

# CLERGY, CASA & COMMUNITY

## WHAT IS CLERGY, CASA & COMMUNITY?

Clergy, CASA and Community is an initiative by Texas CASA to build a network of faith communities and leaders that will champion speaking up for local children in foster care and their families. Our goal is to see communities and clergy leaders coming together to live out their calling and be a voice for the children who need them, and to develop a rich network that engages new volunteers and supporters for the CASA mission.

Faith communities are a tremendous resource that CASA programs throughout Texas can turn to. Programs can engage, activate and partner with diverse faith communities to recruit volunteers, as well as to build support for children, their parents, families, foster families and adoptive families.



## WHY SHOULD THE FAITH COMMUNITY RESPOND?

*All are called to serve the most vulnerable.*



**Christianity (Bible)** – Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress... (James 1:27)



**Judaism (Torah)** – You shall not afflict any widow or orphan. If you afflict them in any way – for if they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry. (Exodus 22:22-23)



**Islam (saying of the Prophet Muhammad)** – “The best of the houses is the house where an orphan gets love and kindness.”



**Buddhism (Bodhisattva Prayer for Humanity)** – May I bring sustenance and awakening, enduring like the earth and sky, until all beings are freed from sorrow and all are awakened. (Shantideva)



**Hinduism** – Charity given out of duty, without expectation of return, at the proper time and place, and to a worthy person is considered to be in the quality of goodness. (Bhagavad-gita 17.20)

## THE NEED:

Children who have been removed from their homes due to allegations of abuse or neglect need advocates who will speak up for them and make sure they are safe and well.

## THE RESULT:

A community speaking up for kids!

Communities and clergy leaders coming together to live out their callings and be voices for those who need them.

## HOW CAN YOU SERVE?

Establish a meaningful relationship by opening your doors to your local CASA program. Here are some examples of how to form that relationship:

- Identify a group in your community where CASA could provide an info session.
- Go with a CASA program to Clergy and Coffee to learn more about CASA's role in the courts.
- Partner with your CASA program to pray or stand up for children in foster care during Stand Sunday/Orphan Sunday, Blue Sunday, Children's Sabbaths and other related events.
- "Adopt" CASA kids with a back-to-school drive, clothes, hygiene supplies, holiday gift drives, birthday parties, support for school extra-curricular activities (such as band instruments or uniforms), etc.
- Show appreciation and support for CASA volunteers in your community.
- Invite CASA to participate in your faith community's existing events and/or ministry, like picnics and holiday dinners.

To learn more about the role of CASA visit [BecomeACASA.org](https://www.becomeacasa.org).

To learn more about this initiative email [faithbased@texascasa.org](mailto:faithbased@texascasa.org).

**"FAITH IN  
ACTION IS  
LOVE AND LOVE  
IN ACTION IS  
SERVICE."**

**- MOTHER TERESA**

