
VOLUNTEER

SPOTLIGHT

MEET MADDI PINKELMAN

Maddie has been a CASA volunteer for one year. She works full time at two of her own preschool centers in Bowling Green called Silver Kid's Learning Center.

Besides her CASA work, Maddie enjoys hanging out with her kids, and spending time outside. She also loves reading.

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

Why did you decide to become a CASA volunteer?

I became a CASA volunteer because I am an active foster parent and one of my foster kiddos had a CASA volunteer that advocated amazingly for the child in their case. I truly could tell how important the best interest of the child was to this CASA volunteer. I don't believe that this child would have had a successful outcome without the help of their CASA volunteer. I knew I needed to be a part of this amazing group of people!

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

There are new experiences almost daily in my time as a CASA volunteer that have shaped and molded my heart and brain to see the big picture and advocate for what's in the best interest of the child. The support from the CASA office and team is also out of this world!

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

CASA volunteers should be honest, patient, and empathetic.

How has being a CASA volunteer impacted your life?

Being a CASA volunteer has impacted my life in so many ways. Mostly, it gives me a sense of purpose to advocate for children who are unable to do so for themselves.



Maddie with her adoptive son Spencer

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

It is essential for children to have a CASA Volunteer because it's our job to do what is in the best interest of the child. We are able to focus a lot of our time on our case, where children services caseworkers have many, many cases to work on. They aren't always able to focus on the children and see what the children need.



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

I would tell them it's a tough role but so worth it. Supporting your CASA kids and their families during an uncertain time is amazing, and so many kids are grateful!

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

When collaborating with other professionals in my CASA cases I try to view every part of the story from multiple sides. As a CASA volunteer I have the opportunity to meet with and talk with many people involved in a child's life, therefore I can really get a grasp of what a child needs.