



Olivia K.
CASA Volunteer



Daniel R. and Bob O.
CASA Volunteers



Tara A.
CASA Volunteer



Norma M.
CASA Volunteer



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF TRAVIS COUNTY, INC.

When children can't speak for themselves, CASA Can.

"No matter how resilient children are, they need their very own advocate in a situation like this. I almost feel like we shouldn't be sleeping, we need to do something for these children now."

- Olivia K.

"CASA is a group of top quality adults trying to make life better for abused and neglected kids. And we don't compromise on the best interest of a child."

- Daniel R. & Bob O.

"I feel very blessed to be able to impact little lives. I can't change what happened to them. They're going to have to fight that battle, but I made a positive impact. And I restored some trust in adults, and that really just makes me happy."

- Tara A.

"Sometimes you think you've done enough—worked a full day, taken care of your family. But helping these children pays back with their smiles and their hugs, and knowing it will be better for them because you were there."

- Norma M.

Volunteer with CASA

Your voice will make a difference to our community's abused and neglected children.



April and Max

April and Max were removed from their home because their parents were addicted to drugs and neglecting them. When their CASA volunteer, Jamie, met the children she learned how much they loved and missed their mom and dad. All they could talk about was how much they wanted to go home to their parents and when that would happen, but they were too young to tell that to the judge. So Jamie advocated for the parents to receive drug treatment services and stayed in touch with them to assess their progress as they became responsible parents. As months passed Jamie made sure that April and Max stayed in foster homes together so they wouldn't lose touch with each other. As their parents made positive progress in recovery she advocated for April and Max to be able to spend more time on visits with their parents. Their parents completed drug treatment and parenting classes, and CASA, the judge and CPS agreed that the family should be reunited. Jamie stayed diligent in her monitoring of the parents' progress because April and Max were able to share with her how much they missed their parents.

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Visit www.casatavis.org for more information on CASA and becoming a volunteer advocate.



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CASA OF TRAVIS COUNTY, INC.

7701 N Lamar, Ste 301
Austin, TX 78752
Phone: 512.459.2272
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www.casatavis.org

Volunteer with CASA of Travis County

Imagine the experience of children who are removed from their parents because the people who should have protected them cannot or will not do so. These children find themselves in a world filled with social workers, lawyers, judges, and courtrooms where life-altering decisions are made on their behalf, while they remain voiceless. A CASA volunteer is a court appointed, trained and committed adult who stands by their side, watches over their case and advocates for their best interest.



Olivia, Ben and Sabrina

A CASA volunteer ensures that these children remain a priority in an overburdened legal and social service system. You may be the only guiding presence involved from beginning to end during a child's case. For these children, you will be the difference between instability and permanence, insecurity and learning to trust, invisibility and being made a priority.

Your volunteer commitment



Austin

As a CASA volunteer advocate you commit to spending 15-20 hours per month on one specific case for at least a year. You research the case, talk with everyone involved and build a trusting relationship with your child or children. You will prepare reports to the court based on what you believe is best for the child, helping the judge make the most informed decision possible; you will serve as the "eyes and ears" of the court. The scheduling of your activities is flexible, and you will be paired with a staff professional who supports and guides you every single step of the way.

Training to become a volunteer

You do not need any special kind of education or experience to serve as a CASA volunteer. We will provide you with all the training and support to serve as an effective advocate. The CASA University course work consists of 30 hours of training designed to be a self-paced learning experience. In addition, you will participate in 3 hours of courtroom observation to watch trained advocates in action. All training is completed before you work directly with children on a case. You will begin your course work with CASA 101: What it means to be a CASA volunteer. Afterwards, you may take the remaining 9 sessions in the order that works for you. Classroom sessions are offered at a variety of times and dates providing you with maximum flexibility. Current training schedules are available on our website, www.casatrails.org.



Carissa



Damien, Shawn and Ashley

What you need to do to become a CASA volunteer

1. Complete and submit your volunteer application, available on our website.
2. Schedule your pre-training interview.
3. Attend the CASA 101 training.

You must be at least 21 years of age and be able to pass extensive reference, Child Protective Services and criminal background checks before becoming a CASA volunteer. You cannot be a current foster parent or be in the process of adopting a child from Child Protective Services.

Questions?: Contact CASA's volunteer team via email: volunteer@casatrails.org or by phone: 512.459.2272. The volunteer application, training schedules and additional information are all just a click away at www.casatrails.org.