



## Friends of CASA of Franklin County, Ohio July News Update

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**Did you know?** Ohio law requires that all child victims of abuse and neglect be appointed a Guardian ad Litem (GAL). GALs are appointed to advocate in court for the child's best interest in cases of abuse and neglect.

Judge Elizabeth Gill with the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Division of Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch, wrote this about GALs last year: *GALs are highly skilled and proficient in serving our county's most severely abused and neglected children. The GALs work one-on-one with the children they serve and provide a compassionate and strong voice for these children to the courts. CASA of Franklin County, Ohio has been very deliberate and dedicated in providing our Court and the families we serve with individuals who are extremely committed to the best interest of the children whose interests they represent.*

Through the first half of 2022, CASA Guardians ad Litem worked with **506 children from 255 family units**. That's a lot of caring and support! Sadly, it's also a lot of abuse and neglect of children and the need for more new volunteers is constant. Friends offers a heartfelt thank you and welcome to the 14 new volunteer Guardians ad Litem who were sworn in during a virtual ceremony with CASA on June 21. The next new volunteer training session begins next week – and training is virtual and online, and held on weekends to accommodate busy schedules. Register or learn more [here](#).



### August-September 2022 Virtual Training

- ♥ **National Flex Training:** opens 7/24
- ♥ **Module 1:** pre-work 8/15-8/19, live online session 8/21
- ♥ **Module 2:** pre-work 8/22-8/26, live sessions 8/28
- ♥ **Week Off: National Flex Training Closes 9/4**
- ♥ **Module 3:** pre-work 9/5-9/9, live online session 9/11
- ♥ **Module 4:** pre-work 9/12-9/16, live online session 9/18
- ♥ **Post Training Interviews:** 9/19-9/22

#### A CASA Volunteer:

- Must be at least 21 years of age
- Must successfully pass a screening process and background check
- Receives 45 hours of initial training
- Must attend 12 hours of in-service training each year
- Serves an average of 10-15 hours per month

We recently provided support for CASA GALs who attended a workshop designed to enhance and strengthen individual self-care techniques that help these volunteers who work one-on-one with abused and neglected children. This workshop focused on education, support and empowerment “for those who care” – and Friends was proud and privileged to help. These special volunteers often have more than one child from the same family in their care – and give so much to help the children they serve. President of the board of Friends, Tom Barry, is a Guardian ad Litem and has worked with children from the same family more than once. “As a CASA GAL, the specialized training has truly helped me interact, communicate, and support multiple siblings in a family with differing challenges and needs.”

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Your support helps Friends help CASA serve more children each year.