



CASA FOR RIVERSIDE COUNTY, INC.

WHAT WE DO



The silence is overwhelming. The little girl, probably no more than 3 years old doesn't bother to cry out anymore. There's nobody there to listen. A boy, beaten by a mom's boyfriend, doesn't know how to ask for help.

If you saw these children on the street, you'd scoop them up and dry their eyes. There isn't anything you wouldn't do for them. Right now, they are alone.

And these are just two of the nearly 4,800 children caught in the Riverside County court system right now who have no one to speak for them. They haven't done anything wrong but they have been abused, neglected or abandoned by parents they trusted.

Now they are living in the frightening adult world of judges and lawyers and words they cannot possibly understand. They only want to go home. But home may not be safe and they are too young to make decisions or care for themselves.

They have landed in court. Alone. Most of these children will not return to their parents. They are more likely than other children to

face unemployment, homelessness and incarceration as adults.

Our mission is to speak up for them. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Riverside County promotes and supports quality volunteer representation for each child to secure a safe, permanent and nurturing home.

We are diligent advocates for the services needed to help each child become a healthy and productive adult; able to break the chain of abuse, neglect or abandonment.

A Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer is a trained citizen who is selected by a judge to represent the best interests of a child in court. *No prior courtroom experience is required.*

Children helped by CASA volunteers include those for whom home placement is being determined in juvenile court.

Most of these children have been living lives of abuse and neglect. Lives you can help improve. After a mandatory background check, volunteers undergo a thorough training course conducted by CASA for Riverside County, Inc.

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