



## How you can help children in CPS care

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Stories of abused children can leave anyone feeling helpless. But there are many ways to make a difference in the kids' lives.

"The state cannot solve the problem by itself," said Beverly Levy, executive director of Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). "Everybody has a chance to do something that would help children in care."

The group provides advocates for children removed from their homes by Child Protective Services. The volunteers interview family and attend hearings to help judges determine what's best for the child. Less than half of the Dallas children in CPS custody have advocates because of a shortage of volunteers.

Some children in foster care lack basics like clothes. Others need somebody who cares.

For many, that's Ron Craig. The CASA employee visits local youths placed in other parts of the state because of a shortage of area foster homes. One teen asked him to be presented as his family when he was named homecoming king.

"I've been to a lot of proms and football games," Craig said.

To volunteer with Dallas CASA, call 214-827-8961 or go to [www.dallascasa.org](http://www.dallascasa.org).

In Collin County, call 972-529-2272 or go to [www.casaofcollincounty.org](http://www.casaofcollincounty.org).

In [Rockwall](#) and [Kaufman](#) counties, call Lone Star CASA at 972-772-5858 or go to [www.lonestarcasa.org](http://www.lonestarcasa.org).

Here are some other ways to help:

Donate to Community Partners of Dallas, which raises money for clothing, birthday gifts and toiletries: 214-624-7557 or [www.cpdtx.org](http://www.cpdtx.org).

Support abuse prevention programs: 214-370-9810, [www.childabusepreventioncenter.org](http://www.childabusepreventioncenter.org).

Send a child to summer camp or help with other needs through Friends of Wednesday's Child: 972-231-1433 or [www.wedchild.org](http://www.wedchild.org).

Mentor a youth who has "aged out" of foster care: 214-370-9300 or [www.citysq.org/TRAC](http://www.citysq.org/TRAC).

Help the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center provide therapy: 214-818-2600 or [www.dcac.org](http://www.dcac.org).

Become a foster parent or adopt: [www.dfps.state.tx.us/adoption\\_and\\_foster\\_care/get\\_started/steps.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/adoption_and_foster_care/get_started/steps.asp). See children ready for adoption at [www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption\\_and\\_Foster\\_Care/Child\\_Search/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/Child_Search/default.asp).

If you see child abuse, report it: 1-800-252-5400 or [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org).