



V I R T U A L
2021 GALA
SUPPORTING CHILD ADVOCACY

**GIVE THE GIFT OF
A CHAMPION!**

CASA STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

*Thank you for the great
work and service you
provide.*

*Wishing you continued
success and growth.*

Bob and Mauri McKee



CASA 2021 VIRTUAL GALA

SUPPORTING CHILD ADVOCACY

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Paul Tutton



The staff of CASA Youth Advocates would like to congratulate Paul Tutton for his achievements as a Court Appointed Special Advocate!
We are honored to be honoring you!

Thank you to each and every one of our stellar advocates.
You are our inspiration.

And thank you to our Board of Directors for all of your hard work on behalf of our organization and for helping to make this event a success!

HOW TO BID

ONE:

In your web browser, go to:

<https://e.givesmart.com/events/mSK/>

TWO:

Start bidding!



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Welcome to CASA's 2021 Virtual Gala!



Dear Friends,

What a year it has been! As we've slowly turned the corner on the COVID-19 pandemic, our agency has been faced with numerous challenges, but our amazing volunteers and staff have navigated new ways of connecting with their youth and ensuring their safety. When many children began re-entering full-time educational and childcare settings in the spring of 2021, the referrals started

flooding in and have not slowed since. To date, we have served 258 children in 2021, more than ever before in a single year!

Our advocacy on behalf of the region's most vulnerable children has never been more critical and your generous support and partnership allows us to ensure that we can continue to be here, growing and meeting the needs of children during the most trying and tumultuous stages of their young lives. We know that the impacts of the pandemic will continue to be felt and to disrupt aspects of children's lives for the foreseeable future. CASA's Voices for Children coalition conducted public polling of Delaware County voters this year, which showed that 67% of respondents are very concerned about domestic violence and child abuse in our community.

CASA is determined to remain laser focused on our mission to help give the region's abused and neglected children the bright futures that they deserve. Every at-risk child in Delaware and Chester counties deserves to have a champion by their side.

Thank you for joining us this evening – albeit virtually! We look forward to seeing all of you in-person in the new year. In the

meantime, please consider supporting our vital work at this most critical of times in children’s lives. Please help CASA volunteers continue to provide urgently needed stability and consistency in today’s unpredictable world. Your generosity can change a child’s story.

In partnership,



Leigh Anne McKelvey, MSW, LSW
Executive Director

Our mission:

Our mission is to help abused and neglected children live well, achieve academic excellence, and experience the joys of childhood by providing them with trained volunteer Advocates who speak for their best interests.



CASA THANKS OUR 2021 VIRTUAL GALA SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

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Advocate of the Year

Paul Tutton

As a father of two sons, Paul Tutton knows the power of a caring male in children's lives. He has been the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for four boys and found that they haven't had other reliable adult males in their lives. We asked Paul how he builds strong relationships with his youth and he said, "I just listen. I'm often the first one in their lives who has done that. Kids really react to that." Not only does Paul listen, but he shows up again and again. When one youth was moved across the country, Paul flew there three times to visit and make sure his needs were being met.



Paul's dedication and resourcefulness has allowed him to build great relationships with both youth and other involved professionals. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul for all he has done for CASA and the youth he serves.

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CASA YOUTH ADVOCATES, INC. (COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES)

What does CASA do?

At CASA Youth Advocates, we work toward a future in which every abused or neglected child involved with Delaware and Chester counties' dependency courts has a safe, nurturing, and permanent home. We recruit, train, and support volunteers who serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), designated by the courts to speak for the best interests of one of these vulnerable children or group of siblings. In some cases, the CASA volunteer is also appointed as the child's Educational Decision Maker, legally empowered to oversee plans and services addressing any of the child's special educational needs.

To gain a comprehensive perspective on the child's situation, the CASA visits the child at least once per month, collects all relevant records, and maintains contact with any individuals involved with the case. The CASA volunteer uses this unique vantage point to prepare reports for the court that include a detailed timeline and recommendations for services, family visits, and a permanent plan. The CASA volunteers also attend all court hearings pertaining to the case.

CASA's professional staff of experienced social workers and attorneys supervise up to 25 CASA volunteers each to guide and support their advocacy.

Why do we need CASA?

By harnessing volunteer power to focus on one child or group of siblings at a time, CASA works in partnership with the heavily burdened child welfare system to achieve better outcomes for our children.

