



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

OUR MISSION

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers are caring and competent community individuals who are supervised and supported by CASA professional staff, and appointed by a Judge, to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court.

Missouri CASA in 2013

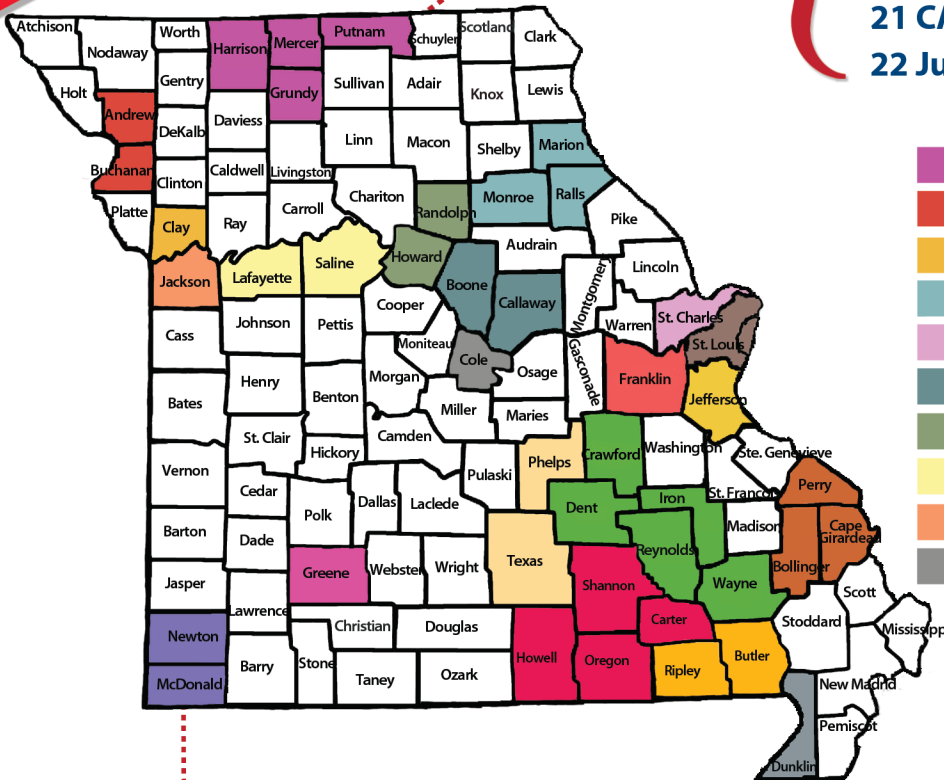
3,309 Children Served

1,364 Dedicated Volunteers

85,000 Hours in Volunteer Services

21 CASA Programs in Missouri

22 Judicial Circuits Served



- Third Circuit CASA
- Fifth Circuit CASA
- Clay County CASA
- Douglass Community Services
- 11th Circuit CASA
- Heart of Missouri CASA
- 14th Circuit CASA
- 15th Judicial Circuit CASA
- Jackson County CASA
- Capital City CASA
- Franklin County CASA
- Voices for Children
- CASA of Jefferson County
- CASA of South Central MO
- CASA of Southwest MO
- CASA of Southeast MO
- CASA of Dunklin County
- CASA of the 36th Circuit
- 37th Judicial Circuit CASA
- New-Mac CASA
- Mid-Ozark CASA
- CASA Program Needed

EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS FOR CHILDREN WITH A CASA VOLUNTEER

Independent, national research identified the effectiveness of CASA Volunteers in serving children in foster care.

Highlights of those findings included:

- Children with a CASA volunteer are substantially less likely to spend time in long-term foster care.
- Children served by a CASA volunteer are less likely to re-enter the foster care system; the proportion of re-entries is consistently reduced by half.
- When a CASA volunteer is assigned, larger numbers of services are ordered for children and families.

WWW.MOCASA.ORG

(573) 256-1445

A CHILD WITH A CASA VOLUNTEER IS:

- More likely to be adopted than to linger in long-term foster care
- More likely to have a plan for permanency, especially children of color
- Half as likely to re-enter the foster care system
- More likely to do better in school



MISSION OF THE MISSOURI CASA ASSOCIATION

Our mission is to improve the lives of abused and neglected children in Missouri by promoting the development, expansion and improvement of CASA programs statewide.

WHO DOES THE MISSOURI CASA ASSOCIATION SERVE?

The Missouri CASA Association (MOCASA) is the coordinating agency for CASA programs throughout Missouri. Currently, there are 21 CASA programs in Missouri serving 22 of 45 Judicial Circuits. The Missouri CASA Association and its 21 affiliate programs work cooperatively with the Circuit Courts, the Department of Social Services and other child service agencies to improve the lives of abused and neglected children. MOCASA cultivates resources, improves systems and advances public policy to further the CASA movement in our state. MOCASA does not provide direct services but provides support and funding for its 21 affiliate CASA programs and is focused on expanding CASA programs throughout the state. In 2013, there were 1,364 CASA volunteers who served 3,309 of Missouri's most vulnerable citizens.

3,309 FOSTER CHILDREN SERVED BY CASA VOLUNTEERS



OVER 9,000 OF MISSOURI'S FOSTER CHILDREN STILL IN NEED



WHY DOES A CHILD NEED BOTH A CASA VOLUNTEER AND A GUARDIAN AD LITEM?

A Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) provides legal representation for the child. A CASA volunteer advocates for the best interest of the child to whom the volunteer is assigned, which may or may not be in line with the child's wishes. Each GAL meets with their child client, but each attorney typically represents many children. A CASA volunteer is assigned to only one or two children and is able to spend significantly more time to gather information about the child and the child's family. If a court had to pay an attorney to do this job, it would be too costly. A CASA volunteer reports directly to the court to represent the best interests of the child.

WHY DO CASA PROGRAMS COST MONEY TO RUN, WHEN VOLUNTEERS ARE NOT PAID?

CASA programs hire staff to manage the program and supervise volunteers. Program costs include: salaries, office support, computers and equipment, travel and training. CASA program staff recruit, train and supervise volunteers to ensure quality services. Each CASA program must comply with federal laws and regulations and National CASA Association Standards. Professional CASA program staff ensure compliance with these standards to guarantee effective provision of CASA services. Each staff person supervising volunteers supports the work of up to 30 volunteers assigned to as many as 75 children. With this cost effective model, the CASA program is able to mobilize an army of community volunteers to ensure highly individualized attention and advocacy to our state's most vulnerable children.

Visit www.mocasa.org for more information and like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/MissouriCASA>



MEMBER
NATIONAL CASA ASSOCIATION

KAPPA ALPHA THETA

LEADING WOMEN



Children's
Trust Fund

Missouri's Foundation For Child Abuse Prevention