

"She is my CASA volunteer. She's like a legal person who helps work out things between my parents and the court and she is my friend!"

- a child explaining his CASA Volunteer



"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."

- Alexandria/Arlington CASA Volunteer

Yes, I would like to speak up for a child!

If you are interested in becoming a CASA volunteer or would like to learn more about SCAN's other programs, please contact us today:



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**ALEXANDRIA/ARLINGTON
CASA PROGRAM**

A program of SCAN of Northern Virginia

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A program of SCAN of Northern Virginia
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The Alexandria/Arlington CASA Program
is a member of the National CASA Association.

www.scanva.org

The Alexandria/Arlington CASA Program is a program of SCAN of Northern Virginia, which 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 or 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. You can contribute to Stop Child Abuse Now of Northern Virginia by mail, the web, or by selecting SCAN in the United Way, CFC or CVC campaigns:

SCAN

Building hope for children & families
in Northern Virginia

UNITED WAY # 8349

CFC #79235

CVC #8216

Speak up for a child.[®]



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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, millions of children are abused, neglected, or abandoned by their families. Over 542,000 of them are removed from their homes and placed in foster care or other out-of-home placements. Eventually, they 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 abused and neglected children in the juvenile court system.

THE ALEXANDRIA/ARLINGTON CASA PROGRAM
The Alexandria/Arlington Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program has helped hundreds of children have a voice within the court system. It is a program of SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) 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 and Arlington County, working closely with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts.

What do volunteers 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, relatives and — most importantly — the child.

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

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CASA VOLUNTEER

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.

CASA Program staff provide ongoing personal guidance and experienced **SUPPORT** for each volunteer.

YOU can become a CASA Volunteer!

**Are you a mature, responsible adult?
Can you talk to people who are in difficult
and stressful situations? 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.

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

It takes an average of 10 to 15 hours a month to be a CASA. **It will likely be the most challenging and gratifying volunteer work you will ever do.**