

## 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.**



### Contact Information:

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
(CASA) of Middlesex County  
28 Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 350, East  
Brunswick, NJ 08816

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## Case for Support 2024-2026



## Change a Child's Life<sup>®</sup>

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 more than 300 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.

Of the 300-350 children placed in foster care each year in Middlesex County, our goal over the next 3 years is to serve at least 80% or 250 children placed in care. In 2023, we served 61% or 202 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 109 children. That number increased to 202 in 2023. We strive to continue to serve more and more foster children each year.

The table below presents the costs of serving 21 more children per year over the next 3 years.

	Cost Per Child	Children Added Per Year	Total Funds Needed
2024	\$1,843	21	\$38,703
2025	\$1,898	42	\$79,716
2026	\$1,936	63	\$121,968

Total funding needed over a 3-year period: **\$240,387**

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
- Support new advocates with our professional staff
- Fund outreach efforts to keep our community aware of the urgent needs of children in out of home placements