



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

Phelps/Harlan County CASA Spring Newsletter

Thank You!!!

April is Volunteer Appreciation month, and we just want to give out a huge and wonderful thank you to all of our volunteers, whether it be a Board Member or an Advocate, that give their time to the Phelps/Harlan County CASA Program. You are the voice of the children, and sometimes your job can get very difficult and emotionally draining. We understand that it takes a lot to be a CASA volunteer and it isn't just another job. You are all so wonderful, and making a huge difference in the life of a child, who may not trust anyone except their CASA worker. To the ones that are serving on our Board's, your work does not go unnoticed either. Without any of you we would not be the Program that we are today. Here is to much more continued success in 2018, and beyond. Thank you everyone!



I MAY ONLY BE
one person
But I can be
ONE
PERSON
Who makes
a difference

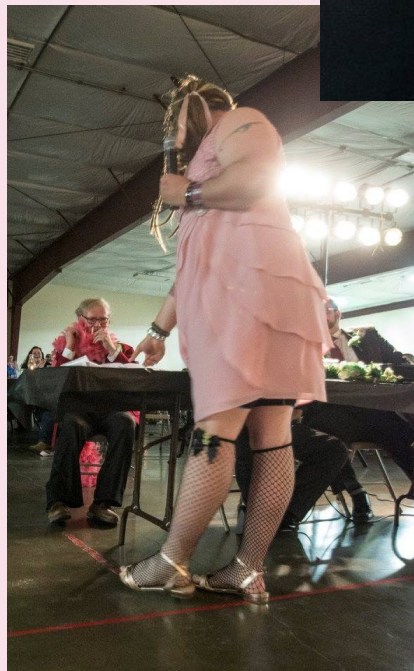


Men in Tights Success!!!



The third annual Men in Tights for Phelps/Harlan County CASA was a huge success! The event was sold out! We would like to thank all the sponsors, contestants, and everyone who attended for making the night a complete success! The fourth annual Men in Tights will be on March 21st, 2019, stay tuned!





Volunteer of the Quarter

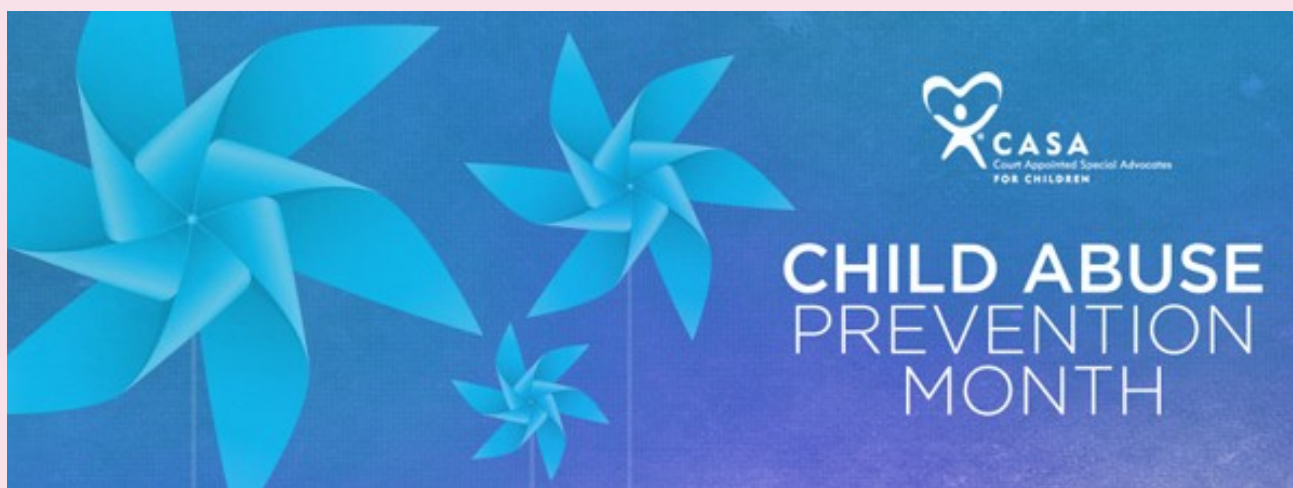
Phelps/Harlan County CASA is pleased to recognize Rita Skiles as volunteer of the month. Rita became a CASA Volunteer in October of 2010 and has been serving abused and neglected children ever since. Not only does Rita serve children in the Phelps/Harlan County CASA Program, but she also serves children in the Kearney/Buffalo County CASA Program as well. Since she has been sworn in as a CASA Advocate for abused and neglected children, Rita has served 6 children in the Phelps and Harlan County's with spending 3,364 days serving them all. Just this last year while serving both of her cases in each program, Rita logged more than 4,100 miles as time spent on the road to make sure she was advocating for the best interest of her CASA kiddos. When asking Rita why she continues to do what she does, Rita states, "I really don't do anything special. I try to listen, encourage and help kids find a voice to advocate for themselves." Rita put together a graduation party for one of her CASA kids this winter as that child was graduating from high school mid-term and nothing had been planned. Rita took it upon herself that this huge accomplishment was recognized by all of the people that had been in their life since this child became a state ward. The duo also put together a video for CASA to use as a training tool for recruitment.



