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# Life and Leisure

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November 25, 2015  
Zone 1, Vol. 13 No. 22

## GIVING BACK

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and once again we're reminded that the holiday season isn't just about spending time with friends and family. For many, it's also about giving time and resources to help others who are in need. Here in Passaic County there are over 600 children who do not have the choice of spending Thanksgiving or the holiday

season with family. These children have all been removed from their families and homes due to abuse or neglect. They are now part of the foster care and court system. They've lost parents, siblings, friends, teachers and sometimes even their own belongings when they entered the foster care system. Some of



these children have been in foster care for years while others for only a few weeks. Either way, the holiday season is an especially difficult time of year for these youngsters. We are currently accepting new toys, gift cards and donations on behalf of our CASA children, to be distributed this holiday season.

Local residents now have the opportunity to impact the lives of these

local children in a variety of ways. Supporting a child during the holidays and year round can be done by making a financial donation (made via [www.passaiccountycasa.org](http://www.passaiccountycasa.org)), donating holiday gifts or new winter coats as well as by making the commitment to volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, (CASA). Volunteers go through a 36 hour training program prior to working with a specific child for a period of 12-18 months.

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*Patient from Pequannock, New Jersey*

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