Research conducted across the country has demonstrated the incredible outcomes children experience when they're championed by a CASA. These children are more likely to be adopted, spend an average of eight fewer months in foster care, and receive more of the help and services that they need. They do better in school, demonstrate more positive attitudes toward the future, and are better able to work out conflicts.

The courts hold the CASA's role in high regard and routinely adopt the CASA's recommendations.

Who can be a CASA volunteer?

Anyone who's at least 21 years old can become a CASA volunteer. CASA volunteers don't need any special background or education—just 10-15 hours a month and a desire to make a difference.

Volunteers must successfully complete a comprehensive intake and training process that includes a written application, an in-person interview, personal references, background checks, and 35 hours of pre-service training. Volunteers are then sworn in by the dependency judge and assigned to one child or sibling group. CASA volunteers also participate in at least 12 hours of in-service training each year.

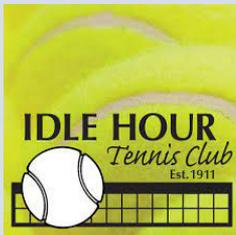
Although CASA volunteers only commit to serve for a 12-month minimum, the average tenure of our CASA volunteers is three and a half years. In 2020, CASA volunteers contributed over \$330,000 of donated service hours.

Who are the children?

The abused and neglected children we serve have been entrusted to the care of the child welfare systems in Delaware and Chester counties. They've already suffered unspeakable pain—the tragic loss of a parent to illness, violence or incarceration,

separation from their siblings and the absence of a trustworthy adult in their lives. Most are frightened and confused.

In 2020, CASA served 222 of these vulnerable children, approximately 20% of the children who could benefit from having a CASA volunteer. The children ranged in age from infant to 21. Of the children whose cases closed in 2020: 39% were reunited, 14% were placed with relatives or legal guardians, 18% were adopted, and 20% turned 18 or 21. 53% were female, 47% male. 45% were Black or African American, 35% were white, 10% were multi-racial, 10% were Hispanic. In 2020, CASA retained 85% of its volunteers, ensuring consistency and stability for children in the midst of an unpredictable year.



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**Thank You to
the CASA Staff
and Volunteers**

Dennis & Marian McGee



AFFINITY



CASA Youth Advocates, Inc.

Fund-a-Child

A CASA MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE

- Time in long-term foster care is reduced.
- More services are provided.
- Future delinquency is decreased.
- 50% less likely to re-enter Child Welfare System.
- More likely to be adopted.

CASA NEEDS YOUR HELP

- Only 222 of the 1,200 children involved in the court systems in Delaware and Chester counties received advocacy in 2020. Additional funds are needed to help serve more of the children in need of advocacy.

WHAT IT COSTS

- \$3,000 to fund CASA advocacy for one child or sibling group for one year.
- \$1,500 to fund a CASA for six months.
- \$750 to fund a CASA for three months.



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THE 2021 ANNUAL CASA YOUTH ADVOCATES GALA

Emerald Advisers salutes CASA for its endless work of advocating in the best interest of neglected and abused children



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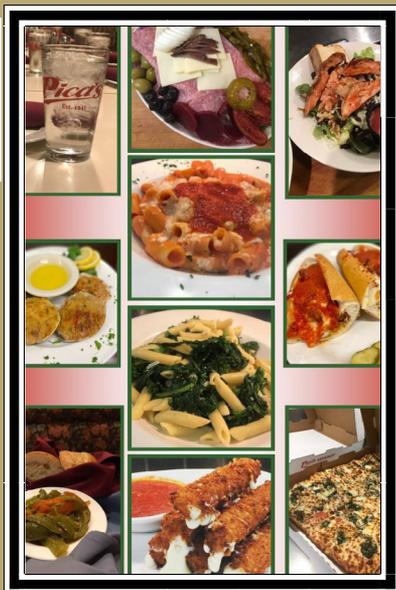
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Our Volunteer Champions

CASA Youth Advocates cultivates champions—everyday people who have stepped up to respond to a dire need as Court Appointed Special Advocates. We recruit and train these committed volunteers to stand up for abused and neglected children in the child welfare system, supported by our professional case supervisors.

A CASA volunteer serves as a stable adult presence in a child's life, ensuring that the child lives in a safe, nurturing environment and receives the services that they need, always working toward the ultimate goal—a permanent, loving home for the child. According to research



conducted through the National CASA Association, children with a CASA volunteer are more likely to be adopted, are half as likely to re-enter foster care, receive more services while in the system, and do better in school.

