

CASAs for Children Board of Directors – Position Description

CASAs for Children (CFC) is looking for energetic and committed people to serve on our Board of Directors.

CFC is a non-profit organization that supports the work of the CASA program in Alaska. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASA volunteers are ordinary citizens who are trained to advocate in court for the best interests of abused and neglected children, as well as help those children find safe, permanent homes.

In Alaska, every child in state custody is automatically assigned a court-appointed Guardian ad litem (GAL) to speak in his or her best interests in court. However a typical GAL in Alaska has a very large caseload.

This is where CASA volunteers come in. They play the same role as a GAL, and are supervised by a GAL, but instead of having a huge caseload, each CASA volunteer advocates for the children in only one or two cases.

Research shows that CASA volunteers really DO make a difference; children who are assigned CASA volunteers are less likely to re-enter the child welfare system. That tells us that we need to expand our CASA program in Alaska.

The goal of the CASA program in Alaska is to provide a CASA volunteer for every child who needs one. The CASAs for Children Board recently adopted that same goal.

As a non-profit organization, we intend to raise the funds to make that goal a reality. We will continue to provide support for volunteers, as well as camp scholarships and mini-grants to meet special needs of children in custody. But in addition, we will be looking at creative ways to expand the number of CASA volunteers in our state, as well as the number of GAL mentors who supervise them.

To learn more about the CASA program and CFC, visit <http://www.alaskacasa.org>.

This is an exciting time in our history and we are looking for energetic, motivated people to help us achieve our goals. We would like to add several people to our Board, from all regions and walks of life. We value diversity and are looking for members with differing points of view. We are especially interested in male members, younger members, and Alaska Native members. However, anyone who can agree to the following requirements is encouraged to apply:

- Must be willing to attend monthly Board meetings, either in person at the Anchorage CASA office or telephonically.
- Must be willing to attend two day-long sessions in Anchorage annually, one in November and one in May.
- Must be willing to assist with raising public awareness and funds for the CASA program in your local community.
- Must be willing to donate an amount of money to CFC that is significant for you.

If you are interested in becoming a CFC Board member, please fill out the accompanying application and e-mail it to Laura Haywood, laura@beachdogz.com. If you have questions, feel free to call Laura at 907-364-3819 (Juneau).

If you know anyone else who might be interested, please send their names and e-mail addresses to Laura so we can contact them.

Thank you for your interest in CASAs for Children!