

## **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)**

The CASA program of McLean County is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children from our community through volunteer advocacy.

### **The Role of the CASA Advocate**

The CASA Advocate is appointed by the Judge as an Officer of the Court. The CASA independently gathers and evaluates information, develops recommendations, and submits written reports which are considered by the court when making decisions as to the best interest of the child/ren.

A CASA Advocate will communicate with all the parties of the case to gather information for the court. These parties may include but are not limited to: children, biological parents, foster parents, caseworkers, attorneys, teachers, counselors, and physicians.

### **The Duties of a CASA:**

- Visit at least once a month with the child/ren. Visits may occur at the foster home, the biological parent's home, daycare, school or in the community
- Advocate for the child/ren educationally, medically, legally, and personally
- Verify that appropriate services are identified, provided, and maintained for the child/ren
- Observes parent/child visits
- Review relevant records and reports
- Contacts service providers, employers, utility companies, and landlords to verify information
- Write a court report detailing information gathered and outline recommendations as to what the CASA Advocate believes is in the best interest of the child/ren.

### **CASA Advocates may not:**

- Transport a child/ren
- Provide daycare
- Purchase items for the child/ren
- Provide legal advice
- Provide any type of supervision for parent-child visitation