

VOLUNTEER

SPOTLIGHT

MEET BONNIE ZARUCA

Bonnie has been a CASA volunteer for five years. During that time, she has advocated for five families, serving ten children. She also works as a mentor for new CASA volunteers.

Bonnie is an award-winning CASA volunteer, having received the highest honor, the CASA Power of One Award, at the Lucas County CASA Courage Awards Banquet. The Power of One Award is presented for outstanding volunteer advocacy on behalf of our community's abused and neglected children.

Besides her CASA work, Bonnie loves reading, gardening, and enjoying friends.

Lucas County CASA is blessed to have Bonnie on our team. Here is what she told us about her volunteer work.

Why did you decide to become a CASA volunteer?

I only "thought" about being a CASA volunteer. It was divine intervention that kept speaking to me until I "committed" to being a CASA volunteer.

If you were speaking with an individual who is considering becoming a CASA Volunteer, what would you tell them?

These children have no voice, no say, no control as to what happens in their lives. If we are not here for them, then who? If you do not answer the call, then who?

Which three qualities or skills should a prospective CASA volunteer possess?

Be a righteous fighter. Love kids. Be able to show compassion and empathy.

How did you collaborate and coordinate your investigation efforts with the other professionals on your case?

I have meetings with teachers, therapists, counselors, and caseworkers to get a resolution.



Bonnie's beautiful garden.



In your opinion, why is it essential for children who are victims of child abuse and neglect to have a CASA Volunteer?

We are in the ring for these helpless victims and will not leave them.

How has being a CASA volunteer impacted your life?

I finally feel that I am where I am supposed to be. It is what I have been called to do - give children at risk a person who will be their voice.

In your time as a CASA Volunteer, has there been an experience that has impacted you the most?

Yes, my present case has impacted me the most. It is painful to watch the continuous uprooting of my kiddo and no place to belong yet. I will be present on the day Lucas County Children Services finds his forever home to celebrate with him.

The CASA Courage Awards banquet is a community event to honor CASA volunteers for their powerful advocacy on behalf of our community's abused and neglected children. Join us on October 12, 2023, for our next banquet.

Purchase your ticket today at eventcasacourage2023.eventbrite.com