

A CASA's Determination

Josie was a gifted student beginning high school when she first came to the attention of **CASA**. The oldest of four children, she was motivated to be the first in her family to graduate from high school. Even though English was not her first language, her determination and willingness to ask for help in her studies positioned her well to meet her goals.

In the spring of 2012, after missing 18 days of school, the school social worker filed an educational neglect petition with Juvenile Court and CASA was appointed to Josie and her siblings. Upon initial assessment of the family, the CASA found the mother to have a significant and chronic medical condition which caused her to be hospitalized for days at a time, several times a year. During the hospitalizations, Josie missed school to care for her middle school and two elementary school siblings and often times, two very young cousins. There was little to no food in the home and no extra diapers for the babies during those often weeklong hospital stays.

During the course of CASA's involvement with Josie and her siblings, her older teenage sister and her sister's baby were added to the case. The six children were removed from their home twice and each time were placed into the foster care system. Each time the children were separated from their siblings.

In 2014, because of the CASA volunteer's strategic thinking and determination to find a long-term solution, this young lady and her siblings were placed with family in another state where the mother had the support of her family during her medical emergencies. Because of CASA's support Josie and her siblings found a permanent home instead of lingering in and out of the foster care system.

CASA is a **United Way of Forsyth County** Partner Agency.