

# FACT SHEET

## What is CASA?

- CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates.
- Dallas CASA, a section 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, trains and supervises volunteers who are court-appointed to advocate for the best interests of child victims of abuse and neglect. The children served have been removed from unsafe homes and are in the legal custody of the state.

## Others are involved in the case, but ...

- CASA volunteers typically are assigned to one case at a time in contrast to CPS caseworkers and attorneys who carry heavy caseloads.
- Caseworker turnover can be high and changes in foster care placements, schools and therapists are common.
- For many child victims of abuse and neglect, a CASA volunteer is the one constant, reliable adult maintaining a caring connection during a frightening, uncertain time.

## What is the role of the volunteer?

- CASA volunteers provide information to help judges understand each child's individual circumstances.
- Volunteers make recommendations to help judges decide where children can live safely and permanently.
- Volunteers make sure the children are safe and their educational, medical and therapeutic needs are being met while living in foster care.

### IN DALLAS COUNTY IN 2019:

1,505

children were removed from unsafe homes

4,568

children lived in the state's protective care

3x

While the child population increased less than 1%, nearly three times as many children died from child abuse or neglect.

### DALLAS CASA 2019 KEY FACTS:

1,495

volunteers served

3,644

child victims of abuse and neglect

At the end of the year, Dallas CASA was serving 9 out of 10 children living in protective care.



Our goal is for EVERY abused and neglected child to have a CASA volunteer to advocate for his or her best interests and help them grow up in safe and loving homes where they can thrive.

828,091

days of service were devoted to children by Dallas CASA volunteers

\$2,201

cost per year to serve one child

Donor dollars are optimally leveraged because funds are used to train and support volunteers who provide services for the children through donated time.

