

CASA Advocate Reina Helps Change Jessie's Story



Jessie, age 5 and autistic, was removed from his home due to neglect. His mother suffered from both mental health and substance use issues.

Jessie was placed with his maternal grandparents and CASA advocate, Reina, was assigned to help them and Jessie. Reina visited Jessie often, both at his placement home and at school.

In her reports she advocated for vital services for Jessie; including applied behavioral analysis therapy, a home health aide, financial help for a qualified babysitter and enrollment in a summer camp.

Jessie adjusted well to all the recommended changes. When his case was closed, his grandparents were granted guardianship, with the acknowledgement that his mother have liberal visitation.

Every child deserves to have a safe, permanent, and nurturing home.

CASA ensures that a well-trained, independent volunteer is able to voice timely and objective recommendations to the Family Court on behalf of a child.

Our ONLY interest is the child's best interest.



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

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CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
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MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Case for Support 2024-2026



Change a Child's Life[®]

Help Fund our 80% Initiative

Who we are:

CASA of Middlesex County is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving abused and neglected children living in foster care.

What we do:

CASA's dedicated staff recruited and trained 26 committed court-appointed volunteers in 2023 to advise the Middlesex County family courts and advocate for the child's best interests.

What we accomplish:

Every year hundreds of children are placed in foster care in Middlesex County. These children enter a system that can be confusing to them because their educational, medical, and emotional needs may not be fully understood. Our committed CASA advocates work one on one with these children to understand their needs, help them feel less alone and advise family courts on a recommended path forward.



A CASA advocate eases a child's loneliness and fear.

Our goals for the future:

With the financial support of concerned donors, more children than ever before can receive the help of a trained CASA Advocate.

In 2023, CASA volunteer advocates served 61% of children facing out of home placements. Of the hundreds of children placed in foster care each year in Middlesex County, our goal over the next 3 years is to serve at least 80% of all children placed in care.



Examples of our work:

- Ensuring kids have placements with or visits with siblings
- Advocating for extra time on tests in school
- Arranging for extracurricular activities like drawing or soccer
- Recommending family reunification or adoption
- Giving gifts to open during the holidays
- Providing a stable, healthy adult presence



Help support our 80% Initiative!

CASA of Middlesex County can advocate for more children each year with your help. Give an abused and neglected child a voice. We are proud of our significant growth over the last 5 years. In 2018, CASA of Middlesex County served 21% of children in foster care. That percentage increased to 61% by 2023. Each year, we strive to continue to serve a greater percentage of children in need.

The amount of new funding we are seeking over a 3-year period to supplement current sources of revenue is \$100,000. These additional funds will enable us to continue to recruit, train and support CASA advocates and serve an increasing percentage of children each year. The cost of maintaining a growing team of fully trained and supported volunteer advocates is approximately \$600,000 per year.

We thank our existing private donors and government and private grantors for their support over many years. Our continuing success is because of you.

Additional funds raised as part of the 80% initiative will be used to:

- Recruit new advocates
- Screen recruited advocates
- Purchase training materials
- Provide ongoing training opportunities related to current and emerging social service topics
- Support all advocates with our professional staff
- Fund outreach efforts to keep our community aware of the urgent needs of children in out of home placements