

CASA/GAL Overview



The mission of CASA Minnesota is to support and promote court-appointed volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children in Minnesota and to enrich the lives of children in foster and kinship care

Serving Volunteers and Children



Volunteer GALs

We work in partnership with the state to ensure volunteers have the resources and support to effectively serve kids and families focusing on the **recruitment, retention and recognition** of volunteer GALs.



CASA Cares Grants

Flagship, statewide grant program that provides children in foster and kinship care with opportunities for enrichment to help the spark of childhood come to life through grants that help them **move, connect, and learn.**

A National Network

939

**state & local
programs**

6,000

**state & local
staff members**

79,000

**CASA & GAL
volunteers**

201,000

**children &
youth served**



The CASA/GAL
network serves
more young people
in the child welfare
system than any
other organization.



Children with a CASA or GAL Volunteer...



RECEIVE

**more
services**

(their families do, too)



ARE MORE LIKELY TO

**reach
permanency**

and half as likely to
re-enter the system



HAVE HIGH

**levels of
hope**

which is linked to
numerous positive
outcomes



ARE MORE LIKELY TO

**pass all
courses**

in school

Unique Role of Volunteer GALs

- Encourages community involvement, and adds a level of accountability and transparency
- Can reduce employee workload, burnout, and turnover
- Provides statutorily required independent voice for children

“Let’s move forward together with all in the Guardian Program, volunteers and employees alike, to build a program that affords quality for all children under our responsibility.”

Ann S. Ahlstrom
Chair, Minnesota Guardian ad Litem Board



CASA/GAL Best-Interest Advocacy





Is being a CASA/GAL Volunteer the right fit for you?

21+ years old.

Pass a comprehensive criminal background and reference check.

Interview with the state of Minnesota and be accepted for the program.

Must complete 40 hours of pre-service training and 15 hours of annual continuing ed.

Volunteers spend an average of 10–12 hours a month on their assigned case and are asked to commit until the case closes (an average of 18 months) to ensure stability for the child.

Support for Volunteers

The GAL program is an **integral part** of Minnesota's child protection system. It is the only part of the system that encourages community involvement and adds a level of accountability and transparency that is **critical to the welfare** of abused and neglected children.

*Anne K. McKeig
Associate Justice Minnesota Supreme Court*

Volunteer GALs give their time and energy to help some of our most vulnerable children have a chance at a healthy and safe life. I hold so many of the volunteer GALs I know in the **highest esteem**. They often had successful careers in other areas but took the time to be trained and to **contribute to MN** in this important and critical role.

*Kathleen Blatz
Former Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice and
current Minnesota Guardian ad Litem Board member*



The Joy of Childhood

CASA Cares provides children in foster and kinship care with enrichment grants that support movement, connection, and learning such as summer camp, dance lessons, or a new bike.

CASA Cares grants support kids ages **1-21** and last year, more than **80%** of our grants went to kids of color.

Anyone can submit an application for an enrichment grant on behalf of a child.



On behalf of all of us at CASA Minnesota,
thank you for your interest and support!

