

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.

DALLAS CASA 2021 KEY FACTS:

390

new volunteers were sworn in

1,539

volunteers served child victims

For the past three years, Dallas CASA has been able to provide a volunteer advocate for 100% of cases assigned by all 10 Dallas County courts that preside over cases involving child victims of abuse and neglect.

Nearly

1,000

new children removed from unsafe homes were served

3,113

child victims of abuse and neglect were served



Our goal is for EVERY child victim of abuse or neglect 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.

758,900

days of service were devoted to children by Dallas CASA volunteers

\$2,568

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.