



Who We Are



CASA/GAL

A Court Appointed Special Advocate/ Guardian Ad Litem is a trained volunteer whose role is to advocate for the best interests of children who have been abused or neglected and are in foster care.

MISSION

CASA Kane County is a Guardian ad Litem, nonprofit volunteer organization that advocates for the best interests of children in abuse, neglect and private guardianship cases within the Juvenile Court system.

VISION

We believe all children in the foster care system will have a safe, nurturing and permanent home where they can thrive with the support and involvement of their community.

CASA Today



NATIONAL CASA

950 State CASA programs in 49 states

93,200+ Volunteers

240,000+ Children served annually



ILLINOIS CASA

31 Local CASA programs in **54** counties

3,500+ Volunteers

9,350+ Children served annually



KANE COUNTY CASA

220+ Volunteers

572 Children served annually

Communities We Serve



Children are involved in the court system in Kane County because they were removed from their home located in any Kane County community.

AURORA

BATAVIA

BURLINGTON

CAMPTON HILLS

CARPENTERSVILLE

EAST DUNDEE

ELBURN

ELGIN

GENEVA

GILBERTS

HAMPSHIRE

HUNTLEY

KANEVILLE

LILY LAKE

MAPLE PARK

MONTGOMERY

MOOSEHEART

NORTH AURORA

PINGREE GROVE

PLATO CENTER

ST. CHARLES

SLEEPY HOLLOW

SOUTH ELGIN

SUGAR GROVE

VALLEY VIEW

VIRGIL

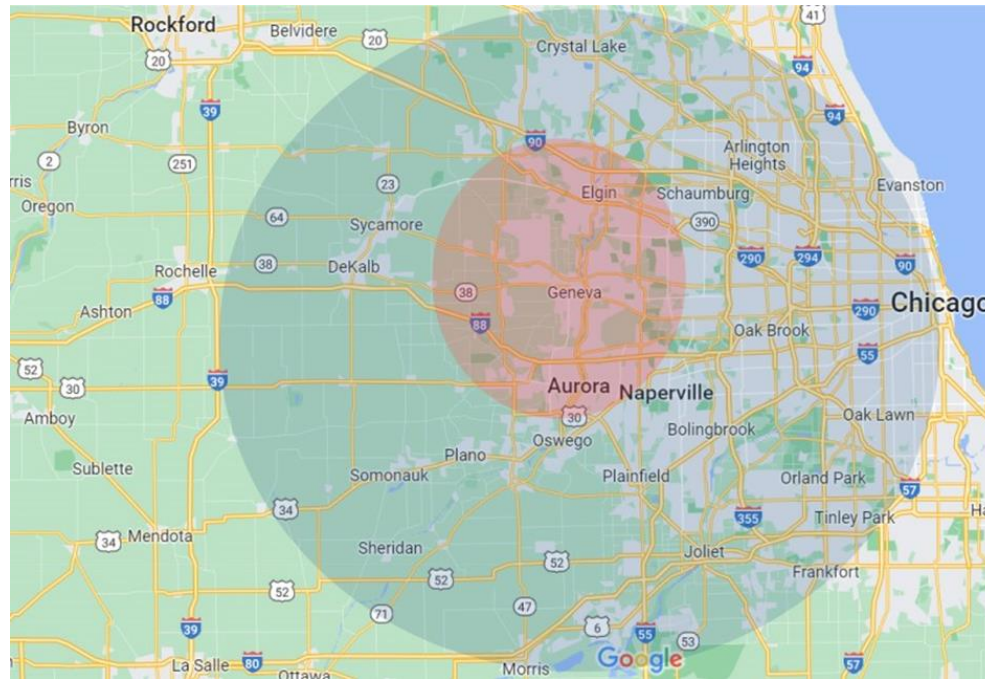
WASCO

WAYNE

WEST DUNDEE

Foster Home Locations

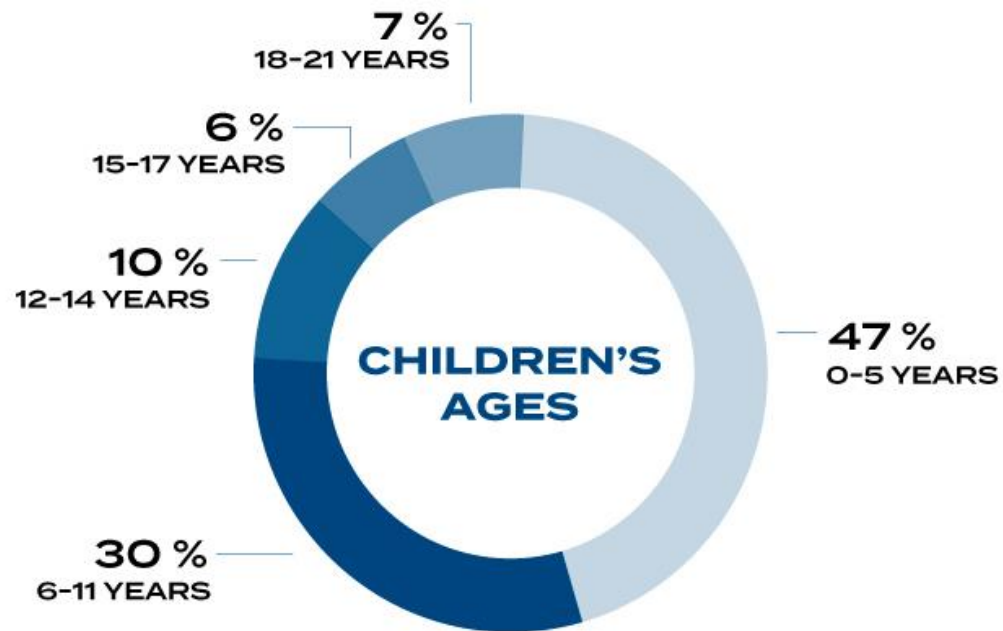
Children can be placed in a foster home located anywhere in the state of Illinois. That placement can be a family member, a friend of the family, or a traditional foster home.



Child Demographics

Following is information specific to CASA Kane County in 2021

572
**CHILDREN
SERVED**



Children with a CASA Volunteer



Are more likely to:

- Spend less time in foster care
- Not re-enter the foster care system
- Receive more services
- Be adopted
- Reunite with their birth parent
- Have a better educational outcome



Before You Accept a Case

- Complete 8-week training course
- Receive your background clearance
- Become a Mandated Reporter
- Be sworn in by the Judge



Training Expectations



- Complete a 45-hour training program on topics including:

Court Process

Communication Skills

Trauma & Resilience

Child Development

CASA/GAL Role

Cultural Competency

Report Writing

Optima Database

Abuse & Neglect Factors

- Have a beginner level of computer literacy and access
