

How Can I Help?

VOLUNTEER TO BE A CASA/GAL

One of the most challenging and rewarding volunteer opportunities you can find. Training is free.

DONATE

Boone County CASA is a not-for-profit agency. We depend upon local funding and private contributions to advocate for our community's most vulnerable children. Your financial gift will help us provide a volunteer advocate for every abused and neglected child in our community.

VOLUNTEER TO BE A FRIEND OF CASA

Offer in-kind expertise in marketing, publicity, finance, public awareness and fundraising for various CASA projects.

REQUEST A CASA PRESENTATION

Consider a speaker who will discuss Boone County CASA's work and role in the community in a presentation for your business, church, club, or social organization.

VOLUNTEER TO BE A MEMBER OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Help oversee the management of the Boone County CASA organization.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Call us about Planned Giving gifts or Memorials and Honorariums.

Please Send Me Information

- SERVING AS A CASA/GAL
- THE VOLUNTEER INTERPRETER'S PROGRAM
- FRIENDS OF CASA
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- SPEAKER'S BUREAU
- NEWSLETTER INFORMATION
- I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE \$_____.

Any support or help you can provide will ensure that Boone County's abused, neglected and dependent children have a CASA/GAL to safeguard their health, safety and best interests.



Please return to:

BOONE COUNTY CASA
P.O. Box 888
BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Phone 815.547.6599
Fax 815.547.6588

staff@casaboone.comcastbiz.net
www.boonecountycasa.org



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

Boone County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

State of Illinois
17th Judicial Circuit

P.O. Box 888
Belvidere, IL 61008

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Boone County CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates are specially trained citizens appointed by the court to serve as guardian ad litem (GALs) in cases alleging abuse, neglect or dependency of a child.

When an advocate takes on a case, they take on a child's future. Our goal is to help prevent children from becoming lost in the court system. In Boone County, advocates are assigned to every juvenile abuse and neglect case. CASA's volunteer representation is aimed at providing each child with a safe, permanent, nurturing environment and delivery of appropriate services.

Boone County CASA asks volunteers for a commitment of at least 18 months. The average time invested per month is 10 to 12 hours per case. While the advocate establishes a relationship with a child, the CASA's role is to remain professional and objective. Advocates need the ability to work with different people in different settings, some of whom will be addressing difficult problems.

Established in 1991, Boone County CASA is a member in good standing with National CASA and Illinois CASA. We are United Way and Boone County Government grant recipients. There are more than 900 CASA programs nationally and 35 programs in the State of Illinois.

You can change a child's life today!

Become An Everyday Hero

Guardian ad litem, or GALs, look out for the child's best interest for the duration of juvenile court proceedings. CASA/GALs speak for the health, safety and best interests of the child. Advocates provide the judge with researched inquiries and an independent assessment to help the court make an informed decision about the child's future.

CASA/GALs review records, research information and talk to everyone involved including the child, parents, foster parents, other caretakers, teachers, family members, attorneys, social workers, counselors and any other person that may have relevant information in the case.

CASA/GALs answer difficult questions. For example: Is it in the child's best interest to stay with his or her parents or guardians, be moved into foster care or be placed for permanent adoption? Does the child need speech therapy, special education or is the child at risk? The CASA/GAL prepares written recommendations for the judge and monitors the case until it is closed.



Make A Difference - Volunteer!

To volunteer, you need to:

- ✂ Care about children;
- ✂ Be over the age of 21;
- ✂ Have your own transportation;
- ✂ Complete an application;
- ✂ Participate in a personal interview;
- ✂ Consent to a criminal background and reference check and agree to follow the strict rules of confidentiality;
- ✂ Participate in a free 30-hour training covering courtroom procedure, social services, the juvenile justice system, interviewing, reports, dynamics of the family, and the special needs of children who have been abused or neglected.

To volunteer,
please fill out an application at
www.boonecountycasa.org
or call Boone County CASA at
815.547.6599.

THE MISSION OF THE BOONE COUNTY COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM (CASA), BASED SOLELY ON THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND BEST INTEREST OF CHILDREN, IS TO ENSURE THAT EVERY ABUSED, NEGLECTED AND DEPENDENT CHILD HAS A COMPETENT, CARING VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE IN ALL JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THAT NATURE.