



# KEARNEY/BUFFALO COUNTY CASA *Spring* NEWSLETTER

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## Welcome to our New Staff!! Kathryn Nantkes



Kathryn began her career with Kearney/ Buffalo County CASA on February 26, 2018. Kathryn stated, "There is so much to learn, however, having said that, I feel like this is where I am meant to be. It's hard to explain, but I guess the easiest way, is to say I am already passionate about CASA. The services that are provided to families by the volunteers and staff is absolutely amazing and I am so proud to be a part of that."

Kathryn was born and raised in Holdrege and lived there until approximately 6 years ago, when she moved to Kearney. A few years following her move to Kearney, she and Vic Gomez purchased a home and have been busy updating and making it theirs.

Kathryn has two children, her daughter Neleigh and her husband Dan of Eldridge, Iowa and her son Dustin and his wife Aubri of Holdrege. (As Kathryn said, "So I really have 2 daughters and 2 sons")

Kathryn is also a grandma and have two granddaughters, Eisley who is almost 9 and Haydn who is almost 6. These two little girls have stolen her heart. If she had one wish it would be to have them and their mommy and daddy live closer! She feels truly blessed as a mother and grandmother.

We are truly blessed to have Kathryn join our CASA team!!



# New Volunteer Training: April



**Samantha Arehart  
Of  
Kearney**



**Catherine Kingsley  
Of  
Kearney**



**Griselda Ramirez  
Of  
Kearney**



**Denise Bryan  
Of  
Pleasanton**



**Jenna Josjor  
Of  
Kearney**



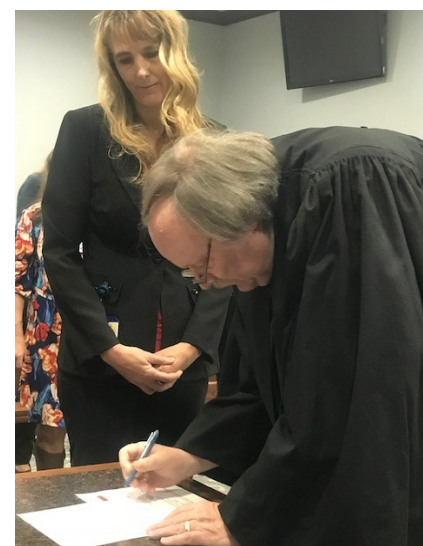
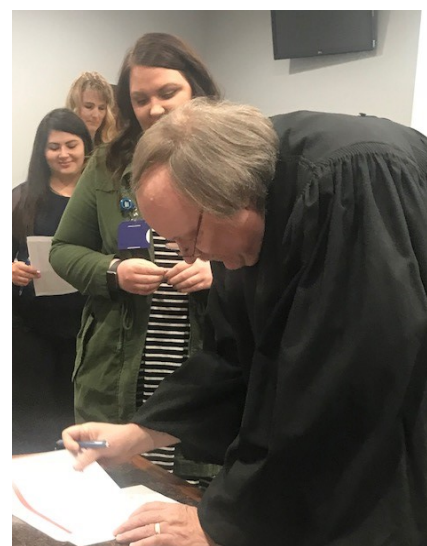
**Sara Schriener  
Of  
Axtell**

Each of these brave volunteers embarked in their journey to becoming CASA Volunteers starting April 3rd, 2018. These volunteers have completed a full 30 hour training. In this training, they learned about their role as a CASA Volunteer, how cases move through the system, who is involved in these cases, the roles of the legal parties, children's needs and development, Child Abuse and Neglect, Trauma and Resilience, Communication and Interviewing, mental health, poverty, professional communication, substance abuse, cultural competence, domestic violence, permanence, educational advocacy, advocating for older youth, and LGBTQ youth. Once these volunteers completed the in-class training, they observed a juvenile court hearing and were then sworn in by Honorable Judge . Each of these volunteers accepted and were assigned a case following their training. We are so blessed to have them and are grateful to the hard work they put in in training.

