



ALL ABOUT ADVOCATES



CASA IN THE SPOTLIGHT



A Message from RACHEL

Dear Advocate's Friends and Champions,

We are welcoming the new year with new opportunities to serve Northwest Georgia's children and families. Our new Advocacy and Prevention Center has already proven to be a powerful tool in strengthening collaboration, not just with our prevention and advocacy programs but also with our volunteers and community partners.

From providing meals to our children at Flowering Branch Children's Shelter to conducting donation drives for the families we serve through our THRIVE Family Resource Center, there are many ways to connect with us and your community in the new year. We invite individuals, church groups, school clubs, and civic organizations to visit our Volunteer page at advochild.org or attend one of the quarterly Volunteer Nights to connect with us to serve our community.

In closing, I would like to quote Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations, "If our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever." Together, we can create a better, safer world for the children and families we serve.

Warmest Regards,

Rachel Castillo
President/CEO

Scan to
Support
Our
Programs



Advocates
for Children

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WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to the newest members joining our esteemed Board of Trustees at Advocates for Children. Their commitment to our mission to protect children, empower families, and strengthen our communities is a source of inspiration. We look forward to their valuable contributions in shaping a brighter future for those we serve.



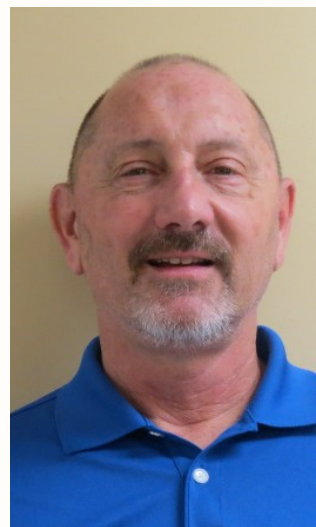
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Leave a Lasting Legacy with Your Gift to Advocates

- Set up a monthly recurring donation to support Advocates for Children.
- Recommend a grant distribution from a Donor Advised Fund.
- Give a gift of real estate, personal property, appreciated assets, and/or stocks.
- Are you 73 or older? Talk with your advisor about a Charitable IRA Rollover or Qualified Charitable Distribution.
- Future gift planning—Include a bequest in your Will to Advocates as part of your estate plans.
- Future gift planning—Name Advocates for Children as a charity beneficiary of your retirement.

Would you like more information about how you can make a legacy gift to Advocates? Contact Carla Lavender, Development Director at carla@advochild.org.



SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us at these events in Spring 2024.

March 12: Advocate's Annual Meeting

March 29: Pinwheel Planting for Child Abuse Prevention Month

May 18: Chick-fil-A/Big Peach Half-Marathon & 5K



Visit www.advochild.org for more details and to RSVP to our events.

CASA Change a Child's Story.™

Court Appointed Special Advocate® (CASA) volunteers are appointed by juvenile court to advocate for children's best interests. This best-interest advocacy makes a life-changing difference for children and youth who have experienced abuse or neglect, many of whom are in foster care.

Advocates for Children's CASA of Northwest Georgia program serves children in foster care in Bartow and Gordon counties. Our CASA volunteers make a generational impact on the lives of the children they serve in our community.



260+

Children in Bartow and Gordon County DFCS custody at the end of 2023



6162

CASA of NW GA volunteers hours given in 2023



53%

of eligible children in Gordon County are waiting for a CASA



Research* has revealed that children with CASA volunteers are more likely to experience the following:

- Find a secure, long-lasting home when reunification with family is not feasible and avoid re-entering foster care.
- Spend less time in long-term foster care and move fewer times between placements.
- Participate in extracurricular and social events.
- Excel academically.
- Receive necessary services such as medical and mental health screenings/treatment and educational assistance.

*CASA for Children Georgia

Dedicated volunteers Sue Cox, Judy Wilson, and Max and Cheryl Parrott have collectively served as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for 40 years. Their selfless commitment has been focused on defending the rights of foster children in Bartow and Gordon counties through Advocates for Children's CASA of Northwest Georgia program.

Judy, inspired by her own happy childhood, aims to provide the same for all children through her volunteer work "I had such a good - happy - secure childhood that I would like to see the same for all kids. If I can help a few get there I will be happy."

When reflecting over their decade of service to children in foster care, the Parrotts share, "To see a child who has been returned to parents who have had the opportunity to correct their mistakes or to be placed in an adoptive home or given some sort of permanency gives great satisfaction. To see a child years later who has become a happy, successful, productive citizen gives immeasurable pleasure to us."

Countless young lives have been powerfully impacted by the advocacy of Judy, Sue, and the Parrotts. We invite you to visit www.advochild.org to learn how you can make the future brighter for children and families in northwest Georgia.

Forty Years of Child Advocacy



JOIN OUR SPRING CASA TRAINING CLASSES STARTING FEBRUARY 27TH

As a new CASA, we ensure that you are well-prepared for the job. Our training program is thorough and intensive, consisting of 24 hours of in-class training, held once a week for 8 weeks. You will also observe 12 hours of court and panel reviews, undergo background screenings and drug testing, and be officially sworn in by local judges.

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT OUR CASA PROGRAM





SETTING A YOUNG MAN ON THE RIGHT TRACK

I wanted to write a thank you letter for helping me get through a rough period of my life. I didn't have parental and spiritual guidance which led me to dislike a lot of people including the Flowering Branch Children's Shelter. As I look back into my past, I realize y'all helped guide and form who I currently am and led me in the right direction, which I can't be thankful enough. Y'all taught me the essential needs of living.

I got adopted soon after I left Flowering Branch and I now have a family. I am currently a Division 1 athlete on scholarship for Cross-Country and Track, who maintained a 3.6 GPA throughout High School. I'm simply providing details on how Flowering Branch helped me to get where I currently am. I wanted to thank y'all as I thanked everyone for helping me to get where I currently stand.

- A Letter from a former resident of FBCS

2024 THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER



3 EASY WAYS TO VOLUNTEER



Provide a meal for Flowering Branch Children's Shelter

Monthly meal sign-ups are available on the Advocate's website.



Organize a donation drive for our RISE and THRIVE Programs

Contact Meagan Nicholson at meagan@advochild.org to learn more.



Attend one of our upcoming Volunteer Night events

Sign up for our email list at advochild.org to learn about upcoming Volunteer Nights.

Scan to learn more about volunteer opportunities.





Swearing in of
CASA Volunteers



Hope in Your Home
Family Holiday Party



ALL AROUND ADVOCATES



Volunteer Day at Advocates



Cartersville Exchange Club Parade



Graze and Raise 2023



P.O. Box 446
Cartersville, GA 30120
www.advochild.org

Build families. Protect children.

Save the Date



ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN'S

Graze & Raise

FALL BENEFIT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

HOSTED AT

Barnsley Gardens

DETAILS COMING SOON

