**Additional Resources Available to CASA**

CASA through partnerships with other non-profits can provide support to our families and children through the following organizations.

**A Birthday Wish**

The CASA Communications/Administrative Assistant sends an email to our advocates requesting gift ideas, three months out, who have “CASA Kids” having a birthday. Our partner, A Birthday Wish provides us with wrapped gifts which our advocates can then deliver to their “CASA Kids”. Please look for the emails from the office and follow up with your advocates to make sure they provide gift ideas to us in a timely manner.

\*This is currently paused during COVID

**GIFT Fund through CASA of NJ**

CASA of NJ has a donor with interest in providing items and experiences to girls in foster care, especially if it relates to their academic or personal development. Please contact a Program Coordinator to apply.

**Holiday Gifts**

Every year, CASA through the help of various organizations has been able to provide Holiday Gifts to our “CASA Kids”.

One of our partners, Sayreville Middle School, has been helping CASA for the last 10 years. Usually at the end of September, CASA starts gathering a “wish list” from our advocates for each child which we submit to the school. Sayreville Middle school has been able in the past to provide each of our children with several Holiday gifts, which the CASA advocates, bring to our families in early December.

**Humbled by Your Service**

A local community group called “Humbled by Your Service” has been raising money for our organization and fulfilling wishes for our CASA kids. They are asking our advocates to create a list of items with our CASA children’s needs/wishes and send it to them. They are willing to purchase essential items on an ongoing basis, useful gifts (clothes, shoes, hygiene products, household items, essential items for the summer, outdoor toys, etc.), and birthday presents or gifts for special occasions. If you have a link to the specific item that they would like, that would be great, but you can also simply send a description. Please email felicia@casaofmiddlesexcounty.org with the items, gender and age of the child, date by which you need the item (if applicable for a birthday, etc), and any notes. At this time the maximum request per child is $50.

**Legacy Fund**

Complete the fillable Legacy form and submit it to your PC/supervisor. The form must be approved by the Executive Director.

This fund can be used for special requests from our children for items not readily available from other sources. We have used this fund to provide a youth with a basketball net; to provide a student with special backpack that they wanted; to purchase tickets to Disney World for a family that had two resource children living with them for a family vacation.

Should the Legacy Fund be unable to provide for a child’s wishes, advocates may wish to request gifts through similar funds, Gift in Time or One Simple Wish.

**Legal Services of New Jersey**

LSNJ can help families with legal issues, including poverty-related issues, to help them leave the child welfare system or prevent interaction with the child welfare system.

Before you refer a family to LSNJ make sure that you inform the family of this resource and ask them if they would like to receive services from them, and get consent to share their contact information with LSNJ. You may contact Jey Rajaraman at JRajaraman@lsnj.org or at 732-529-8376. Make sure to give a little bit of background on the family and why you think they would benefit from their services. LSNJ also serves the undocumented population. For more information on what services they provide visit <https://www.lsnj.org/>.

**Middlesex Water Company**

Dennis Doll, CEO of Middlesex Water Company, is a CASA of Middlesex County Board Member. He is interested in providing opportunities for youth to gain employment at his company. They will have opportunities for benefits, further education, professional development, and more. He will be flexible where possible with criminal history, but they must be able to transport themselves to the job site (mostly in Woodbridge). Please contact Stephanie Brown (stephanie@casaofmiddlesexcounty.org) if you have a youth who may be interested.

**Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools (VOTECH)**

This is perfect for any teens who want to: 1. Attend a school with smaller class sizes. 2. Obtain a high school diploma while also obtaining a technical certification 3. Expand their options past college. There are many career majors to choose from. You can find the list of career majors at <https://www.mcvts.net/domain/613>.  In order to attend one of their schools, an online application must be completed at <https://www.mcvts.net/admissions>. You will need to include the most recent report card, the final report card for the previous year, the attendance record and the disciplinary record for the student. If any child needs help with the application process you may contact Alba at alba@casaofmiddlesexcounty.org.

**One Simple Wish**

One Simple Wish is an online platform that connects community members with simple wishes from kids in foster care. Children in foster care and youth who have aged out of the system are eligible for this program. CASA of Middlesex is a partner. If you would like to submit a wish for one of your “CASA Kids”, please contact CASA’s Executive Director who can submit the request on your behalf. For more information, please visit: <https://www.onesimplewish.org/>