*Great Job!*



# New CASA Volunteers Sworn In





# April: Child Abuse Prevention Month





## April 2018 Advocate of the Month: Linda Martin

Kearney/Buffalo County CASA is proud to honor Linda Martin of Kearney for her advocacy for abused and neglected children. Linda has been with CASA for 4 years and is doing an exceptional job. Linda had advocated for a child whose case had a happy ending! She is now working hard on her second case. Linda is an advocate with a big heart and it is wonderful to work alongside her. Linda states, "Volunteering has always been important to me, but I chose to become a CASA because I know so many families are struggling right now and that affects children. Jesus said that whatever we do for one of the least of these, we do for him. These Innocent children are the ones who suffer the most in unstable, often broken

relationships. As a CASA, I offer support for these youngsters who, through no fault of their own, have ended up in life-changing situations. These children deserve to be loved and appreciated."

"I used to be a teacher, I have four grown children of my own, but all of my grandchildren live far away. Being around these youths and their families is a good kind of challenge - something I've missed. I really enjoy building relationships with them and knowing that I play a vital part in my CASA kids' well-being. Children cannot pick their parents, but as they grow, these children can affect their future, and I want to have a part in that."



## February 2018 Advocate of the Month: Jessie Perez

Kearney/Buffalo County CASA is proud to honor Jessie Perez of Kearney for her advocacy for abused and neglected children. Jessie has been with CASA for 7.5 months and is doing a fabulous job.

Jessie has been such a strong advocate for her CASA family even through adversity. She has worked well with the team as well as the guardian ad litem and always looks at the best interest of her CASA child. She works hard to speak to all involved with the child. She educates herself on her CASA child's condition, really familiarize herself with what this may look like and entail

when it comes to her care. Based on the information she gathers, she is able to put together a wonderful CASA report. She is very thorough and pays great attention to detail.





# CASA ADVOCATE BIRTHDAY'S

## MAY

Nicole Peterson  
Janna Ingram  
Diana Luscher  
Ramona Sexson  
Jean Kolbo  
Courtney Arram  
Heather Crowley  
Teresa Carey  
Denise Bryan  
Jenna Josjor

## JUNE

Ron Eckloff  
Angela Gibreal  
Connie Choquette  
Anna Hernandez  
Atricia Kenagy  
Linda Martin  
Lorissa Anderson

## JULY

Jeri Runions  
Ramona Hill  
Brandon Graves  
Jere Sue Schroer

## AUGUST

Jessie Perez  
Kaleigh Johnson  
Connie Broweleit  
Caroline Sikes  
Amir Rizik





# CEU CENTRAL:2017-2018

Each year our CASA advocates are required to complete 12 CEU's or continuing education units. Our fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th. The following advocates who have worked very hard and earned their CEU's for this fiscal year 2017-2018 are:

*Great Job!*

**Lorissa Anderson  
Samantha Arehart  
Bryce Ann Bell  
Denise Bryan  
Teresa Carey  
Tiffany Coufal  
Heather Crowley  
Cheryl Echtenkamp  
Donna Ehrenberg  
Dorothy Feese  
Maria Graham  
Brandon Graves  
Anna Hernandez  
Barb Icenogle  
Jenna Josjor  
Atricia Kenagy  
Catherine Kingsley  
Jean Kolbo  
Jessie Perez  
Nicole Peterson  
Griselda Ramirez  
Amir Rizik  
Sara Schriner  
Ramona Sexson  
Caroline Sikes  
Ashley Whitley**



# 2018 Kearney/Buffalo Men In Tights

Kearney/Buffalo County  
CASA Presents:

## Men In Tights


A satirical beauty contest featuring male professionals from the area competing in evening wear and talent.


