

CASA of Vermilion County
Court Appointed Special Advocates



Who is a CASA volunteer?

CASA volunteers care about children – their safety, well-being and future. They are ordinary citizens who help children in an extraordinary way.

What does having a CASA volunteer mean to a child?

Imagine what it would be like to be taken out of your home... to lose your parents... not because of something you did, but because your parents can't – or won't – take care of you. Now, into your life come dozens of strangers: police, doctors, foster parents, social workers, judges, lawyers, and more.

Having a CASA volunteer means having by your side a trained and committed adult who has been appointed by a Juvenile Court Judge to watch over you, and advocate for your best interests. That volunteer will investigate your case to make sure you don't get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system, or languish in an inappropriate group or foster home. They will be there for you, making sure all your needs are being met, until you're in a safe and permanent home and your case is closed.

Currently, there are approximately 350 children in Vermilion County who have been placed into the foster care system due to allegations of abuse or neglect by their parents. These kids need CASAs. CASAs choose just one child or sibling group to look after, and set their own hours (on average 8 hours per month). CASAs collaborate with the child's social worker, teachers, foster parents, Guardian ad litem – all individuals involved in the case, and report their recommendations to the Court to ensure their child will become part of a family, rather than remain part of a "system."

Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
--Margaret Mead

Summer 2010 CASA Training

June 15 – July 15

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Danville Township Board Room

Turn your desire to help into action – train to become a CASA for a child! You **CAN** do this and we'll show you how... with extensive training, and step-by-step support as you work your case. To learn more and/or register for our 30-hour child advocacy pre-service course, call Barbara or Renee at 446-5975. Visit www.casavermillion.org for an application and more information.

Training & materials are FREE.

Are you interested in training but the training dates and times won't work for your schedule? Please call 446-5975 or email advcoor@casavermillion.org to express your interest and indicate a schedule that will work for you. We offer the 30-hour course three times per year, and if we have a consensus, we will certainly accommodate by scheduling the training course accordingly!

CASA of Vermilion County

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The mission of CASA of Vermilion County is to advocate for abused and neglected children within the Juvenile Court System by training and managing volunteers to represent those children's best interests to the Court.