

The Child's Voice

CASA CIS Quarterly Newsletter



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN



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There's no place like hope for the holidays.

CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™



#GivingTuesday is November 30, 2021

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement that unleashes the power of radical generosity around the world. This year, in collaboration with GivingTuesday, CASA CIS launched its **Give the Joy of Toys** campaign. We currently serve 171 children, from birth to 17 (80 boys and 91 girls). While social workers and Guardians ad Litem come and go, our advocates stay with the children through the life of their case.

You can help give these children hope this GivingTuesday by purchasing a gift from our Amazon wish list. This is just one of the many ways you can help our advocates in their continuing effort to strengthen their bond with the kids they serve and give them some semblance of normalcy. The packages will be delivered directly to the CASA CIS office -- our advocates will then have the opportunity to come and "shop" for their kids before the holidays this year, making it special for both the CASA and the child!

[Shop Our Amazon
Wishlist](#)



5 WAYS TO GIVE ON

GIVING
TUESDAY

1

GIVE YOUR VOICE

Spread the word.
Tell your friends,
co-workers, and
community about
CASA CIS.

2

GIVE YOUR TIME OR TALENT

Volunteer as a
CASA, donate your
marketing skills, or
help with
fundraising.

3

GIVE THE JOY OF TOYS

Purchase a gift for
a special child from
our Amazon wish
list.

4

MONTHLY DONATION

Every dollar
counts. Make a
small donation of
\$5 to \$10.

5

INSPIRE OTHERS

Share how you
took action on
social media with
#GivingTuesday

November 30, 2021

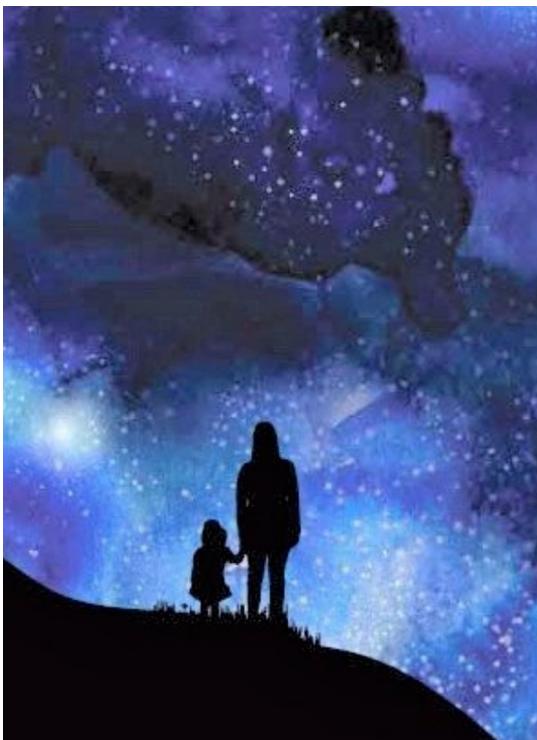
Volunteer Event





Thank you for an Incredible Success!!

Every year in September at Evening Under the Stars, we ask our community to join together and help us raise money so that we can continue to lift up the voices of the precious, innocent children in our community who are suffering abuse. This year, the response from our supporters was overwhelmingly moving. We raised over \$250,000, well exceeding our goals and expectations. This is the most money CASA CIS has ever raised at Evening Under the Stars and is a true reflection of the generous spirit of our supporters. We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors and all who attended and donated, and to our longtime friend Patrick King at Imagine for his video production work.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



[Visit the EUS Photo](#)

CASA Around Town



MurLarkey Bottle Drive to Benefit CASA

August 13 - 15th, MurLarkey Distilled Spirits donated 5% of in-person bottle sales to CASA CIS. Thank you, MurLarkey, for your thoughtful donation!



Porters for a Purpose

On September 3rd, Sinistral Brewing Company and Loveless Porter Architects partnered with CASA to donate proceeds of the Loveless Porter, with a matching donation from Loveless Porter Architects, LLC. The event was an amazing success, with Loveless Porter selling out within a couple of days!

Cheers for Charity

On October 16th, Preston's Pub donated 10% of their sales between 12-3pm to CASA CIS. Despite the rainstorm, there was a great turnout with some generous donations from some of their regulars. Thank you, Beacon Electric, for your sponsorship!





