

# Empowering CASA volunteers...

# and the children they serve.

Voices for CASA Children

Governor's Council on Child Safety  
and Family Empowerment

May 9, 2024



VOICES for CASA Children exists to help children in foster care thrive through the support of CASA volunteers.



To strengthen the CASA advocacy experience, VOICES

- expands community awareness to recruit more of these special advocates,
- offers tailored education for CASA volunteers and
- provides activities that see and enrich the uniqueness of each child.

Today we highlight a few examples of CASA volunteers, the youth they advocate for and **how** VOICES supports CASA of Maricopa County and CASA volunteers.

While the names and specifics have been changed, the

# She was 3 months old...



- VOICES provides:
  - Live & on demand classes
  - Introductory gift for first introductions
  - Targeted resource referral
  - Public information sessions for prospective volunteers

She was 3 months old when the CASA volunteer wrapped the new quilt around her. The recent class on advocating for babies echoed in her mind as she asked questions and noted specific needs.

Resources for diapers and a stroller brought relieved tears to the eyes of the grandmother and began to build a connection.

Her decision to become a CASA was validated in that first visit. A visit that would turn into hundreds of hours in support of a child.





• VOICES provides:

- Gas cards for top CASA drivers
- Child Enrichment activities for toddlers to teens
- Opportunities for CASA volunteers to connect with peers

# Sibling bonds...

Henry's face lights up when his four year old sister runs up the walkway. Living in separate placements, his CASA has brought her to play.

His sister loved the sensory play at the museum but Henry couldn't stop talking about the pumpkin patch he visited.

As the siblings are reunified with their family, the CASA shares the lessons learned with fellow CASAs and prepares to meet another child who needs her advocacy.





- VOICES provides:
  - Gift cards for essential or urgent needs
  - Resource tools for quick referral to community agencies
  - A Teen Roadmap to guide life skills development and find aging out resources

# Thrive... not just survive

17 year old Alex found his placement at a group home challenging and discouraging. To help this youth cope, his CASA volunteer was there on the phone, online and in person to lift spirits.

Trips to Chipotle and being able to try on clothes at Target helped him feel “normal”. His CASA encouraged him to try music and hiking and found the supporting agencies for these resources.

Acting annoyed, but secretly grateful he watches his CASA monitor his school progress and talk about housing, laundry and where to turn for help as he moves closer to aging out of foster care.



It's their story.

It's our why.



**#for the children**



# I am a Voice.



## Join the National Movement of Advocates

Become a CASA volunteer and collaborate with a community of change makers who are passionately focused on giving every voiceless child a brighter future. Apply today: [VoicesforCASACHildren.org/Advocate](https://VoicesforCASACHildren.org/Advocate)

## Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

At any given time, VOICES seeks volunteers to support its program and fundraising activities. Email [Volunteer@VoicesforCASACHildren.org](mailto:Volunteer@VoicesforCASACHildren.org) to let us know you're interested.

## Financial Contributions

It is easy to donate to VOICES. Your one-time or recurring gift supports Arizona's most vulnerable youth and qualifies for an Arizona Tax Credit. Donations can be mailed to our office or made online at [VoicesForCASACHildren.org/Donate](https://VoicesForCASACHildren.org/Donate)

## Item Drives

Throughout the year, VOICES carries out special item drives to meet the needs of CASA children including back-to-school supplies and holiday gifts.

## WAYS TO ENGAGE AND IMPACT



## FOSTER CARE TAX CREDIT

Have a say in where your tax dollars go and directly impact the future of children in Arizona.

Your financial gift to Voices for CASA Children earns you a dollar-for-dollar Arizona Tax Credit. Our Certifice QFCO Code is 10010.

[Learn more at VoicesforCASACHildren.org](https://VoicesforCASACHildren.org)



## Connect With Us



Voices for CASA Children is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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EIN 45-3359395 | Certified QFCO Code 10010



**WE ARE COURT  
APPOINTED  
SPECIAL  
ADVOCATES**

## **We Are a Voice for Children.**

Each year, thousands of children are removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. Many of these children become lost in the child welfare system, moving from one temporary home to another. A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) speaks up for the best interests of a child who has experienced abuse or neglect to ensure he or she has a safe, loving and permanent home.

As a CASA volunteer, you become part of a national, volunteer-powered network of committed individuals from all walks of life who believe that every child has the right to be treated with dignity, to be safe, to have a promising future, and to thrive in the embrace of a loving family.



## **ABOUT VOICES FOR CASA CHILDREN**

*Voices for CASA Children is a nonprofit organization seeking to give a voice to every child in Arizona's foster care system who has experienced abuse or neglect.*

### **Our Programs**

#### *CASA Support*

VOICES supports CASA of Maricopa County with CASA volunteer recruitment and resources for volunteers.

#### *CASA Child Enrichment*

VOICES supports volunteers and their CASA youth by providing positive experiences and resources. Gifts, blankets, books and specialized services enhance a young person's well-being and provide a sense of comfort and normality during their time in foster care.

#### *Child Welfare Advocacy*

Throughout Arizona, VOICES promotes the value of a CASA in a child's life and the rewards it achieves through continual advocacy. Joining with notable child welfare leaders in Arizona, VOICES seeks to continually take on the challenges facing Arizona's children, families and child welfare stakeholders.

### **Advocate.**

CASA is the only organization that empowers everyday citizens as appointed officers of the court who recommend the best possible outcome for a child's future.

### **Listen.**

CASA volunteers get to know the children and seek feedback from everyone in the child's life – relatives, foster parents, teachers, social workers, etc. Volunteers use this information to inform judges and others of what the child most needs.

### **Speak up.**

Volunteers are persistent in ensuring the children's educational, social, physical and mental health needs are met. Judges rely heavily on the volunteer's written court reports to make an informed decision for the child's future.

### **Everyday hero.**

CASA volunteers come from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds with a desire to help children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Volunteers receive extensive training and comprehensive support from professional CASA program staff to assist in each case.



**THE ROLE OF THE CASA**