

## CHILDREN WITH A CASA VOLUNTEER ARE:



Less likely to  
spend long  
periods of time  
in foster care.



More likely to  
find a  
permanent home  
and not re-enter  
care.



More likely to  
pass all of their  
classes in  
school.

*Be the difference. Volunteer!*

## Benefits of Being a CASA

- Stand up for a child who needs you.
- Help make a positive difference and change a child's life for a brighter future.
- Help a child find a safe, permanent home.
- Help to end the cycle of abuse and neglect.
- Learn about the Juvenile Court System.
- Become actively involved in your community.

## Who We Are

### About Us

Lehigh County Court Appointed Special Advocates are volunteers who are sworn officers of the court. They are appointed by a judge to ensure that the most vulnerable children in the County have a voice in court and advocate for their best interests. CASA volunteers come from all walks of life to give the most precious gift to children in the foster care system: their time and talents. CASA volunteers help to change children's lives every day.

## Volunteer at Lehigh County CASA

### Contact Us

Phone: 610-782-3858

Email: [erinhefferan@lehighcounty.org](mailto:erinhefferan@lehighcounty.org)

Web: [www.lccpa.org/courtadmin/casa.nex](http://www.lccpa.org/courtadmin/casa.nex)

Lehigh County Courthouse  
455 W. Hamilton Street, Room 728  
Allentown, PA 18101



## Our Mission

The mission of the Lehigh County Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program is to provide consistent, credible and trained volunteers who investigate, facilitate, monitor and advocate for Lehigh County's abused and neglected children in juvenile dependency court. These CASA volunteers serve as the "eyes and ears" of the Court. Input from these dedicated CASA volunteers assists the Court in making sound decisions that will provide safe, secure, and permanent homes for at-risk children.

## Qualifications

- Volunteers must be at least 21 years of age and pass criminal history record checks (paid for by Lehigh County CASA).
- Volunteers must have good verbal and written communication skills.
- Possess the ability to be objective and non-judgmental.
- Commit to being a volunteer for 18 to 36 months, the average time a child's case is open in the Juvenile Dependency System.
- Must be available to attend all court hearings.

## Help Us Reach Every Child

- 25,381 children are in foster care placement statewide.
- 396 children are in foster care placement in Lehigh County.
- 64% of those children are placed in non-relative family homes.

Statistics (2018) provided by PA Kids Count Lehigh  
2018 State of the Child Profile:  
[www.papartnerships.org](http://www.papartnerships.org)

Currently, there are **44 CASA volunteers**, serving **88 children** in Lehigh County.

## Become a CASA Volunteer

- Complete an application and interview with CASA staff.
- Complete 40 hours of free, pre-service training.
- Pass criminal history checks.
- Be sworn-in by a judge.

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*"Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be." – Rita Pierson*

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## Duties of a CASA Volunteer

- Visit the child.
- Gather information from everyone in the child's life: parents, foster parents, social workers, medical providers, teachers, etc.
- Review records.
- Build positive relationships with team members.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Prepare written reports, attend court hearings, and related meetings.
- Ensure the child's wishes are known to the judge.
- Advocate on behalf of the child's best interests.
- Remain committed to the child's case until permanency is achieved.

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer at Lehigh County CASA?

Please contact Erin Hefferan, Executive Director, at 610-782-3858 to schedule an appointment or visit our website at [www.lccpa.org/courtadmin/casa.nex](http://www.lccpa.org/courtadmin/casa.nex) It will be our pleasure to assist you with the application process!