



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates

**FOR CHILDREN**

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY**



# Become **A Partner**

| Winnebago County CASA  
Partner Sponsorship Brochure

# Our Impact



CHANGE A  
CHILD'S STORY™

## STATISTICS:

(FROM JANUARY 1ST, 2022 TO SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2022)



**280**

Children served

**84**

Perma found

**967**

Children in need of a  
CASA



**116**

Advocates

**12843**

Miles Driven

**1493**

Hours  
Volunteered

**25**

Advocates  
sown in

GOAL BY DEC 2023:

**95 new**

ALLOW US TO SERVE:

**238 more  
children**



**527**  
Potential  
children served

This year,

**88%**

of children in our program that were eligible,  
graduated with their high school diploma or high  
school equivalency.



[WinnebagoCountyCASA.org](http://WinnebagoCountyCASA.org)

## GET INVOLVED

Help us raise  
awareness and  
Change A  
Child's Story™



# About CASA



Today, approximately 500,000 children in the US are caught up in the court and child welfare maze because they are unable to live safely at home. These children are removed from parents who can't — or won't — take care of them, and then into their lives come dozens of strangers: police, foster parents, therapists, social workers, judges, lawyers, and more. Hopefully, one of these people is a CASA volunteer.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are volunteers who are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for children who have experienced abuse or neglect, to make sure they don't get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system or languish in an inappropriate group or foster home. CASAs stay with each case until the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. For many children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult presence in their lives.

Last year, nearly 60,000 CASA volunteers served more than 240,000 children who have experienced abuse or neglect through 954 nationwide program offices. CASA volunteers have helped more than two million children since the first program was established in 1977.

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## WINNEBAGO COUNTY CASA'S HISTORY AND MISSION

In 1987, Judge Bradnor Riggs, then presiding judge over Juvenile Court in Winnebago County, met with the Junior League of Rockford to bring CASA to the children of Winnebago County. Today, more than 30 years later, Winnebago County CASA is a nonprofit, volunteer-based organization whose mission is to support and advocate for the best interests of children within the juvenile abuse and neglect court system. Since 1987, we have trained more than 700 volunteers and served more than 3,600 children in Winnebago County.



# Our Values



## WE BELIEVE...

- **We believe** that every child has the right to thrive in a safe and permanent home.
- **We believe** that all advocates, members of the Board of Directors, and friends of CASA should be welcomed, trained appropriately, appreciated, and supported by the staff and provided with a healthy environment in which to gather, work, and volunteer.
- **We believe** that our staff deserves a collaborative and conducive atmosphere that allows them to fulfill the organization's mission, one that demonstrates respect and value for each individual's talents and gifts as they enhance the leadership of the team; promotes respect for each individual's role, opinions, time, and space; focuses on hiring competent people suited to each position in the organization; and provides continuing education opportunities.
- **We believe** that our donors deserve to be educated and informed of CASA's mission and goals, to see evidence of financial responsibility, to be inspired to invest in our longevity, to be recognized with respect and confidentiality for their gifts and generosity, and to have questions on how their dollars are spent answered in a timely and transparent manner.
- **We believe** we have an obligation to our community to elevate awareness of our program and the broader child welfare concerns including poverty, diversity, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, and other issues impacting families and to continually expand collaborative efforts with other community agencies and court partners to achieve common goals.
- **We believe** that our goals and objectives must always be aligned with our mission, vision, and values. We take great pride in being an organization that is united with our legal partners to ensure that all maltreated children have the right to competent, well-trained CASA/GAL volunteers who will positively impact their lives and future outcomes.



# Our Team

CASA Board members, executives, and staff have three main responsibilities:



CHANGE A  
CHILD'S STORY™

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Leslie Erickson**  
CHAIRPERSON



