



From the Desk of Executive Director



Jackie Horton

Reflecting on the success of our 5th Annual CASA's Got Talent held on November 18, 2023, I have witnessed countless heartwarming moments and incredible contributions as the Executive Director for the past 13 years. This year, however, was particularly special as we had the honor of recognizing Deb Olson, a true cornerstone in our program.

From her pivotal role on the steering committee that birthed CASA to dedicating an impressive 15 years as an advocate, Deb has left an indelible mark on the lives of over 25 children. It was a poignant moment when Marquis, a young man who had Deb as his CASA, presented her with a well-deserved 15-year service award. These are the moments that make our hearts swell with gratitude and pride.

The dedication and hope our volunteers offer often go beyond what words can capture. They change lives in ways that extend far beyond our immediate awareness. Our volunteers are the unsung heroes, quietly weaving hope into the narratives of those they serve.

We want to express our deepest appreciation to all our volunteers on behalf of the CASA Board of Directors and Staff. Your unwavering commitment to our CASA youth is nothing short of extraordinary. Your selflessness and dedication create a brighter future for those who need it most.

From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Horton".

Executive Director



Advocating for Appropriate Mental Health Care



Children in foster care have a high risk of being diagnosed with at least one mental health disorder in their lifetime. This can be expected, as children in foster care have typically faced abuse or neglect by their own families, compounded by the trauma of being removed from their homes and often shuttled from one temporary placement to another. CASA volunteers and other concerned adults can do a variety of things to improve the situation of children in foster care who have mental health needs.

54 CASA volunteers served 85 children, securing safe homes for 26, with 1,990 volunteer hours contributed since January 1.

A Dedicated CASA's Journey of Compassionate Advocacy

In a compelling journey of dedication and advocacy, Hope, a Pukwana resident, was sworn in as a CASA earlier this year. Trained in February, she began actively working on her case by April, displaying a proactive approach that proved invaluable. Noticing missed counseling sessions during the school-to-summer transition, Hope took the initiative to ensure their continuation. Despite hurdles, such as the children residing an hour away, she navigates the complexities with determination. In a recent court session, facing a challenging absence of the child's family service worker, Hope seized the opportunity to inform the judge, showcasing her commitment to the children's welfare. Inspired by foster care friends and motivated by Yaque's visit to her church, Hope actively advocates for CASA, emphasizing our indispensable role in the journey of foster families.



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Contact Yaque

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Help CASA Recruit Volunteers

Help us amplify the impact of CASA volunteers for foster youth! CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocate, is a crucial voice for children in foster care, advocating for their best interests in court. Be a lifeline for a child who has experienced abuse or neglect – become a CASA volunteer today! Call 996-1212 or visit mitchellcasa.org.

Know someone perfect for the role? Please encourage them to contact Yaque or Jackie or visit mitchellcasa.org to nominate them.

Spread the word further! Introduce your company, organization, or church to CASA. Invite us to share about volunteering at your next event or display a CASA poster in your break room. Together, let's make a lasting difference for children in need.