



KEARNEY BUFFALO COUNTY CASA

Autumn NEWSLETTER

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Our Advocates In Training



Amir Rizik
Of
Kearney



Heather Crowley
Of
Kearney



Anna Hernandez
Of
Kearney



Meet Our New Advocates 2017 October Class



**Caroline Sikes
Kearney**



**Carmen Dixson
Minden**



**Maria Graham
Kearney**



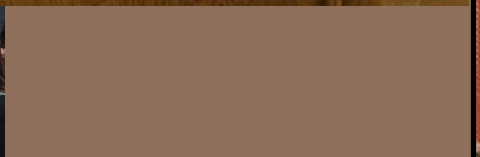
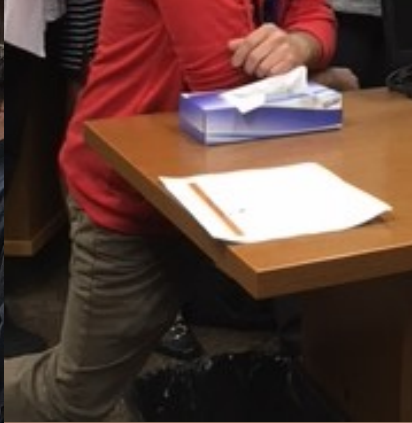
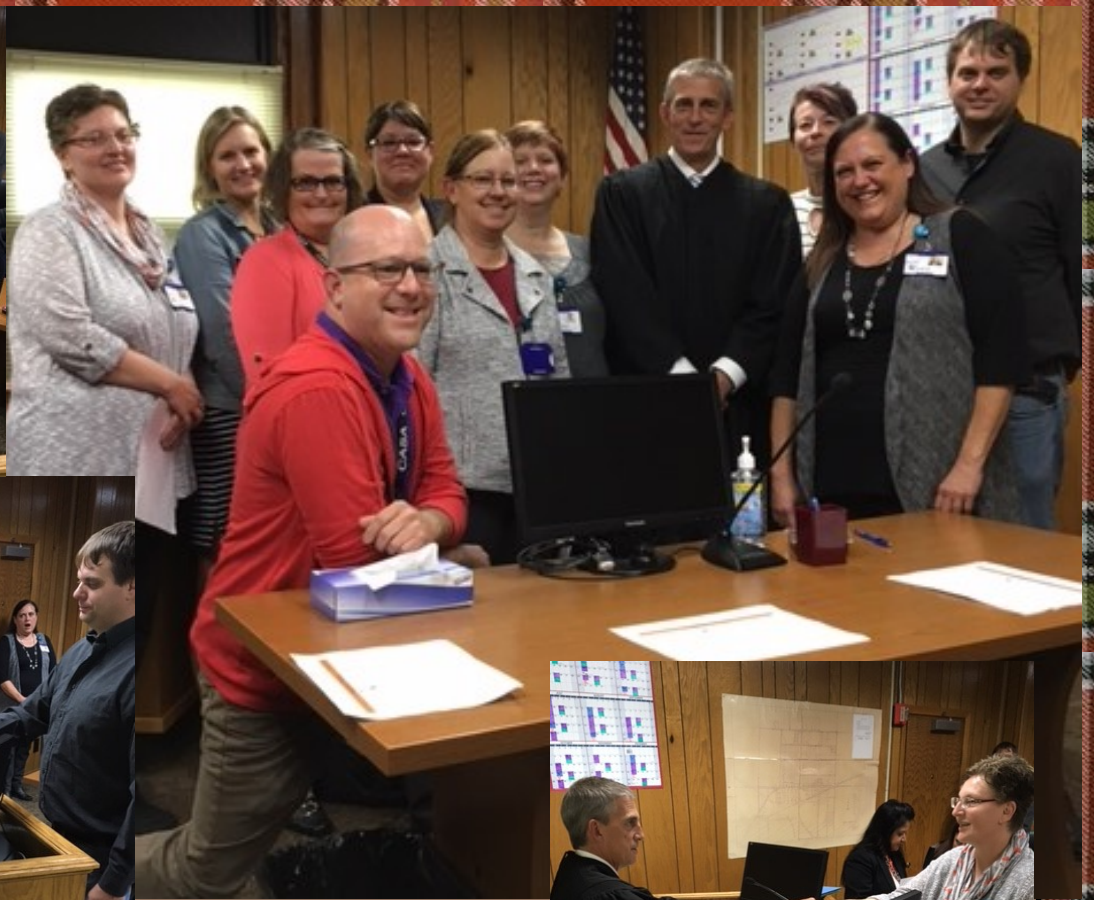
**Cathryn Hohnholt
Kearney**