**Fred Muehlfelder**  
CHAIRPERSON



**Jennifer Muraski**  
IMMEDIATE PAST-CHAIRSPERSON



**Michelle Conti**  
TREASURER



**Eric Wilson**  
SECRETARY



**Taryn Marko**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



**Mari Mattocks**  
ADVOCATE REPRESENTATIVE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Jessica Cheney-Nelson**



**Ron Clewer**



**Darlene Hanna**



**Fran Rossate**



**Sue Gorski**



**Rosana Gregg**



**Michael Ramos**



**Garret Thresher**



**Michelle Vella**



## STAFF MEMBERS



**John Papiernik**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Jennifer Montoya**  
CASA PROGRAM  
DIRECTOR



**Johnnie Pentenburg**  
CASA ADVOCATE SUPERVISOR



**Maureen Morrissey**  
TRAINING AND RETENTION  
COORDINATOR



**Ann Bruce**  
RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH  
COORDINATOR



**Harold Sweeney**  
EDUCATION ADVOCATE



**Karen Schiller**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Amber Johnson**  
ADVOCATE FACILITATOR



**Torri Mathieu**  
TRAINING & RETENTION  
COORDINATOR



**Ashley Moore**  
ADVOCATE SUPERVISOR



**Renee Pierce**  
ADVOCATE SUPERVISOR

# Change a Child's Story™

There are currently more than 400,000 children in foster care in the United States, 16,000 in Illinois, and 1,300 in Winnebago County.

Many are victims of abuse and neglect. A third will become homeless after aging out of foster care and half will drop out of school before graduation. The typical story of a child in foster care is one of insecurity and instability, but it doesn't have to be. As a volunteer with Winnebago County CASA, a nonprofit organization, you can become a court appointed special advocate (CASA) and play a vital role in rewriting the story of a child, helping them find safety and stability in a permanent home. You will be trained and appointed by a juvenile court judge to represent a child,

advocating for their best interests, and speaking up for someone who would not otherwise have a voice. Ted Christo has been a CASA for six months. As someone who knows firsthand what these children experience, his work is personal. *"I know what they're going through,"* he says. *"I know that fear and loneliness."* CASA volunteers participate in a seven-week course before being sworn in and assigned a child to care for. They spend quality time with the child, observing and making sure they are safe and living in a healthy environment. They work alongside other child protection agencies and in the court system, reading and filing reports that determine the future of the child in their care. *"We talk to teachers, doctors, other child advocates and family members,"* says Ted. *"We make sure the children are medically up to date, taken care of and well-fed. We want these children to be as comfortable and taken care of as possible."* CASAs are the eyes and ears of the court system, guiding children as they navigate both the juvenile court and foster care systems.



Ted Christo gives children a voice through Winnebago County CASA.

*"We need more volunteers. When you see that beautiful smile on their face and you understand that you're making their life better, all the work becomes worthwhile. I wish that, when I was a child facing these situations, I had someone to protect me and speak up for me." Ted Christo*



They are a much-needed constant in a child's life, building a stable relationship and looking out for their interests. *"The goal is to get the child back into their original home and to provide healing for them and their family members,"* Ted says. *"They didn't ask to be in these situations, and they don't understand it. They just know they're afraid. You have to have love for them in your heart and help them overcome that fear."* In Winnebago County, CASAs are currently working with 300 children, leaving 1,000 without a voice in an intimidating juvenile court system. *"We need to help 100% of these children,"* says Ted.



If you're interested in becoming a CASA, visit [winnebagocountycasa.org](https://winnebagocountycasa.org) to Change A Child's Story™



Become a CASA

211 S. Court St. #258, Rockford, IL  
(815) 319-6887 | [winnebagocountycasa.org](https://winnebagocountycasa.org)

# CASA Royale



Winnebago County CASA will host its **2nd Annual CASA Royale** charity fundraising gala and casino night at the beautiful **Embassy Suites by Hilton Rockford Riverfront** hotel in Spring 2023.

Guests will enjoy a **VIP Cocktail Hour**, **VIP ticket holders will enjoy an open bar and delicious hors d'oeuvres** — along with a head start on trying their luck at the tables for an opportunity to win some fantastic prizes! The fun will continue throughout the night with heavy appetizers, a cash bar, entertaining music, a silent auction, and casino entertainment.



