

VOLUNTEER

SPOTLIGHT

MEET STACEY OXNER

Stacey became a CASA volunteer in February 2025 and has already made a difference in the lives of two families, advocating for a total of six children. With a deep commitment to supporting youth, Stacey brings a wealth of experience from her 17+ years in child welfare and her current role as a school counselor at Toledo Early College, where she is now in her twelfth year.

When she's not advocating for children, Stacey loves to travel. In 2024, she fulfilled a lifelong dream by attending the Olympics in Paris with her daughter, a goal she had since the 1984 Los Angeles Games, and she's already planning for the 2028 Olympics. Last summer, she also had the incredible opportunity to chaperone forty students on a European trip through Italy, the Czech Republic, and Germany, enjoying the chance to see the world alongside her students.

Stacey's passion for children, education, and global experiences makes her an inspiring advocate and mentor in our CASA community. Here's what she had to say about her volunteer experience:

Why I Became a CASA Volunteer

Becoming a CASA volunteer was something I thought about for several years before taking the leap. I knew I wanted to give my time and energy to children who are facing some of the most challenging moments of their lives.

I have always been an advocate for children, and CASA allows me to be a steady source of support when they may not always feel heard or understood. When the court becomes involved, children don't always understand why they are in certain situations or why decisions are being made on their behalf. They often have questions they can't put into words.

Being able to help give children a voice in court is incredibly meaningful. Knowing that I can help them feel seen, heard, and supported is what makes being a CASA volunteer so important to me.

Growing Into the Role of Advocate

Initially, as a new CASA volunteer, the investigation process felt a bit overwhelming. I am eternally grateful

to the CASA Coaches, who do an amazing job guiding both new and veteran volunteers through each step of the process.

Overall, introducing myself and collaborating with other professionals has been fairly seamless.

At times, CASA volunteers are added to cases that have already been established with the child protective agency and other service providers. As such, it is important to connect with all involved parties. Everyone understands their roles and welcomed me on each case without hesitation.

It has been comforting to attend home visits with caseworkers to meet the children and their placements; however, I also recognized the importance of making individual connections. I believe that forming relationships with the children as their advocate is essential to the investigation and to my work as a CASA volunteer. Establishing connections with other involved professionals also allows me to gain better insight into the decisions that are made.



Becoming a CASA Volunteer

If you have ever thought about giving back to your community in a way that truly makes a difference in the lives of society's most vulnerable populations, consider becoming a CASA volunteer.

If you have ever wanted to learn more about child protective services, juvenile courts, foster parenting, and how to support abused or neglected children, this opportunity offers meaningful insight into how and why decisions are made, and it gives you the chance to advocate for the children whose lives are impacted by them.

It is not easy work, but it is necessary. And while this role can be challenging, it is rewarding to see the difference you make in a child's life.

You don't have to be perfect. You don't have to be a parent. You just have to want to help.

Why Children Need CASA Volunteers

Simple, CASA volunteers give children a voice at one of the most critical times in their lives.

Essential Traits for CASA Volunteers

Future CASA volunteers should be empathetic, engage with others with an open heart and mind, and have excellent time management.

JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM IN 2026!

2026 Training Schedule:

May 6 - June 12 or
October 7 - November 13
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Juvenile Justice Center
(1801 Spielbusch Ave. Toledo, OH 43604)

Apply today at CASAKids.net
or request an application
at 419-213-6753.

Be the voice that helps a child thrive! ❤️

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