



In advocating for an abused or neglected child, you give that child a voice—and a chance for a better life.

For more information, contact:

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CASA/GAL is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by making sure a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the security of a loving family.



Lift up a child's voice. A child's life.™

www.VermontJudiciary.org

(800) 622-6359



A child's voice.

A child's life.

Lifted up.

By you.



Lift up a child's voice. A child's life.™



Too many children in the child welfare system lose their families, their rights and their hope.

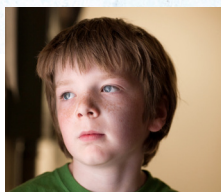
Join our fight to make sure they don't!

We see news stories every day about children taken from an abusive home, or because of the tragic loss of a parent—to illness or violence or incarceration. We assume there must be a program or system that will take care of these children and make sure they are treated with dignity, given a safe place to live, so they can recover from their hardship and be a child again.

But there is a story behind the story that few people speak about. It is the story of overburdened foster care and child welfare systems that—though full of well-intentioned and deeply committed people—cannot begin to meet the needs of the more than 646,000 children in foster care in the United States.

It is the story of a six-year-old girl who has been moved to six group homes and three schools over the past two years. The story of a toddler separated from her brothers and sisters during the most vulnerable time in her life. The story of a child being handed all his belongings in a plastic bag at the age of 18, because he has “aged out” of the system.

It is a story that occurs over and over again in America's foster care and child welfare system.



But these stories can have better endings, because there is a group of trained volunteers, appointed by judges to advocate for these children. People who fight for these abused and neglected children, to make sure their basic rights and essential needs don't get overlooked or ignored by the system. These stories can have better endings because of people like you.

We are volunteer guardians ad litem (GAL) for Children, a volunteer-powered network of committed people—from all walks of life—who believe society has a fundamental obligation to these children. We are people just like you who believe that every child has the right to be treated with dignity, to be safe, and to thrive in the embrace of a loving family.

With a CASA/GAL volunteer, a child is half as likely to languish in the foster care and child welfare system, and that much more likely to find a safe, permanent home.

“To give a child a CASA/GAL volunteer is to give them a voice. To give them a voice is to give them hope, and to give them hope is to give them the world. I believe that with all my heart.”

—Pamela, former foster child

Help us serve every child.

We are committed to serving every child. You can help!

Volunteer.

This is one cause where the actions of a single individual can have a profound impact. You can be an integral part of the solution. One individual, trained and empowered to ensure that every child can thrive in the safe embrace of a loving home. To volunteer, visit www.VermontJudiciary.org.

We are looking for people with:

- A willingness to learn and develop new skills
- Common sense
- Sound judgment
- Concern for children at risk
- Sensitivity to people of all ethnic, political, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds
- Ability to be objective, non-judgmental and maintain strict confidentiality
- Ability to relate well to children, families, attorneys, and social workers
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing
- A flexible schedule
- Age 18 and over

We screen all applicants, require a background check and provide pre-service training.

Contact us at JUD-VermontGAL@state.vt.us or (800) 622-6359.



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