



## **CASA of Denton County Will Not Let Ongoing Crisis Stop Advocacy for Children**

CASA of Denton County continues to provide advocacy to children in foster care, and our mission will continue throughout this time of public health crisis. At present, we have 215 active volunteers connecting and communicating with children and families in new ways, providing resources and support. Our staff of 17, whether working remotely or in the office, are committed to the best interests of the children we serve as well as the growth of our program toward the goal of providing a trained, caring advocate for all children from Denton County who need one.

Our volunteers continue to use their creativity, their passion, and their grit to bring the very best care to abused and neglected children. Staff and volunteers are participating in virtual court hearings and meetings, while remaining in frequent contact with children and families to check on their welfare and offer needed resources. In addition, we have conducted two virtual training classes for new advocates and continue to offer our Info Sessions on Zoom.

We believe we will need the community's support more than ever during the second half of 2020. If the pandemic and its effect lead to an increase in abuse and neglect, CASA will be there for the children of Denton County.

"We expect more than 1,000 children from Denton County to spend time in foster care again this year," said Debbie Jensen, Executive Director. "We would like all of them to have a caring, trusted adult by their side during the most difficult time in their lives."

The public health crisis is expected to take a toll on many areas of agency operations, including financial cutbacks that could lead to slowing our planned growth toward the goal of serving all children from Denton County in foster care. The pandemic's effect on CASA may not be evident for a few more months as the uncertainty continues, but the community can support CASA's mission now by:

- Giving a financial gift at [www.casadenton.org](http://www.casadenton.org) so critically needed advocacy can continue.
- Signing up to learn more about becoming a CASA volunteer. Contact Beth Potter at [bpotter@casadenton.org](mailto:bpotter@casadenton.org) for more information.