



Hometown CASA Newsletter

November 2024



CASA of Graham County



History

The CASA Program is a National organization founded in 1977 by Judge David Soukup in Seattle, Washington. Judge Soukup was concerned about making significant decisions about children involved in the welfare system without sufficient information about their needs. Therefore, he conceived the idea of citizen volunteers who could grant a voice to abused and neglected children in the courtroom. Thus, the CASA program was born, and in 1985, Maricopa County began the first pilot program in Arizona through funding from the Phoenix Soroptimist and Phoenix Junior League. The CASA program has expanded to over 15 counties, including our own hometown program in Graham County, which began in 1990 and is still expanding.

Mission

C.A.S.A stands for a Court Appointed Special Advocate. These individuals are everyday citizens who desire to make a change in the lives of children involved in the foster care system. By being the voice for a child during the most challenging time of their life, children are provided the resources they need to be successful. Simple tasks such as learning more about that child and their family, frequent visitations, and recommending services needed, an individual can make the difference a child needs. It has been shown that children who have a CASA are more likely to find safe and permanent homes, succeed in school, and HALF as likely to re-enter the Foster Care System. Being the stability in a child's life can be the difference in their future.



Volunteer Spotlight

- Volunteer Story

Highlights

- Birthdays and Events
- Welcome New Volunteers

In the Community

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Events/News

Volunteer Spotlight

Shawna Taylor

My name is Shawna, and I am currently a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Graham County. I learned about this program through a flyer I received in the mail earlier this year. Growing up, I didn't have what one would consider a "normal" life. As a young child, I spent a significant amount of time in the foster care system, experiencing frequent transitions between shelters, group homes, and various foster families. I lacked stability in my life, and there were many uncertainties about my future.

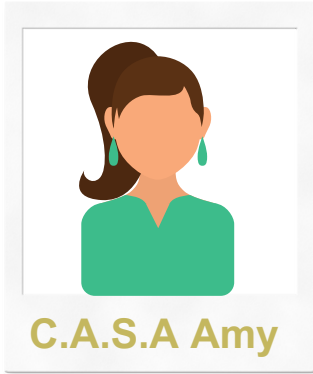
Although it was a scary time, and I struggled emotionally and psychologically with the trauma I faced, my experiences have led me to this role as an advocate for foster children. I understand firsthand the profound sense of instability and disconnection that children in the foster care system experience. Many of these children endure neglect and abuse, leaving them vulnerable and uncertain about their futures.

As a CASA, I feel I can be the voice that I did not have while growing up in the foster system. Although I have just joined the program and have been assigned my first case, I am eager to provide consistent support and advocacy for the children I serve. I hope that by being their voice, I can offer a dependable presence in their lives until they find stability in a permanent and loving home.

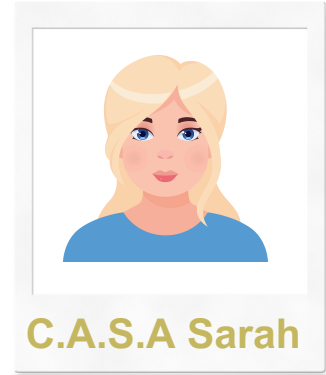
I recognize that taking on this role will be challenging and may bring back some of my previous traumatic experiences, but I know this is my calling. I am motivated to provide for these kids what I was unable to have in my own life. I look forward to the experiences and challenges I will face as a CASA Advocate.

Welcome

NEW VOLUNTEERS



Our new advocate will begin soon
began their training at CASA
Academy.



Let's give a shout-out to our CASA

♥ Coordinator and Volunteers

New Volunteer

♥ Thank you for all you do with our
children and in this organization



♥ Grateful
Thankful
Blessed

IN THE COMMUNITY



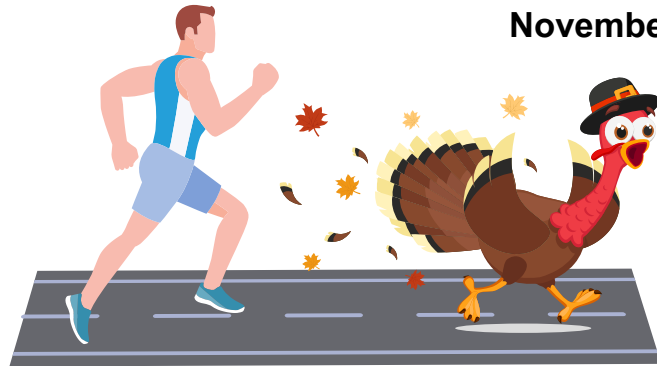
New Partnerships/Community Events

We are currently working on a collaboration with DoTERRA essential oils and will be part of the sponsorship for the Pima Turkey Trot held on Thanksgiving morning

Pima Turkey Trot

November 28th

**DoTERRA + CASA of
Graham County**



Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for more opportunities to serve foster children in your community?



Scan on the QR Code to
learn more



Happy Veterans Day!!

History of this Observance

- Originally known as Armistice Day after the end of WWI!

- Celebrated in honor of those who fought in WWI to signal the end of the war at the 11th hour on the 11th day & on the 11th month.

- Alvin J. King, a shoe salesman from Kansas, who had been mourning the death of his nephew after the end of WWII proposed changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day to honor all Veterans not just those from WWI

On June 1st 1954 President Eisenhower declared November 11th to be called Veterans day to serve all those who served in the military past and present



To ALL those who served in the military during war and in peacetime

We Honor Your Service!