridge (CASA volunteers) will carry information to the main source. This pathway aids in removing obstacles, and it assists the judge in making monumental decisions that may forever impact the life of the child."

Marva Merritt, CASA volunteer

### In providing best-interest advocacy, each CASA volunteer:

CASA services are in all of Georgia's

counties, served by local affiliate programs.

- Establishes a consistent, one-on-one relationship with the child
- Gathers information from the child's teachers, foster parents, family members, doctors, etc.

Advocating in Your Community

- Ensures the child has access to needed medical, education, career, and housing services
- Attends court proceedings (usually every 3 6 months)
- Provides an independent recommendation to the judge regarding the child's best interests
- Promotes safety, permanency and well-being in and out of the courtroom
- Remains involved until the case is permanently resolved



Visit gacasa.org to find the nearest local affiliate program in your area.