

# THE CHURCH CHALLENGE

CASA's mission supports the 'orphans' of our day - a mission that also resonates with the very heart of God. In this season, I am compelled to launch a broad scale campaign to meet the needs we see each day - needs that many do not see from the safety of their homes.

We have need of volunteers, board members, and funding to help us reach our goal to match every child in the system with an advocate. There is no other role within the system that matches a child with an adult who has the unique ability to advocate within the court system where critical decisions are made.

As we face the challenges of securing funding during COVID, and the loss of a significant federal funding source within the next year, we would like to issue an appeal to all the churches within our geographic area. There are over 400 churches in Barry, Eaton and Ingham Counties. Our difficulties would be alleviated if every church in our geographic area gave just \$600 per year (which supports one child/advocate match for six months).

Additionally, if every church sponsored one child/advocate match at \$1200 per year, CASA's yearly budget would be fully met - enabling valuable staff energies to focus on volunteer engagement and direct service to children.

We would love to have your members get involved in CASA's mission—through volunteerism, financial support, or inviting others to hear about the impact of CASA's involvement with children. Think of how the fabric of our community could change if every child had one consistent caring adult.

**As a fellow believer, I humbly challenge EVERY church in Barry, Eaton and Ingham Counties to impact the future of these precious children by minimally doing these two things:**

- 1. Commit to giving \$600/year to support an advocate/child match for six months.**
- 2. Listen to our virtual Campaign to C.A.R.E. during the third week of November to hear more about CASA's mission and ways to get involved.**

Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider responding to the needs of the children within our very own communities. I would be happy to talk about how we also may promote your church's support.

In Grateful Support,



Becky Carson  
Executive Director  
CASA for Kids, Inc. Barry, Eaton & Ingham

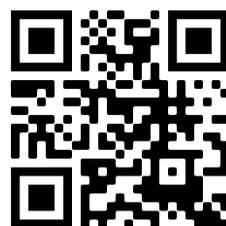
## I WILL JOIN CASA'S CAMPAIGN TO C.A.R.E.!

YES! I would like to support financially. Send in the response card or give online at <http://www.casaforkidsinc.org/give.html>.

YES! I would like to learn how to get involved. Please complete and mail in the attached form below or complete the online form at: <http://www.casaforkidsinc.org/serve.html>.

YES! I will listen to CASA's virtual Campaign to C.A.R.E. to learn more about CASA's impact with children. The Campaign to C.A.R.E. Event page will feature CASA's event video on November 15<sup>th</sup> at: <http://www.casaforkidsinc.org/events356623.html>.

*Please contact our office with any questions at 517.331.9311.*



# CAMPAIGN TO C.A.R.E.



# C

## CHILD

It's the children we care about - the most vulnerable children who have experienced things no child should ever have to experience. These children have a face and a name. They could be your relative or your neighbor. They are resilient - both strong and vulnerable. Their stories are painful yet remarkable.

# A

## ABUSE ADVOCACY

CASA for Kids, Inc. provides highly trained volunteers who advocate within the court system and the community to make sure the right things happen for children who are involved with the court system due to abuse and neglect. These special volunteers, Court Appointed Special Advocates, are appointed by the judge to be the eyes and ears of the court and a voice for the child to support their needs and advocate for placement in the most appropriate safe and caring permanent home.

# R

## REQUIRES

The complexities of abuse and neglect of children require a community response. Children cannot advocate for themselves. The system is challenged. It is our responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children within our community. The right things often do not happen for children without someone directly assigned to attend to their needs and their best interest. It requires a community response.

# E

## EVERYONE

There's a role for EVERYONE!

Learn more about the opportunities in each of these areas!

VOLUNTEERS | BOARD MEMBERS | DONORS | PARTNERS | SPONSORS | CONNECTORS

## WILL YOU JOIN CASA'S CAMPAIGN TO C.A.R.E.?

## One caring adult

*“I didn’t know much about Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) until I saw an article in the local newspaper looking for volunteers,” says Diana. The article shared that there was a waiting list of foster children needing CASA volunteers. **“It made my heart hurt and it hit close to home since I had been a foster child and know too well the challenges of growing up in the system.”***

CASA provides highly trained volunteers who advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children in the court and in the community. *“For us,” Diana says, “being a CASA volunteer means not just listening to the children, but hearing them. Being their voice. Being the one constant person in their life - someone who believes, supports and encourages them. It is being their advocate in court, when tough decisions need to be made.”*

Diana was an advocate for two sisters. *“When I first met \*Shondra and \*Jalia, they sat very close together on the couch, far across the room from me. **They were quiet and appeared afraid, as they were in their second home in three months.** Their answers were a few words at the most, with the younger looking to the older before responding. **Slowly they opened the door wider to let me in.”***

*“Week by week I would visit, play tennis with them or just be present at the co-parenting time with their father. **The parents were not bad people, they just made poor choices.** I witnessed the girls each turn a year older – and watched them blossom.” Gratefully, CASA’s involvement supported not only the girls, but also the father in his recovery, and the girls were able to successfully return to their father – the outcome they hoped for. Reunification may not have occurred without the CASA’s consistent support and involvement. **CASA changed Shondra and Jalia’s stories – forever altering their life paths.***

Diana’s story highlights the impact volunteers have with our community’s most vulnerable children – those touched by abuse and neglect. CASA’s advocacy helps reduce the transition, loss and trauma experienced by many children in the system.

***YOUR commitment to C.A.R.E. changes their stories.***

## YES! I WILL JOIN CASA’S CAMPAIGN TO C.A.R.E.!

### Campaign To C.A.R.E Gift Options:

- Our church will commit to giving \$600/year to support CASA’s mission.
- Our church will commit to giving \$1200/year to support CASA’s mission.
- Our church will make a monthly gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support CASA’s mission.
- Our church will make a yearly gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support CASA’s mission.
- Our church will make a one time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support CASA’s mission.

### Additional ways to contribute to CASA’s mission:

- I would like information about volunteer opportunities.
- Please send us information about sponsorship opportunities.
- Please **SHARE** our Campaign to C.A.R.E. with your friends and family and plan to listen to our virtual event during the third week of November to hear more about CASA’s mission and ways to get involved.

Our church is interested in participating in **CASA’s Campaign to C.A.R.E. Info Session for churches offered monthly.**

CHURCH NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

### FORM OF PAYMENT

\_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed (make payable to CASA for Kids, Inc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card

Name On Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **CASA for Kids, Inc., 3303 Saginaw St., Ste. B2, Lansing, MI 48917**

CASA for Kids, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service