



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

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Congratulations to CASA's 15 newest volunteer Guardians ad Litem (GALs) who completed their training last week! This brings the number of active GALs advocating for children who have been abused and neglected to 252. CASA volunteers expect to serve 800 children suffering severe abuse and neglect this year.

SUMMER 2023 (Virtual Classes)

- Online Training Opens: Sunday, July 9
- Meet and Greet (In Person): Wednesday, July 19
- W1 (Virtual): Sunday, July 30
- W2 (Virtual): Sunday, August 6
- W3 (Virtual): Sunday, August 20
- W4 (Virtual): Sunday, August 27

In the first four months of 2023, volunteer GALs have worked with 517 abused and neglected children in Franklin County – providing a strong voice and advocating for the children they serve. However, there are children waiting to be assigned their GAL.

A new volunteer training session starts July 9 – and it will be virtual. Training sessions are held over a period of several weeks on Sundays. Learn more at <https://casa.franklincountyohio.gov/Volunteer/Training>.

As we near the end of National Foster Care Month, we share the following from the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#):

Mental and behavioral health is the largest unmet health need for children and teens in foster care. Mental and behavioral health requires the presence of at least 1 nurturing, responsive caregiver who is stable in the child's or teen's life over time.

You can read stories of foster care online at the [Children's Bureau](#) – and learn how to take your first step towards becoming a foster parent in Franklin County online at [Franklin County Children's Services](#) or by calling 614-275-2711.



We offer our deepest appreciation to all who supported our Better Together project, Fostering Hope and Dignity, through the Columbus Foundation's Giving Store. This crowdfunding opportunity ran for five weeks, ending May 10. We not only achieved our goal of raising \$5,000 – but surpassed it with a total of \$14,650 in donations. The funds will be used to provide children transitioning from foster home to foster home with a travel bag of their own – no more having to carry their personal belongings in a trash bag! The bags will include daily personal and school essentials and other items. Thank you to all who supported this cause – we are Better Together in helping child victims of abuse and neglect.

Friends is also grateful to **ReVision LASIK and Cataract Surgery, Park National Bank and the Crane Group** for their recent generous donations to Friends – and we thank each of you sincerely. In addition to grants and individual donations throughout the year, corporate funders do much to help as we work in support of CASA of Franklin County in community outreach, specialized training programs, volunteer recruitment efforts and more.

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Your [support](#) helps Friends help CASA serve more children each year.