

CASA for Kids



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

APRIL 2016

Keith County CASA

"Children Are Our Future" Benefit In-service

Dates to Remember:

- April 30 1:00-Pick up garage sale items at St. Paul's
- May 7 9:00-Paint office, bring brushes
- May 10 6:00-Volunteer In-service
- June 3-7 National CASA-office closed
- June 25 Poker Run, volunteers needed
- Sept 22-23 Garage Sale

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Keith County CASA hosted its inaugural "Children Are Our Future" Benefit In-service on April 4 in the West Winds Golf Club clubhouse. Hot hors d'oeuvres and beverages were served to the 80 attendees during the Silent Auction, followed by our eloquent speaker, Kim Rask. The benefit raised \$7,181.00 from ticket and silent auction sales, as well as from free-will donations and in-kind services.

Our featured speaker for the in-service was Kimberly Rask, a former social worker and child abuse investigator, who spent a total of 15 years in the field. Rask has previous experience working in the non-profit field, during which she

helped develop and maintain successful outreach programs. Kim provided insight on surviving and thriving after childhood abuse and trauma.

In the afternoon, Kim presented an interactive program for the families of children with Native American heritage. She entertained with folk tales, legends and games from her background, integrated with recipes, ceremonies and religious beliefs.

Thank you to our many sponsors and those merchants and individuals who provided items for the silent auction and who provided services for the event. Keith County proved again how generous our community can be. Please see the listing below.



**Our featured speaker was
Kimberly Rask**

Many thanks go to Elisa Banks for her inventive decorations, inspired by Disney's "Forever Home" theme. Also, thank you to all staff and volunteers who gathered silent auction items and to the many people who attended this event.

Benefit In-service brings community together

The April 4, 2016 CASA benefit brought together many community members and donors. The following is a list of those businesses and individuals:

TABLE SPONSORS

Adams Bank and Trust
Banner-Ogallala Community
McQuillan/Wendall Law
Nancy Armstrong

Ron and Kim Schmidt
Rick and Laurie Sinner
Western Insurers
Johnson, Bergmeier, Wolf and
Cipperley, CPS's
First Congregational United
Church of Christ in Ogallala
and Brule.

CASH OR SERVICE DONATIONS:

Allo Communications

Kiwanis
Brule Lions
Arnold Pool
Fuller and Associates
Head 2 Toe
Holiday Inn Express
Ole's Big Game
Petal Pushers
Pierce Law Office
Pinnacle Bank
David Schwasinger
Winifred Suhr
Valley Bank and Trust
Villagers
West Wind Country Club

Benefit's Silent Auction Donors

Thank you to our Silent Auction Donors for the 2016 CASA Benefit, "Children Are Our Future". Forty unique gifts were donated by the following businesses or individuals:



SILENT AUCTION DONORS

Absolute Attractions
ACE Hardware
Allen's Carpet and Furniture
Bayside Realty and Golf Club
Bittersweet Bakery
Bomgaars
Buenz Gifts
Catalyst
Dairy Queen
Deb Boutwell and Family
Denny's Restaurant
Ron and Evelyn Siffring
Five Star Custom Designs
Front Street Restaurant
Haythorn Family
Jean Brown
Jem's Tanning and Travel
Lampstand
Safeway

Jim and LeAnn Ayers
McQuillen and Wendall Law Office
Open Range Restaurant
Prairie Theatre
Reicherts of Ogallala
Richard Johnson
Rod Ruzanic
Sally Haythorn-Mayden
Ron & Kim Schmidt, Schmidt Motors
Sharon Ott Family
Shelia "Sweet Thunder" Wallich
Big Red Shop
Shopko of Ogallala
Arby's Restaurant
The Clothing Closet
Trails End Gifts
USave Pharmacy
West Winds Country Club
Wiest Hardware of Brule
Windy Gap Restaurant of Paxton
Wolf Landscape Design.

Native American Heritage Program for Children

From one of the participants...

"Can we have another class next week?"

The afternoon of April 4, 2016 was a special time for children of Native American heritage. Prior to her presentation for the Benefit In-service, Kim

Rask presented an interactive program for students with Native American heritage, their parents and teachers.

She entertained the children with folk tales, legends and games from her background, integrated with recipes, ceremonies and religious beliefs. An overview of Native history in America and the particular tribes was informative for the families.

One child told Sharon Ott, CASA Director, "Can we have another class next week?"

Ms. Rask stated that she appreciated the time and effort put towards the event and would be more than willing

to come in the future.

Many thanks to Virginia Sizer, CASA Volunteer from Arthur for coordinating with Ms. Rask for this fine presentation.

New Volunteers Sworn In by Judge Steenburg

On March 30, Lisa Hadler and Laurie Sinner were sworn in by Judge Steenburg as new CASA Volunteers. Both have successfully completed 30 hours of training for appointments as a Court Appointed Special Advocate to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in the Juvenile Court System.

