

GETTING INVOLVED.....

For more information on how to become a CASA/GAL volunteer and make a difference in the life of an abused or neglected child, please complete the form below and submit to:

**THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY
JUVENILE COURT CASA PROGRAM
380 WEST SECOND STREET 2ND FL.
DAYTON, OHIO 45402**



- Becoming a CASA/GAL
- Joining the Ohio CASA/GAL Association as a member*
- Becoming a board member of the Ohio CASA/GAL Association*
- Making a donation to the local CASA/GAL program or State Association*
- Purchase a "celebrate Kids" License Plate*

**DID YOU KNOW A
CASA CAN**

- ✓ *Improve communication*
- ✓ *Assist in the development and understanding of parenting/case plans*
- ✓ *Allow a child's voice to be heard in court*
- ✓ *Provide opportunities to clarify issues and concerns regarding the individual and joint expectations of all*



Name

Street

_____ _____
CITY *STATE* *Zip*

Phone, including area code



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

Member of the National CASA Association



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**THE
MONTGOMERY
COUNTY JUVENILE
COURT
CASA PROGRAM**



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

*Nick Kuntz,
Administrative Judge*

*Anthony Capizzi,
Judge*

**CASA PROGRAM
(937) 225-5491**

Volunteers Can Change the Lives of Children

Children deserve safe, stable and loving homes. However, when children are abused and/or neglected by their parents, a court must intervene to help them. Court Appointed Special Advocate/ Guardian Ad Litem volunteers are trained to serve as informed, independent and objective voices in court for abused and neglected children. Volunteer's focus on and advocate for children's best interests and their need for safe, permanent homes.

Research studies show that children assigned a CASA/GAL volunteer tend to spend less time in the court system and foster care, have a better chance of finding a permanent home and receive more services than children without CASA/GAL Advocacy.

Background: *in 1977 Judge David Soukup, Seattle, felt frustrated in making critical decisions for children with no input from the children and only limited information from others involved in their cases. He began recruiting community volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in his court. The concept spread and in 2008 more than 68,000 CASA volunteers served more than 240,000 abused and neglected children through 1,018 program offices. CASA volunteers have helped more than two million abused children since the first program was established in 1977.*

Currently Ohio has 35 local programs serving 38 counties. During 2007, more than 2000 trained CASA/GAL volunteers served over 8,000 children.

Local Programs: *are responsible for recruiting, screening, training, supervising and supporting community volunteers to advocate for safe and permanent homes for Ohio's abused, neglected and dependent children. By having a diverse "pool" of volunteers, programs can match the background and needs of children to the experience, skills, and interests of volunteers. Programs must also meet national standards requirements and raise funds to support local activities.*



Becoming a CASA Volunteer

CASA/GAL volunteers are ordinary people that come from all walks of life, with a variety of professional, educational and ethnic backgrounds doing extraordinary work for abused and neglected children. CASA volunteers must meet the following

Qualifications:

- ✓ *Be a high school graduate or have a GED*
- ✓ *Be at least 21 years of age*
- ✓ *Complete an application and submit three references*
- ✓ *Go through a screening process that includes a criminal background check*
- ✓ *Complete at least 35 hours of pre-service training*
- ✓ *Accumulate 12 hours of continuing education yearly*

Responsibilities *of a CASA/GAL consist of researching a child's circumstances by talking with persons who know the child's history, reviewing appropriate records and formatting the information into a written report along with recommendations to the court with all the relevant facts that will serve as an independent, objective voice for children. CASA/GAL volunteers also monitor cases, make sure services are provided, court orders are carried out and the court is informed of any new developments*

Volunteers spend between 10-15 hours per month working on 1 or 2 cases at a time and are asked to serve a minimum of two years as a volunteer.

Volunteers receive extensive training on a variety of topics that will assist them in their advocacy role including but not limited to legal procedures, communications, Children Services, cultural diversity, ethical dilemmas and report writing.



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