



Friends of CASA of Franklin County, Ohio February 2023 News Update

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CASA volunteer Guardians ad Litem (GALs) put their heart and soul into helping children who have been abused and neglected. Here are some numbers relevant to 2022:

- A collective total of **15,132 volunteer hours** were given to help kids.
- Of the active volunteers last year, 229 were female and 46 were male (**the need for more male volunteers is high**).
- Of the total 694 children served in 2022, 359 were female and 335 were male.
- 26 of the children served last year were less than one year of age. The chart to the right shows the numbers of all ages served in 2022.
- The average number of cases appointed to a volunteer GAL at a single time was 1.66; the average number of children appointed to the GAL at that same single time was 3.
- On average, one case from assignment to closure lasts 25 months.

Less than 1 year	26
1 year-olds	42
2 year-olds	42
3 year-olds	42
4 year-olds	37
5 year-olds	38
6 year-olds	41
7 year-olds	41
8 year-olds	32
9 year-olds	34
10 year-olds	36
11 year-olds	34
12 year-olds	41
13 year-olds	29
14 year-olds	40
15 year-olds	35
16 year-olds	36
17 year-olds	45
18 year-olds	21
Older than 18 years	2
Total children served	694

"As a retired judge in Franklin County, Ohio, I have the highest respect for the folks at CASA, especially the volunteers who provide that voice in court for abused and neglected children. Sitting now on the board of Friends gives me such a sense of gratitude for what Friends and CASA together do for these children."

-Guy Reece, former presiding judge, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas

WE CAN'T SAY THIS ENOUGH – MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!

As stated above, the numbers of children abused and neglected continue to rise – and with that comes an increased need for more volunteers. There is a specific need for a more diverse volunteer pool – one that better reflects the diversity of children served by volunteer GALs. This is especially true in terms of needing more people of color and more men to serve as trained CASA volunteers. The next volunteer training begins March 26. Information and a volunteer application are available [online here](#). Volunteers must be at least 21 years of age.

FRIENDS THANKS SEE KIDS DREAM for inviting us into Sullivant, Parkmoor and Weinland Park Elementary Schools in Columbus this month to speak to students about the issue of abuse and neglect – and the work of CASA and Friends.



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