



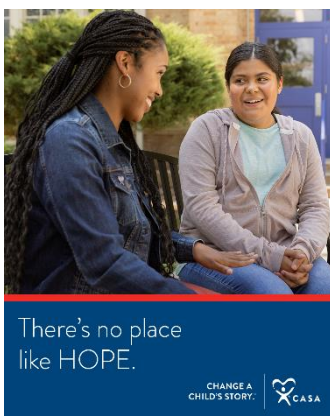
Help give a child hope and healing!

As we near the end of the year, Friends looks ahead to continuing support of Court Appointed Special Advocates of Franklin County (CASA) – and the wonderful work of their volunteer Guardians ad Litem (GALs). **GALs are extensively trained to help children learn to overcome emotional and physical effects of abuse and neglect**, and are required to take 12 hours of continuing education each year, which is provided at no cost to the GAL.

The cost of developing a new specialized training program is \$12,000. Continued funding helps GALs receive specialized training to identify, address and alleviate ongoing or new traumas that add to the emotional turmoil already faced by abused and neglected children. Many new traumas have manifested since the pandemic. Some of the recent training programs funded through donations and grants to address these traumas CASA include:

- **Training to identify and address the increased incidence of adolescent suicide in abused and neglected youth.**
Children within the child welfare system can be more at risk for suicidal behaviors – and the pandemic has contributed to an increase of emotional/behavioral disorders associated with suicide in adolescents.
- **The impact of alcohol or other drug (AOD) use on abused and neglected children by adults in the household.**
Substance abuse is estimated to be a factor in one- to two-thirds of cases of children reported as abused and neglected, and in two-thirds of children in foster care.
- **Identifying and overcoming educational setbacks of children in the foster care system.**
Abused and neglected children often face additional adversity and setbacks in their education and learning ability – and may frequently change schools due to transitioning into new foster homes.
- **Identifying and addressing increased complex emotional traumas arising from the pandemic on abused and neglected children.**
Reports indicate that these children continue to be at particularly high risk for experiencing additional pandemic-related traumatic stress, along with other mental health and behavioral challenges.

Your support helps change a child's life! We sincerely thank you caring and for helping the children served by CASA. **Thank you and Happy Holidays!**



Click [here](#) to donate securely online or mail a donation to Friends at 7652 Sawmill Road, No. 154; Dublin, OH 43016.