

CASA Connection Newsletter

January 2017

#9

The Problem: OVERWHELMED SYSTEMS



600,000+ children pass through the U.S. foster care and family court systems annually.



The average child will spend nearly 2 years (20 months) in foster care.



On average each one of those children will change homes three times.

The Solution: CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS



One year of CASA/GAL advocacy costs less than one month of foster care.



staff member



30 volunteers



75 children

The Results: BRIGHTER FUTURES



CASA/GAL PROGRAMS CHANGE LIVES A child with a volunteer advocate is more likely to find a safe,



A child with a CASA/GAL volunteer is half as likely to re-enter the foster care system.



And, they are more likely to succeed in school and less likely to spend three or more years in care.

PROGRAM STATISTICS FOR THE 4th QUARTER 2016

HOW DID WE DO?

- <u>17</u> Children referred to our program
- 43 Children served with an advocate
- 4 Served cases closed

- __50 Cases on a waiting list
- 14 Active volunteers
- 3 New volunteers sworn in

Meet our New Volunteers



Rhonda Scott was sworn in by Judge McDermott on December 12, 2016.

Rhonda lives in Rogers, NE with her husband Doug.



Kim Kwapnioski was sworn in by Judge 8korupa on December 16, 2016.

Kim and her husband, live in Columbus, NE



Carrie Trofholz was also sworn in by Judge 8korupa on December 16, 2016, and joined our Board of Directors in November.

Carrie and her husband Todd, reside in Columbus, NE.





WELCOME TO CASA CONNECTION WE APPRECIATE YOU STEPPING UP TO ADVOCATE FOR THE ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN OUR AREA!

What else have we been up to?







Above: CASA Connection received \$200 from the Cornhusker Goodwill Fund. This funding is used each year to purchase birthday presents for our CASA Children.

Pictures to the left and bottom: Various shots of our volunteers and/or guests enjoying the 2016 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, held at the Pizza Ranch, in Columbus. It was so nice to see so many in one place at the same time! The dinner is just a small way to show our appreciation for the time and work each of our volunteers do. They each deserve so much more! THANK YOU!





Meet our new staff member.

Samantha Schreiber was hired at the end of November as the part-time Outreach Coodinator.



Samantha earned her Bachelor's degree in Social Work in December 2016 from the University of Nebraska in Kearney. She is originally from Columbus and has resided here her whole life.

Samantha came to CASA Connection with experience in the human service field as well as previous experience working for non-profit agencies.

Welcome Samantha! We are very fortunate to have you join our team!

Happy New Year!

What did 2016 look like for us?

Statistics

- We had 7 new volunteers sworn in
- We utilized 22 volunteers throughout the year
- We had 68 new children referred to our program
- We advocated for 65 children
- We witnessed 22 advocated cases close
- We also saw 25 monitored cases close

Thank You!!!

CASA Connection sends a huge Thank You to the following for all of their support, funding and in-kind donations in 2016!

Flatte County, Nebraska

Colfax County, Nebraska

Columbus Area United Way

Nebraska CASA Association

National CASA Association

Snow Redfern Foundation

ADM Cares

Cornhusker Goodwill Fund

Walmart

To all of the individuals that participate in our fundraisers or send donations!

Board Members

Volunteer Advocates

Doug Pauley ~ President Robbin Cutsor ~ Treasurer Sandy Seckman ~ Secretary **Amy Blaser Shelley Stempek Harriet Berlin**

Lisa McFarland **Travis Hill**

Carrie Trofholz

CASA Connection

Office Location:

1465 27th Ave.

Mailing Address:

2610 14th Street

Columbus, NE 68601

Phone: 402-563-4944

Fax: 402-562-6178

Website:

www.casaconnectionne.com

Email:

casacon@megavision.com

or

casacoord@gmail.com

Rolaine Blaser Lisa Clausen

Bonnie Hoffmeister

Kandee Dorame

Carol Willoughby

Michele Gotschall

Misty Lawrence

Renee Held

Bonnie McPhillips

Wendi Petersen

Glynette Smith

Brenda Vermeire

Jeanne Quinn

Jean Britt

Leslie McCuiston

Dan Britt

Tammy Micek

Colette Hansen

Deb Wright

Kimberly Kwapnioski

Rhonda Scott Carrie Trofholz

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering or just want to learn more about CASA. Please have them contact us. We will be planning a new volunteer training in the early spring...or sooner if we get enough interest.

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

