



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

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Congratulations to CASA's 12 newest volunteer Guardians ad Litem sworn in last week after extensive training! Officiating at this ceremony was Franklin County Juvenile Court Magistrate Marcus Van Wey.

The volunteers took an oath to fulfill the duty of the GAL and advocate for children who have been abused and neglected. CASA volunteers expect to serve 800 children suffering severe abuse and neglect this year. As of the end of February, there were 456 children being served by GALs.



Friends is happy to share that we have been selected as one of the Better Together projects of The Columbus Foundation and as such, will be one of several local non-profits featured on a crowdfunding platform in The Columbus Foundation's Giving Store. This six-week long online funding opportunity starts April 5 and is for a new program developed by Friends to help children who leave one foster home for another – and sadly often do so carrying their personal belongings in a trash bag. Having to carry a part of their identity in this manner adds to the trauma and turmoil abused and neglected children already experience, as it takes away their dignity and can further lessen their sense of self-worth.

Fostering Hope & Dignity is designed to provide additional support to children served by CASA. Through this pilot program, Friends will purchase and provide children moving within the foster care system with a travel bag of their own. This program will be implemented in 2023 and continue through the years to ensure that every child served by CASA who has been displaced from one home to another would have a personal travel bag for their belongings. The bags will be age-appropriate and also include daily personal care items and other items for the child to use in school.

Specific information on how to support this program online and help restore dignity to an impacted child will be made available prior to the April 5 launch date for Friends.



Do you suspect a child is being abused? In Franklin County, call Franklin County Children's services 24-hour child abuse hotline at (614) 229-7000.

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