



Court Appointed Special Advocates

Making a Difference in 2017



Bound and Determined

When a young CASA teen found himself in juvenile court for a second time due to a neglectful parent, he knew he would have at least one person he could count on.

Adopted as a toddler, this young boy was placed in the state's care at 10 years old when his adoptive mother's mental illness triggered a neglect finding. He met with his CASA volunteer for the first time at the court house. Less than a year later the case was closed, but that's not the end of his story. Two years later he was removed from home again and placed in a group home.

There was no question his CASA would take his case again. The CASA knew his history and his dreams. For six years, his CASA has been his voice in court. The volunteer proudly attended his high school graduation this spring. This young man says when he needs someone to talk to, he knows just who to call. He credits his CASA volunteer for being a strong and consistent support as he prepares for his next chapter:

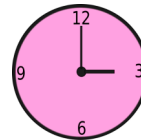
College this fall.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

1,968 children had
advocates by their side



849 volunteers served
abused and neglected children



Volunteers gave 28,192
hours of their time

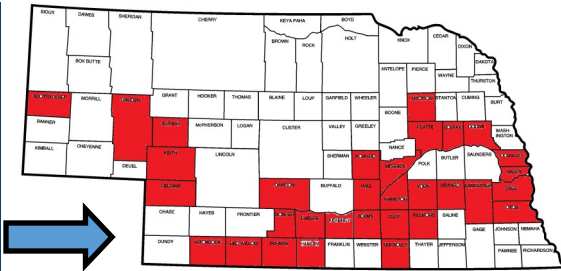
199,836 miles
were traveled by
volunteers



Court Appointed Special Advocates or CASA programs recruit, screen, train and support volunteers. Those volunteers are appointed by Judges to be the voice of abused and neglected children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect.

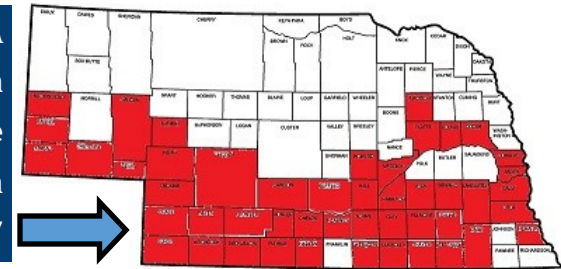
1,158 Children Served by 412 Volunteers in 2010

**CASA
Program
Service
Area in
2010**



1,968 Children Served by 849 Volunteers in 2017

**CASA
Program
Service
Area in
2017**



- ⇒ 21 CASA programs serve 47 counties
- ⇒ CASA programs in Nebraska operate in compliance with the Nebraska Court Appointed Special Advocate Act (Nebraska Revised Statutes § 43-3701 *et seq.*)
- ⇒ A child with a CASA volunteer is more likely to find a safe, permanent home and have a consistent and responsible adult presence.
- ⇒ A child with a CASA volunteer is more likely to do better in school and spend less time in foster care.
- ⇒ 2,000 children are in the Foster Care system without a CASA volunteer.
- ⇒ **Nebraska CASA Programs served 1,968 children in 2017 or 70% more children than 2010.**
- ⇒ **849 CASA volunteers advocated for abused and neglected children in 2017. This is a 106% growth in volunteers in 7 years!**

If every Foster child had a CASA volunteer, a conservative cost savings based on services provided to the child's family is \$30 million to the state of Nebraska.

(Estimate does not include state personnel costs for DHHS or court costs.)

2017 Local CASA Programs

CASA Connection
(Platte & Colfax Counties)

CASA for Douglas County

CASA for Lancaster County

CASA for York County

CASA Project of Dodge County

CASA of Northeast Nebraska
(Madison County)

CASA of Scotts Bluff County

CASA of South Central Nebraska
(Adams, Clay, Nuckolls & Webster Counties)

Cass County CASA

Dawson/Gosper County CASA

Fillmore County CASA

Heartland CASA
(Hall, Hamilton, Howard & Merrick Counties)

Kearney/Buttalo County CASA

Lincoln County CASA

Otoe County CASA

Phelps/Harlan County CASA

Plains West CASA
(Cheyenne, Deuel & Kimball Counties)

Prairie Plains CASA
(Red Willow, Furnas, Chase, Hayes, Dundy, Frontier & Hitchcock Counties)

Sarpy County CASA

Southeast Nebraska CASA
(Seward, Jefferson, Saline, Thayer & Gage Counties)

Trails West CASA
(Keith, Perkins, Arthur & Garden)



MEMBER

NATIONAL CASA ASSOCIATION

&



**Community
Services Fund
of Nebraska**