

## How Can I Help?

### By Volunteering

You can be part of a unique program that advocates for all abused and neglected children who come before the Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

A CASA volunteer can have a direct effect on a child's future. Richmond CASA is seeking highly motivated individuals interested in advocating for the best interest of children who have been abused and/or neglected in the City of Richmond.

If you are interested in becoming a CASA volunteer, or have further questions, please contact Sarah-Keel Crews at:

[Volunteer@grscan.com](mailto:Volunteer@grscan.com)  
or 804-646-5184.

### By Contributing

The contributions you make will help train volunteers and pay for Case Managers. We receive monetary as well as in-kind support from individuals, corporations, foundations, government agencies, and faith-based community and civic organizations.

If you are interested in contributing to Richmond CASA, please contact Greater Richmond SCAN's Development Office: 804-257-7226 x106 or Kristen Byrd at [Kbyrd@grscan.com](mailto:Kbyrd@grscan.com).



### Richmond CASA Court Appointed Special Advocates

*Richmond CASA is the only program in the city providing volunteer court-appointed advocacy to Richmond's most vulnerable children. This advocacy is only possible through the generosity and continued support of our community.*

*A program of*



*Member of the National CASA Association*

Richmond CASA  
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**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

**RICHMOND CASA**

## Change a Child's



*Every child should have the opportunity to thrive in a safe and loving home.*

## What are the benefits of advocacy?

In 2021, nationwide CASA volunteers contributed 4.37 million advocacy hours, helping children achieve outcomes of reunification, legal guardianship, adoption, placement with relatives, or continued care at home by parents in 83% of cases.

Reentries into the child welfare system for children with CASAs is consistently reduced by 50% compared to children who are not assigned a CASA volunteer. This is a significant difference compared to the general foster care population. This outcome also results in significant savings in child welfare expenses.

Abuse and neglect is associated with a range of other risks—juvenile delinquency, suicide, unemployment and poor school performance. Children and youth assigned a CASA/GAL volunteer reported significantly higher levels of hope. A child's hope has been linked to numerous positive outcomes such as academic success, overall wellbeing, increases in self-control, positive social relationships and optimism.

*2007 National CASA Research and Effectiveness*

*2013 National CASA/Child Welfare Statistics*



## How does the advocacy process work?

**Richmond CASA** recruits, trains, and supervises competent and dedicated volunteers who advocate for the needs of abused, neglected, and at-risk children in juvenile dependency proceedings. By advocating for children in court cases, CASA volunteers promote safe, permanent homes for all children and seek to educate the community about the needs of abused and neglected children.

By gathering valuable information to assist the Judge in making decisions about the child's placement and permanency, CASA volunteers help to reduce the time a child spends in the court system and/or in foster care. Volunteers serve as the voice of children who have been hurt by the people who are supposed to keep them safe.



## How Do I Become a Volunteer?

### *Qualifications:*

- Be 21 years of age
- Be able to attend the 35 hours of training and 2.5 hours of courtroom observation
- Spend 10-15 hours a month on your case (writing reports, contacting providers, visiting your child, attending meetings)
- Have excellent written and oral communication skills
- Have a professional attitude
- Have a genuine desire to help a child in need
- Have no significant criminal, child abuse registry, or driving violations history

**Richmond CASA** Volunteers learn courtroom procedures from judges, lawyers, social workers and court personnel. CASAs also learn effective advocacy techniques for children and are educated about specific topics including child abuse, sexual abuse, early childhood development, adolescent behavior, mental health issues, cultural competency, social services, and report writing. Once training is completed, CASAs are sworn in by a Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judge.