

CASA NEWS

CASA of Allen and Putnam Counties, Ohio Newsletter

April 2022

New Class/Advocate Training!

Advocate: One who pleads the cause of another specifically: one who pleads the cause of another before a judicial court. (Merriam-Webster)

Our first Advocate Training session for 2022 has begun!

We held an Orientation then classes began on March 15th — and we have 9 people involved in this class!

The Swearing-In Ceremony is set for April 19th.

***We will be offering a Summer Training session coming up in July for those who requested this time due to being a teacher or just wanting to have a class time during the day.

Summer Training will be July 18th – July 29th

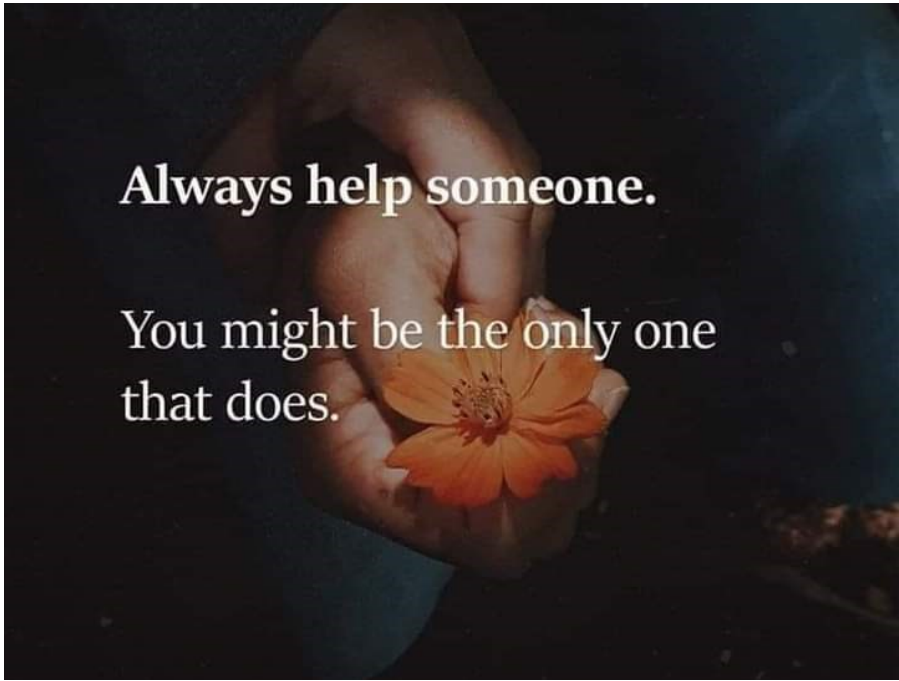
“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

— Anne Frank



In This Issue...

- New Class
- CASA Blog: “Duty”
- Summer Training
- Upcoming Training
- A Note from our CASA Director



“Duty”

—Post from our [CASA blog](#), by [Melissa Cruz](#)

Just last week, I was thinking about the inspiration it takes for someone to be involved with advocacy work. What inspires someone to be a volunteer? And to keep that devotion for years? One word came to mind, “duty”.

Then, that word – duty – came up two more times that week!

During our Spring Orientation – we had 12 people come to our information session about becoming a CASA. One of our volunteers spoke about duty.

“I came to CASA out of duty,” said Reverend Dr. Tim White.

He described advocating as rewarding work and shared that it doesn’t take a lot of time, but it takes dedication. A heart is behind that sense of duty. I believe people want to be involved in strengthening a child’s life.

One of our newest advocates, Patrice Reinhart, spoke at the Orientation too. She was just sworn in last season. This advocate, although new, is working two cases already! She asked this question, “Do you care enough?” And then she said, “If you don’t care enough, don’t do it. You have to care enough.”

I found this statement powerful – and true. The work of an advocate can be difficult but if we care enough – we keep showing up for that child. And we show up the next month, and the next. Until the case is completed. And we give our time and commitment and attention to that family. No matter how long the case and through the turns and delays. Because we are there for the child. That’s our duty.

www.crimevictimservices.org

Please visit the new webpage for Crime Victim Services! A new CASA blog is posted each month. CASA is one of 10 programs within Crime Victim Services.

Advocating

Last year, in 2021, the CASA program served 111 children.

We were asked by the court to assign an advocate to more cases, but we could not fill all of them.

We need advocates!

“I came to CASA out of duty,” said CASA advocate Rev. Dr. Tim White about being a Court Appointed Special Advocate.



“You don’t have to raise them —

You just have to raise your hand ...

Will you?”

— OHIO CASA

advocacy

to change “what is”
into “what should be”

Upcoming!

Summer Training

We are having a Summer Training time for those interested in becoming a CASA volunteer and advocating for the best interests of children.

Summer Training!

July 18 — July 29

Weekdays:

9 a.m. – Noon

Training Opportunities!

Upcoming Training Opportunities for CASA advocates:

April 28, 2022: Cultivating CASA
6 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Cultivating CASA has received high marks — this is a time to discuss case issues and at the last meeting they also discussed self-care tips. CASA supervisor Becca Peckinpaugh is leading this group with two volunteers — Angie Herzog and Tim White — serving as the co-facilitators. This training is worth 1.5 hours.

May 3, 2022: “All Things Court” Training
5:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Journey Building at Lima Community Church

“All Things Court” — Training on Hearing types, Testifying and Recommendations. The training will be led by CASA Attorney Abigail Hefflinger, CASA Staff and volunteers. This training is worth 3 hours.

May/June 2022: Book Club

Our Summer book club will be during the day on May 25 and June 22 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. featuring the book, “What Happened to You?” by Dr. Bruce Perry and Oprah Winfrey. This training is worth 5 hours attending both sessions.

We will have a Fall book club too — with evening times.

A Note from the Director

“We’re here to support our volunteers every step of the way.”

Leading up to the spring Orientation for our latest training session, CASA Director Sara Heitmeyer spoke on the Noon Edition for *Your News Now*.

Sara answered the question, “What does a CASA do?”

“Our CASA volunteers are just that — they’re volunteers — trained community volunteers who advocate in the court for abused and neglected children.

So often in the court process — there’s representation for moms and dads and grandparents but the children don’t often have representation. So that’s where the CASA volunteer steps in — they get to know this family and this child — all about them. They often develop really good relationships with these kids and then they go to court and they are a voice for this child.”

When asked about the intimidation factor that court can be for most people — Sara shared that there’s training and observation that go into that.

“We’re here to support our volunteers every step of the way.”

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information

CASA of Allen and Putnam Counties, OH
234 N. Main Street
Lima, OH 45801

(567) 940-2272

Email
CASA@CrimeVictimServices.org

Visit us on the web at
www.casaoflima.org



KAPOW!

SAVE THE DATE
CASA SUPERHERO 5K
OCTOBER 29, 2022

 **CASA**
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
ALLEN AND PUTNAM COUNTIES, OHIO

 **Crime
Victim
Services**
Prevention, Advocacy, Outreach