

CASA

On any given day in West Virginia about 3,000 children are living outside their home either in foster care or institutions. Many are victims of abuse or neglect who wind up in court through no fault of their own.

CASA volunteers are *Court Appointed Special Advocates* for children—trained community volunteers appointed by a judge to speak up for abused, neglected and dependent children in court. TEAM for West Virginia Children initiated West Virginia's first CASA project in Cabell County in 1991

WHO CAN BE A CASA?

Anyone who likes to work with children and adolescents can volunteer. No special experience is required, but volunteers are carefully screened and receive intensive training. They learn about courtroom procedures, the social service system, and the special needs of children who have been abused and neglected. Training and ongoing supervision are provided. It takes about 10 to 15 hours a month. It's hard work, but it's work that can make a real difference in a child's life.

HOW DO I VOLUNTEER?

Contact Kim Runyon Wilds: *E-MAIL:* team@teamwv.org *PHONE:* (304) 523-9587 ext 307

For more information on the West Virginia CASA Association, visit their website at: <http://www.wvcasa.org>

