

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 under-standing 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



**THE
MONTGOMERY
COUNTY JUVENILE
COURT
CASA PROGRAM**



**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 today, more than 930 CASA/GAL programs operate in all 50 states, with over 70,000 CASA/GAL volunteers serving approximately 280,000 abused, neglected and dependent children.

Currently Ohio has 32 local programs in 35 counties. During 2003, more than 1800 trained CASA/GAL volunteers served over 7000 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 volunteers consist of researching a child's

circumstances by talking with persons who know the child's history, review appropriate records and format the information into a written report along with recommendations to the court with all the relevant facts that will serve as a 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 two years as a volunteer.

Volunteers receive extensive training on a variety of topics that will assist them in their advocacy role such as legal procedures, communications, Children Service, cultural diversity, ethical dilemmas & report writing to name a few.

