

# BRIDGES

**Be GREAT!**

BE INDIVIDUALS

*Be Educated*

BE DETERMINED

*Be Resilient*

Be Safe

## VOLUNTEERS

A corps of highly trained volunteers with the Court Appointed Special Advocates in DC. CASA Volunteers:

- are consistent supports and team-members
- are advocates, mentors and model adults
- are assigned to work with one youth at a time, creating a unique 1:1 relationship
- make recommendations to the court and team based on observations and interactions with the youth
- are potential life-long supports

## YOUTH

Youth who participate in the BRIDGES program are court-involved youth in the District of Columbia who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system. These youth are referred to CASA DC by family court judges, and many are youth court-involved through the child welfare system.

## OUR MISSION:

To provide Court Appointed Special Advocates to court-involved-youth in the District of Columbia, particularly foster youth, who have encountered the juvenile justice system. In doing so, CASAs apply the basic principles of working with a team of professionals to advocate for the best interest of the child, as well as providing that child with a consistent relationship to a trusted adult. The aim of the BRIDGES Program is to do everything in our power to prevent youth from becoming multi-system involved, decrease instances of recidivism, and to promote diversion opportunities. Most importantly, the aim of the program is to empower court-involved-youth to build BRIDGES, that is, to Be Resilient, be Individuals, be Determined, be Great!, be Educated, and be Safe.

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