

# FACT SHEET

## WHAT IS CASA?

- CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates.
- CASA is a non-profit organization that trains and supervises volunteers who are appointed by judges to advocate for the best interests of child victims of abuse and neglect living in the protective care of the state.

## ON AN AVERAGE DAY IN DALLAS COUNTY:

- More than six children enter the foster care system.
- More than 2,000 children who have been removed from their homes are waiting for safe and permanent homes.

## OTHERS ARE INVOLVED IN THE CASE, BUT:

- CPS caseworkers and attorneys often don't have the resources and time to gather enough information to help judges make the best decisions for children.
- There is often a high rate of turnover with caseworkers, attorneys and foster homes.
- For many abused and neglected children, a CASA volunteer is the one constant person dedicated only to them during a frightening, uncertain time.

## ROLE OF THE VOLUNTEER:

- CASA volunteers act as the eyes and the ears of the judges.
- Volunteers gather information and make recommendations to help judges decide where children can live safely and permanently.
- Volunteers learn the details of each child's circumstances ensuring that the children are safe and their needs are being met while living in foster care.

## THE NEED:

- Dallas CASA is only able to serve three out of four abused and neglected children who need us.
- Our goal is for every abused and neglected child to have a CASA volunteer to advocate for their best interests and help them grow up in safe, loving, "forever" homes where they can thrive.

## KEY FACTS:

- In 2017, Dallas CASA served more than 3,100 children in Dallas County with more than 1,300 volunteers.
- It costs \$2,030 per year to provide a CASA volunteer to help an abused child have a safe, permanent home.
- It costs taxpayers more than \$43,000 per year to provide child welfare services for an abused or neglected child in foster care.
- Donor dollars are optimally leveraged because funds are used to train and support volunteers who provide services for the children through donated time.