Prior to beginning service, a CASA volunteer completes a rigorous screening and interview process, including background and criminal history checks. The volunteer then



spends time observing the courts and engages in 35 hours of classroom training. After successfully completing the process, a Common Pleas Court judge officially swears in our new CASA volunteers.



Next, the CASA volunteer is assigned to one child or sibling group in need of a champion. A CASA volunteer typically devotes 10 to 15 hours per month to his or her assignment, reviewing all of the case materials, visiting the child at their current residence, getting to know the child on a personal level, and attending meetings with the child's school, doctors, and other service providers. The CASA volunteer attends each of



the child's hearings and prepares court reports with recommendations based on the volunteer's intimate knowledge of the child's circumstances.

With a laser-focus on just one child or sibling group, a CASA volunteer can bring the needs and nuances of a case to light for the courts. With a personal champion by their side, a child's hopes and dreams for stability and a permanent nurturing home can become a reality.



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You must register to place bids, purchases, or a donation.

By desktop, tablet or smartphone

1. Visit our campaign site.
<https://CASAYA.givesmart.com>
2. Click Register to Participate.
3. Enter the required information.
4. Click Create my GiveSmart Account.



By text

1. Text our campaign keyword to 76278.
2. Follow the prompts from the texts received.

Once registered, click the blue link within the Welcome text message or personal link button from within the Welcome email to access the campaign.

BID

Bid by desktop, tablet or smartphone

1. **Access the campaign** – Click the blue link within the Welcome text or personal link button from within the Welcome email.
2. **Choose item** – From our Home page, click “Items” , browse or use the dropdown menu to view categories, then select an item.
3. **Choose amount** – Use the pre-populated minimum bid or enter a higher amount.
Auto bid – Select AUTO BID, enter the highest amount you are willing to bid. The system will place minimum bids for you as needed until your designated amount.
4. **Click Bid**

Auction Bidding Instructions, continued next page

Auction Bidding Instructions, continued

BUY

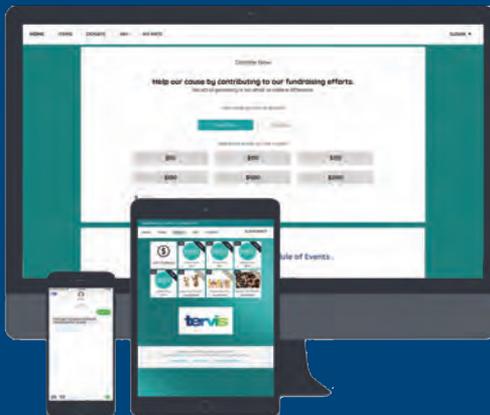
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1. **Access the campaign** – Click the blue link within the Welcome text or personal link button from within the Welcome email.
2. **Choose item** – From the Items page, select Available for Purchase from the categories dropdown, then select an item.
3. **Enter quantity**
4. **Click Buy**

DONATE

Bid by desktop, tablet or smartphone

1. **Access the campaign** – Click the blue link within the Welcome text or personal link button from within the Welcome email.
2. **Choose item** – From our Home page, click “Donate”, then select an item.
3. **Choose amount**
4. **Click Donate**



