



A powerful voice for foster children

CASA of Los Angeles Fact Sheet

CASA of Los Angeles...

Supports volunteers who help abused and neglected foster children in court and the community.

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)...

is a trained and supervised volunteer, appointed by a judge to advocate for a foster child – a child who is under the court’s protection because of abuse or neglect. A CASA volunteer gathers information, writes reports, and makes recommendations to the judge in the child’s best interests.

Friends of CASA...

is the fundraising arm of CASA of Los Angeles. Funds raised by Friends of CASA underwrite the training of CASA volunteers, the support services CASA volunteers need to make a difference in these children’s lives, and directly provide assistance to abused and neglected children.

CASA of Los Angeles Serves...

approximately 500 foster children each year. They are of all ages, races and ethnicities. Since CASA volunteers are typically assigned the most challenging cases, many “CASA kids” have learning disabilities, physical disabilities, severe emotional and mental problems.

CASA of Los Angeles Statistics:

- Established in 1978
- 400 volunteers
- 18 administrative and program staff
- 450 children with CASAs at any given time
- Annual spending is \$2,100 per child
- 28,000 foster children in Los Angeles County in 2007

How CASA Makes a Difference:

CASA volunteers make a difference in the lives of foster children, one child at a time, by ensuring they receive the support and help they deserve. Studies have shown that children with CASAs receive more assistance and support than children without. When a foster child has a CASA, that child has a consistent adult guaranteeing that the child's needs are heard and addressed in court. The CASA volunteer is often the most stable presence in a foster child's life and for many foster children, the CASA volunteer is the only person who is not paid to care for them. CASA volunteers bring the voice of the community into a child welfare system that is often overly bureaucratic and legalistic.

Who We Are:

CASA of Los Angeles is a public-private partnership between the Los Angeles Superior Court and Friends of CASA, a non-profit organization. The Los Angeles Superior Court created CASA of Los Angeles in 1978, making it one of the first five CASA programs in the nation. Friends of CASA was created in 1983 to raise funds to support the program. CASA of Los Angeles operations are managed by the Los Angeles Superior Court, and its fundraising activities are managed by Friends of CASA. The work of CASA volunteers is authorized and regulated by California law and standards established by the National CASA Association.

CASA of Los Angeles Leadership:

Michael Nash, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, Los Angeles Superior Court

Pat Trendacosta, President, CASA of Los Angeles

Bruce Herron, Interim Executive Director, CASA of Los Angeles

For additional information about CASA of Los Angeles visit www.casala.org or call (323) 526-6666.