

CASA for Kids



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

JANUARY 2017

Trails West CASA

Benefit In-service with Landon Schaeffer

Dates to Remember:

- *Board Meetings are held the second Monday of each Month at noon, CASA office*
- *April 3 Educational Benefit at West Winds Country Club*

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Landon Schaeffer will be the keynote speaker during Trails West CASA benefit in-service. This event will be held on Monday, April 3 from 5:30-10:00 pm at West Winds Country Club. Blind since birth, Landon will present his personal story of overcoming his disability to become the national Future Farmers of America (FFA) President. The evening will begin with hot hors d'oeuvres and open bar during the silent auction.

The CASA Board, Volunteers and staff will be visiting area businesses

to request silent auction items and support for the event.

Elisa Banks has agreed to design and provide the table and room decorations again this year. The chosen theme will be "Wizard of Oz, a Forever Home".

Admission to the event is \$25 per person. A business or large group may purchase a table for eight persons for \$200.

Please watch for more information from CASA Board members and staff.



Wizard of Oz will be the theme of the 2017 Annual Benefit In-service on April 3, 2017.

Trails West CASA is seeking Volunteers and Board Members

Volunteers and Board Members come from all walks of life and serve all four of our counties: Keith, Arthur, Perkins and Garden counties. CASA volunteers are Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children. Specially trained for this important

community service, CASA Volunteers are appointed by our county judge to speak up for abused and neglected children as appointed Officers of the court. Board members serve as oversight of our organization and provide fund raising assistance.

CASA is currently accepting applications from the community. Qualifications include an interest in helping the community, and the applicant must be 21 years of age and able to pass the background investigation.

Why I joined CASA by Board Member, Mary Wilson

“Do some good today” is something I heard on a daily basis as dad sent us off to school in the morning, whether he was able to tell us at the breakfast table or from across the yard while doing the morning chores. Often times, growing up, words of wisdom like that travel in one ear and out the other. You don’t really grab a hold of them and take them to heart until you have a reason to. My father left this world nearly nine years ago and I have been trying to “do some good” in any way possible since then.

Joining the CASA board has allowed me to participate in all the goodness

that this organization does for children in need in the Keith County area. Before moving to Ogallala nearly three years ago, I had never heard of CASA nor did I have the slightest clue what purpose the organization served. In an effort to educate myself on community organizations, I Googled CASA one day and became acquainted with the mission of this amazing organization. When asked to join the board, I did not hesitate. I knew that I wanted to donate my time in order to assist in CASA accomplishing its mission of ensuring every abused or neglected child in the United States can be safe, have a permanent home and

has the opportunity to thrive.

Although I am not directly involved in cases, I feel that my time, effort and monetary donations have a positive impact on the success of each case. As a volunteer, I help spread the word about CASA and how others in the community can help be a part of ensuring each child has a happy and healthy childhood. Being a part of CASA has allowed me to “do some good” in so many ways. I look forward to being a part of this incredible organization and helping children in need for many years to come.

Judge Steenburg, Lawyers and Agencies Speak at CASA In-service

During the October Volunteer In-service, CASA hosted several special guests who discussed their expectations of our volunteers. The panel consisted of Judge Edward Steenburg of the Keith County Court, Tanya Martin and Robert Harvoy, Guardian Ad Liems’s for Keith County, Sonya Oliverius, Supervisor of the Department of

Health and Human Services and Jeannine Lane, CEO of McConaughy Discovery. The panel also informed the new and old volunteers of their own organizations and the talent available to the CASA volunteers.

The panel discussion was very well received by our volunteers who believed that the informa-

tion provided would assist them in meeting their volunteer responsibilities. They are now more aware of available resources in our community.

Also attending was the Director of Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program and other staff from McConaughy Discovery.

Thanks to all who participated.

Christmas Party, Gifts and Food Drive

The Board and Volunteers attended a Christmas Party at the CASA office on Monday December 12. Hosted by Sharon and Laurie, each member also brought a side dish for the meal. Thanks to everyone who attended this event. It is fun to get together during the holidays.

The Brule Lions had supplied a personalized gift for each of our CASA children. The volunteers hand delivered the gifts to their child.

The group brought non-perishable food items which we gave to the Food Bank. Thanks to CASA Staff for delivering the food items.



A Christmas event of food, fun and fellowship.

New CASA Volunteer, Karin Conradson

CASA is proud to announce that Karin Conradson was sworn in as a new CASA volunteer on December 13 in the Keith County Courtroom.