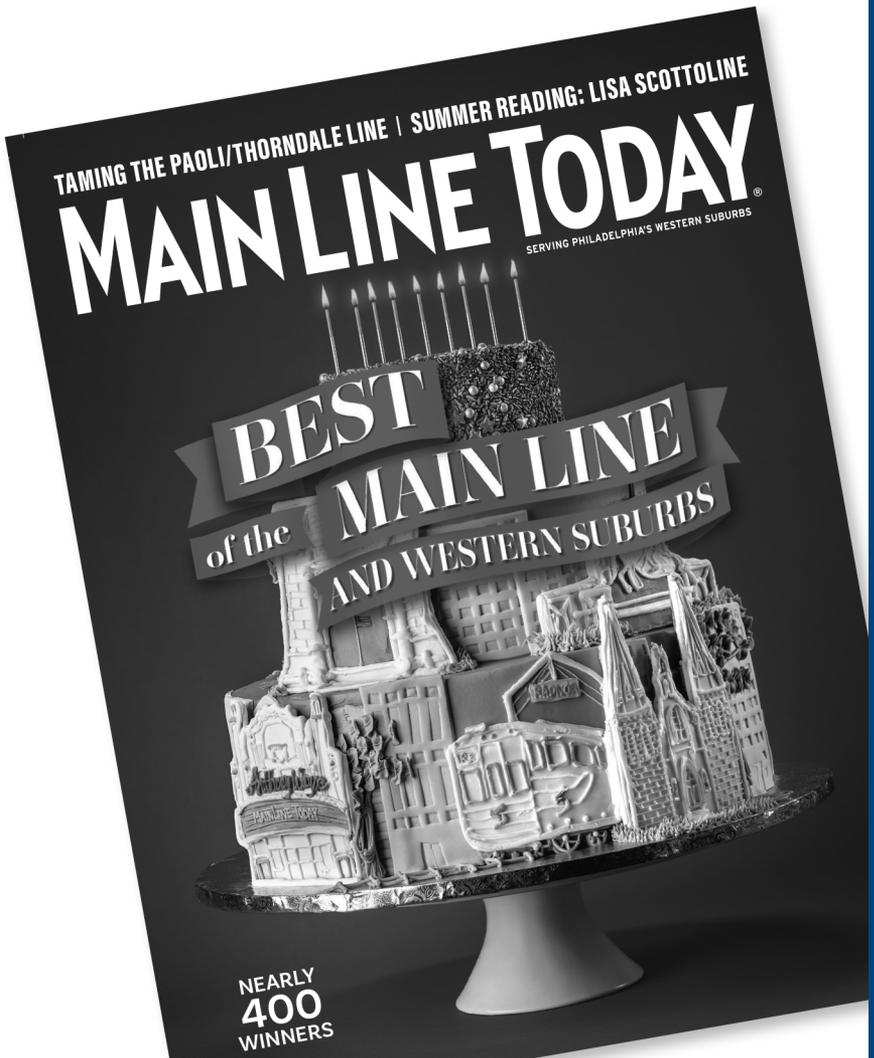
General Auction Procedures

1. Winning bidders will have their purchase mailed or will need to coordinate item pick up/delivery with CASA office manager.
2. ALL SALES ARE FINAL AND SOLD AS IS. Gift certificates are for merchandise or services as stated and cannot be redeemed for cash.
3. Unless otherwise stated, all items and services are subject to the terms and conditions set by the donors.
4. CASA is not responsible for any failure by a successful bidder to utilize the items or service as so stipulated.
5. Some auction items contain limitations and/or exclusions. It is the buyer's responsibility to consider any special limitations.
6. If there is any discrepancy in connection with the Auction, the Auction Committee shall resolve the issue.
7. CASA is not responsible for any damage or injury that may result from the participation in, or use or application of, any donated items.
8. By his or her purchase, the buyer waives any claims for liability against CASA or the donor of the item.
9. Please consult your tax advisor regarding items purchased. Suggested values have been furnished by donors and are not guaranteed by CASA.
10. Items must be paid for at the end of the event by credit card.

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Amanda Backenstose
Lynn Bair-Bigelow
Tracy Barausky
Michelle Barrack
Pam Beiler
Jeffrey Berman
Karlie Bisordi
Lisa Black
Julie Block
Kathryn Blyler
Ruth Bock
Susan Bray
Christine Brown
Tracey Brown
Megan Bruton
Shellee Buchanan
Lauren Campbell
Thomas Campbell
Colleen Canfield
Diana Capriotti
Caitrin Carickhoff
Jackie Chakejian
Georgia Charleston
Joanne Christopher
Jane Cislo
Francine Cohen
Wendy Cohen
Ann Marie Collington
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Patricia Coppola
Nancy Corner
Liliane Corzo
Carol Cottone
Cynthia Crowther
Joanne Curley

Sophie Curry
Patricia Daly
Lauren Dambly
Gretchen Demarest
Lisa DiGiacomo
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Jackie Gusic
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Marion Hanuschek
Meg Harrison
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Liz Holbrook
Amy Holzapfel
Anna Hoplamazian
Bonnie Jacobs
Jennie Jacobson
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Angela Johnson
Christine Kelly
Stacie Kennefick
Jana Kenney
Meghan Knapp
Renee Konell
Sandra Kunz

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Troi Lentini
Kathleen Leubecker
Caren Levin
Mimi Limbach
Lisa Mackell
Melissa Maffettone
Kathryn Marge
Charlene Mathis
Mike Matte
Claudia McBride
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Lorraine McClain
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Melanie McHugh
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and Delaware County areas.



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