



CASA Connection Newsletter

April 2019
#18

New CASA Volunteers Sworn In

On March 11, Platte County court judge, the Honorable Frank Skorupa, swore in two new CASA Volunteers: **Kaye Karmann & Julie Anderson**. Kaye and her husband Paul raised 5 children. Their daughter, who lives in Michigan, is training to be a foster mother. Julie and her husband stay busy with their 4 young children. Julie's husband, Jeff, is a police officer with the Columbus Police Department. We are excited to have Kaye & Julie join our group of wonderful volunteers and look forward to working with them.

A new group of volunteers will be starting their training in early April so we look forward to them joining us.



Left to right: Honorable Frank Skorupa, Kaye Karmann & Julie Anderson



“Light It Up”

“Light it Up” was the theme of the Schuyler Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet on January 19. The Chamber invited members to decorate a table fitting the theme while promoting their individual business or organization. Outreach Coordinator, Lisa Rosendahl & CASA Connection volunteer, Renee Held received glowing compliments about their wintery table and chocolate party favors.



Continuing Education

Continuing education is important for our volunteers & staff. Volunteers are invited to attend hour-long monthly sessions held after work featuring various topics & presenters. They are also invited to attend workshops held in the area.

- ◆ On **February 5** Susie Jarecki, Robbin Cutsor & Bonnie McPhillips attended *Introduction to Drug Recognition & Awareness*, held at the East Central District Health Department. Speakers for the event were Columbus Police officers Jorge Magdeleno, Santiago Velasquez & Jeremy Zywiec.
- ◆ **January 29** 8 volunteers attended our monthly training with Executive Director Susie Jarecki giving the volunteers a chance to practice their *Speaking & Listening* skills.
- ◆ **February 28** Attendees played the game “Wheel of Learning” with questions ranging from definitions of acronyms to explaining what happens in various stages of a case.
- ◆ **March 21** Our guest speaker for the CEU session was Beth Larson, a counselor with Good Life Counseling and Support. Beth spoke about Parent Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT) and how it is used with child abuse/neglect cases. It is a combination of play therapy and behavioral therapy for young children & their parents or caregivers, including foster parents.

Spring Continuing Education Schedule	
March 21 Guest speaker: Beth Larson from Good Life Counseling	5:30-6:30
May 16	5:30-6:30
June 27	5:30-6:30
July 25	5:30-6:30



Renee Held & Joy Dannelly show off their sweet “Wheel of Learning” winnings.



Rolaine Blaser & Karmen Thompson are focused during a recent CEU session.



Beth Larson from Good Life Counseling explains how PCIT therapy works for young children and their parents or caregivers.



CASA Connection
volunteers & staff will be
attending the Nebraska
State Volunteer
Conference in Kearney
April 12-13, 2019

Volunteer Resources Available

CASA Connection has a library of books available to check out. These include books to read for your own continued learning, such as *Shadow Children* by Louise Babirak about child trafficking, along with books for children you may check out to take with you during visits with the children you work with. Studies show that early reading with children helps them learn to speak, interact, bond with parents and read early themselves. Reading with kids who already know how to read helps them feel close to caretakers, understand the world around them and be empathetic citizens of the world. Also available for our volunteers to check out is a selection of games such as dominos, Jenga and Chutes & Ladders. We encourage you to stop by the office to see what's available for your interests.



"Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten."
–Neil Gaiman



3rd Annual Cheers for CASA Fundraiser March 29.

This FUN wine & beer tasting fundraising event which was held at Henry on 11th was a great success. Thank you to all who helped with it or attended.



Board members Lisa McFarland and Robbin Cutsor



Tracy Duncan running the sangria sample station



Board members Zach Johnson and Doug Pauley

Henry on 11th was the perfect location for the event.



Some of the guests enjoying themselves

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

Agri-City Insurance	Associated Staffing	Clarkson Bank
Farm Bureau Financial Services	Jeff & Cathy Gokie	Jon Stopak- Big Iron
Layton & Nancy Hinz	Marilyn Campain	Homestead Bank
Karel & Seckman Law Offices	Nor-Am Cold Storage	Optimal Health Chiropractic
Pinnacle Bank	Svoboda Funeral Home	Trent & Shelly Stempek
	Thrivent Financial	

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
Cornhusker Goodwill Fund
Walmart
Linda K. Price
VOCA
BD Medical*

CURRENT PROGRAM STATISTICS
for 2019 as of March 31

10 Children referred to our program 34 Cases monitored
33 Children served with an advocate 19 Active volunteers



Help a child
weather life's storms.
Become a CASA.

Board Members

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

Volunteer Advocates

Tami Altstadt
Julie Anderson
Rolaine Blaser
Dan Britt
Jean Britt
Dee Condon
Robbin Cutsor
Joy Dannelly
Tracy Duncan
Tricia Dusatko
Renee Held
Kaye Karmann
Carrie Kreber
Bonnie McPhillips
Tammy Micek
Wendi Petersen
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@megavision.com or
casacoord@gmail.com

Website:

www.casaconnectionne.com

Find us on Facebook & Twitter



www.facebook.com/casaconnectioncolumbus




@CASAConnectNE

BIRTHDAYS

Karmen Thompson	April 16
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.