



LINCOLN COUNTY

Newsletter

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Welcome to the Lincoln County CASA Newsletter. Our goal is to distribute this the first of each month. If you have items that might interest our CASA readers, please send them to lincolncountycasa@gmail.com

I am for the child™

Lincoln County CASA Newest Advocates

Sherry Schroder

Cindy Huntsman

Keo Nansel

Lorre McKeone

Betty Anne Strawn

On December 2, 2014, five new advocates were sworn in by the Honorable Judge Kent Turnbull. The advocates observed a variety of cases and enjoyed getting to meet the county attorney, several members of the child protection team as well as the attorneys/Guardian Ad Litem (GALs). It was a great experience and we are thankful for the chance to advocate for children.

If you would like to donate to this year's United Way Campaign. Feel free to contact the Lincoln County CASA office at 308-520-0577 or lincolncountycasa@gmail.com and we would love to talk to you and/or connect you to

Director's Update:

At this time of year, I'm reminded that we have so much to be thankful for :

Thank-you to Rotarians for adopting our CASA kids again this year for Christmas. This is the second year that we've partnered together and it has been an amazing experience.

Thank you to the volunteers and board members that have put in extra hours working on the Sustaining Membership Campaign, the Dining to Donate fundraiser, and preparing the information for the Rotary Christmas Project.

Thank you to Kevin Kennedy, Rollie Kramer, Duane Deterding, and Larry Steele for the amazing job they did in preparing a Christmas feast for advocates and board members.

Thank you to those members of our county that have given their time, energy, and resources. The value of your contributions are measured in the lives of our children.

Dining to Donate

Please consider dining at Applebees on Tuesday, December 16th. If you take one of the flyers with you, 10% of your ticket will be donated to Lincoln County CASA. You can dine anytime from 11:00 am-close and must present the flyer to your server. Please help support Lincoln County CASA and get some good food

As a boy, my three sisters and I suffered just about every form of abuse you can imagine—emotional and physical attacks by my mother, later sexual abuse by her and her boyfriend. When I was 13 years old, we were all removed from our home. After that, I bounced around, from a children's emergency shelter to an aunt's house, then back to the shelter. There was so much I did not know about the foster care system. Without knowledge or the power to speak up, I felt like a victim.

A year and a half later, I met my CASA volunteer, Robert. And everything changed.

Robert taught me how to communicate, how to represent myself and my needs. He helped me understand what was happening in court and taught me how to stand up for myself.

When I had something to say, Robert made sure my voice was heard. When I did not want to or could not speak, he spoke for me. At every school event, Robert was there. From ROTC ceremonies to my high school graduation, he was there. When I took hold of my diploma, I heard his cheers above the rest.

About that same time, I was placed into my final foster home, where I learned about service to others. My foster father did so much more than he had to do for me and for those around him. From that moment on I decided that there was much that I need to give back.

I have basically dedicated my time to helping children whose life circumstances are similar to mine—from gathering gifts for children of abused women at the holidays to advocating for the rights of foster children on a state level. Today, I am working for a youth-serving organization. As a program manager, I am creating a new mentoring program for youth who have been raised by their grandparents or in single-family homes.

This summer, I had the amazing experience of being an intern in Sen. Harry Reid's office in Washington, DC. I had seen a lot of legislation in the state of Nevada, but the magnitude of change in DC amazed me. This summer I learned that if you have a voice, there is someone who is willing to listen to it and to try to make change.

I'll graduate from college in 2014 with a major in psychology and a minor in political science. Right now my plan is to go back to Washington and hopefully get another internship.

Coordinator's Corner

Christmas is my favorite time of year. I have wonderful childhood memories and have tried to make good memories with my children. Working with CASA has opened my eyes to a whole different way to look at the holidays. While I am looking with anticipation to the joy of the holidays, we have many children and families that do not have anything to look forward too. We have families that are looking at jail time, termination of parental rights struggling with drug addictions and court visits. We have children that although they will have gifts they won't get to be home at Christmas. For me, taking the time to think of what many of our children are facing this Christmas, makes me want to work as hard as I can to make sure more and more people understand why these children need a voice. I am so excited that on December 2nd, 5 more advocate volunteers were sworn in. And although I am thrilled, we still need 10 more advocates to reach our goal of 15 new advocates by the end of June 2015. We will be having our first CASA training of 2015 towards the end of January. Please think about what you can do to help a child's voice be heard.

Vicki Collins—Volunteer Coordinator



Save the Date

Superhero 5K and
Family Run

April 4, 2015

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