Will Deuerlien, sworn in by the Judge

in December, attended to have his picture taken for the Keith County News. The ceremony was followed by coffee at the Lamp-stand.

From the Keith County News of April 6: Judge Steenburg, Laurie Sinner, Will Deuerlien, Lisa Hadler, and Richard Johnson (Board member). Sharon Ott (CASA Director) attended also.



CASA VOLUNTEERS - Judge Edward Steenburg (right) inducts Keith County Court Appointed Special Advocates volunteers Lisa Hadler (second from left) and Laurie Sinner (center) Wednesday in the Keith County Courthouse. Also pictured during the swearing-in ceremony are CASA volunteer Will Deuerlien (left) and CASA board member Richard Johnson. Deuerlien was inducted as a volunteer in December 2015.

New Volunteer Coordinator-Laurie Sinner

Our new Volunteer Coordinator, Laurie Sinner was to begin working on February 1, 2016, but the snow storm came in the same day. She did start on February 4 and has been running since. Laurie will be responsible for the coordination of volunteer activities and office duties, including fund raising. Her first project was the April 4th "Children Are Our Future" benefit In-service which was a huge success, attended by 80 people and raising over \$7000.

Laurie, a veteran of 40 years in health

care Human Resources, comes to us with valuable non-profit background in health care and with service organizations. She is a Silver Beaver as a Boy Scout Adult Leader and is Wood badge trained. She is a member of the Brule Congregational Church of Christ and currently is the treasurer. Laurie also is an active member of Kiwanis.

Laurie is married to Rick Sinner, who works for ACE Hardware. She has two grown sons who are Army veterans and three grandchildren. "I

wanted to work for a service organization that provided direct care to the Keith County and surrounding communities. CASA is the perfect organization for me to give to our town".



New Volunteer: Lisa Hadler

Lisa Hadler is a new CASA Volunteer who started Flex Training in February and was sworn in by Judge Steenburg on March 30. She will be working with more senior CASA's to be oriented to the court system and our team approach.

Lisa is from Illinois and has served as a pastor for 30 years in several United Church of Christ parishes, most recently in Montana. She currently is serving at the Brule Ogallala parish. She is a graduate of Andover Newton

Theological School with a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Studies. She also served as Executive Director of the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program in Champaign, IL. She has no children of her own, unless we count her dog and cat.

Lisa is excited to again be part of an organization committed to child welfare. She says, "I think it is important that children in an impersonal system have a personal advocate. Although I do not have children of my own, I

feel it is important to care for children in the community."

Thanks Lisa for your commitment to a Christian belief and for leaving a legacy of caring for children.

"I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CHILDREN IN AN IMPERSONAL SYSTEM HAVE A PERSONAL ADVOCATE."

New Volunteer: Will Deuerlien



Will Deuerlien at the April 4 Benefit

Will Deuerlien, a new CASA Volunteer, hit the ground running after his swearing in in December 2015. Will, a Flint, MI native, accepted two different cases immediately and has been

instrumental in their success.

Will is married and has six children, three girls and three boys and now three grandsons. He is an 10 year Army veteran from the Gulf War. After the Army, he worked as a carpenter and laying cement.

Will told us, "I feel the children need a voice and I'm that voice. Because I am that voice, the safety, well being

and stability of the child is met." He went further saying, "Since being a CASA volunteer, I have learned a lot from the other CASA's about court procedures and statutes and how to be impartial for the kids. I want to be part of the solution, not the problem."

Will attended state and national CASA conference. He is coordinating the June 26, 2016 Poker Run.

Keith County CASA

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Cell: 970-712-4268 (Laurie Sinner)



A Powerful Voice in a
Child's Life

FRIEND US ON
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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 and other subjects.

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

Board Members: Sally Haythorn-Mayden, Cheryl Beckius, Drew Dostal, Richard Johnson, Patty Meismer, Rory Roundtree, Rod Ruzanic, Kay Tapp, Shelia "Sweet Thunder" Wallich, Josh Wendell and Mary Wilson

Board Member Corner

CASA's Board Members are ordinary citizens committed to helping abused children of Keith County and surrounding communities. This all vol-



Two of our newer Board members, Richard Johnson and Mary Wilson chat during the Benefit.

unteer Board comes from many walks of life, some retired, others work full time in various industries or businesses. They provide administrative direction and support to the child advocate volunteers.

Our newest Board Members are Drew Dostal, CEO at Banner Ogallala Community Hospital and Mary Wilson, instructor at the Arthur School System.

The Board Members are: Sally Haythorn-Mayden (President), Cheryl Beckius, Drew Dostal, Richard Johnson, Patty Meismer, Rory Roundtree, Rod Ruzanic, Kay Tapp, Shelia "Sweet Thunder" Wallich, Josh Wendell and

Mary Wilson.

Board Meetings: The Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at noon at 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.