

Standing Strong for Louisiana's Children

STATEWIDE MISSION, LOCAL IMPACT



CASA Serves Children in Crisis

Whatever their age, children who have experienced abuse or neglect face a frightening, profound unknown. Courtrooms. Foster care. New schools. **We make sure they don't face it alone.** To make a decisions that affect the rest of a child's life, judges need to know the child. Our highly trained Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers help them do that by getting to know the child at the heart of each case and gathering details to help the judge determine the best interests of the child. **CASA advocates help these child victims heal and thrive through a dedicated, one-on-one relationship.** Below are last year's statewide statistics, reflecting the powerful impact of CASA volunteers on the lives of children in foster care.



3,150

children served



1,387

CASA volunteers



41,371

volunteer hours



\$1.38M

in volunteer services



OUR ADVOCACY

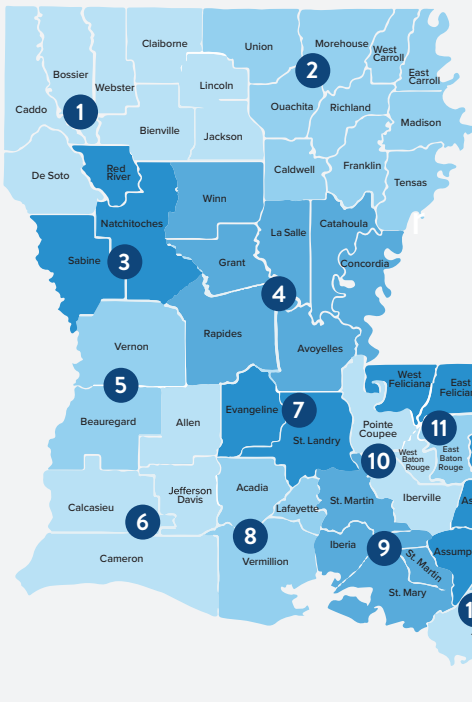
CASA advocates improve the quality of judicial decision-making by providing unique, up-to-date information that could only come from a one-on-one relationship between a child and a dedicated volunteer. CASA volunteers monitor the child's case, working with all parties in the courtroom to ensure the child receives every evaluation, treatment, and service ordered by the judge.



Louisiana CASA is the statewide association for the 18 local CASA programs. CASA programs recruit, train, and support court-appointed volunteers who speak up for the best interests of children who have been abused or neglected.

LOUISIANA CASA ASSOCIATION LOUISIANACASA.ORG

Sources: Louisiana DCFS, National CASA Association, Louisiana CASA Association, The Afcars Report #25



A Network of Volunteers for Children

Last year, over 7,000 children in Louisiana experienced abuse or neglect, ushering them into the dependency of the court and foster care systems. The local CASA programs work in dozens of court room across the state's judicial districts and advocate for Louisiana's most vulnerable children. Children statewide have access to a dedicated CASA volunteer.

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Volunteers for Youth Justice | 10 CASA of the 18th JDC |
| 2 CASA of Northeast Louisiana | 11 Capital Area CASA |
| 3 CASA of Central Louisiana | 12 Child Advocacy Services |
| 4 Children's Advocacy Network | 13 Youth Service Bureau |
| 5 CASA of West Central Louisiana | 14 CASA of Terrebonne |
| 6 Family & Youth Counseling Agency | 15 CASA of Lafourche |
| 7 CASA of St. Landry-Evangeline | 16 CASA Jefferson |
| 8 CASA of South Louisiana | 17 CASA New Orleans |
| 9 CASA of the 16th JDC | 18 CASA of Plaquemines |

CASA Makes a Life-Long Impact

Independent, national research identified the effectiveness of CASA advocates serving abused and neglected children. Highlights of the findings show that a child with a CASA:

- Is more likely to find a safe, permanent home, spending less time in foster care.
- Is half as likely to re-enter the child welfare system.
- Is more likely to do well in school and perform better academically and behaviorally.
- Shows significantly higher levels of hope.



Being in foster care is living in a constant state of flux: homes, schools, families... everything is always changing, often suddenly and without warning. My only constant was my CASA advocate. Without her, I would have been lost in the system.

– Melissa, foster care alumni