

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Becoming a CASA volunteer is a rewarding commitment. Here are some of the most often-asked questions we hear about volunteering. Remember: When you choose to become a CASA volunteer, you become an advocate for an abused or neglected child in your community.

## **What does a CASA volunteer do?**

CASA volunteers provide a powerful voice in court for abused and neglected children. They investigate, examine, and recommend to the judge the best options for a child to be safe, have a permanent home, and to thrive.

CASA volunteers spend most of their time interviewing people involved in the child's life and the case, including teachers, foster parents, attorneys, caseworkers, counselors, parents, medical professionals and family members to determine the facts and circumstances of the child's situation.

## **How big is the time commitment?**

Each case lasts, on average, two years and requires approximately 10-15 volunteer hours each month. For the children's sake, CASA programs require volunteers to commit to the case as long as the assigned child or family of children remains a ward of the court.

## **What type of training will I receive?**

CASA volunteers receive approximately 40 hours of in-depth training through their local CASA program. Upon completion all volunteers will be sworn in before the local judge and will then be assigned a case. A CASA program supervisor provides the volunteer with guidance and support throughout the case.

## **Does the judge listen to a CASA volunteer's recommendations?**

Yes! Judges rely heavily on the reports and testimony of the CASA volunteer to make an informed decision on the child's future. The judge is aware that a CASA



volunteer is typically assigned to just one or two cases and is a continuous presence in that child's life.

**Can I leave town while I'm a CASA volunteer?**

Yes! Many volunteers go on vacation. Your supervisor can cover for you.

