

The CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region's mission is to *"build communities where children are free from abuse and neglect."* This is being achieved through innovative programming, comprehensive services, and effective collaborations enriching generations to come.

The CAN Council is looking for compassionate individuals to become Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) for children in the court system due to abuse or neglect. A CASA volunteer provides a family court judge with a carefully researched background of the child and the case to help the court make a sound decision about the child's future.

Dedicated CASA volunteers come from all walks of life, with a variety of professional, educational, and ethnic backgrounds. The one thing they have in common is their unwavering commitment to the well-being and protection of children. If you also share this commitment, the CAN Council would love to meet you. To be a successful CASA volunteer, you need to be reliable, have strong communication skills, and be attentive to detail.

**Ultimately, CASA volunteers serve as the voice for children who are in the court system due to abuse or neglect.**

### **Responsibilities:**

- Be an independent advocate for the child's best interest
- Have contact with the child(ren) every 7-10 days
- Commit to a minimum of one case completion and twelve (12) hours of in-service training per year
- Be knowledgeable of the roles and responsibilities of a CASA and have the mental and physical skills necessary to perform them
- Communicate with program staff regarding all court hearings and attend court hearings
- Complete all required program reports
- 12-20 hours a month time commitment

### **Requirements:**

- 21 years of age or older
- Complete necessary background checks, provide references, and participate in an interview
- Complete 40 hours of pre-service training
- Be available for court appearances, with advance notice
- Be willing to commit to the program until your first case is closed
- Maintain objectivity, act in a responsible professional manner in accordance to program and court policies, and avoid any conflict of interest

If you feel you meet these requirements, please apply online: [cancouncil.org/volunteer](http://cancouncil.org/volunteer) or e-mail Katie Bell, Volunteer Coordinator, at: [kbell@cancouncil.org](mailto:kbell@cancouncil.org).