



COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENT

Mission Statement

The CASA Program is committed to serving abused/neglected children in Sonoma County who come before the Juvenile Court for protection. The purpose of CASA is to humanize the complicated, unfamiliar, and frightening legal and child welfare systems for the child victim by providing a trained volunteer who will act as a consistent mentor, role model, support person, and advocate.

In Support of this mission

The members of the board of director will work hand in hand with the Executive Director as well as with each in a respectful and cooperative way to enhance and support the growth of the agency.

Board Members will:

1. Make every effort to attend our Board meetings (at least 7 of 9). Board meetings are usually on the third Tuesday of the month (excluding July and August) lasting from 12:00-1:30ish. Often the Board meets at an office in Santa Rosa, but sometimes the meeting is at the CASA office at Los Gullicos on Pythian Road.
2. Volunteer a minimum of 4-6 hours per month by attending board or committee meetings, speaking to community groups about CASA, and providing fundraising support. (During our busiest fundraising months of March and June, the time commitment may increase.)
3. It is the policy of the Board of Directors that all board members make annual donations to the agency. It is very important for CASA to have 100% giving on behalf of the Board of Directors. You can provide fundraising support in a variety of ways, appropriate to your means:
 - Help with our Hearts for Children dinner in March of each year by finding sponsors for the event, inviting friends and associates to fill a table of 10, attending the event, and/or soliciting items for our live or silent auction at the event.
 - Help with our Lavender Days events in June by arranging to set up venues to display and sell our fresh lavender and lavender products. (This also helps us to increase visibility for CASA and recruit for volunteers.)
 - Give an annual financial contribution to the CASA program. This can be accomplished by designating your contribution through the United Way or making a contribution directly to CASA.

- Add 10 new names to our mailing list each year for public relations and fund raising purposes. By adding your friends, company, golfers, church group, professional colleagues, and community service group names to our event list and mailing list, you may have created a new donor or volunteer to the organization.
- Seek out opportunities to speak to service groups, companies, churches, etc. to increase visibility for CASA, recruit volunteers for the organization and suggest funding opportunities.
- Research your Corporate Foundation or Matching Funds. Many companies will donate to agencies with which their employees are involved. If your company has such a program, inquire about how to set up the contribution.

4. The Board of Directors will assist in several events each year. As a Board Member, your attendance is very important at our events. Your attendance tells everyone we are a part of a team striving to represent children and their needs.

- Hearts for Children Dinner – This event is usually held the third or fourth Saturday in March. It is very important to attend and help with the event in a variety of ways described above as well as to solicit sponsorships, develop a table of ten attendees and solicit auction items
- Holiday Open House – This event is usually in November from 4:30-7:00. The Board hosts the event and provides a few refreshments and beverages. CASA's, social workers, probation officers, Juvenile Court Justices and attorneys are invited to meet with the staff and board for a holiday potluck social.
- Volunteer Recognition – This event is usually in April from 4:30-7:00, coinciding with Volunteer Recognition Month. The Board hosts the event, and provides hors d'oeuvres and beverages. At this event we honor all the volunteers of the program.

5. The Board has a number of committees, including Finance, Partners Program, Public Relations, Membership and Hearts for Children Dinner. We hope that you will be able to serve on one or more of these committees.

6. To increase the visibility of CASA, Board Members can help by:

- Seeking out opportunities to speak to groups about CASA
- Hosting an informal get together for friends and neighbors to talk about CASA
- Serving on the Public Relations Committee to help market the organization.
- Helping to find professionals who are willing to donate some time by serving on one of our committees, managing our website, or providing assistance to develop our speaking presentations (power point and video).
- Assisting with opportunities for media exposure.

7. Directors shall serve without compensation. Directors shall be allowed reasonable advancement or reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their regular duties, if so approved by the Board. Directors may not be compensated for rendering services to the Corporation in any other capacity unless such compensation is reasonable and does not provide an excess benefit to the Director. Directors may not have indirect financial interests in the leases, business transactions, or professional services of the organization