**Brandon Graves
Kearney**



**Lorissa Anderson
Kearney**



Dave Hoyt, LMHP LDAC

Outpatient Mental Health Therapist
President of Kearney Buffalo County Board
of Directors

Dave was asked how he became involved in the CASA board and why. Dave stated, "This is my second round of being on the CASA Board of Directors, the first took place several years ago. The way my tenure with the board ended back then compelled me to seek out how to get back in and help CASA realize the goals that were still in existence. I was lucky enough to be given an opportunity and took it without hesitation. There is something about being able to realize that the work you do is helping our young people who are involved in the judicial system through no fault of their own, have a voice."

When asked what word he would use to describe your first year on the board, Dave stated, "Tough question to answer in just one word. I guess I would have to say, 'insightful.' I had an overall idea of what CASA was all about but not until sitting on the board did I realize how I could affect positive change in a bigger system."

If you are thinking of becoming a board member, here is what Dave would share with you about the work you would be doing. "Don't try to figure it out to quickly give yourself some time to learn – be patient with yourself and others. Feel comfortable to ask questions, especially if you are coming on the board with little knowledge of CASA and what it is all about. Also I would encourage new board members to have fun with it, be yourself and don't be afraid to laugh. Board meetings should be something that one looks forward to helping figure out options to support the director, and ultimately make CASA stronger. Knowing that you could be part of that vision is kinda humbling in my opinion."

Dave shared his view on building a relationship between board members so they stay engaged and committed to the board work. "As a board I view a majority of our purpose being to help support the director in the important work they do. Sometimes that may be as a sounding board, a team decision or even volunteering for different activities that are to help support the growth of CASA. I think that if people on the board feel valued for what they bring to the board, appreciated for their efforts and listened to they are more likely to stay engaged and committed. Besides that it helps to have a sense of humor, I'm not going to lie some meetings we do a lot of laughing – I occasionally have the "Life is too serious to be taken seriously" mindset. Which brings me to the last point I would like to share and that is to be yourself, don't be afraid to share your expertise with others at the board meetings."

Dave was asked what advice he would give board members. Dave stated, "Hmm, remember that this is bigger than you. Avoid taking things personal and keep your eye on the prize of being able to help our next generation have the kind of life they deserve – it's about the kids!"



October Advocate of the Month: Marilyn Kenton

Kearney/Buffalo County CASA would like to honor Marilyn Kenton for her advocacy for abused and neglected children. Marilyn has worked with CASA since 2010. During this span of time, she has worked on two different cases. In fact with the first case she worked on Marilyn has continued to maintain an interest in, and contact with, the child, even after the case has been closed. When describing her initial interest in CASA Marilyn reported, "My husband had passed away, and I saw a CASA presentation at Church. It sparked my interest."

At that presentation Marilyn and a friend determined to become CASA advocates. They both started training, "My friend couldn't continue with the training. But I did and it was excellent," stated Marilyn. She told how the class was very informative, and helped her understand what her role would be as a CASA Advocate. "At one point they even had an online training seminar," Marilyn said, "I liked the online training as well. You could learn at your own pace."

Besides serving directly as a CASA advocate for children, Marilyn also helped spearhead the popular annual CASA fund raising event entitled "Men in Tights". "Marsha Davis, some others and I learned about a similar event down in Kansas," Marilyn recalled. With that information in hand, they put together a similar event for Kearney/Buffalo County CASA. Marilyn has been pleased with the outcome, and it is one of the highlights of the year. "All in all, I have really enjoyed being a CASA advocate. I have helped children find their own voice and take direction of their own lives. It has been very rewarding."