Staff and Volunteer Training

On August 21st, 2021, CASA CIS hosted a CE Workshop for our advocates. We strive to make trainings both informative and fun. Thank you to those who attended!



Throughout the month of October, our new class of advocates were hard at work completing their 30 hours of training. On October 19, 2021, twelve new advocates were sworn in. Welcome Henrietta, Donna, Nazik, Susan, Gabriela, Barbara, Lynette, Ida, Andrea, Don,



More Volunteers Needed As Rise in Cases of Abuse Linked to COVID-19

According to a recent **article** in U.S. News & World Report (USNWR), a new study conducted by researchers from the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) confirmed a tripling of child abuse cases in children ages 5 and older during the first few months of the pandemic, when widespread stay-at-home orders were in effect. Researchers then went on to say a greater proportion of older children also reported abuse after stay-at-home orders went into effect last year.

Dr. Andrea Asnes, a leading figure on the AAP Council on Child Abuse and Neglect and co-director of Yale School of Medicine's Programs for Safety, Advocacy and Healing, explained, "[t]he vast majority of child physical abuse is not managed in the hospital[.] Older kids who get punched or beaten with a belt don't always require medical care, so it's certainly possible that more abuse could have gone undetected."

Sadly, this may just be the case. An Associated Press **analysis** of state data provides a slightly different but more stark picture: a total decrease of 18% in both total child abuse reports and child abuse investigations, suggesting the pandemic may have stripped away key systemic safeguards for those most vulnerable to abuse, specifically teachers, counselors, school officials and other mandatory reporters.

According to the AP, their analysis showed that despite far fewer child abuse reports and school referrals, the percentage of reports accepted for further investigation and assessment largely remained steady during the pandemic, suggesting that, while the work of social workers was consistent, there are likely untold cases of abuse going unreported, with at-risk children remaining invisible to the system without the attention of an in-person school environment.

Dr. Katherine Flynn-O'Brien, senior author for the USNWR study, said that "[s]ystemic safeguards such as social services that help families, particularly those least resourced and most vulnerable, should be considered essential during a national crisis."

More cases mean more strain on limited capacity and resources to help protect children. We depend on our community to help keep ours organization going. Want more information on how



Meet the Advocate

Felicia Johnson has been an advocate with CASA CIS for 2 years. Felicia is always eager and willing to lend her time, and recently took on a second case. In the past she has been an at-risk counselor with the Bryce Project, conducting outreach events for the local homeless community, as well as an Assistant Volleyball Coach for 9-12 year old girls at the Boys and Girls Club.

Felicia says, "I've always had a heart toward the youth because of my own personal experiences growing up and understanding the importance of having a firm support system. There's nothing more rewarding to me than being able to sow into others' lives, and as a CASA advocate I have the privilege to do just that!"

Calling All Volunteers!

CASA volunteers are everyday people – teachers, business people, retirees, stay-at-home parents, and grandparents – who are committed to making a difference for children who might otherwise slip through the cracks of the child welfare system.

Volunteers provide a fresh perspective to the juvenile court. Their presence in each case ensures that children that are victims of abuse and neglect are safe, protected, and receiving all necessary services to develop and thrive through the uncertainty.

CASA CIS seeks volunteers who desire to make a difference in the lives of children. We invite you to join our family and make a difference in a child's life – and your own.

Representation matters. Our children deserve CASA volunteers to advocate for them who share their experiences, backgrounds and understand their cultures. We are making a deliberate effort to recruit Hispanic, Black, and male CASAs/volunteers, as well as more Spanish speakers!



Be a child's chance
at a better life

CHANGE A
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FOR CHILDREN

- Attend an info session to learn more. Email jpolen@casacis.org for information on our next sessions
- Share the CASA CIS mission with friends, family and your social networks
- Share the newsletter with others

[Donate Now](#)

Upcoming Trainings

February 2022

February 12th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 22nd and 24th. Swearing In: March 1st.

June 2022

June 4th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 14th, and 16th. Swearing In: June 21st.

October 2022

October 8th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 18th, and 20th. Swearing In: October 25th.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Please share with others!



Get In Touch



CASA

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FOR CHILDREN

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