



Standing with Children and Families in Crisis

On any given day, there are nearly **424,000 children in foster care** in the United States. For children and youth who have experienced abuse or neglect, or for those who are at-risk of maltreatment, the social isolation and economic uncertainty brought on by COVID-19 has had far-reaching consequences—support networks disrupted, visits and court hearings delayed, a lack of technology for virtual learning, medical and/or therapy sessions, critically important services suspended and foster homes in short supply.

During these uncertain times, the National CASA/GAL Association for Children's member network of 948 state organizations and local programs remained resilient and continued to support children, youth and families. Advocacy didn't stop during COVID-19. Court appointed special advocate (CASA) and guardian ad litem (GAL) volunteers have demonstrated determination and creativity in staying connected with children by participating in remote hearings, providing virtual homework support, and celebrating milestone occasions. As these children begin to return to a sense of normalcy following the pandemic, having a caring, consistent adult—someone who checks in, follows up, holds the system accountable and puts the child's best interests before all others—makes all the difference and helps change a child's story.



950

state and local programs serving children and families during the pandemic



93,225

CASA and GAL volunteers advocating for children and youth



242,236

children and youth being supported by a CASA or GAL volunteer

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Every child who has experienced abuse or neglect deserves a caring adult to advocate for what they need to heal and thrive after this challenging, isolating year.

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TARA LISA PERRY

Chief Executive Officer
National Court Appointed Special Advocate/
Guardian Ad Litem Association For Children

COVID-19 Impact Snapshot

Throughout the pandemic, the National CASA/GAL Association provided critical support to programs and volunteers so they could advocate safely for children and families.

EMERGENCY FUNDING



\$249,320

in emergency grants to 41 programs



\$38,376

in PPE grants to 18 programs



\$15,225

in technology grants to 35 programs

TRAINING



15,957

staff and volunteers trained since March 2020



21,000+

times training resources have been accessed during the pandemic



800%

increase in participants per training over the previous year

Our Path Forward

As we work to return to a sense of normalcy following the pandemic, we need resources to support our programs and volunteers so they can continue to advocate for what children and families need most. Specifically, we need funds to do the following:



Recruit more volunteers to serve more children, youth and families in need



Support our programs through the transition as communities reopen and return to full operational capacity



Accelerate and evolve our training resources for programs and volunteers to adjust to new realities



Court Appointed Special Advocates
Guardians ad Litem
FOR CHILDREN

NATIONAL CASA/GAL ASSOCIATION

nationalcasagal.org/covid-19