

Cumberland County CASA Program  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Be the Voice for an Abused and/or Neglected Child**  
**COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA) PROGRAM**  
**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS**

**CARLISLE, PA** – The Cumberland County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program is an organization that recruits, trains and then matches volunteers with abused and/or neglected children, whose cases are in the court system, in order to advocate for the best interest of the child. The County's Carlisle-based CASA Office is currently seeking to expand its pool of volunteers in the southern and western parts of Cumberland County to support the number of children who are placed in foster homes in the Shippensburg and Chambersburg regions.

**What is a CASA Volunteer's role and responsibility?**

- **INVESTIGATE** the facts of each case to serve as a fact-finder for the judge.
- **ADVOCATE** for the child's best interest by providing the facts in report form to the Court and speaking on the child's behalf.
- **FACILITATE** communication between the parties and for services to support the child's needs.
- **MONITOR** the child's situation until a safe, permanent home has been achieved.

These four actions are key to ensuring the judge has as much information as possible in order to make the ultimate decisions regarding the best interest of the child.

Volunteers must be 21 years of age or older, willing to dedicate at least 18-24 months to the commitment, complete an interview process, pass multiple background clearances, and undergo 36+ hours of training. The CASA Program conducts an in-depth training on courtroom procedures, effective advocacy techniques, and covers topics ranging from types of abuse to early childhood development. CASA volunteers are appointed to only one child or sibling group at a time and average 10-20 hours per month in their advocacy roles.

CASA is a national program that was implemented in 1977 by a Seattle judge. The National CASA Association, still headquartered in Seattle, cites that in 2012, there were 933 community-based programs of which the Cumberland County CASA Program is one. All local programs are tasked with recruiting, training and supporting citizen volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and/or neglected children in the court system.

**BE THE VOICE** of an abused and/or neglected child. Citizens interested in serving as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Cumberland County should contact the Cumberland County CASA Program Office at 240.6159 or email [casa@ccpa.net](mailto:casa@ccpa.net). For additional information, visit the County's website at [www.ccpa.net/casa](http://www.ccpa.net/casa).

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