



CASA Connection Newsletter

July 2019
#19

New CASA Volunteers Sworn In



Left to right: Honorable Frank Skorupa, Tom Cleary, Mike Applegate

On June 17, Platte County court judge, the Honorable Frank Skorupa, swore in CASA Connection's newest volunteers: **Mike Applegate & Tom Cleary**, both of Columbus. We are looking forward to working with these gentlemen. Mike & Tom have hit the ground running as they have accepted their first cases already.

Mike, a Columbus native, is a retired law enforcement officer. He & his wife, Patty, have 5 adult children along with several grandchildren & great grandchildren. They enjoy spending time with family & friends, especially on their boat.

Tom recently retired from working in the non-clinical health care field while his wife Helen continues to teach pre-school. They are parents to 3 adult children. One of their sons is handicapped and Tom is a wonderful advocate for him.

2019 Nebraska State CASA Conference

CASA Connection staff, along with ten volunteers attended the Nebraska State CASA Conference held in Kearney April 12-13. The weekend was filled with great networking and breakout sessions that really inspired everyone in the work we do. Saturday morning's keynote speaker was Adams county court judge, the Hon. Michael Burns. Volunteers later attended a presentation on Youth Thrive by Faith Mills, Director of the Panhandle Partnership while staff members learned about EMERGENETICS®, a unique communication tool.



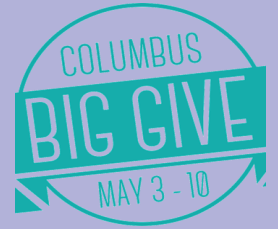
Staff members from CASA organizations across Nebraska



One group of volunteers from CASA Connection who attended the conference

“Hope is what makes us stand up when others tell us to sit down.”
Bryan Stevenson, Founder of the Equal Justice Initiative

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Columbus Big Give event held May 3-10. Whether you stopped by the CASA Connection office for donuts and coffee on May 10, attended another Big Give event, or made a donation to CASA Connection, WE THANK YOU!



During our Continuing Education session in May, CASA Connection Executive Director, Susie Jarecki, spoke about Nebraska legislative statutes regarding juvenile cases and how this pertains to CASA cases. This topic was brought up due to interest after many of the volunteers attended the Nebraska state CASA Conference and who heard Hon. Michael Burns talk about the statutes.



2019 National CASA Conference



Susie Jarecki, CASA Connection Exec. Director & Lisa Rosendahl, Outreach Coordinator, attended the 2019 National CASA/GAL Conference held in Atlanta. This year’s conference focused on building stronger families to achieve better outcomes for children. Keynote speakers such as James & Patrice Comey and the Hon. Mary Landrieu inspired all the attendees to continue our dedication to the children and families we work with. The conference was also a wonderful way to meet & network with staff & volunteers from CASA organizations around the country and to learn from presenters on topics such *The Intersection of Domestic Violence & Resolve in Families* and *Adolescent Advocacy*. While in Atlanta we also enjoyed true Southern hospitality from everyone we met.



James & Patrice Comey speak about being foster parents as well as their dedication to CASA



Lisa with Kim Richters & Marci Fehlhafer of the Southeast Nebraska CASA Association



Bryan Stevenson, Founder & Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative of Mobile, Alabama

UPCOMING EVENTS

Colfax County Fair

CASA Connection will have a booth at the Colfax County Fair in Leigh July 19-21. Stop by & learn how you could become a CASA Volunteer Advocate.



Columbus Days

Stop by the CASA Connection booth in Frankfort Square on Saturday, August 18 during the "Aloha, Columbus Days" festivities



"I'm a Little Cutie" Baby Contest

CASA Connection will host the "I'm a Little Cutie" Baby Contest for children ages 0-18 months during the Columbus Days celebration, Saturday August 17 starting at 8:30 am in Frankfort Square.

Pre-registration is required. You can register online at <https://casaconnectionne.com/news-events/little-cutie-baby-contest.html>

You may also email casacon@yahoo.com or call (402)563-4944 for more information



BIRTHDAYS



Mike Applegate	July 22
Jamey Price	August 22
Carrie Trofholz	August 27
Tammy Micek	September 1
Tami Altstadt	October 11
Robbin Cutsor	October 24



You could spark HOPE in a child who has been abused/neglected

To learn how to be that spark contact CASA Connection
<https://casaconnectionne.com>

CASA Connection is looking for speaking opportunities



Do you have a business, church group, or other entity that would like to learn more about CASA Connection? Our Outreach Coordinator, Lisa Rosendahl, would love to come speak and share more with your peers about CASA Connection and how to get involved! Please reach out to casacoord@gmail.com and help spread the word!

CASA Connection sends a huge Thank You to the following for all of their past support, funding and in-kind donations!

Platte County, Nebraska	Colfax County, Nebraska	Nebraska CASA Association
Columbus Area United Way	Linda K. Price	National CASA Association
Nebraska Crime Commission	Walmart	Cornhusker Goodwill Fund

CURRENT 2019 PROGRAM STATISTICS as of June 30

- 21 Children referred to our program
- 38 Cases monitored
- 39 Children served with an advocate
- 22 Active volunteers
- 4 New volunteers sworn in

"Baseball is like driving, it's the one who gets home safely that counts." – Tommy Lasorda

Be his MVP.
Be his CASA.

CASA Connection
(402) 563-4944

Board Members

Lisa McFarland ~ President
Robbin Cutsor ~ Treasurer
Travis Hill
Zach Johnson
Doug Pauley
Shelley Stempek

Volunteer Advocates

Tami Altstadt
Julie Anderson
Mike Applegate
Rolaine Blaser
Dan Britt
Jean Britt
Tom Cleary
Dee Condon
Joy Dannelly
Tracy Duncan
Tricia Dusatko
Renee Held
Kaye Karmann
Carrie Kreber
Tammy Micek
Jamey Price
Jeanne Quinn
Kim Schmidt
Rhonda Scott
Karmen Thompson
Carrie Trofholz
Brenda Vermeire

CASA Connection

Office Location:

1465 27th Ave.

Mailing Address:

2610 14th Street

Columbus, NE 68601

Phone: 402-563-4944

Fax: 402-562-6178

Email:

casacon@yahoo.com or

casacoord@gmail.com

Website:

www.casaconnectionne.com

Find us on Facebook & Twitter




www.facebook.com/casaconnectioncolumbus



[@CASAConnectNE](https://twitter.com/CASAConnectNE)

CASA Connection is affiliated with the Nebraska CASA Association and the National CASA Association.

CASA Connection is a  agency.

I'm a
VOLUNTEER
what's your
 **superpower?**

