

## Macon County CASA needs your support

Please consider giving a tax  
deductible donation today!

### Macon County CASA

141 S. Main Street  
Suite 722  
Decatur, IL 62523  
217-428-8424 office  
217-428-8423 fax

[www.maconcountycasa.org](http://www.maconcountycasa.org)

Macon County  
**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates FOR CHILDREN



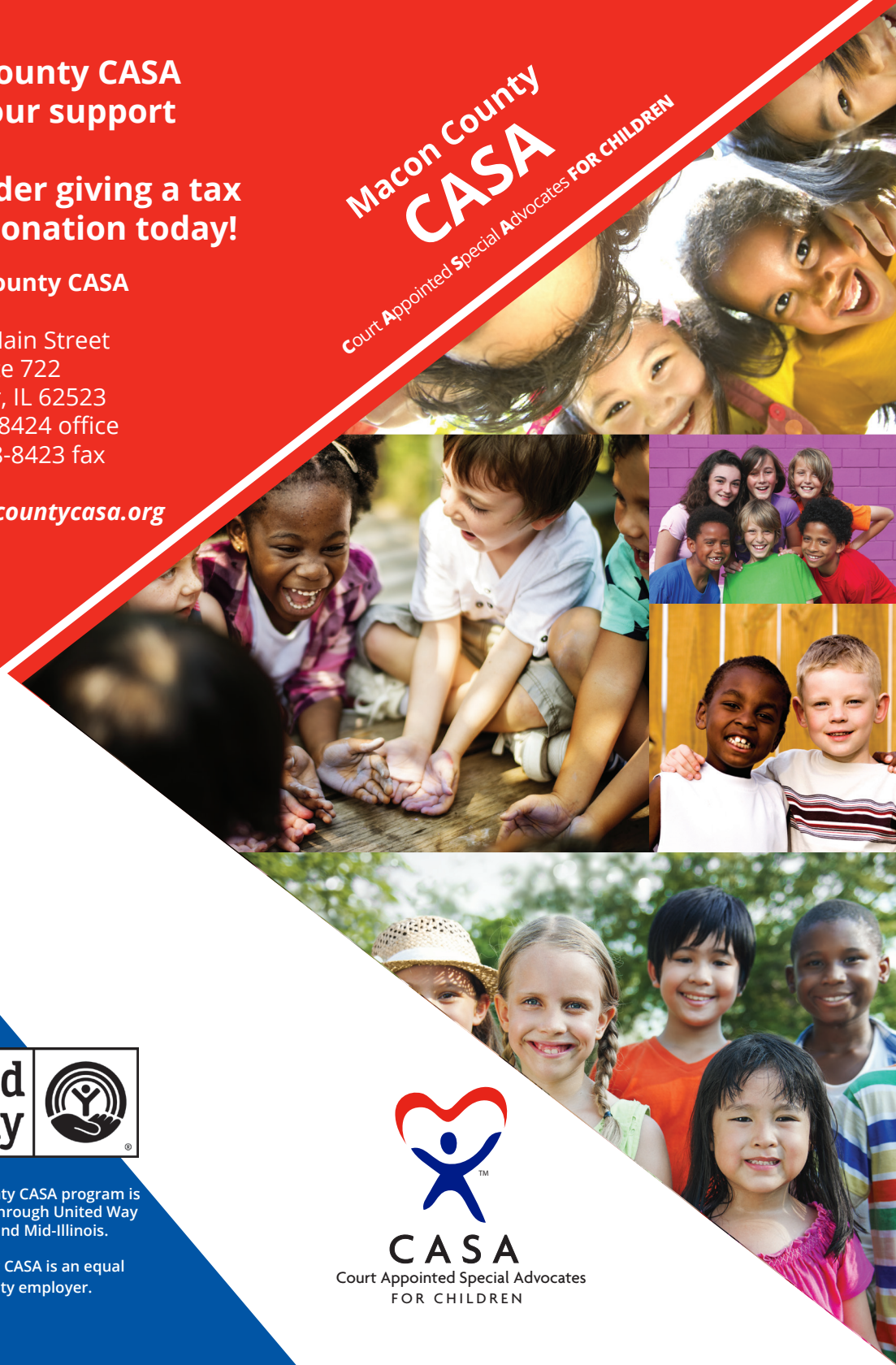
### Macon County CASA Mission Statement:

*"To provide court appointed volunteers to advocate for the abused, neglected and/or dependent children who are involved in the Macon County juvenile court system. It shall further be the purpose of this corporation to educate the community regarding its responsibility for children who have been abused or neglected and found to be dependent."*



The Macon County CASA program is funded in part through United Way of Decatur and Mid-Illinois.

Macon County CASA is an equal opportunity employer.





Last year, over 500 children in Macon County were involved in the juvenile court system. These children were removed from their homes because their guardians were unable or unwilling to provide a safe and protective environment for them. These abused, neglected, or abandoned children now face an uncertain future. Many strangers have entered their lives: police, social workers, physicians, foster parents, therapists, and lawyers, among others. If this child is fortunate, a CASA volunteer has also been assigned to the case and will become a part of his or her life.

CASAs are **Court Appointed Special Advocates**. They are volunteers who care about the community's children. CASAs are thoroughly trained to watch over and advocate for foster children. Appointed by the judge, CASAs work solely on behalf of the best interests of the child. They create a consistent relationship with the child, offering stability, friendship, connections to resources as well as helping the child to rebuild a sense of trust in adults. Advocates see the children once or twice a month at visits and report back to the judge as an extra set of eyes and ears on the case. CASA advocates are dedicated to their specific cases until they are closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home.



## Become a CASA Volunteer

### Advocate training topics:

The Juvenile Court Process  
Cultural Competency  
Investigating & Interviewing  
Community Resources for Children & Families

### Qualifications to become a CASA advocate:

A desire to help children  
Age 21 or older  
Pass a criminal background check  
Provide 3 personal references  
Give up to 10 hours per month of time  
No legal or social work background required



If you are interested in learning more about becoming a CASA volunteer call: 217-428-8424 or go to [www.maconcountycasa.org](http://www.maconcountycasa.org) to complete a volunteer application.

**I** am for the child™

Macon County CASA is a non-profit service agency dedicated to providing a voice in court for abused and neglected children. Volunteers are trained to speak on behalf of the child to give them the best possible chance at a hopeful future.

### CASA by the numbers:

**6 months** = CASA helps to close cases 6 months faster when assigned to a case.

**2 years** = The average child's case is open for just under 2 years in Macon County.

**6 weeks** = CASA volunteers go through a 6 week training in order to be sworn in as a court appointed special advocate.

**160** = Over 160 current Macon County CASA volunteer advocates.