## Sample Event Flyer

Scan For  
Event Recap



## 2022 Sponsors



# CASA Royale

## sponsorship opportunities

	Royal Flush Sponsor \$5,000	Straight Flush Sponsor \$3,000	Full House Sponsor \$1,500	Two Pair Sponsor \$500
Eight (6) VIP tickets to event	✓			
Logo featured on customized table felt, provided as souvenir after event	✓			
Name featured as presenting sponsor in event press release	✓			
Name/logo featured as presenting sponsor on event signage	✓			
Name/logo featured on event advertising, including; print, mailers, social media ads and website	✓			
Recognition as presenting sponsor in Winnebago County CASA newsletter-- 1,000+	✓			
Recognition as presenting sponsor in Winnebago County CASA newsletter-- 1,000+ subscribers	✓			
Verbal recognition as presenting sponsor by event MC and opportunity to speak	✓			
Verbal recognition as presenting sponsor by event MC and opportunity to speak to attendees from stage	✓			
Four (4) VIP tickets to event		✓		
Name/logo featured prominently on event signage		✓		
Name/logo featured on event advertising, including; print, mailers, social media ads and website		✓		
Sticker on two gaming tables		✓		
Recognition as sponsor in Winnebago County CASA		✓		
Verbal recognition as sponsor by event MC		✓		

# CASA Royale

## sponsorship opportunities

	Royal Flush Sponsor (One available) \$5,000	Straight Flush Sponsor (Two available) \$3,000	Full House Sponsor \$1,500	Two Pair Sponsor \$500
Two (2) VIP tickets to event			✓	
Name/logo featured on removable sticker placed on a gaming table at event			✓	
Name/logo featured on event signage			✓	
Name/logo featured on event advertising, including; print, mailers, social ads and website			✓	
Name/logo will appear on website				✓
Name/logo featured on event signage				✓



# Advocates' Club



Winnebago County CASA is excited to host the 7<sup>th</sup> annual **Advocates' Club** at The Union on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Attendees can enjoy all of the activities at Stroll on State, a free community event in downtown Rockford that features a parade, fireworks, tree lighting, musical performances, a photo booth, surprise visits from Santa, and so much more! Our doors at the Advocates' Club are open all night long, so guests can come and go as they please.



The Advocates' Club will include live music, food, and fun for all ages! **We are excited to partner with you on another successful event.**



**Scan For  
Recap Video**



Sample Event Flyer



## 2022 Sponsors



CHIROPRACTIC FIRST OF ROCKFORD



# Advocates' Club

## sponsorship opportunities

	\$5,000 Premier Sponsor	\$3,000 Sponsor	\$1,500 Sponsor	\$500 Sponsor
Company name mentioned in all media releases, advertising and social	✓	✓		
Recognition in CASA Newsletter, with over 2,000 subscribers	✓	✓	✓	✓
Name on "All Sponsor" Signs	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 signs throughout the event		✓		
Name on all attendee badges	✓			
Company name on website and social media	✓	✓	✓	✓
Company name on tabletops	✓	✓	✓	✓
10 Event tickets and a reserved table	✓			
8 Event tickets and a reserved table		✓		
6 Event tickets			✓	
2 Event tickets				✓



Winnebago County CASA's  
Advocates' Club 2023  
**Sponsor Information Form**

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorship Levels**

☐ Yes, I would like to sponsor *CASA Royale 2023!*

☐ \$5,000 Premier Sponsor

☐ \$1,500 Sponsor

☐ \$3,000 Sponsor

☐ \$500 Sponsor

☐ I am not able to sponsor *CASA Royale 2023* but would like to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support Winnebago County CASA.

☒ I am sponsoring both events. I have enclosed my payment with a discount of 10%.

**Payment Information**

Winnebago County CASA accepts check or credit card payments.

Please make all checks payable to "Winnebago County CASA."

Payment Method: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Check

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

This form can be returned to the CASA representative who contacted you, emailed to Michael Ramos [mramos@winnebagocountycasa.org](mailto:mramos@winnebagocountycasa.org) or mailed to Winnebago County CASA at 211 S. Court Street #258, Rockford, IL 61101.

For questions about sponsorship please contact Michael Ramos at the email address above or at (815) 978-5217.

Winnebago County CASA's  
*CASA Royale 2023*  
**Sponsor Information Form**

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorship Levels**

☐ Yes, I would like to sponsor *CASA Royale 2023*!

☐ \$5,000 Royal Flush Sponsor

☐ \$1,500 Full House Sponsor

☐ \$3,000 Straight Flush Sponsor

☐ \$500 Two Pair Sponsor

☐ I am not able to sponsor *CASA Royale 2023* but would like to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support Winnebago County CASA.

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Please make all checks payable to "Winnebago County CASA."

Payment Method: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Check

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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