



CASA of Greene County
52 South Church Street
Waynesburg, PA 15370
724-802-7347
greenecountycasa@gmail.com
www.GreeneCountyCASA.org

June 1, 2022

Please allow me the opportunity to introduce CASA of Greene County, a nonprofit dedicated to our county's most vulnerable children. Incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in late 2018, CASA immediately began training local volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children. These volunteer Advocates are appointed by the Greene County Court of Common Pleas to the most sensitive and problematic cases currently moving through Greene County's Children and Youth Services. CASAs serve as a friend and mentor to their assigned child and as an independent advocate to the court. Over the last three years, CASA of Greene County has advocated for over 55 appointed children, and its volunteers have donated over \$140,000 in volunteer hours to those same children and to the court.

The mission of CASA and its Advocates is to conduct a comprehensive investigation of its assigned cases and to use that information to provide recommendations to the court that are in the best interests of the appointed children. These recommendations are not swayed by any agency or third party and are solely owned by the Advocates and staff providing them. Without giving away confidential details, we can promise you that CASA has provided important and, in some cases, life changing information that has helped the court make more informed decisions about a child's future. In the course of their case reviews, Greene County's CASA Advocates have discovered home lead poisoning, uncovered Individualized Education Plan deficiencies, and found evidence of unreported child abuse.

Above and beyond CASA of Greene County's primary mission of advocating for the best interests of its appointed children, we have also taken on additional, community improvement projects. The long-term goal of these projects is to stem the tide of future child abuse and neglect cases. Over the last three years, CASA has participated in the CYS *Angel Tree* program, U.S.M.C.'s *Toys for Tots* program, United Way's *Stuff the Bus* program, Crosspoint's *Trunk-or-Treat* event, Waynesburg University's *Out of Darkness Walk*, and Greene County's *Multi-Disciplinary Investigation Unit*. The *Centimark Corporation* continues to use CASA as a distributor for their back-to-school backpack program. We have partnered with *Loved Again Charities* to lead a winter coat, boot, and gear drive for local children, having held our first annual event during 2020's Light-Up-Night. We are so proud that we have been able to outfit over 250 children with winter gear over the last two years.

CASA of Greene County enjoys the confidence of local government and the court but, as a nonprofit organization, is not part of the "system". This fact makes it possible for CASAs to acquire independent information, conduct unbiased interviews, and submit impartial recommendations to the court. But this reality also means that CASA must support itself financially through charitable contributions, and thus maintain an extremely fiscally-responsible budget.

Our strategic plan, taking into account the benefits and challenges of our local area, includes three main avenues to provide possible funding. The first funding track is the charitable foundation community, the majority of which are geographically centered in Allegheny County. These foundations have the resources to provide large grants that support regional nonprofits. While these organizations continue to operate, many have shifted their funding priorities to a more localized Pittsburgh mission, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and a

greater "perceived" need in urban areas. In order to procure future foundation funding, nonprofits from outlying counties must prove significant, local financial support to be considered as a viable risk.

CASA's second track of funding includes annual fundraising events. In May 2021, we hosted our first annual Greene County Dodgeball Tournament. The event was a huge success, both financially and as a community event that brought people together and provided awareness of CASA and its mission. Our 2022 Dodgeball Tournament was an even bigger success, and the CASA Cup was hoisted by new community champions.

CASA's third funding track is a concentrated effort to foster local giving from private donors, religious organizations, and the business community. This introduction letter is the first step in that process. We are asking you to become one of **CASA's Guardian Angels** by choosing to pledge your financial support to our amazing volunteer Advocates and their mission. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you personally or virtually to discuss the possibility of including CASA of Greene County into your charitable giving. It is our true belief that, after hearing about CASA's accomplishments and future goals, you will see the genuine need and importance of assisting these appointed children by becoming a supporter of our organization.

Please feel free to contact CASA directly at 724-802-7347 with any questions you may have. For a more comprehensive look at CASA of Greene County, we invite you to visit our website and to follow us on Facebook at the addresses listed below. We can do so much more when we all work together, and we look forward to speaking with you soon about the huge impact your donation can make in our communities.

Sincerely,



Aaron Houser
Executive Director



Scott Kelley
Board President

www.GreeneCountyCASA.org

www.fb.com/greenecountycasa

Please detach here and return this slip, along with your donation, to CASA of Greene County.
All donations will be acknowledged with a nonprofit organization receipt upon their arrival.



Yes, I believe in your work, and I feel passionate about becoming one of CASA's Guardian Angels.
Please accept this donation and keep me informed about CASA's future projects and accomplishments.

Name and Address:

- \$250
- \$500
- \$750
- Other

Make checks payable to:
CASA of Greene County
52 South Church Street
Waynesburg, PA 15370