

## VOLUNTEER

# SPOTLIGHT

## MEET BARB BAUMGARTNER

Barb has been a **CASA** volunteer for nine years. During that time, she has served **24** families, advocating for **65** children.

Besides her **CASA** work, Barb is passionate about reading. She keeps track of the books she has read on a spreadsheet. Barb likes to include the name of the author, the title, the number of pages, and the number of words.

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

### Why did you decide to become a **CASA** volunteer?

In my professional and personal life, I have enjoyed serving others. I decided to become a **CASA** volunteer to serve children in my community. Serving people is in my blood!

### How has being a **CASA** volunteer impacted your life?

Serving as a **CASA** volunteer has been such a great experience. I get to meet children who've experienced so many painful and possibly life-altering events. Perhaps the parents are dealing with substance use disorder or domestic violence. In those circumstances, I want to give hope to a child.

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

The **CASA** Program staff members have always provided me with guidance and care. The **CASA** staff attorneys have always been by my side in the courtroom to be

certain I was prepared. The **CASA** office staff always have documents ready for my hearings. Making it possible to have the proper courtroom demeanor and preparedness. Working with the **CASA** staff in the last nine years has impacted me the most.

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

My approach is to listen and learn from the professionals working on my cases.

**"She sees the positives in a situation before the negatives."**

**"Barb is benevolent, bright, and brave."**

**"Barb is caring, kind, and easy to talk to. A friendly face."**



CASA Coaches Aislynn Ward, Mary Bohnett, and Breanne Vincent



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

**CASA** kids need to have trusting adults in their lives. Trust building was essential in my career and it is essential in all interactions. My strategy is to let the child decide when they are ready to talk. Pushing a kiddo just turns the kiddo off.

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

Kindness, awareness of behavior, and willingness to engage with families in their homes

## BECOME A **CASA** VOLUNTEER

The next **CASA** training class begins on Tuesday, June 18. Learn more at [CASAKids.net](http://CASAKids.net)