



⦿ \$1.4 million gift from Rees-Jones Foundation to help Dallas CASA expand

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A \$1.4 million contribution from the **Rees-Jones Foundation** to **Dallas CASA** will help the organization expand. The foundation's gift has already allowed CASA to finalize the purchase of 1.3 acres at the northwest corner of Swiss Avenue and Texas Street.

Beverly Levy, the agency's executive director, said detailed plans for the new building haven't been made yet.

Founded in 1980, Dallas CASA is a nonprofit organization of volunteers who serve as voices in court for abused and neglected children. Volunteer advocates are trained and supervised to make recommendations that help judges decide what is best for each child in protective care.

The agency began with one staff member and 10 volunteers. Today it has 43 staff members, hundreds of community supporters and 500 volunteer advocates helping more than 1,300 children in Dallas County.

"Dallas CASA has been a valuable friend and partner of the Rees-Jones Foundation for many years and has been a tireless advocate for the children in our community who find themselves entangled in the complex foster care system we have in our state," said **Trevor Rees-Jones**.

"The knowledge and passion of the leaders and volunteers of CASA for these children are an inspiration to us."

During the 1980s and 1990s, Dallas CASA was given space in the Wilson Historic District, which is owned by the **Meadows Foundation**.

In 1999, CASA bought and renovated its current home on Gaston Avenue. The agency has experienced significant growth but still serves less than half of the children who come under the protective care of the courts.

"Dallas CASA helps hundreds of children each year," Levy said. "Sadly, it's not nearly enough. Judges want to have an advocate for every abused and neglected child who comes into their courts, and in order to support that goal, we are focusing on significant expansion of volunteers and space in the next few years. The Rees-Jones Foundation is leading the way toward making Dallas County a better and safer place for all our children."

Jan Rees-Jones said: "The new facility will bring added capacity to CASA, enabling them to speak for more children in our community who are today under-represented in our courts."

The Rees-Jones Foundation is a private foundation established in 2006 by Jan and Trevor Rees-Jones with an emphasis on assisting North Texas children and their families. One of its goals is to help abused and neglected children, many of them in the foster care system. For more information on the Rees-Jones Foundation, visit www.rees-jonesfoundation.org.

For information about Dallas CASA, visit dallascasa.org or call 214-827-8961.