November Advocate of the Month: Jean Kolbo

Kearney/Buffalo County CASA is proud to honor Jean Kolbo of Kearney for her advocacy for abused and neglected children. Jean has been a CASA Advocate for over one year and has been an exceptional volunteer. Jean goes above and beyond for her families. Jean spends many hours per month investigating and looks deep to learn all she can to ensure she knows the children's needs and what's in their best interest. Jean is very thorough in her work and collaborates with the team to ensure the children's needs are met.

"Many times, after reading the newspaper or watching our local news, I would wonder what I could do to help abused and neglected children in our town. I learned of CASA on KGFW's Talk of the Town, about how they are the eyes and ears of the court and speak up on behalf of the child in court hearings. I decided to volunteer so that I could be a voice for a child. With over three dozen children waiting for a CASA in the Kearney/Buffalo County area, we still need more volunteers. Won't you consider joining us?"





CASA ADVOCATE BIRTHDAY'S

DECEMBER

Shawntel Daniell
Tatiana Long
Kent Lilly
Connie Larsen
Robin Stevens
Tiffany Coufal

JANUARY

Matthew Mueller
Carmen Dixon
Misti Schroeder
Robert Zuehlsdorf
Barbara Icenogle
Tim Peterson
Lisa Tolles

FEBRUARY

McKenna Peplinski
Josseline Gonzalez

MARCH

Kathie Merritt
Christy Bochart
Ashley Whitley
William Aviles
Emily Lyons

APRIL

Rita Skiles
Kathleen McAdams
Kathryn Gifford
Deb Woolen



CEU CENTRAL

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 are:



Will Aviles
Steve Buttress
Tiffany Coufal
Shawntel Daniell
Gale Dorn
Cheryl Echtenkamp
Ron Eckloff
Wanda Fedorchik
Dorothy Feese
Julianne Fitch
Kathryn Gifford
Josseline Gonzalez
Ramona Hill
Robert Hobbs
Barb Icenogle
Kelly Jensen
Atricia Kenagy
Jean Kolbo
Connie Larsen
Kent Lilly

Bridget Limbach
Roberta Loescher
Diana Luscher
Emily Lyons
Katie McAdams
Lisa McGuire
Kathie Merritt
Matt Mueller
McKenna Peplinski
Nicole Peterson
Tim Peterson
Andrea Potthoff
Misti Schroeder
Jere Sue Schroer
Ramona Sexson
Rita Skiles
Jordan Smith
Ashley Whitley
Bob Zuehlsdorf

UNK Blue and Gold

Kearney/Buffalo County CASA had an amazing opportunity to have a booth at the UNK Blue and Gold Event at UNK (University of Nebraska at Kearney) on August 18th, 2017.



United Way Campaign Kick Off

September 14, 2017

United
Way



United Way
Kearney Area
Partner Agency



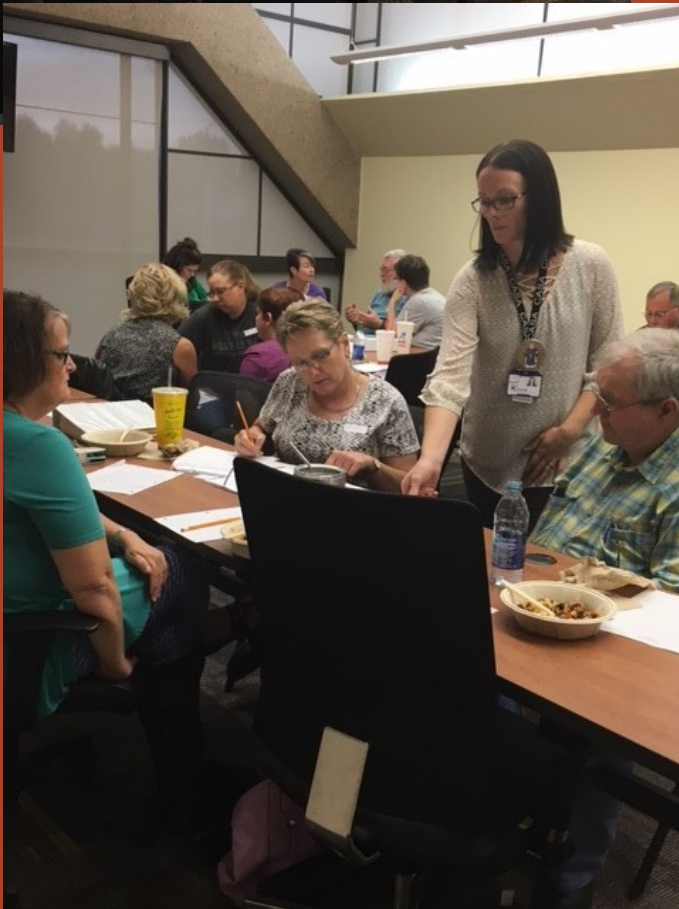
UNK HOMECOMING PARADE SEPTEMBER 16, 2017