- Complete 1-3 hours of homework before each session
- Attend one morning session of court as a CASA/GAL Observer
- Ask questions and advocate for your learning!

FAQ's



- What happens if I have a vacation planned during the training session?
 - ❖ *You can take a make up session up to 2 times during the training. If you are going to miss more than 2 classes, we ask that you pause and come back during a future training program where you can complete each.*
- How many children do I advocate for at one time?
 - ❖ *One case does not equal one child. Some cases have sibling groups.*
- I know there is a 3-year commitment, but how long does it take to close a case?
 - ❖ *Each case is different. We ask for a 3-year commitment to provide as much consistency as possible for the children in care.*
- How much time does it take to volunteer each month?
 - ❖ *Approximately 5 to 15 hours a month, depending on the complexities of the case.*

FAQ's, cont'd



- Do I schedule the child visits or are they arranged for me? What about other meetings I will need to attend?
 - ❖ *You schedule child visits according to your schedule and that of the foster parent. Other meetings may be scheduled for you, such as IEP meetings or court hearings, but you typically have plenty of notice to plan to attend and most are virtual.*
- What happens if I can't attend a court hearing or do a child visit?
 - ❖ *Each volunteer is assigned to an Advocate Supervisor who will support them throughout the life of their case. This includes providing coverage at meetings, hearings, child visits, etc., when the volunteer is unable to attend.*
- Can I stay involved with a child once my case closes?
 - ❖ *Yes, if that is something the parent/guardian and the children would like.*

Other Ways to Help



Assist at a Fundraising Event such as Golf for a Child
Join a committee to help plan and organize special projects



Sponsor a Fundraising Event
Support our Incidentals Program by coordinating a Suitcase or Gift Card Collection
Provide a one time or recurring Donation



Invite CASA to present to your clubs, organizations, church groups
Follow us on Social Media, “like” our posts to increase awareness of our organization

Thank You!



For children who've been abused or neglected, CASA means having a home instead of feeling lost, and being a priority instead of feeling invisible. For volunteers, CASA is a life-changing experience that makes our community a better place.

Thank you for taking the initial steps to learn about joining CASA as a GAL Volunteer!