

Rappahannock Court Appointed Special Advocate Evaluation

I have chosen to evaluate the Rappahannock Area CASA program located at 509 Lafayette Blvd, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. CASA volunteers advocate for children who have been abused or neglected by their parents. Most of the children served by the program are in foster care, some are at home under protective orders. The advocates are responsible for investigating the children's lives. They do this in order to make recommendations for potential caregivers to judges; as well as recommendations for what the children need and where they can safely live. The basic requirements for being a CASA volunteer are: to be at least 21, have good interpersonal and communication skills, commit to serving for 12-18 months, pass background checks, and have a desire to help kids (CASA, 2019).

The National CASA Association is a non-profit organization that represents and serves local area CASA programs nationwide. It provides training, technical assistance, research, news, and public awareness services to members. The CASA volunteers are really the backbone to the effectiveness of the program. "Last year, more than 75,000 CASA volunteers served more than 240,000 abused and neglected children through 940 program offices" (CASA, 2019). The Rappahannock Area CASA states that their goal is to "ensure that every child grows up in a safe, permanent home free from abuse and the fear of abuse" (CASA, 2019).

I chose to conduct my evaluation on the CASA program because I am interested in pursuing a career in Human Services that will allow me to help children. I think that advocating on behalf of children is both necessary and rewarding. I believe that the CASA program is designed to perform a great service to children in need. I believe that organizations like CASA

should frequently evaluate for effectiveness to ensure that they are providing children with quality service.

Works Cited

CASA, R. A. (2019, 05 22). *RCASA About Us*. Retrieved from Rappahannock Area CASA:
<http://www.rappahannockcasa.com/home>