



CASA of Greene County
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www.GreeneCountyCASA.org

January 10, 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 50 appointed children, and its volunteers have donated over \$100,000 in volunteer hours to those same children and 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.

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 year and a half, 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, and Greene County's *Multi-Disciplinary Investigation Unit*. *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 and gear drive for local children, having held our first annual event during last year's Light-Up-Night. We are so proud that we were able to outfit 96 children with winter gear in 2020, and this year's drive has already outfitted another 132 and counting.

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. This past spring, we hosted our first annual 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. Starting in 2022, the event plan will include not only the dodgeball tournament but the return of the CASA Clay Clash in the fall.

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, 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 the website and Facebook pages listed below. We can do more when we all work together, and we look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,



Aaron Houser
Executive Director

www.GreeneCountyCASA.org
www.fb.com/greencountycasa

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: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

\$250

\$500

\$1000

Other

Make checks payable to:

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