



**SEPTEMBER
2012**

“CASA for York County supports and provides volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children, enabling them to thrive in a safe, permanent home.”

Let me tell you about *Trevor:

When law enforcement were called to 3 year-old, Trevor's, home in York, they found his parents struggling with the affects of methamphetamine and other drugs they were using in the home. Efforts were made to find family members willing and able to care for Trevor but none were found at that time. Trevor was placed in temporary emergency custody of Health and Human Services. A Petition was filed with the Court alleging that Trevor is a dependent child who lacks proper parental care by reason of the fault or habits of his parent, and whose parent neglects, or refuses to provide proper and necessary...care, and whose parent is in a situation....dangerous....or injurious to the health or morals of such juvenile. Court hearings are held, parents obtain their own attorney/s or have court-appointed attorneys assigned, and a Guardian ad Litem attorney is assigned for the child. **Trevor needs a CASA Volunteer** who will visit him on a regular basis and talk with his caregivers, observe visits with his parents, monitor the services provided to the family, ensure safety issues are addressed and speak out for Trevor's best interests.



Here's *Cathy:

Cathy has a heart for children and especially for those who have suffered abuse & neglect. She responded to an ad she heard on the radio for CASA, contacted the **CASA for York office @ #362-5454** and asked how she could get involved. Cathy filled out an application and background check forms. She was interviewed by CASA Director, Carol Knieriem. Cathy then joined 4 other people in a combination group and independent study training and completed 30 hours of New Volunteer Training. The training sessions were broken down into 3 hour sessions and were scheduled at times that worked for all participants.

New volunteers learned about the role of the CASA Volunteer, the Health and Human Services and Court Systems, and issues that many of our families are dealing with such as substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health issues etc.

Cathy and the others attended court hearings and learned how to gather information and write a report to submit to the court on behalf of the children they would represent. After training, Cathy was “sworn in” by Judge Evans to be a Court Appointed Special Advocate. She was then assigned to an abused and neglected child. If you would like to join Cathy as a volunteer, **call #362-5454.**

**names changed*

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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

Let me tell you about *Josellyn:

Josellyn and her siblings suffered severe physical and sexual abuse at the hands of their biological family and others involved in their life. Ten years ago, she and her siblings were placed in foster care and were subsequently adopted. Even in the adoptive home, Josellyn was abused, yelled at constantly and blamed for most everything. Josellyn and her siblings were once again placed out of their home and into foster care. Abuse had taken a toll on this sibling group. Severe behaviors kept them from being successfully placed together. Now one of her sister's has been adopted by a family they once all lived with. **Josellyn finally has a CASA Volunteer**, who has been advocating and facilitating efforts for her current foster mother to become her legal guardian.

Josellyn's brother still lives in a different foster home 2 hours away. The CASA Volunteer advocates for the siblings to have contact with each other, which they say is very important to them. Despite the "hell" these children have had to endure, the continued therapeutic services and efforts to make sure they have permanency has finally allowed these children to have some success, peace and happiness in their lives. You can see it in the relationships they have with their foster and adoptive parents. You can see it in their accomplishments at school, their abilities to make friends and better decisions for themselves. We are celebrating this success in their life!

Here's *Bob: Bob is a soccer coach and loves kids. He has been a CASA Volunteer for 2 years. The children he was advocating for safely returned to their parents home. He has enjoyed the ongoing in-service trainings he receives throughout the year and knows that the CASA Director, Carol, and other volunteers are there to support him. Bob is now the CASA Volunteer for 6 and 9 year old, Steven and Samantha. He visits with them at least once a month and talks with their teachers, foster parents, biological parents and counselor. With the help of Carol, he is getting better at speaking up for these children - at team meetings and court hearings. It warms his heart to see Steve and Samantha's parents learning how to be safe and loving towards their children.



*names changed