



CLERGY, CASA AND COMMUNITY

TALKING POINTS FOR FAITH OUTREACH TEAMS

Note: You don't have to necessarily lead with the CASA mission, you can approach this as a ministry opportunity.

THE CASA MISSION

- What does a CASA volunteer do and how do they support children and families?
- Why are we reaching out to their organization and why are they important to our work?
- Share your stories—why are you committed to the CASA mission? Why did you choose to be a CASA volunteer?
- What is the need in your community?
 - Give statistics. Examples could include:
 - In [insert county/service area], [number of children] are in foster care due to allegations of abuse and neglect.
 - Last year there were over 44,000 children in foster care in the state of Texas.
 - Provide information on the current state of the foster care system such as lack of foster homes, the closing of Residential Treatment Centers (RTCs), the children without placement (CWOP), etc.
- Relate your work as a CASA volunteer to the Universal Calling. See the [Faith-Based Recruitment Guide](#) for more information; starts on pg. 28.
- Diversity and Inclusion
 - Highlight the importance of growing diversity among CASA volunteers, for example: "We are committed to providing each child with the highest quality volunteer advocacy possible. While we work hard to ensure that all of our volunteers are trained and equipped to work with any child, we also know how important it can be for a young person to see someone who looks like them and talks like them, and shares similar life experiences with them."
 - Share statistics on the disproportionality of the children in foster care. Find more information on this:
 - [Fiscal Year 2021 Rider 33 Report from DFPS](#)
 - [Texas CASA talking points on disproportionality](#)

CLERGY, CASA AND COMMUNITY

- What is Clergy, CASA and Community?

An initiative by the CASA network in Texas to build a statewide network of faith communities and leaders that will champion speaking up for local children in foster care and their families.
- What is the goal of Clergy, CASA and Community?

To see communities and clergy leaders come together to live out their calling and speak up for the children and families who need them, and to develop a rich network that engages new volunteers and supporters of the CASA mission.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP

- What are their interest and passions, or what are they currently doing to serve children in the community and/or children in foster care? Look for alignment in their mission and the CASA mission.
- How can CASA programs and volunteers assist them in what they are currently doing that aligns with our mission?
- How can the faith organization and it's members partner with CASA to help expand their current ministry? Examples could include events such as Stand Sunday, recruiting members to become CASA volunteers or foster parents, providing additional support and resources to current CASA volunteers or foster parents, etc.
- How can the CASA network support the faith organization and its ministry? Examples include providing educational workshops to members, handing out prayer cards for children in foster care, etc.
- Education and awareness opportunities. Examples include:
 - Share information and posts about the CASA program and volunteers on their social media channels and website
 - Place an ad or article in their newsletter or bulletin
 - Have CASA brochures to hand out and/or have available for members to pick up
 - Announcements during worship
- Donations, events and additional support. These could include opportunities such as:
 - Holiday giving, back to school drives, or other donation or fundraising drives
 - Organizing their own fundraiser or donation drive
 - Stand Sunday/Orphan Sunday in November
 - Child Abuse Prevention Month in April
 - Recruiting volunteers or nominating people they think would make a good volunteer
 - Partnering with organizations such as the Children's Council or Young Professionals' Groups

RESOURCES TO SHARE

- Inspirational CASA stories. Find some examples in [The CASA Voice](#).
- [Clergy, CASA and Community Video](#)
- [A Call for Faith Leaders](#)
- Additional materials specific to your program.

For more inspiration on connecting with faith leaders and organizations, contact Keri McDonald at faithbased@texascasa.org.

