

***"It's hard to look into the face of a child and say no, I don't have time to help. If I can make a difference, I will make the time! These children represent the future of our community. How can we not help them? Speak up for a child loudly, boldly, and persistently! They deserve nothing less."***

-- CASA Volunteer Sabrina Black



***"So much of my work is about transformation. Even the smallest gesture can reap enormous rewards as I've watched families change from fractured to functional."***

-- CASA Volunteer Maggie Stauffer



## **Sí, ¡Quiero Levantar mi Voz por un Niño!**

**Yes, I Would Like To Speak Up For a Child!**

SCAN of Northern Virginia is a private non-profit organization. If you are unable to give of your time, please consider making a contribution to help us effectively serve neglected and abused children in Northern Virginia and to prevent further abuse from occurring. Contributions are fully tax deductible. Checks may be made payable to SCAN of Northern Virginia. SCAN is a participant in the United Way / Combined Federal Campaign.



**Designation #8349**

If you are interested in becoming a CASA volunteer or would like to learn more about SCAN's programs, please contact us. The SCAN staff will be happy to provide further information or provide a speaker on SCAN and its programs.

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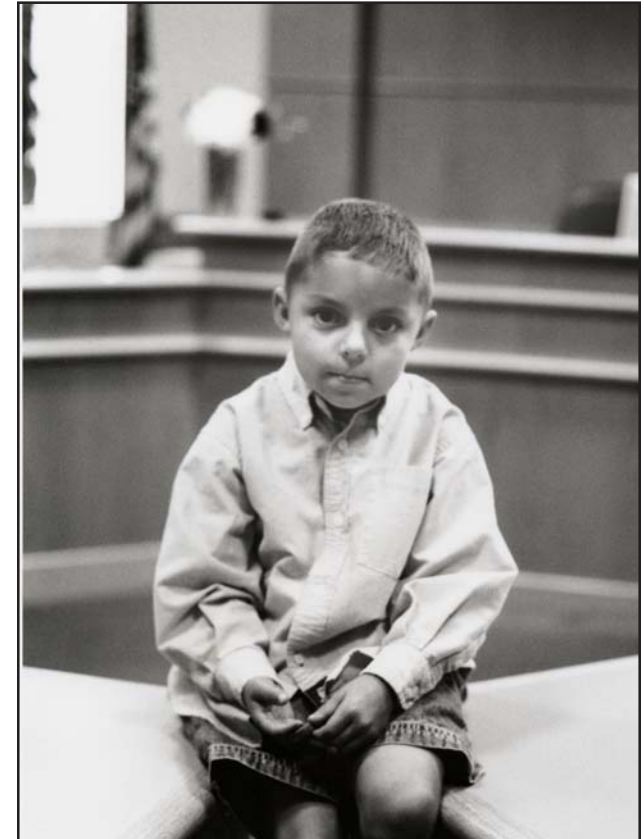
**www.scanva.org**

**SCAN**

**STOP CHILD ABUSE NOW  
of Northern Virginia**

## **Levante su Voz por un Niño!®**

**Speak Up For a Child.®**



**CASA**

**Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN**

**ALEXANDRIA CASA PROGRAM**

# ¿Qué es CASA?

## What is CASA?

All children have a right to a home with loving people to care for them. But each year in the United States, over five million children are abused, neglected or abandoned by their families. More than 85,000 of these children are Hispanic. Eventually, the children end up in court. Their only “crime” is that they have been victims.

This is where CASA comes into the picture. CASA volunteers are Court Appointed Special Advocates for children – trained community volunteers appointed by judges to speak up for children in the juvenile court system. Unfortunately, a disproportionate number of these children are Hispanic.

Over 17% of all abused and neglected children are Hispanic. Currently there are hundreds of Hispanic children who are without a CASA volunteer due to the lack of bilingual, Hispanic volunteers. Bilingual, Hispanic volunteers are needed to advocate for Hispanic children in our community and neighborhoods. It is our business to ensure that Hispanic children are in safe and permanent homes and are receiving the appropriate services and support.

## CASA de Alexandria Alexandria CASA

The Alexandria Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program has helped hundreds of children have a voice within the court system. The Alexandria CASA Program is a program of Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia.

SCAN is a non-profit organization dedicated to the well-being of children, the improvement of parent-child relations and prevention of child abuse and neglect through education, public awareness and advocacy.

SCAN oversees the CASA Program for the City of Alexandria, working closely with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

# Ud. Puede Llegar a Ser un Voluntario CASA

## You Can Become a CASA Volunteer

Are you a mature, responsible adult? Can you talk to people who are having problems? Do you have time to commit? Do you care about children? If your answers are yes, then you may qualify to be a CASA.

CASA volunteers come from all walks of life. The majority of them hold full-time jobs. They have a variety of professional, educational, and ethnic backgrounds. No special experience is required. Volunteers are selected on the basis of their objectivity, competence, and commitment.

We need dedicated, committed bilingual, Hispanic men and women who are willing to confidently stand up for children and make a difference in their lives.

Once accepted, volunteers are trained. They learn about the social service system, the juvenile court system and issues such as substance abuse and mental health. They also learn about the special needs of children who are involved in custody and abuse and neglect cases.

It takes an average of 10 to 20 hours a month to be a CASA. It will likely be the most challenging and gratifying volunteer work you will ever do.

There are over  
85,000 Hispanic children  
in foster care.  
Speak out for a foster child.  
They need your voice!

# ¿Qué Hace un Voluntario CASA?

## What Does a CASA Volunteer Do?

CASA volunteers are citizens who want to help their community’s children. They work alongside attorneys, social workers, treatment providers and other professionals to advocate for the child.

When a CASA is appointed to a child’s case, he or she is responsible for taking the time to find out as much information as possible about the child and the child’s circumstances. CASA volunteers search for information. They review records, get to know the parents, talk to teachers, neighbors and — most important — the child.

The CASA volunteers then appear in court to recommend to the judge what is best for the child’s future.

- The amount of **TIME** is determined by the case’s complexity. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least one year, but most know how important it is to the child that they stay with the case until there is resolution.
- Volunteers are required to complete a pre-service **TRAINING**. CASAs are also required to complete 12 hours of ongoing in-service training each year.
- Alexandria CASA Program staff provide ongoing personal guidance and experienced **SUPPORT** for each volunteer.



The Alexandria CASA Program is a Member of the National CASA Association.