**February 23, 2018**  
**Dinner & Show: 6:00pm**


Tickets can be purchased for \$50/person or \$750/table at Tru Cafe or Joy's Floral


Featuring:  
Bill Perkins, Jim Tacha, Nick Hansen,  
Daniel Knoell, Amir Rizik, Jon Anderson,  
Kyle LaBoria, Justin Sheldon, Bryce Langenberg,  
Zoe Zezulak, Joey Thorell, Matt Shaner

Brought to you by:

 Gary Sorenson  
Specialty Events & Catering

 CASA  
building victories and relationships  
South Area Council of Social Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

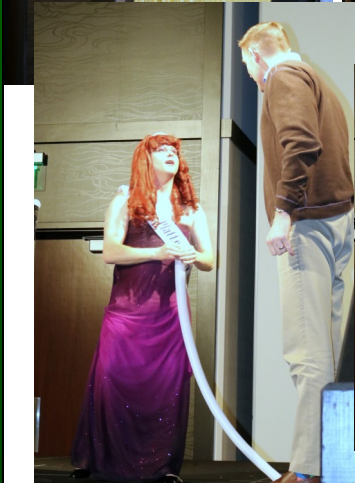
 Younes  
CONFERENCE CENTER  
Kearney, Nebraska

 ARAM FAMILY FOUNDATION





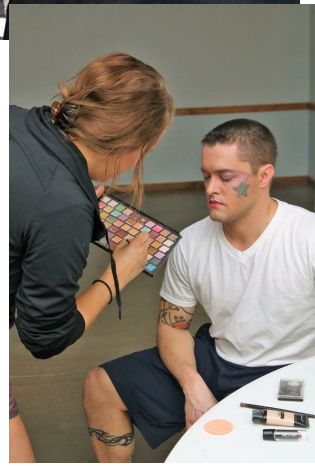
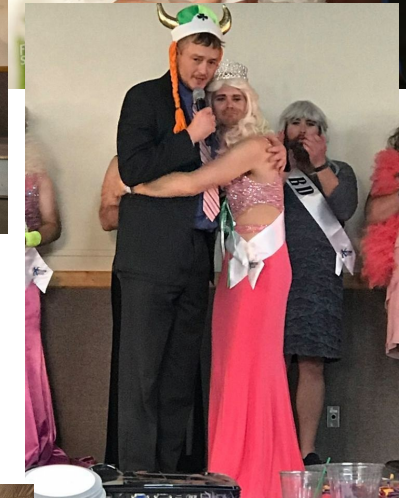
# 2018 Kearney/Buffalo Men In Tights







# 2018 Phelps/Harlan Men In Tights



*Men in Tights*



6:00 pm on Thursday, March 15, 2018  
Phelps County Ag Center (1308 East 2nd Ave.)  
\$40 individual or \$500 reserved table can be purchased  
at Gifts & Things, or The Station, (Alma)

**Featuring:**  
Chris Rager, Jarod Markley,  
Bill Yochum, Scott Thorell  
Seth Mach, Jerry Ehrke, Brent Keslar, Tony Wong

**Brought to you by CASA and:**

Edward Jones  NELSON-BAUER 



# 2018 Phelps/Harlan Men In Tights



GIVE A CHILD  
**Hope**  
CASA  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN



# 2018 National CASA Conference

Boston, MA

March 10-13, 2018



**The Adventures in Boston!  
Executive Director Christina Millsap and  
CASA Volunteer Supervisor for Phelps  
Harlan County CASA, Kelly Jensen,  
attended the 2018 National CASA  
Conference in Boston.**





*Kearney/Buffalo County CASA would like to thank the following donors for not only donating to our program, but their continued support of our program.*

## **Donors in February, March, and April 2018**

**Sherwood Grant  
Nebraska CASA Association  
Barney Insurance  
Barney Financial services  
NebraskaLand Bank  
Commonwealth Electric Company  
Central Fire and Safety  
Krull Agency  
Sexson Home Raised Beef  
Jacobsen, Orr, Lindstrom & Holbrook  
Cunningham's Journal  
Kearney County Health Services  
Clevenger Farm Products  
Builders  
Platte Valley Auto Mart  
Golden K of Kearney  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
John & Maxine Lillis**



# 2018 NEBRASKA CASA CONFERENCE



## **Speakers:**

### **Drugs**

**Brad Butler, Investigator Kearney Police Department**

**Excess Baggage: Riding the Orphan Train**  
**Charlotte Endorf**

**Mental Health and Suicide Prevention**  
**Kim Foundation**





## Quarterly Happenings: February 1, 2018-April 30, 2018

Children served:	124	<u>Children's Age Range</u>	<u>Case Outcome</u>
Cases Closed:	14	0-5 = 58	Adoption- 4
Waitlist:	17	6-11 = 45	Reunification- 9
		12-15 = 13	Other - 1
Male:	55	16-17 = 4	
Female:	69	18+ = 3	