2017 MOCK CASE

A Hand's On Approach to CASA/GAL Preparation

An interactive experience of Kearney/Buffalo County CASA's highly reviewed Mock case simulation exercise for pre-service training. The mock case was designed to enhance concepts covered in pre-service and to provide a safe environment for trainees to practice new skills. New and experienced advocates will benefit from the instruction and guidance on interview best practices and planning effective, objective investigations. Attendees will participate in an abbreviated version of the actual mock case and practice investigation and planning in small groups.

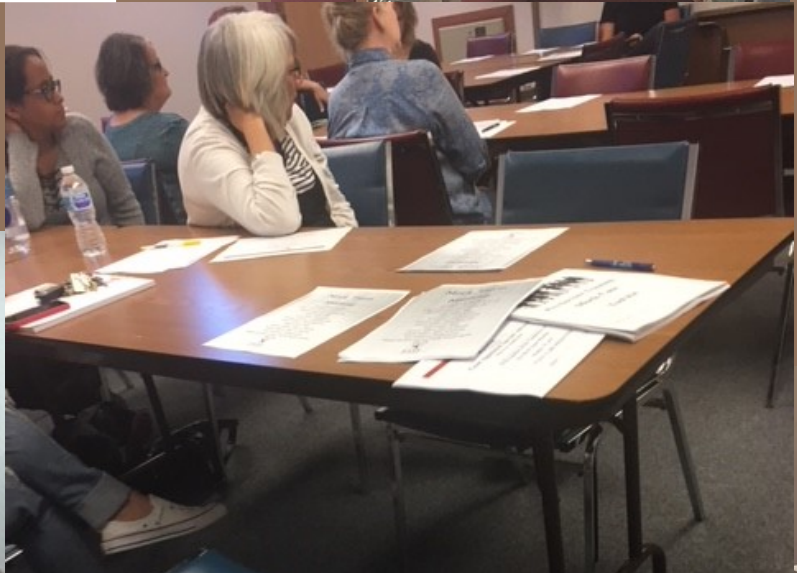


MOCK TEAM MEETING

October 19, 2017

We had two wonderful guest speakers who joined us. CASA Advocate Amy Latter and the child she advocated for, Brook. Our Advocates were able to hear how Amy was a huge part of Brook's success.

The CASA Advocates participated in the Mock Team Meeting which is an interactive experience of the Mock Case simulation exercise. The mock team meeting was designed to enhance concepts covered in training and experiences the advocates would have in their cases and provide a safe environment for trainee's to practice new skills. Our advocates participated in an abbreviated version of the mock team meeting to learn how to be better CASA Advocates for their children and how to actively advocate for their CASA kids.



GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE KEARNEY/BUFFALO COUNTY CASA



We are very excited about being a participant of Give Where You Live! On December 7, the Kearney Area Community Foundation will be hosting 24 hours of giving through the community-wide fundraising campaign, Give Where You Live!

We invite you to be a part of this unique one-day fundraiser to help Kearney/ Buffalo County CASA raise \$10,000.

