



**New Continuing Education Series**

The staff of CASA Connection have started a new monthly continuing education series. This training will be held twice monthly with one being held during the noon hour and the other after work. These sessions covering a variety of topics will be useful to our volunteers in their work as advocates.



Dan & Jean Britt focus during the Vicarious Trauma training.



Kenneth Young, Tami Altstadt & Raylyn Latorra listen as Lisa Rosendahl explains what Vicarious Trauma is during training.



Renee Held, Susie Jarecki, Rolaine Blaser & Dee Condon during the "Recognizing Your Values" training session.



Dee Condon & Jamey Price during the "Recognizing Your Values" training session.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO WENDI PETERSEN**

for being recognized as an Outstanding United Way Partner Agency Volunteer during the United Way's Annual Meeting & Outstanding Volunteer Recognition Luncheon held February 21. Wendi has been a volunteer with CASA Connection since 2014.



Columbus Area United Way Exec. Director, Pat Heimes presents Wendi with her award.

**Continuing Education Schedule**

January 18 <i>Vicarious trauma</i>	12:00 - 1:00 Lunch & learn
January 25 <i>Vicarious trauma</i>	5:30-6:30
February 14 <i>Recognizing your values</i>	12:00 - 1:00 Lunch & learn
February 22 <i>Recognizing your values</i>	5:30 - 6:30
March 7 <i>Advocating for Children with Mental Illness</i>	Noon-1:00 Lunch & learn
March 22 <i>Advocating for Children with Mental Illness</i>	5:30-6:30
April 11 Attorney Jason Mielak will talk about GALs & learn more about the CASA program	5:30-6:30
April 19 Attorney Jason Mielak will talk about GALs & learn more about the CASA program	Noon-1:00 Lunch & learn
May 8 Communication skills: speaking & listening	Noon-1:00 Lunch & learn
May 17 Communication skills: speaking & listening	5:30-6:30
June 5 Topic: <i>TBA</i>	5:30-6:30
June 14 Topic: <i>TBA</i>	Noon-1:00 Lunch & learn

# Happy Spring. Happy Easter. Happy Everything.

“Spring is nature’s way of saying, “Let’s party!” ~Robin Williams



CASA  
Connection Office



**Thanks to Dee Condon & Jamey Price for all their hard work on putting together our new game & book library.** Our volunteers can feel free to check any of these out for their visits with the children they’re working with. Playing a game or reading with a child is a great icebreaker. Some of the games include dominoes, Uno, Hi Ho Cherry-O. There are books of all types such as *ABC Dr. Seuss* for young children, *Guinness World Records* that the older children will like. *Buffalo Wild Girl* is a Native American story which will appeal to older ones while *Curious George Plants a Seed* is a bilingual book which should entertain any Curious George fan.

## NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING

In February CASA Connection started a New Volunteer Training class with three new volunteers. Joy Dannelly, Carrie Kreber & Kim Schmidt are working towards being sworn in as CASA advocates.

If you know of someone who would be interested in learning more about becoming an advocate with CASA call Susie or Lisa at (402)563-4944. We would love to have another class fill up!

**CASA Connection**  
**volunteers & staff will be attending the Nebraska State Volunteer Conference in Kearney**  
**April 7, 2018**

## APRIL IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

The Staff & Board of CASA Connection are **SO GRATEFUL** for our dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers give their **TIME, WISDOM** & most of all their **HEARTS** to the children they are advocating for. It is not always easy & there are “head banging” days and there are the days you can laugh & smile when you visit them.

When you wonder if you are really making a difference remember the story of the Starfish.

**You are the young man tossing the starfish back into water.**

**THE STARFISH STORY**

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking up and gently throwing things into the ocean.

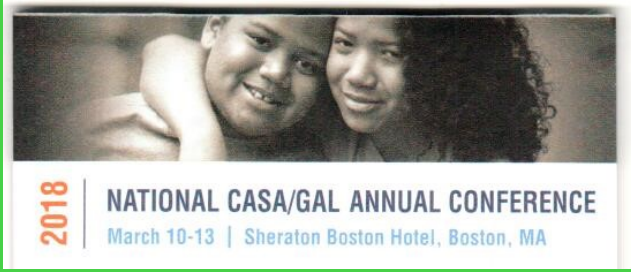
Approaching the boy he asked: "Young man, what are you doing?"

The boy replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

The man laughed to himself and said, "Do you realize there are miles of miles of beach and hundreds of starfish?" "You can't make any difference."

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the surf, then smiling at the man, he said;  
**"I made a difference to that one."**

— Loren Eiseley



Susie Jarecki, CASA Connection Executive Director & Lisa Rosendahl, CASA Connection Outreach Coordinator attended the 2018 National CASA/GAL Conference in Boston. The week was INSPIRING, INFORMATIVE & EXCITING. A few highlights were: listening to keynote speakers such as Jenna Bush Hager who spoke of her experiences as a teacher at charter school in Washington, DC and with UNICEF in Latin America & the Caribbean, attending the Awards of Excellence Dinner and Program. Visiting with CASA volunteers, staff and workshop presenters from all over the country was so informative and both Lisa & Susie came back with many great ideas to use. While there a Nor'easter-Winter Storm Skylar-gave everyone a taste of Boston winters.



Susie & Lisa at the Awards of Excellence dinner



Adam Foss, one of the main stage presenters



Jenna Bush Hager, one of the main stage presenters



when a child's future hangs in the balance

we are there

# 2nd Annual Cheers for CASA Fundraiser March 23. This FUN wine & beer tasting event which was held at The Henry on 11th venue was a great success.



Board member Harriet Berlin & guests.



Renee Held shows off one of the wines that were sampled.



Sandy Krings & Tami Altstadt manned the popular sangria table.



The Henry on 11th was the perfect location.



Rolaine Blaser with samples of beer at her station.



Some of the guests enjoying themselves.

## **CASA Connection would like to say THANK YOU to our sponsors for their GENEROUS DONATIONS!**

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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  
Columbus Area United Way  
Nebraska CASA Association  
National CASA Association  
Snow Redfern Foundation  
ADM Cares  
Cornhusker Goodwill Fund  
Walmart  
Linda K. Price  
VOCA  
BD Medical*

CURRENT PROGRAM STATISTICS  
for 2018

11 Children referred to our program      47 Cases monitored  
38 Children served with an advocate      17 Active volunteers  
3 New volunteers now training



To all our wonderful volunteers

## Board Members

Lisa McFarland ~ President  
Robbin Cutsor ~ Treasurer  
Harriet Berlin ~ Secretary  
Travis Hill  
Zach Johnson  
Doug Pauley  
Shelley Stempek  
Carrie Trofholz

## Volunteer Advocates

Rolaine Blaser  
Kenneth Young  
Tracy Duncan  
Carrie Trofholz  
Renee Held  
Bonnie McPhillips  
Wendi Petersen  
Rhonda Scott  
Brenda Vermeire  
Jeanne Quinn  
Jean Britt  
Dan Britt  
Kim Kwapnioski  
Tammy Micek  
Colette Hansen  
Raylyn Latorra  
Tami Altstadt  
Annette Davis  
Dee Condon  
Jamey Price

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### BIRTHDAYS

Lisa McFarland	April 18
Carrie Kreber	May 10
Shelley Stempek	May 17
Wendi Petersen	May 20
Rolaine Blaser	June 7
Rhonda Scott	June 7



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

CASA Connection is a  agency.