Nebraska CASA Conference

All Staff along with some volunteers attended the Nebraska CASA Conference in Kearney NE on April 7th. The day was filled with presentations from Drug Investigator Brad Butler, Charlotte Endorf on the Orphan Train and a presentation from 13minutes.org on suicide prevention.





Phelps/Harlan County CASA is raising awareness for the month of April for child abuse. Child abuse and neglect occurs every day and in every one of our communities. Our pinwheel gardens are in place at the Phelps County Courthouse and the Harlan County Courthouse for the entire month of April with hopes to bring more awareness to the public, so everyone can step up and help Phelps/Harlan County CASA on the fight against child abuse and neglect. We would like to thank Resource Committee Member Ginger Linder, Resource Committee Member Linda Ehrke, Resource Committee Member Bryan Lubeck, Volunteer Supervisor Kelly Jensen and Volunteer Supervisor Jessica Knoell and daughter Shaye in helping set up our pinwheel gardens!



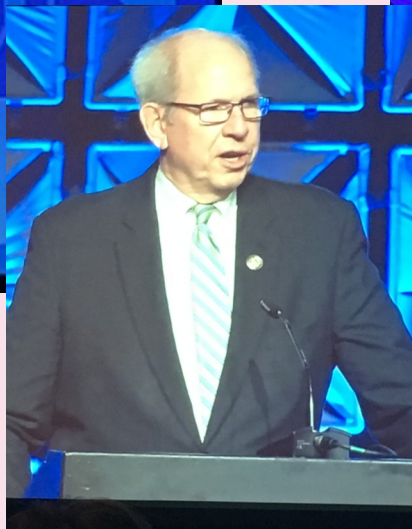
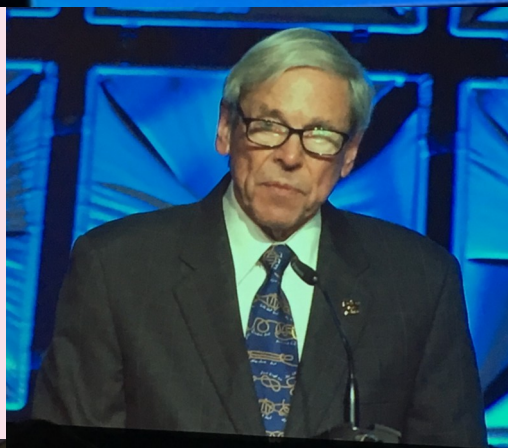
Blankets & Bears OH MY!

We received a wonderful donation from Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity of homemade crocheted blankets and teddy bears to give out to the abused and neglected children that we serve here in Phelps and Harlan County.



Phelps/Harlan County CASA would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Michael Klein for serving on our Board of Directors Carol Boysen for serving on our Phelps County Resource Committee and Linda Ehrke for serving on our Harlan Resource Committee. You all were a huge asset to our program and will be missed greatly! Thank you each and every one of you for everything that you have done for CASA!





Executive Director Christina Millsap and CASA Volunteer Supervisor Kelly Jensen attended the 2018 National CASA Conference in Boston.