Go to this link: <https://www.givewhereyoulive.net/Kearney-Buffero-CASA>

When a child is abused/neglected by a parent/guardian, they may be removed from the home for their safety. The child enters the foster care system and is placed with family/foster family. A court case is opened and the parent/guardian has a chance to regain custody by following the courts orders. Meanwhile, the child may experience many challenges, like placement changes, changing schools, loss of family connections, physical/emotional/health issues, etc. This is where CASA comes in. A CASA offers a child trust and advocacy during complex legal proceedings.

Quarterly Happenings: July 1, 2017-October 31, 2017

Children served:	114	<u>Children's Age Range</u>
Cases Closed:	24	0-5 = 52
Waitlist:	35	6-11 = 42
		12-15 = 12
		16-17 = 5
		18+ = 2

<u>Our Volunteers time w/ CASA</u>	<u>Ages of Our Volunteers</u>	<u>Type of Cases</u>
< 1 year: 15	21-29= 4	Neglect: 100
1 year: 11	30-39= 8	Physical Abuse: 10
2 years: 10	40-49= 10	Sexual Abuse: 3
3 years: 3	50-59= 6	Other: 0
4 years: 4	60+ = 15	
5 years: 4		

Miles driven by our Advocates:	6,502
Hours our advocates put in:	699
# of New Advocates:	7
# of Advocates:	64
# of Active Advocates:	47



Board of Directors

Dave Hoyt-**President**
Dr. David Benavides-**Vice President**
Ryan Carson-**Secretary/Treasurer**
Barbara Braun
Adam Bruning
John P. Icenogle
Jayne Meyer
Delvin Schmidt
Ramona Sexson
Vicky Sharkey

Resource Members

Tim Peterson-**President**
Jayne Meyer-**Treasurer**
Adam Bruning
Marica Davis
Jodi Hinrichs
John D. Icenogle
Cody Krull
Celeste Wells

Meet Our CASA Advocates!!

Lorissa Anderson
Courtney Arram
William Aviles
Christy Bochart
Connie Broweleit
Steve Buttress
Shannon Cameron
Theresa Carey
Connie Choquette
Tiffany Coufal
Shawntel Daniell
Carmen Dixon
Gale Dorn
Ron Eckloff
Cheryl Echtenkamp
Wanda Fedorchik
Dorothy Feese
Ellen Geist
Angela Gibreal
Kathryn Gifford
Josseline Gonzalez
Maria Graham

Brandon Graves
Ramona Hill
Cathryn Hohnholt
Barbara Icenogle
Janna Ingram
Julianne Fitch
Kaleigh Johnson
Atricia Kenagy
Marilyn Kenton
Jean Kolbo
Connie Larsen
Amy Latter
Kent Lilly
Bridget Limbach
Roberta Loescher
Jodi Lonn
Tatiana Long
Emily Lyons
Diana Luscher
Linda Martin
Kathleen McAdams
Lisa McGuire

Kathie Merritt
Matthew Mueller
McKenna Peplinski
Jessie Perez
Nicole Peterson
Tim Peterson
Andrea Potthoff
Jeri Runions
Misti Schroeder
Jere Sue Schroer
Ramona Sexson
Caroline Sikes
Rita Skiles
Jordan Smith
Robin Stevens
Lisa Tolles
Ashley Whitley
Deb Woolen
Linda Younes
Robert Zuehlsdorf

Kearney/Buffalo County CASA

Kearney Buffalo County CASA presents

MEN In Tights



Prior
Participants



SAVE THE DATE

February 23, 2018
Younes Conference Center

Don't miss the opportunity to see some of your colleagues
in a whole new light.

Support CASA and help advocate for abused and neglected children.

Make this year a success by purchasing a ticket for \$50
or entire table for \$750.



16 W 11th Street
PO Box 2288
Kearney, NE 68848

Phone: 308-865-5675
Fax: 308-865-9202

Christina Millsap
Executive Director
Ext. 117
kearneybuffalococasa1@mnca.net

Margot Icenogle-Larsen
CASA Advocate Supervisor
Ext. 115
casa@mnca.net

Jessica Knoell
CASA Advocate Supervisor
Ext. 134
kearneybuffalococasa2@mnca.net

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