



# Court Appointed Special Advocates of the Fox Cities

## About CASA

The mission of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, together with its state and local members, is to support and promote court-appointed volunteer advocacy so that every abused or neglected child can be safe, establish permanence and have the opportunity to thrive.

National CASA and our network of 955 local community programs support volunteers serving children. The role of local CASA programs is to recruit, train and support volunteers in their work with abused children. CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children, to make sure they don't get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system or languish in inappropriate group or foster homes. Volunteers stay with each case until it is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. For many abused children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult presence in their lives.

Judges appoint CASA volunteers to represent the best interests of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. Each year, more than 700,000 children experience foster care in this country. Because there are not enough CASA volunteers to represent all of the children in care, judges typically assign CASA volunteers to only their most difficult cases.

Today there are almost 1,000 CASA programs around the country. It is a unique blend of private support, public need and the kind of people power that comes from 70,000 volunteers all committed to the rights of every child in the foster care and child welfare system.

Volunteers get to know the child by talking with everyone in that child's life; parents and relatives, foster parents, teachers, medical professionals, attorneys, social workers and others. They use the information they gather to inform judges and others of what the child needs and what will be the best permanent home for them. Volunteers do not have to be a lawyer or social worker to be a volunteer. People from all walks of life are welcome. CASA is simply looking for people who care about children and have common sense. Volunteers are thoroughly trained and well supported by professional staff to help them through each case.

## Contact

**Robyn Gruner, President of CASA of the Fox Cities**

715.735.1111 | (920) 735-1111



## Request

Wisconsin has a state CASA as well as 6-7 local chapters with the closest

being in Brown County. We are trying to start a chapter in Outagamie County. We have initial approval to start formulating a chapter, but need to meet a list of criteria within the next 6-12 months before we are certified.

Some of the key program areas that can use assistance are:

- Volunteer Recruitment and Public Awareness
- Resource Development, Fundraising and Grants

## Why CASA?

- Independent research has demonstrated that children with a CASA volunteer are substantially less likely to spend time in long-term foster care and less likely to reenter care.
- Since its creation by a family court judge in Seattle, Court Appointed Special Advocates has become one of the most effective programs of its kind.
- CASA not only helps an overburdened child welfare system, but also provides cost-effective service.

