

One Caring Adult

"I didn't know much about Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) until I saw an article in the newspaper looking for volunteers," says Diana. The article shared about 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. *"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 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. ***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 reduces the transition, loss and trauma experienced by children in the system.

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

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

- YES! I would like to learn how to get involved. Please complete and mail in the attached form 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 <http://www.casaforkidsinc.org/events356623.html>.
- YES! I would like to support financially. Call the number below or support online at <http://www.casaforkidsinc.org/give.html>.

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.?

The Diversity Appeal

As many are aware, there is a significant challenge with disproportionality in the child welfare system wherein Black/African American children are significantly overrepresented. The percentage of Black/African American children in the foster care system exceeds the percentage in the general population at a rate of 2.0 across Michigan as a whole. The graphs at the right portray the percentage of Black/African American children involved in the child welfare system served by CASA and the percentage of Black/African American children in the general population of Barry, Eaton and Ingham Counties.

It is our mission to advocate for the wellbeing and best interest of each and every child we serve in a manner that recognizes and embraces their racial/ethnic/cultural identity, norms and values.

It is CASA's goal to have a volunteer population that reflects the demographics of the children we serve to ensure the best relatability and advocacy for children in care.

We are far from reaching this goal.

We appeal to you, to consider how you can get involved to become an advocate for a child, a board member, or a connector within our organization. It is our responsibility as the community to make sure our most vulnerable children have the best opportunity to thrive.

It is CASA's 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 occur.

The need is great.

The impact is great.

Our volunteers often share that when they got involved to make a difference with children, their lives were unexpectedly changed as a result. Their eyes were opened and hearts filled by the beauty and resilience of children whose lives have extraordinary potential.

Thank you for taking the time to consider and respond to this urgent need within our own community. Think of how the fabric of our community could change if every child had one consistent caring adult.

In Grateful Service,



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

Fiscal Year 2019- 2020 Race/Ethnicity of Ingham County Children Served							
Ingham	B/AA	MRI	C	A/PI	NAI/AN	H/L	Non H/L
Children CASA Served	66%	24%	10%	0%	0%	3%	97%
Census Gen Population	12.4 %	4.2%	75.6%	7.1%	.6%	8%	92%

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Race/Ethnicity of Eaton County Children Served							
Eaton	B/AA	MR	C	A/PI	NAI/AN	H/L	Non H/L
Children CASA Served	21%	3%	70%	0%	6%	18%	82%
Census Gen Population	7.2%	2.6%	87.1%	2.5%	1.5%	5.7%	94.3%

Fiscal Year 2019-2020, Race/Ethnicity of Barry County Children Served							
Barry	B/AA	MR	C	A/PI	NAI/AN	H/L	Non H/L
Children CASA Served	5%	10%	85%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Census Gen Population	.7%	1.6%	96.6%	.5%	.6%	3.1%	96.9%

Note: The Court refers every child for an advocate in Barry and Eaton Counties. The children served are representative of the children coming into care. CASA served 100% of the Ingham County children referred through the court process.

B/AA Black/African American
MR Multi-Racial
C Caucasian
A/PI Asian/Pacific Islander
NAI/AN Native American Indian/Alaska Native
H/L Hispanic/Latino
Non H/L Non-Hispanic/Latino

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

- I will listen to CASA's virtual Campaign to C.A.R.E. to learn more about CASA's impact with children.
- I would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate for the children in our community who have experienced abuse and neglect.
- I would like to learn about other opportunities to volunteer.
- I would like to learn about opportunities to financially support.

Name (first, middle & last): _____

Full Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____