



TEAM DECC presents: Macio Alston, Denver International Airport
Featured Nonprofit: Advocates for Children

I have been a volunteer with Advocates for Children since November 2007 and I can tell you from personal experience that it is a fantastic, awe inspiring, life changing organization that I am very proud to support. Advocates for Children is a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) group that serves as a voice for neglected and abused children in Arapahoe and Douglas counties. CASAs are individuals from the community who are trained to advocate for children whose voices often times go unheard. I have completed three CASA cases as a volunteer, and continue to support the organization by coordinating volunteer fair opportunities (at my previous employers Staples & Comcast) in addition to annual Thanksgiving basket drives and holiday giving campaigns that have benefited over 500 families with children over the past three years. The Advocates for Children vision statement is that: All children live and thrive in safe, permanent, nurturing homes. I have been in the homes of these children and the struggling parents and foster parents so I know the good that this group does.



This week's featured agency: **Advocates for Children – a Court Appointed Special Advocates group**

Mission Statement



Child Advocates-Denver CASA's mission is to advocate for the best interests of abuses and neglected children in Denver Juvenile Court through the services of specially selected and trained community volunteers from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

In a typical year, more than 1,100 children in Denver County go through the court system because their family is in crisis. Sometimes these children are able to live at home with their parents. More often, however, these children wind up in a foster home. In 2014, over 200 children in Denver County spent time in foster care. Unfortunately, the system that is supposed to protect children isn't always equipped to ensure that their basic needs and rights are protected. There is a simple and effective solution: A CASA Volunteer. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. A CASA is trained advocate who works directly with all the parties to make sure that the best interests of the child are always front-and-center. A child who has a CASA volunteer has the best chance of a successful outcome. CASA volunteers are everyday citizens appointed by judges to advocate for the safety and well-being of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. They stand up for these children and change their lives.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Child Advocates Denver CASA.