

Dean Hagemann

Program Award - CASA Mercer volunteer

In 2009, Dean completed his training to be an advocate for CASA and dedicated himself to making sure that our children don't languish in foster care and that they find the permanency that they deserve.

Dean has worked on six cases over the course of the last six years, but none as compelling as the case for which he currently advocates. Since December of 2013, Dean has work with a 13 year old that has had a very difficult childhood. This child was shuffled from relative to relative, none of whom were equipped to deal with the effects of his trauma.

Since being assigned this case, Dean has advocated for this child and has been able to influence his placement in a residential facility that is optimal for this boy's issues. He has stayed close to him and has been a sounding board for his concerns. He has advocated strongly for increased therapy, a more therapeutic living environment and an expeditious and a meaningful road to permanency.

I think the most remarkable quality that Dean has shown in relationship to his child, is his enthusiasm and tireless efforts to make a better life for this child. He is a force to be reckoned with as he advocates for his child in the court room. Other parties in his case have commented that he is what a CASA volunteer is all about. He is always a respected part of the team for his child and refuses to walk away defeated.

Dean was born, raised and still resides in Mercer County. He demands the best of himself and helps others to achieve the same. Dean is a dedicated husband and father of three children. He has always been driven to provide the best education for his children with the thought that it is he and his wife's investment in their children's future.

When asked what interests he enjoys, Dean said that he is active with his church, with his children's activities and spending time with friends. He actively volunteers in many areas of his life, such as his children's sports and school functions and church projects and concerns.

In his original application to volunteer for CASA, Dean made this poignant statement, "I believe there's a point in life that you need to give back. There is nothing more important than a child and this is where I have chosen to step up. I'm a firm believer in you lead by example. The most important experience to help and guide me would be from being a parent. The things I've learned raising three children are going to help me tremendously. Volunteering with my church has taught me that some of my best rewards have come from something that benefits someone else".