

CASA Corridor of East Tennessee

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)



Our Mission

The mission is to recruit and train citizen volunteers to 'speak out' for the best interest of abused and/or neglected children who are before the juvenile courts through no fault of their own. CASA advocates work to preserve the rights of each child to a safe, loving, home.

CASA Corridor of East Tennessee is a nonprofit organization which began advocating for abused and/or neglected children in McMinn, Meigs, and Rhea Counties in 2007.

Currently there are **28 programs serving 47 counties in Tennessee**. This means **48 counties do not have a CASA program** available for their children.

In Tennessee, over **1,197 CASA volunteers served 5,421 abused and neglected children** in FY 2014 - 2015. A total of **119,454 hours** were contributed by trained CASA volunteers. The median cost per child served is \$742, well below the national median of \$1,140.

In 2014, Tennessee Kids Count reported 66,481 reports of abuse and/or neglect. Of those reported, 8,058 were substantiated.

As of December 2014, there were 704 reports of abuse in McMinn County, 147 in Meigs County, and 367 in Rhea County.

Facts About CASA

CASA is a nationwide program in operation since 1977.

What is a CASA Volunteer?

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer is a trained citizen who is appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interest of an abused or neglected child in court.

What is the CASA volunteer's role?

A CASA volunteer provides the judge with carefully researched information about the child to help the court make a sound decision about that child's future. The CASA volunteer prepares written reports to the court and follows through until the child reaches a safe, permanent home.

What children are assigned to CASA volunteers?

Children who are victims of abuse and neglect who come to the attention of the court are assigned CASA volunteers.

How does a CASA volunteer investigate a case?

To prepare a recommendation, the CASA volunteer talks with the child, parents, family members, social workers, school officials, healthcare providers, and others who are knowledgeable about the child. The CASA volunteer also reviews other records pertaining to the child. Information gathered by the CASA volunteer provides valuable insight in the child's best interests.

How does the CASA volunteer relate to the child he or she represents?

CASA volunteers offer children trust and advocacy during complex legal proceedings. They explain to the child the events that are happening, the reasons they are in court, and the roles of the judge, lawyers, and social workers. CASA volunteers encourage the child to express his opinion and hopes, yet maintaining their own objectivity. CASA volunteers are often the one main constant adult in their lives.

How many cases on average does a CASA volunteer carry at one time?

Volunteers typically carry one or two cases at one time.

How much time does being a CASA volunteer require?

After thirty hours of initial training, volunteers typically work about 10-15 hours a month. The volunteer continues until the case is permanently resolved.

For more information contact:

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I am for the child™