## A POWERFUL VOICE IN A CHILD'S LIFE

"Volunteering is a selfless act that seems to occur far too infrequently in a world of immediate gratification and self-centeredness. The exceptional people that dedicate their time advocating for the most vulnerable children in our society are truly angels here on earth, for there is no purer cause to champion than this."

Judge Brad Dalley San Juan County District Court



<u>San Juan CASA's mission</u> is to support effective volunteer advocacy for the best interest of abused and neglected children involved in the court system, and to ensure that every child has a safe, supportive, and permanent home.

### **BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER**



www.childhavennm.org/casa/

For More Information Call:

San Juan CASA Program Director (505-325-5358 Ext. 180)

San Juan CASA Volunteer Supervisor (505-325-5358 Ext. 181)

San Juan CASA Advocate Coach (505-325-5358 Ext. 182)

> Physical Address: 811 West Apache Street Farmington, NM 87401

Mailing Address: 807 West Apache Street Farmington, NM 87401









Lift Children from Crisis to Hope Become a CASA Volunteer

### HELP CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY

Children in foster care who have a CASA volunteer are more likely to succeed in school and adjust to change. As a volunteer, you can make all the difference for a child who has experienced abuse or neglect in your community.

# WHO ARE CASA VOLUNTEERS?

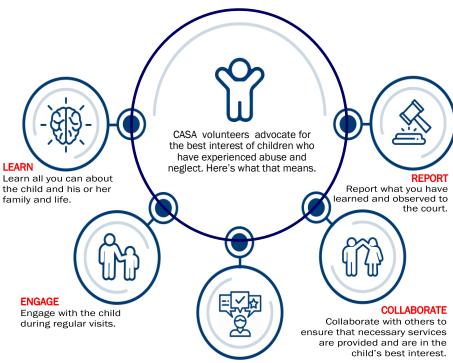


You are unique and have the opportunity to serve our diverse community. All over San Juan County people just like you are making a difference in the lives of neglected children. CASA volunteers are responsible adults who enjoy listening, having time to commit and who care about children and families.

They come from a variety of ethnic, professional, and educational backgrounds. San Juan CASA Volunteers are trained by our local experts in the field of child welfare. Volunteers learn about court room procedures and the special needs of children who have been abused or neglected. CASA Volunteers must be 21 years of age and pass a background check. It takes ten hours a month to be a CASA Volunteer. Please join us!



## CASA Best-Interest Advocacy



#### RECOMMEND

Speak up for the child's best interests in court. Make recommendations regarding the child's placement and needed services, and monitor the child's situation until the case is released by the court

#### **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES**

Established in San Juan County in 1996, CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of abused, neglected and abandoned children involved in the court system. A CASA is a trained community volunteer appointed by the Children's Court Judge to represent the best interests of a child in court. Once a CASA volunteer is appointed to a case they become an official part of the judicial proceeding, working alongside attorneys and social workers as an appointed officer of the court. When a CASA volunteer is appointed to a child's case, he or she is responsible for finding out as much as possible about that child. CASA volunteers search for information, review records, visit with parents, talk to teachers, caregivers, and, most importantly, the child. These volunteers then appear in court and make recommendations to the Children's Court Judge.