



## **Verified Volunteers Partners with National CASA to bring First-of-its-Kind Volunteer Screening Platform and “Fast-Pass” to Programs across the Country**

*New Partnership Allows Local Volunteers to Obtain Standardized Background Checks to Expedite Participation in Volunteer Service*

**Seattle, WA (October 14, 2014)** – Verified Volunteers, the first-of-its-kind platform for volunteer background screening, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children, a national network of programs that recruit, train and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities, announced today a new partnership to make vetting volunteers faster, easier and less costly for CASA programs and their volunteers all throughout the United States.

This partnership makes the background screening process faster and more user-friendly for CASA volunteer programs through a streamlined platform, cost-sharing features and Fast-Pass background check sharing capabilities.

“National CASA is continually seeking ways to strengthen and support volunteer screening for our member programs. We are pleased to enter into this partnership with Verified Volunteers through which CASA programs can access a platform specifically designed to effectively and efficiently screen volunteers for service work,” said Michael Piraino, National CASA CEO.

Using Verified Volunteers’ new online platform, volunteers and volunteer managers at any CASA volunteer program can quickly and easily obtain a single, standardized background check for civic service accepted by multiple nonprofit organizations, schools, youth sports teams and faith-based groups. The Verified Volunteers platform allows volunteers to log in online and complete a four-step registration process. After this process is complete, volunteers can obtain a background check within hours or days, which can then be shared with multiple nonprofits.

“Local CASA programs were some of the first organizations to join Verified Volunteers several years ago,” said Verified Volunteers Executive Director, Tom Klein. “So we are thrilled to now offer Verified Volunteers to the broader CASA family and allow many more programs to take advantage of high quality screening on a platform customized around the needs of volunteer managers and volunteers.”

Current background screening options are costly and time-consuming for both nonprofits and their volunteers. Since as many as half of all volunteers choose to serve with more than one organization, the cost and time commitment involved with repeat screenings can be an obstacle for nonprofits and their volunteers. Using a standardized volunteer service credential that satisfies screening requirements and is recognized by multiple organizations will translate into lower costs and a greater number of qualified, readily available and dedicated volunteers all across the country.

### **Features of the new platform include:**

- Automatic updates of all active background checks every 30 days for the first year at no additional cost to the organization or volunteer;

- Compliance with FCRA and state laws;
- Fast-Pass: Volunteer ability to securely share background checks free of charge with multiple volunteer organizations on the platform;
- The ability for volunteer managers to receive real-time alerts on any changes in the background screening status of their volunteers;
- The ability for volunteer managers to track, communicate with and manage volunteers

Verified Volunteers supports volunteer programs and their volunteers nationwide and is partnered closely with many HandsOn Network volunteer centers. The first-of-its-kind screening platform continues to see rapid adoption throughout the U.S with more than 100 volunteer managers choosing Verified Volunteers each month.

### **About Verified Volunteers**

Verified Volunteers is the only background check platform tailored to the specific needs of the service sector and the first online community to mobilize repeat, vetted volunteers. Our Volunteer Fast-Pass propels nonprofit organizations by empowering volunteers to take greater ownership of costly, time-consuming screening processes. Verified Volunteers is backed by SterlingBackcheck, one of the world's largest background screening companies, and partnered with Points of Light, the world's largest organization dedicated to volunteer service. Visit our website at [verifiedvolunteers.com](https://verifiedvolunteers.com) or [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Google Plus](#) to learn more.

### **About CASA for Children**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children is a network of 951 community-based programs that recruit, train and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities. The only program of its kind, CASA volunteers are empowered by the courts to provide children with one-on-one advocacy.

CASA volunteers see their assigned children regularly and interview all the adults who impact their lives. Volunteer advocates offer judges the critical information they need to ensure each child's rights and needs are being attended to while in foster care, staying with the child until he or she is placed in a loving permanent home. For many abused children, their CASA volunteer is the only constant adult presence in their lives.

To learn more, visit [The National CASA Association](#), or the [National CASA Facebook Page](#).