# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CASA VOLUNTEER

Court Appointed Special Advocates are trained community volunteers appointed by a judge to advocate for abused and neglected children.

## Investment of time, energy, & heart

- 30 hours of pre-service training to become a CASA
- An average of 3-5 hours per month volunteering
- Complete 12 hours per year of continuing education

## The Impact: A child with a CASA

- is more likely to find a safe and permanent home
- is half as likely to re-enter foster care
- spends less time in foster care
- receives more services
- is less likely to move from home to home
- more likely to succeed in school

## 4 roles of a CASA

- Investigate - independent objective examination of the situation
- Facilitate - identify resources and services in the community; collaborate with all parties
- Monitor - keep track of case progress
- Advocate - apply knowledge of the case and make fact-based recommendations to the court

## Common Questions

- How often will I visit the child?
  - at least once per month
- Will I have support?
  - Yes, you will have a coordinator assigned to your case
- Why are CASAs important?
  - CASA volunteers objectively advocate for the "best interest of the child(ren)

# Qualifications

You must be 21 years of age or older

You must have reliable transportation

You must successfully pass the screening process

You must complete 30 hours of training

You must be able to make a commitment to a case

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CAN Children's Advocacy Network

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BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER!

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- An average of 50,000 hotline calls are made annually in Louisiana
- Approximately 7,000 children throughout the state are served annually in foster care

- About 1 in 10 children are sexually abused

- Every 10 seconds a hotline report is made in the US
- In the US, almost 5 children die each day as a result of abuse and/or neglect

- CASA Volunteers in Central Louisiana serve over 500 children annually
- Serving parishes of Rapides, Avoyelles, LaSalle, Grant, Winn, Catahoula, & Concordia

## CAN VOLUNTEER TODAY

"It wasn't about what I gave them, it was what they showed me." - CASA Volunteer

"My CASA comes to visit me no matter where I go." - CASA Child

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