

VOLUNTEER

SPOTLIGHT

MEET FRED DANNHAUSER

Fred, the recipient of the 2020 Rising Star award, has dedicated the past seven years to advocating for 18 children across 12 families. In addition to his volunteer work, Fred serves full-time as the President of FocusCFO in the Greater Toledo area, where he helps entrepreneurs thrive. He has also been an active member of several non-profit boards.

Outside of his volunteer work and full-time job, Fred is a dog lover with a strong interest in dog training.

The CASA staff describe Fred as a passionate advocate—reliable, well-organized, and deeply committed to ensuring the best interests of the children he serves. The Lucas County CASA Program is fortunate to have Fred as part of our team. Here's what he shared about his experience as a volunteer.

How has being a CASA volunteer impacted your life? My work with the CASA Program has opened my eyes to the incredibly tough situations others face in life, and it's made me realize just how fortunate I am.

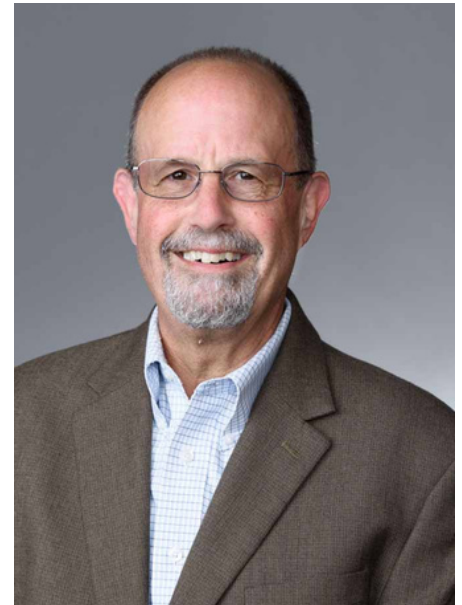
Why did you decide to become a CASA volunteer? I had known about the CASA program for years, but with my career involving a lot of travel, I knew it wouldn't be practical at the time. Once the travel demands eased up, I decided to learn more about the program—and the rest is history.

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

I can think of two specific cases where my involvement directly influenced the outcome for the child, leading to a much better result than the direction the case was heading.

Which three qualities or skills should a prospective CASA volunteer possess? Three important qualities a volunteer should possess are patience, the ability to investigate/ask tough questions, and work through understanding Lucas County Children Services' procedures and policies.

If you were speaking with people considering becoming a CASA volunteer, what would you tell them? I would say the CASA volunteer is a role that is incredibly rewarding, but it also comes with its share of disappointment and frustration. As we learned in training, the key is to simply do your best, knowing that there will be events beyond your control.



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

Navigating all the systems involved can be overwhelming in many ways, and the child needs someone whose sole responsibility is to focus on their best interests.

How did you collaborate and coordinate your investigation efforts with the other professionals on your case? I always strive to collaborate with the Lucas County Children Services Agency. Every CASA volunteer is fortunate to have the support of a highly talented team of professionals within the CASA office, who bring valuable expertise and are always ready to assist.

CASA INFORMATION SESSIONS

Join us for an upcoming Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) information session to learn about the volunteer application process! These one-hour sessions will be held at the Sanger Branch Library (3030 Central Ave., Toledo, OH 43606) at 2 p.m. on the following Sundays:

- March 9
- April 6
- May 4

Step up in 2025 to become a CASA volunteer and make a lasting difference in the lives of children who have experienced abuse and neglect.