



CASA Connection Newsletter

April 2020
#22

Letter from the Executive Director

Like every other organization in the world, we are closely monitoring the evolving COVID-19 spread locally and world-wide.

At CASA Connection it is very important to know that the safety of our volunteers, board members, staff and the children we serve is our utmost #1 priority. **We are determined to take prudent measures to help keep people safe, while attempting to avoid panic and continuing to fulfill our critical mission. We have taken the following actions:**

- Staff is working remotely, when possible.
- The office building is locked down and no one can enter the building until phone contact has been made and an appointment is deemed necessary.
- In-person visits have been suspended and have been replaced with phone calls, texts, emails or video chat when possible.
- If volunteers feel an in-person visit is needed for the safety of a child, please contact the Executive Director so the issue can be resolved.
- Case supervisors will keep in contact with the volunteer and share all pertinent information to keep everyone updated on the assigned cases.
- Volunteers should contact the Executive Director if the children they are advocating for are in need of food and/or basic items.
- Staff is working to put together online training options for the volunteers in pre-training as well as some for on-going training.

The need for CASA volunteers do not go away at times like this. In fact, we may be called on as more children become victims of overwhelmed parents. This is a difficult time for everyone, and children are not excluded.

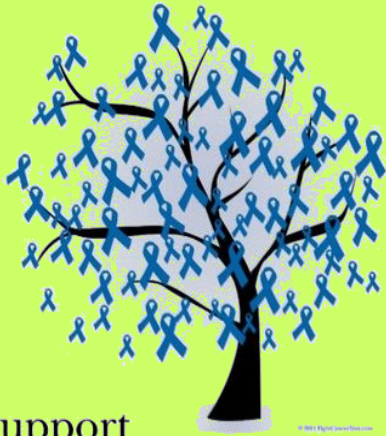
In a time of isolation, loneliness can become overwhelming. Use social media to stay in contact with your family and friends. Please take this time to better educate yourself on the facts of COVID-19; but remain calm and have faith in our leaders, as despite many opinions, they are working hard to keep all of us safe. With that, I will ask each of you to please remain safe, stay home when possible, and look out for your elderly neighbors and friends. Help out when you can, heed the warnings from the CDC and local government, and we **WILL** all get through this together.

Susie Jarecki

**Executive Director
CASA Connection**

“A child can never have too many people who help them.”

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month



support
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
awareness

Show your support for Child Abuse Awareness Month by wearing blue on April 17.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, CASA Connection encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making our community a better place for children and families. We believe that every child has a right to a safe childhood free of violence. By rallying our neighbors, business, schools, friends and families, we can make a difference in the lives of children across the country. One of the best ways to do this is to become a volunteer advocate with CASA Connection. As a CASA volunteer you will be trained to advocate for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse/neglect. Volunteers can improve children's well-being and help them reach a permanent home.

Together, we can help change a child's story.

Our volunteers are changing children's stories



Renee Held



Dee Condon



Robbin Cutsor



Rolaine Blaser



Casey Spitz

To learn how YOU could help change a child's story by becoming a volunteer advocate with CASA Connection **email Lisa Rosendahl at casacoord@gmail.com or visit our website: www.casaconnectionne.com**



“History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.” Nelson Mandela



To Our Volunteers

We appreciate everything you do for the children you advocate tirelessly for. Thank you for giving your time and hearts to the CASA program. Please remember that no matter what you really are making a difference!

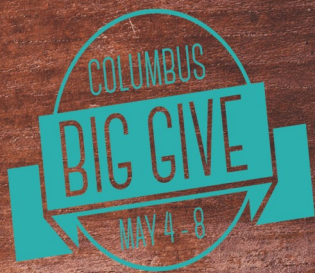


Several of our volunteers, including Renee Held, Rolaine Blaser, Mike Applegate, Jean Britt, Dee Condon, Casey Spitz, Robbin Cutsor, along with Kaye Karmann, Julie Anderson [not seen in photos] took part in a Continuing Education Session held February 20.

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
Cornhusker Goodwill Fund
Walmart
Linda K. Price
Nebraska Crime Commission**

SAVE
THE
DATE



Columbus Big Give is a five-day time of giving where Columbus area supporters are invited to give back to their favorite local charities, including CASA Connection.

Visit www.columbusbiggive.org/Organization-Profile/CASA-Connection for more information.

Thank you to Jerod Trouba and his family for the generous donation of toys and games. Our volunteers will be able to check-out these when they do visits with their CASA children. Games are a great way for children to talk to volunteers without feeling like they are being interviewed by another adult.



PROGRAM STATISTICS AS OF MARCH 20, 2020

6 Children referred to our program
33 Children served with an advocate

17 Cases monitored
21 Active volunteers



BIRTHDAYS

Karmen Thompson	April 16
Carrie Kreber	May 10
Theresa Seipel	June 3
Rolaine Blaser	June 7
Tom Cleary	June 13

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES!

Tami Altstadt
 Mike Applegate
 Julie Anderson
 Rolaine Blaser
 Dan Britt
 Jean Britt
 Tom Cleary
 Dee Condon
 Robbin Cutsor
 Joy Dannelly
 Tracy Duncan
 Tricia Dusatko
 Mike Goos
 Renee Held
 Kaye Karmann
 Carrie Kreber
 Jamey Price
 Jeanne Quinn
 Kim Schmidt
 Theresa Seipel
 Casey Spitz
 Tara Svatora
 Karmen Thompson
 Carrie Trofholz

CASA Connection

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Find us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

Facebook: www.facebook.com/casaconnectioncolumbus


Twitter: @CASACConnectNE

Instagram: @casa_connectionnebraska

BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

CASA Connection is a  agency.