



FY 2016  
500.00

August 26, 2015

Town of Franconia  
PO Box 900  
Franconia, NH 03580

Dear Board of Selectmen,

**Daniel Bernard, Chair**  
TD Bank

**David Eby, Chair Elect**  
Devine Millimet

**Thomas Buchanan, Treasurer**  
Derry Medical Center

**Maria Proulx, Secretary**  
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield

**Jay Allen**  
JDS Flooring Associates

**Amy Covenor**  
WMUR TV, ABC-9

**Judy Bergeron**  
MTS Services

**Arthur Bruinooge**  
Hollis, NH

**Kathy Christensen**  
Amherst, NH

**Jerry Howard**  
Strategy First Partners

**Linda Lovering**  
Lovering Auto Group

**Benjamin Oleson**  
Town of Lancaster

**Alan Reische**  
Sheehan, Phinney,  
Bass + Green

**Albert Romero**  
Centrix Bank

**John Zahr**  
Dyn

**Marcia Zahr**  
Bedford, NH

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Hampshire strives to protect the rights of our state's most vulnerable children to live, learn and grow in the embrace of a loving family. Our trained Volunteer Advocates speak on behalf of the best interests of abused children who come to the attention of New Hampshire's family courts through no fault of their own.

As you may know, CASA of NH is the only nonprofit organization in the state to recruit, screen and train volunteers to advocate for victimized children. There is never an end-point to our mandate, but rather a steady stream of children in jeopardy, particularly an increased number who have come into the court system due to the tragic drug epidemic in our state. Parental substance abuse often has a negative impact on the physical and emotional well-being of children because home environments become chaotic and unpredictable, leading to child mistreatment. We, as a society, have a major interest in how child protection systems respond to children who are the victims of this dire epidemic as well as child abuse and neglect on the whole.

When children are thrust into the confusion of the court and foster care systems, our Volunteer Advocates ensure the child's interests are considered. They paint a clear picture of their needs so judges can make informed decisions for the child's future.

On behalf of CASA of New Hampshire, I respectfully request inclusion in your 2016 budget. The children that we serve come from every corner of the state, and are part of your very community. The same holds true for our volunteers as is evidenced below.

FY 2015  
BY THE NUMBERS

***In Grafton County alone:***

**67\***  
**26**  
**39243**  
**3720**

**Children served**  
**Volunteers**  
**Miles traveled**  
**Hours of volunteer time**

***Statewide:***

**1,086**  
**443**  
**558,825**  
**56,190**  
**Value of volunteer advocacy provided** **\$3.5M**

*\* This number includes children who use your towns' schools and resources and live with foster parents or extended family members in your community. (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015)*

CASA believes that when appropriate intervention happens at a critical time in an abused child's life, the cycle of violence can be broken and their life can take a path towards becoming healthy, productive adults contributing to our communities. For that reason, we respectfully request your consideration for funding of \$500.00 in your next budget cycle.

Please know that your funding makes a huge impact in the life of an abused or neglected child. For additional information, please call 626-4600 or visit our website at casanh.org.

Sincerely,

Marcia R. Sink  
President and CEO

**BERLIN** (603) 752-9670 **COLEBROOK** PO Box 24, Colebrook, NH 03576 (603) 237-8411

**DOVER** PO Box 205, Dover, NH 03821 (603) 617-7115 **KEENE** 39 Central Square, Room 303, Keene, NH 03431 (603) 358-4012

**MANCHESTER** PO Box 1327, Manchester, NH 03105 (603) 626-4600 **PLYMOUTH** 258 Highland Street, Plymouth, NH 03264 (603) 536-1663