<u>Our Volunteers time w/ CASA</u>	<u>Ages of Our Volunteers</u>	<u>Type of Cases</u>
< 1 year: 17	21-29= 5	Neglect: 116
1 year: 14	30-39= 11	Physical Abuse: 6
2 years: 9	40-49= 12	Sexual Abuse: 1
3 years: 4	50-59= 8	Other: 1
4 years: 4	60+ = 14	
5 years: 7		

Miles driven by our Advocates:	3,882
Hours our advocates put in:	441
# of New Advocates:	3
# of Advocates:	64
# of Active Advocates:	46

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FEBRUARY 8, 2019**



## Board of Directors

Jayne Meyer-**President**  
Adam Bruning-**Vice President**  
Ryan Carson-**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Nick Hansen  
David Hoyt  
John P. Icenogle  
Matt Larson  
Delvin Schmidt  
Ramona Sexson  
Alex Schwarz  
Nicole Walz  
Jean Wurtz

## Resource Members

Tim Peterson-**President**  
Adam Bruning-**Vice President**  
Jayne Meyer-**Treasurer**  
Kevin Cahill  
Marcia Davis  
Jodi Hinrichs  
Cody Krull  
Alex Schwarz  
Celeste Wells  
Jean Wurtz

## Meet Our CASA Advocates!!

Lorissa Anderson  
Samantha Arehart  
Courtney Arram  
William Aviles  
Bryce Ann Bell  
Christy Bochart  
Connie Broweleit  
Denise Bryan  
Steve Buttress  
Theresa Carey  
Tiffany Coufal  
Heather Crowley  
Shawntel Daniell  
Gale Dorn  
Ron Eckloff  
Cheryl Echtenkamp  
Donna Ehrenberg  
Wanda Fedorchik  
Dorothy Feese  
Julianne Fitch  
Julianne Fitch  
Ellen Geist  
Angela Gibreal

Josseline Gonzalez  
Maria Graham  
Brandon Graves  
Anna Hernandez  
Ramona Hill  
Cathryn Hohnholt  
Barbara Icenogle  
Kaleigh Johnson  
Sarah Jordan  
Jenna Josjor  
Atricia Kenagy  
Catherine Kingsley  
Jean Kolbo  
Connie Larsen  
Kent Lilly  
Bridget Limbach  
Roberta Loescher  
Jodi Lonn  
Emily Lyons  
Diana Luscher  
Linda Martin  
Kathleen McAdams  
Lisa McGuire

Vickie Meier  
Kathie Merritt  
Matthew Mueller  
McKenna Peplinski  
Jessie Perez  
Nicole Peterson  
Tim Peterson  
Amir Rizik  
Jeri Runions  
Sara Schriener  
Misti Schroeder  
Jere Sue Schroer  
Ramona Sexson  
Caroline Sikes  
Rita Skiles  
Jordan Smith  
Robin Stevens  
Lisa Tolles  
Ashley Whitley  
Linda Younes  
Robert Zuehlsdorf



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**Kathryn Nantkes**  
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## Kearney/Buffalo County CASA

### Follow us:

Website: <http://kearneybuffalocountycasa.com/>

Facebook: Kearney/Buffalo County CASA

Twitter: @KBCASA

Instagram: kearneybuffalococasa1

Court Appointed Special Advocates are appointed by the Court judge to represent the best interest of abused and neglected children in the court system. A CASA volunteer acts as the "eyes and ears" of children involved in court proceedings, and offer judges a critical perspective of what is in the best interests of each child, based on information gathered first-hand through research, interviews, and observations. Studies show that once a CASA volunteer is assigned to an abused or neglected child that the child is much more likely to receive vital services such as health care, education, and therapy. By getting involved as a CASA, you can help create healthier families and communities and change the course of a child's life.



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN



United Way  
Kearney Area  
Partner Agency