

VOLUNTEER

SPOTLIGHT

MEET CAROL HADDIX

Over the past three and a half years, Carol has advocated for nine children as a dedicated CASA volunteer. After retiring from a rewarding career in youth development, she found CASA to be the perfect way to continue her lifelong passion for supporting children.

Married for 49 years, Carol is a proud mother of two and grandmother of two, whom she loves to spoil whenever possible. When she's not traveling the world, hiking national parks, or planning her next adventure, you can often find her at Wildwood Metropark volunteering on the Trail Patrol with her Labradoodle by her side.

An avid reader who enjoys a great mystery (and averages about 100 books a year!), Carol also enjoys cooking, baking, and hosting Sunday dinners that are filled with family, friends, and laughter.

Thank you, Carol, for volunteering with the Lucas County CASA Program and making such a lasting difference in the lives of children.

Why I Became a CASA Volunteer

I first heard about the CASA program from Judge Devine many years ago. I thought it sounded like something I would love to do. Unfortunately, I was unable to participate at that time due to a conflict of interest with my career. I kept the CASA program in the back of my mind as something I would do when I retired. I have always been interested in child advocacy and allowing children and youth to have a say in what they want for themselves. I had hoped that sometime in the future, I might be able to help these youth find their voices. After I retired, I decided it was time to give it a try.

The Impact of CASA on My Life

Being a CASA has shown me how important stability and support are in a child's life. Many children face challenges no child should have to experience, and I feel grateful for the chance to walk alongside them as they find their way.

It gives me hope for their futures and feels like a true calling to give back in the same way others have supported me.

Why Children Need CASA Volunteers

No one truly knows what a child has experienced; the child is the best person to tell their own story. As CASA volunteers, we help ensure that their voice is heard. Through careful listening, conversations, and advocacy, we bring their story forward so decisions are made with their best interests at heart. Too often, children are overlooked in the process, but they deserve to have a say in their own lives. Sometimes, we may be the first person to stand beside them and make sure their story is told.

Essential Traits for CASA Volunteers

Having empathy, patience, and openness to listen are essential traits.



Coordinating Efforts to Support the Child

I approach providers with openness and respect, knowing they are often overwhelmed and doing their best. I introduce myself, explain my role, and request needed information, usually by email, followed by a call if needed. Sharing information back and forth makes the process easier for everyone, while respecting what must stay confidential. I always provide my contact information so communication stays clear and accessible.

Most Impactful Experience

I've had the privilege of watching a child grow from anger and struggle into a confident, thriving teen. By building trust and giving him space to use his own voice, he has become more engaged in his case, found healthy outlets, and is now excelling in school and activities. Witnessing his growth has been one of the most rewarding parts of being a CASA.

The Reward of Being a CASA Volunteer

Being a CASA volunteer is a rewarding experience. You become the voice for a child who may not be able to speak for themselves. You might be the only consistent person in that child's life.

Join the CASA/GAL training class beginning on October 1st.

Apply before September 8th, at CASAKids.net or call 419-213-6753.

Be a child's voice! ❤️