
VOLUNTEER

SPOTLIGHT

TERRI BALLMER

Terri has been a CASA volunteer for 16 years. During that time, she has served 59 families, advocating for 124 children.

She retired from the medical field but works part-time for Walbridge Park. She also volunteers for Angel Gowns. The program utilizes wedding dresses to create burial gowns for infants. The gowns can be used for stillborn, premature, or full-term babies that pass away while at the hospital.

Besides her CASA work, Terri loves working in her yard and makes beautiful quilts.

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

Why did you decide to become a CASA volunteer?

My husband and I fostered children for a few years, where I learned about the CASA program. That encouraged me to become a CASA volunteer.



Meet Terri's beautiful grandchildren

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

Being a CASA volunteer is not always easy, but there will always be small victories to celebrate.

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

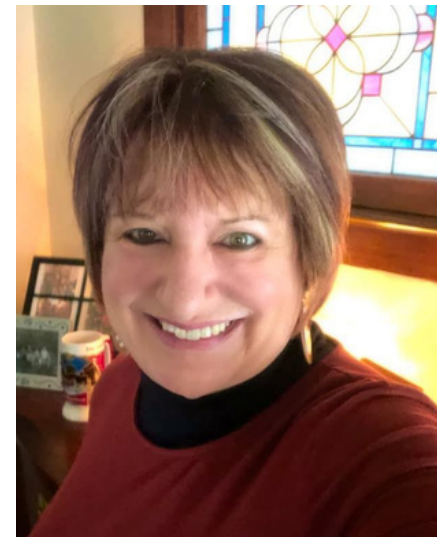
Having a working relationship with caseworkers and attorneys is a huge role in having a good outcome. Listening and seeing both sides is important.

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

CASA volunteers should possess determination, compassion, and empathy.

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

The CASA volunteer is essential because they only have to focus on what is in the best interest of that child, especially when that child is too young to voice their wants and needs.



How has being a CASA volunteer impacted your life?

It is one of the most rewarding things I have done in my life, helping a child in need is never a waste of time.

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

One of my first cases, I had a mom who had lost two children to the system. I came on the case when she had her third child. She worked so hard to work her case plan and do what she needed to do. In the end she was able to keep that child. I never give up on the parent.

JOIN OUR NEXT CASA TRAINING CLASS

The forty (40) hours of free, interactive training begins on Tuesday, January 9th and ends with the swearing-in ceremony on Friday, February 16. Training nights begin with dinner and take place at the Juvenile Justice Center 1801 Spielbusch Ave. Toledo, 43604.