Karin is very excited to assist the abused or neglected children of Keith, Arthur, Perkins and Garden counties through the court system. Karin's most recent employment

has been with the Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado Springs as a professor in Business. She has a MBA from Regis University.

Karin and her husband Don enjoy living at the lake, fishing and hunting. She has one grown son. She feels her personal strengths are patience, love, understanding and her education.

When asked why she wanted to join CASA as a volunteer, Karin stated "I want my kids to talk to me and let me help them get what they need."

CASA welcomes Karin and looks forward to her active involvement

Things to do in 2017.....

Sign up to be a CASA Volunteer

New CASA Volunteer, Caroline Sprugin



New Volunteers Karin Conradson and Caroline Sprugin.

Caroline Sprugin, an active mem-

ber of the Paxton community was sworn in on December 13 as a new CASA volunteer. Caroline is currently employed as a Secretary for Sacred Heart Catholic Church and enjoys teaching the children's safety class. She and her husband Jeremy have four children, one grown and three at home. In her spare time, Caroline also enjoys painting and other arts and crafts.

Caroline believes her honest and caring nature will be of great value to the community. She also brings many office and administrative skills to CASA. Caroline told the CASA staff that she joined us as a volunteer because "I want to be involved in society and to set an example to my own children".

Welcome aboard Caroline, we look forward to working with you.

New Board Members, Patricia Welsh and Vivian Salazar

Trails West CASA has recruited two new Board Members, Pat Welsh of Brule and Vivian Salazar from Ogallala.

Although Pat Welsh is retired from Adams Bank and Trust and the Brule Public Schools and no longer receives pay for her services, she is very active in our community. She is life long member of the Brule Congregational Church of Christ where she is the regular organist and church board member. And

she is a newly elected member of the South Platte School Board. Pat is also a member of the Ogallala Community Hospital Advisory Board. Pat stated that since her retirement, she has been trying to explore avenues that were always impossible for her to manage while raising a family and working full time. Pat enjoys special events and fund raising, traits that will be a great benefit to Trails West CASA.

Vivian Salazar spent most of her

pre-retirement life as an administrative person in health care, most recently at Ogallala Community Hospital. She is married and has three grown children. She enjoys gardening and photography. Vivian stated that she joined CASA because she wanted to participate in the community and help other people.

Welcome Pat and Vivian.

Trails West CASA

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A Powerful Voice in a
Child's Life

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ABOUT CASA AND OUR VOLUNTEERS:

The volunteers of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) are ordinary citizens who are committed to the concept that every child has the right to a safe and permanent home. The average volunteer provides 10-15 hours per month of service to children in our communities. The training of these volunteers includes 30 hours of nationally recognized orientation and annual training regarding the effect of parental substance abuse, domestic violence, guardianship, compassion fatigue, suicide prevention and other subjects.

If you are interested in Volunteering, please contact Laurie Sinner at 308-284-9858.

Board Members: Sally Haythorn-Mayden, Cheryl Beckius, Craig Draucker, Richard Johnson, Rory Roundtree, Rod Ruzanic, Julie Huff, Vivian Salazar, Pat Welsh, Josh Wendell and Mary Wilson

Board Member Corner

CASA's Board Members are ordinary citizens committed to helping abused children of Keith, Arthur, Perkins, and Garden Counties. This all volunteer Board comes from many walks of life, some re-

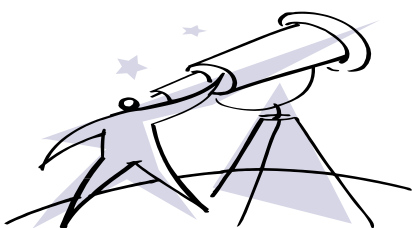
tired, others work full time in various industries or businesses. They provide administrative direction, fund raising and support to the child advocate volunteers.

The Board is responsible for fund raising as well as administrative functions. Planned future fund raisers include the January 17 "Dancing with the Stars" event and an April 3 Benefit.

The Board Members are: Sally Haythorn-Mayden (President), Cheryl Beckius, Craig Draucker, Julie Huff, Richard Johnson, Rory Roundtree, Rod Ruzanic, Vivian

Salazar, Pat Welsh, Josh Wendell and Mary Wilson.

Board Meetings: The Board meets the second Monday of each month at noon in the CASA office at 307 West A. Street in Ogallala, NE. If you have any questions or are interested in serving as a Board Member please contact the office at 308-284-9858.



**Board member, attended the
CASA Christmas Party**

