

## Learn More about CASANYS

Contact us to see how you can help.



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E-mail: [mail@casanys.org](mailto:mail@casanys.org)

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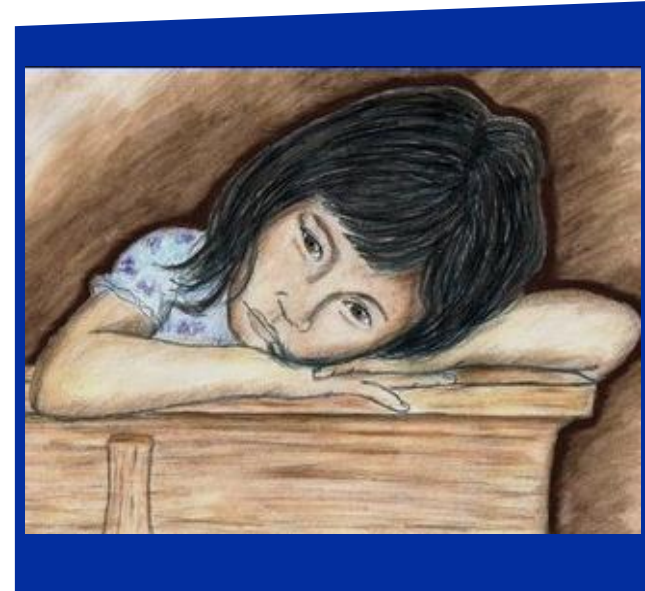
## What Can I Do?

CASA Programs provide numerous opportunities for you to help children at risk:

- **Volunteer**—become a CASA volunteer and work directly with your county's Family Court to speak up for children in need.
- **Make a contribution**—your donation will help us maintain critical support for abused and neglected children. (CASANYS is a 501(c) (3) organization and contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.)
- **Share your skills**—Use your fundraising or board committee work skills to assist at either the State Association or a local CASA program.
- **Spread the Word**—talk to friends and family about CASANYS.

## Find a Local CASA Program

Visit [www.casanys.org](http://www.casanys.org) for a list of programs and contact information on county CASA programs across New York State. If your county is not listed and you are interested in starting a CASA program, please call CASANYS toll-free at 877.80.VOICE.



*Waiting . . .  
for someone to  
hear me.*



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## What is CASANYS?

CASA: Advocates for Children of New York State is dedicated to assisting local CASA programs throughout the state. Through training and technical assistance, information and funding support, CASANYS helps local programs thrive. CASANYS staff serve as liaisons to the National CASA organization and participate in advocacy task forces dealing with such critical issues as permanency planning, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and health care of children in foster care.

## Supporting Safe, Permanent Homes for Children at Risk

Based on 2009 statistics, each year, nearly 24,605 New York State children were in foster care. Furthermore, authorities typically investigate between 40,000 and 50,000 new reports of indicated child abuse or neglect each year. In 2009, CASA volunteers were involved in 3,236 cases.

Every day, these children enter the child welfare system which works with families, foster parents, and treatment providers to ensure their safety. But these children are often scared and reluctant to trust in the system. How their cases are handled can mean the difference between their growing up as contributing adults or as reminders of how we, as a society, have failed them.



# Hope



# Volunteer



**CASA**  
ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN  
OF NEW YORK STATE

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## CASA Volunteers

A child at risk, who finds himself caught up in the foster care system, faces a confusing and often intimidating court system and child welfare bureaucracy.

CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates, works with family courts to make sure that each child's voice is heard. CASA volunteers come from all walks of life - ordinary citizens with an extraordinary commitment to helping children secure a safe and permanent home.

## What Do CASA Volunteers Do?

After an intensive formal training period, CASA volunteers are sworn in by a Family Court Judge.

In addition to meeting with the child on a regular and consistent basis, the CASA volunteer will interview case managers, parents and relatives, treatment providers, school officials, foster parents, and others who know the child's circumstances.

The CASA volunteer submits written reports to the Court, providing as complete a picture as possible of the child's needs in order to assist the Judge in making a decision regarding a child's permanency based on the child's best interests.

## Why Does a Child at Risk Need a CASA?

Many things in the life of an at risk child will change. A child's placement, as well as his case worker, may change numerous times before a child gains permanency. But their CASA Volunteer will stay on their case, providing a consistent presence in the life of the child, until the court decides on a safe and permanent home.

The CASA will continue to monitor the progress and needs of the child and to include their findings in regular written reports. A CASA will serve only one or two children at a time. The sole focus of the CASA volunteer is the well being of the child, making sure that the Court has the most accurate information possible to determine a child's best interests.

**WE NEED YOU TO:**  
**VOLUNTEER**

**DONATE**

**CALL**

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