THANK YOU



Phelps/Harlan 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

John & Linda Ehrke
Outdoor Properties
RuralMed

Oxford Fire Department
Blake & Brittney Biskup
Craig & Elizabeth Hoxmeier
Harlan County Meat Processors
Fox Insurance Services
Hogeland Market
Two Rivers Public Health
Nelson-Bauer Funeral Homes
Dahlgren's Inc.
AgEdge Insurance
Bruning State Bank
Larry & Carolyn Borland
Farm Credit Services
Anderson, Klein, Brewster & Brandt

Holdrege Irrigation
Turner Body Shop
Johnson Insurance
Dier, Osborn & Cox, P.C., L.L.O.
Altar Society St. Mary's Catholic Church
Principle Financial Group/Blue Edge LLC
Holdrege Rotary Club
Nicholas Wells
CHS
Edward Jones
Agwest Communications
Agri Gold Seeds
Sappa Creek LLC
BD
Wells Flying Service
Central Valley Irrigation

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:

Teresa Carey
Kirsten Deakin
Donna Ehrenberg

Julianne Fitch
Heidi High
Tina Hutchens

Brynn Jordahl
Bryce Langenberg
Ginger Linder

CASA Advocate Birthday's

May

*Ginger Linder
Donna Ehrenberg
Teresa Carey*

June

Kirsten Deakin

July

*Heidi Anderson
Marjean Schultz*

August

*Bryce Langenberg
Brynn Jordahl*



Board of Directors



President - Nicholas Wells
 Vice President - Christina Pelton
 Secretary - Barb Allen
 Susan Biskup
 Carley Bruning
 Shawna Hammond
 Patricia Johnson
 Micayla Koelling
 Bryce Langenberg
 Christina Millsap
 Theresa Puls

Phelps County Resource

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 Vice President - Emily Thompson
 Secretary - Emily Lyons
 Kevin Breece
 Christina Millsap
 Ginger Linder
 Bryce Langenberg
 Corey Wiese

Harlan County Resource

President - Susan Biskup
 Secretary - Emily Thompson
 Treasurer - Bryan Lubeck
 Jodi Ehrke
 Kelly Jensen



Meet our CASA Advocates

Barb Alexander
 Heidi Anderson
 Robert Bennetts
 Teresa Carey
 Judy Carr
 Kirsten Deakin
 Gale Dorn
 Donna Ehrenberg
 Julianne Fitch
 Heidi High

Tina Hutchens
 Brynn Jordahl
 Heather Kaestner
 Bryce Langenberg
 Ginger Linder
 Emily Lyons
 Ramona Mix
 Marjean Schultz
 Rita Skiles
 Kurt Tarkington

WAYS TO HELP PHELPS/HARLAN COUNTY CASA

1. Be a CASA Advocate.
2. Monetary donations help us to continue to train new advocates to serve children of Phelps and Harlan County.
3. Donate office supplies: These supplies help us to do our daily work for these advocates and children, and are always needed:
 - A. Printer Paper
 - B. Post It Notes
 - C. Security Envelopes
 - D. File Folders
 - E. White Out
 - F. Pens
4. Help us to grow our Video and Book Library for our Advocates to earn CEU's by donating movies and books.

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

Children served:	46	<u>Children's Age Range</u>	
Cases Opened:	4	0-4	= 13
Cases Closed:	6	5-8	= 7
Waitlist:	1	9-12	= 10
		13-15	= 7
		16-17	= 6
		18+	= 4

<u>Our Volunteers time w/ CASA</u>		<u>Ages of Our Volunteers</u>		<u>Type of Cases</u>	
< 1 year:	4	21-29=	1	Neglect:	21
1 year:	2	30-39=	2	Physical Abuse:	5
2 years:	3	40-49=	1	Sexual Abuse:	12
3 years:	4	50-59=	6	Other:	8
4 years:	2	60+ =	10		
5+ years:	3				

Miles driven by our Advocates:	1842
Hours our advocates put in:	164
# of New Advocates:	2
# of Advocates:	20
# of Active Advocates:	18

Phelps/Harlan County CASA

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** advocate 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** advocate 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.

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Phelps/Harlan County CASA is affiliated with the Nebraska CASA Association and the National CASA Association. Phelps/Harlan County CASA is a Agency.



A child's voice.

A child's life.
Lifted up.
By you.

I am for the child™



Find us on Facebook & Twitter:

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CASA**

Twitter: @PhelpsCASA

