

Hope needs a helping hand.

BECOME A CASA AMBASSADOR



GENERAL CASA TALKING POINTS AND STATISTICS

- Henrico CASA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was established in 1994.
- Henrico CASA is incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors.
- Henrico CASA is one of more than 1,000 CASA programs nationwide and one of 27 programs in Virginia. Henrico CASA is the largest of the 27 CASA programs in Virginia, serving the most children.
- Henrico CASA is authorized by the Code of Virginia which ensures that CASA programs provide trained volunteers to advocate on behalf of children who are the subjects of juvenile court proceedings involving allegations of abuse and neglect.
- Henrico CASA volunteers go through rigorous background checks and screenings, submit a written application, and complete an interview before being invited to participate in the training program. The training requires 40-hours of in-person training sessions that covers topics such as the child welfare and court system; diversity, equity, and inclusion; trauma; child development; mental health and substance abuse; poverty; communication; and report writing. On an annual basis, advocates are required to obtain an additional twelve (12) hours of continuing education credits.
- Henrico CASA volunteers are appointed by juvenile court judges when there is an allegation that a child has experienced abuse and neglect.
- Henrico CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of abused children to ensure that they do not get lost in an overburdened legal system or languish in an inappropriate foster or group home. They investigate the circumstances of the child by conducting interviews with family members and case professionals, review professional reports, and make observations of the child's environment, family, and social interactions.
- Henrico CASA volunteers stay with each child's case until the child is placed in a safe, stable, and loving home.
- Last fiscal year, 113 volunteers served 401 children assigned for advocacy services. Our volunteers contributed more than 13,500 hours and made more than 30,100 contacts with family members and professionals on their cases. All 401 children served received ameliorative services for their presenting issues and found respite from further abuse or neglect in safe, stable homes.
- Last fiscal year, volunteers and program staff attended every court hearing that involved the children on our cases, and more than 400 reports were submitted with information about the circumstances of the child and family, including recommendations in the child's best interest. In comprehensive written reports to juvenile court judges, 99% of the recommendations considered were incorporated into judicial orders, and 100% of the children who presented with physical health concerns, school concerns, or mental health concerns had access to appropriate treatment.

henricocasa.org



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- Henrico CASA volunteers have given thousands of hours of their time and have made deep and long-lasting impacts in the lives of abused and neglected children in Central Virginia. Since first accepting cases in 1994, Henrico CASA has provided a powerful voice in court for more than 3,500 children. Our agency has served every referred child for as long as necessary to ensure they found safety and stability in the place they call home. Our volunteers have donated more than 150,000 hours and made more than 215,000 case contacts with individuals involved in children's lives, the equivalent of nearly \$4 million in taxpayer dollars if they had been compensated for their service.
- Studies make clear that child abuse and neglect is the largest health crisis of our time. The effects of childhood trauma are directly linked to mental illness, physical illness, and addiction in adulthood. This results in direct and devastating impacts on our health, justice, and economic systems. CASA is an important part of the solution. For a child who has experienced abuse or neglect, CASA ensures that a child receives the required services to mitigate their trauma and build resilience.
- **12-second Elevator Speech - Formal**
Henrico CASA is a local nonprofit that advocates in court for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. The program recruits, screens, trains, and supervises community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of the children.
- **12-second Elevator Speech - Informal**
CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to advocate for children's best interests. Henrico CASA is driven by the guiding principle that children grow and develop best with their family, if that can be safely achieved, and work to guarantee that children are in safe, stable homes.
- **30-second Elevator Speech - Formal**
Henrico CASA is a local nonprofit that promotes safe, stable, and loving homes for all children. To achieve this goal the program recruits, screens, trains, and supervises competent volunteers dedicated to representing the best interests and needs of abused and neglected children before the juvenile court. Henrico CASA also seeks to educate the community concerning the needs of these at-risk children to ensure that appropriate services and support are available.
- **30-second Elevator Speech - Informal**
CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to advocate for children's best interests. Advocates work with legal and child welfare professionals, educators, and service providers to ensure that judges have all the information necessary to make well-informed decisions for each child. Our best-interest advocacy is driven by the guiding principle that children grow and develop best with their family, if that can be safely achieved. Our advocates stay with each case until it is closed to guarantee that the child is in a safe, stable home.

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CASA Best-Interest Advocacy

