



CASA Connection Out & About



Our newest volunteers, Jamey Price & Dee Condon were sworn in by the Honorable Judge Frank J. Skorupa on November 17. **Welcome ladies!** Thank you for stepping up to advocate for abused & neglected children in our area.



Lisa Rosendahl accepts a check from David Scharff of the Cornhusker Public Power District Goodwill fund. **Thank you Cornhusker Public Power customers who choose to donate to the Goodwill fund.**



Susie Jarecki had an opportunity to give a presentation on CASA Connection, to the Columbus Noon Lion's Club.



A HUGE Thank you to ADM Cares & Cornhusker Public Power District Goodwill fund for providing the funds to purchase Christmas gifts for the children we are advocating for. Thanks to their generosity we still have funds to use for birthday gifts throughout the year. Thank you for helping us give these children a happier holiday season.

What is YOUR New Year's Resolution?

Be someone a child can count on. Better your life and the life of a child, by advocating for the abused/neglected children in our area. For more information call (402)563-4944 or email us at casacoord@gmail.com or casacon@megavision.com





October



During October our volunteers & staff had the opportunity to get together for some informative training learning more about boundaries. On another evening we had a fun get-together during a Volunteer Appreciation Social held at Shadows Restaurant. This gave our volunteers & board members a chance to reconnect. Our volunteers were given certificates and chocolates in gratitude for all their help & dedication.

The evening is just a small way to show our volunteers how much we appreciate the time & work each of them do.

We love our volunteers!! THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!



Kenneth Young is focused on the training session.



Rolaine Blaser, Brenda Vermeire & Wendi Petersen concentrate during the training.



CASA Connection Director, Susie Jarecki, gave helpful information on boundaries.



It was a great night to get together.



Lots of visiting & catching up was done during the social.



Renee Held & our Outreach Coordinator, Lisa Rosendahl.



November



CASA Connection had a couple changes in our Board of Directors in November. Longtime member, Sandy Seckman, stepped down to spend a bit more time with her family. While the board will really miss her we wish her the best and know we'll still see her. THANK YOU SANDY for all your hard work & dedication.



We may have lost Sandy from the board but we gained a fresh new face with the addition of Zach Johnson of Schuyler. A native of Pilger, Nebraska Zach is a Funeral Director/ Embalmer with Svoboda Funeral Home in Schuyler. **Welcome Zach! We're looking forward to getting to know you and appreciate you giving your time to our organization.**

On November 18 CASA Connection Executive Director, Susie Jarecki along with some student volunteers, manned one of the fun games used to entertain guests at the local National Adoption Day celebration. Thank you to Susie's helpers & CONGRATULATIONS to all the new FOREVER FAMILIES created this year.



I Am A CASA Volunteer

written by a CASA Volunteer in Dallas, Texas

To a child silenced by injustice,
I am a voice.

To a child with whom the world has broken faith,
I am someone to believe in.

Amid confusion, I am certainty;
amid instability, constancy.

In a dark labyrinth of bureaucracy,
I am a way through —
a steady arm around the shoulder,
a calming voice in the ear.

For while my appointment may come from a court,
my calling comes from within.

To the child neglected, the child abused, the child cast upon the mercy of an often merciless system,

I am heart and caring and courage personified.
I am a CASA volunteer.



December



The staff at CASA Connection wishes a very Merry Christmas to all of our volunteers and board members. Thank you for your devotion to helping abused & neglected children in our area and for giving them a voice.

Continuing Education Training For Volunteers

Thank you to our volunteers who attended the December 5 Continuing Education training. The subject was *Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault*. This very informative webinar discussed all the various drugs which have been used in drug-facilitated sexual assault and their affects on the victim's body.

Staff training December 13 & 14

CASA Connection was a host location for Facilitator Training for the new National CASA Volunteer Training Curriculum. Corrie Kielty, the Executive Director for the Nebraska CASA Association trained our local staff along with representatives of 4 other CASA programs from Nebraska. This updated curriculum provided by the National CASA Association is the program which CASA staff will use to train our new volunteers. Along with the training attendees had a chance to network & share valuable ideas & information. **THANK YOU CORRIE FOR THE PRESENTATION & SNACKS. THANK YOU TO THE OTHER CASA STAFF WHO ATTENDED.**



Thank you Melanie Knoepfle, Thrivent Financial Services and CASA Volunteer Dee Condon for your generous donation. This will be used to purchase books which will be available for our volunteers to check out to enjoy during visits with the children they are advocating for.

Photo: [left to right] Lisa Rosendahl, Dee Condon, Jamey Price & Susie Jarecki.

Save The Date

CHEERS FOR CASA

March 23, 2018

6 pm - 9 pm

Henry on 11th

**Tickets: \$20 admission
[tasting is included]**

Adults 21 & over only

Join us for our wine tasting event! Help us to raise funds to recruit more volunteers so we can serve more foster children in our community.

**For more information call
(402)563-4944**

Save The Date

**Nebraska State
Volunteer Conference**

April 7, 2018

All day

Ramada Inn, Kearney

**For more information call Susie:
(402)563-4944**

National CASA Film List.

New July 2014: The National CASA Association offers the following list of films and television programs to help improve and inspire your service to children. Almost all items on this list were suggested by volunteers and supporters via the National CASA Facebook Page. *Not all films have been viewed by National CASA Staff.*

The winter months are perfect for watching movies or tv. Here are a few selections from the National CASA Film List:

The Blind Side The story of Michael Oher, a homeless and traumatized boy who became an All American football player and first round NFL draft pick with the help of a caring woman and her family.

Freedom Writers A young teacher inspires her class of at-risk students to learn tolerance, apply themselves, and pursue education beyond high school.

I Am Sam A mentally retarded man fights for custody of his 7-year-old daughter, and in the process teaches his cold-hearted lawyer the value of love and family.

The Pursuit of Happyness A struggling salesman takes custody of his son as he's poised to begin a life-changing professional endeavor.

Anne of Green Gables An orphan girl, sent to an elderly brother and sister by mistake, charms her new home and community with her fiery spirit and imagination.

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***

PROGRAM STATISTICS for 2017

56 Children referred to our program	80 Cases monitored
58 Children served with an advocate	24 Active volunteers
30 Served cases closed	7 New volunteers sworn in

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
Leslie McCuiston
Tammy Micek
Colette Hansen
Kimberly Kwapnioski
Raylyn Latorra
Tami Altstadt
Annette Davis
Dee Condon
Jamey Price

CASA Connection

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[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.



BIRTHDAYS

Susie Jarecki	January 3
Jean Britt	January 8
Travis Hill	January 14
Brenda Vermeire	January 15
Raylyn Latorra	January 30
Tracy Duncan	February 20
Lisa Rosendahl	March 7
Zach Johnson	March 19
Jeanne Quinn	March 20