



I'm Interested in CASA—How Can I Help?

1. ***Become An Advocate***

A judge appoints a CASA advocate to represent the best interests of an abused or neglected child in court proceedings. A CASA advocate attends 40 hours of training before he or she can become a child's advocate in court. A child abuse case can last a year or longer and a CASA volunteer is an advocate for the child during the entire time—usually an 18-month commitment is required. As an advocate, you will review records, research information and talk to everyone involved in the child's case. You will be assigned to a case manager who will mentor you and review your reports prior to submission to the judge. You will report to the judge and monitor the case, making sure the child remains safe, until a permanent resolution is reached. There is no special experience required.

2. ***Become a Member of the Speakers' Bureau***

The Speakers' Bureau is associated with CASA of DuPage County, and its goal is to generate community awareness and participate in fundraising activities by speaking to service organizations, businesses and faith-based organizations. Speakers go through training and can be called upon to speak one to two times per month.

3. ***Become a Friend of CASA***

Friends of CASA is a volunteer organization that helps with fundraising and special projects. You can help even if you're busy and don't have time to meet with other people on a regular basis--Friends are currently involved in various projects such as researching service organizations, developing newsletters, and participating on fundraising committees.

4. ***Become a CASAPAK Member***

CASAPAK members focus on developing better relationships with elected officials who represent DuPage County at the county, state and federal levels. They are also interested in legislation and potential impacts on CASA and the services it provides.

5. ***Become a Board Member***

The CASA Board of Directors is responsible for providing strategic direction and executing CASA's goals. The Board is seeking new members who have a variety of skills and who are interested in making a difference in a child's life. The Board meets on a monthly basis and is involved in leading other efforts that benefit CASA.

6. ***Become a Donor***

The cost of supporting one child is \$3,000 per year. In 2002, there were approximately 880 cases involving DuPage County children who had been physically, sexually or emotionally abused. Out of those 880 cases, CASA served a total of 217 children. Your generous support is necessary for CASA to provide the level of training, support and supervision required to sustain and grow the program.

7. ***Become an In-Kind Sponsor***

Over the years, CASA has benefited greatly from the generosity of its many in-kind supporters. You can help advance our important mission by donating goods or services to defray costs associated with training space rental, computer equipment, technical consultation, color printers, graphic design/printing services, etc. By reducing overhead expenses, CASA is enhancing its ability to invest directly in the children to whom we serve.

If you are interested in finding out how you can participate in any of these areas, please contact Sandy Portincaso, Training Coordinator, at (630) 836-9131 for more information.

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