

# VOLUNTEER

# SPOTLIGHT

## MEET DR. VINNIE RICCARDI

Dr. Riccardi has been a CASA volunteer for 23 years. During that time, he has served 11 families, advocating for 24 children. In the past, he has also worked as a mentor for new CASA volunteers.

Besides his CASA work, Dr. Riccardi is a foster father and an influential leader in Lucas County serving in leadership roles for many organizations such as the Latino Alliance.

In his professional life, he is the Executive Director of the Believe Center, the Executive Director of the Youth Community Connections, and runs his own business Riccardi Consulting, LLC.

He loves cooking and giving tours of his home city. He isn't afraid of showing the good and the bad of New York City.

Lucas County CASA is blessed to have Dr. Riccardi on our team. Here is what he told us about his volunteer work.

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

As a foster parent, I realized there needed to be a consistent person involved in the lives of abused and neglected children.



Dr. Riccardi and US Congress Woman Marcy Kaptur at the Corazon de Mexico and Believe Center's Annual fund raising event.

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

Abused and neglected children need a neutral voice, especially the youth.

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

I will tell them that being a CASA volunteer is rewarding, empowering, and inspiring.

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

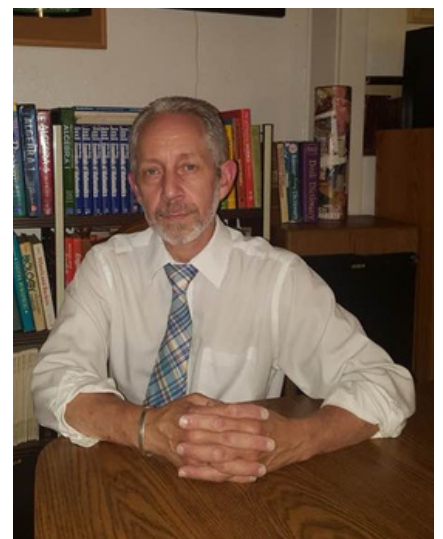
I feel honored to have been a part of many youth's lives. Being an advocate and a "voice" for an abused child has assured me that there is a true representation.

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

My community involvement has helped me to develop a good rapport with all the professionals involved in my CASA cases.

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

A prospective CASA volunteer should be compassionate, determined, and open-minded.



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

Yes, there was a case that I became frustrated with. Eventually, I removed myself from the case as a CASA volunteer and took custody of the youth.



Dr. Riccardi enjoys hosting friends and family members at his apartment in Brooklyn, NYC.