

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **Oklahoma CASA Association Receives National Grant to Benefit More Children in Oklahoma**

**Oklahoma City, OK, October 22, 2018** – Oklahoma CASA Association has been awarded a Capacity Building Grant from the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association. Funds will be used to recruit, screen and train more CASA volunteers from among our community to serve children who experienced abuse or neglect.

There are 22 CASA programs in Oklahoma and almost 1,000 CASA and Guardian ad Litem (GAL) programs across the country that recruit, train and support 85,000 best-interest volunteers who help ensure that children who have entered the court and child welfare systems receive appropriate services, have a voice in determining their futures and, ultimately, find a safe, permanent home where they can thrive.

A child enters the foster care system every two minutes, and currently there are not enough CASA volunteers to serve every child. On average, for every child assigned a best-interest volunteer, two others go it alone. “The needs of Oklahoma’s children coming into care are more complicated than ever before, and life in foster care can be chaotic,” said Sheryl Marseilles, Executive Director of Oklahoma CASA. “Every child deserves the support of a caring, consistent adult with the training to help her or him heal and thrive.”

The federal grant funds distributed through the National CASA Association are provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, US Department of Justice, as authorized under the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990. They are awarded through a competitive process. In 2018, National CASA was awarded over \$10 million in federal grants.

For more information about becoming a best-interests volunteer or other ways to get involved in changing a child's life, visit [www.oklahomacasa.org](http://www.oklahomacasa.org) or call 1-800-742-2272.

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