

You can make a difference in the life of an abused child.

CASA is a powerful model for breaking the vicious cycle of child abuse by speaking up for children who are 'lost' in the system and guiding them into safe environments where they can thrive.

Today, hundreds of abused and neglected children in Merced County are waiting for an Advocate. Partner with us to help make a life-changing difference for these special children.



In the United States ...

- More than 400,000 children and youth are in foster care.
- Almost 70,000 live in *California!*

In Merced County ...

- More than 5,600 allegations of child abuse occurred in 2014.
- At least 1,178 children were in foster care sometime during 2014.
- As of January 2014, 720 children were in foster care in Merced County.

CASA of Merced County

CASA of Merced County
2824 Park Avenue, Suite A
PO Box 2362
Merced, CA 95344
(209) 722-2272

MercedCASA@gmail.com
www.mercedcasa.org

CASA of Merced County



Providing stability and hope to abused, abandoned and neglected children by being a powerful voice in their lives.

What is CASA?

CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality intervention and advocacy services to abused and neglected children in Merced County. CASA provides training, supervision and ongoing support to Advocates who work with children in the foster care system. Each Advocate is matched one-on-one with a child and acts as his or her champion.

CASA Advocates

CASA Advocates are ordinary people with extraordinary hearts and the desire to make a difference. Advocates must be at least 21 years old and are asked to make an 18 month commitment in order to ensure stability and consistency for the children they serve.

What Do Advocates Do?

A CASA Advocate visits with a child on a regular basis, interacts with professionals involved in the case and makes recommendations directly to the court, ensuring the child's best interests are not overlooked. Advocates make a commitment of 10-15 hours per month.

How Do I Become An Advocate?

The first step in becoming a CASA Advocate is to attend an information session to learn what an Advocate's responsibilities are and how the CASA organization will support you. A current Advocate will share experiences and answer all of your questions. Next, an interview and a 30 hour training series is required. After successfully completing all requirements, Advocates are sworn in as an officer of the court. For more information, call (209) 722-2272.



How Else May I Help?

Join  !

CASA relies on individual and corporate volunteers and financial partners to make its work possible. Financial support is needed to recruit, train and supervise advocates. Our **VOICES4CASA** are asked to support the organization with an annual donation. We welcome all support, including volunteers who can donate time for even just a few hours throughout the year. For more information about how you may help, visit our website at MercedCASA.org, complete the **Response Form**, or call our office at (209) 722-2272.

You Can Help Make A Difference!

TAX ID: 27-2084694

Response Form

Yes, I want to help!

- I would like more information on becoming an Advocate.
- I would like to make a financial contribution.
Enclosed is my donation of:
 - \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25
 - Other amount: \$ _____

TAX ID: 27-2084694

- I would like to become a **VOICES4CASA** partner. I am enclosing my donation.
- I would like to become a **VOICES4CASA** partner. Please call me to set up my donation.

First & Last Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____



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