

KEARNEY BUFFALO COUNTY CASA *Holiday* NEWSLETTER

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MEN IN TIGHTS 2018

Kearney/Buffalo County
CASA Presents:

Men In Tights


A satirical beauty contest featuring male professionals from the area competing in evening wear and talent.


February 23, 2018
Dinner & Show: 6:00pm


Tickets can be purchased for \$50/person or \$750/table at Tru Cafe or Joy's Floral

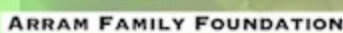
Featuring:
Bill Perkins, Jim Tacha, Nick Hansen,
Daniel Knoell, Amir Rizik, Jon Anderson,
Kyle LaBoria, Justin Sheldon, Bryce Langenberg,
Zoe Zezulak, Joey Thorell, Matt Shaner

Brought to you by:

 Gary Sorensen
general contractors
since 1983
building structures and relationships

 CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

 Younes
CONFERENCE CENTER
Kearney, Nebraska

 ARRAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

Volunteers Sworn November 8, 2017



**Amir Rizik
Kearney**



**Heather Crowley
Kearney**



**Anna Hernandez
Kearney**



Pictured to the right: Christina Millsap, Margot Icenogle-Larsen, Amir Rizik, Honorable Judge John Rademacher, Heather Crowley, Anna Hernandez, and Jessica Knoell.



2018 New Volunteer Training



**Bryce Anne Bell
Kearney**



**Janie Skelton
Kearney**



**Vickie Meier
Kearney**



New volunteers started their journey with CASA on January 9th, 2018. This new volunteer training began on January 9th, 2018. This training is a 30 hour training. These volunteers will learn their role and how cases enter the CPS system as well as the court system. They will learn about the different roles involved in cases, how mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse affect children and their families, poverty, how to write CASA reports, family team meetings, and cultural diversity.

Bryce, Janie, and Vickie were sworn in on February 5, 2018 and received their first case.



Compass Brings CarePortal to Nebraska



Compass has started a new program called CarePortal. They have partnered with the Global Orphan Project to bring an innovative approach to empowering churches and individuals to engage in the child welfare system in Nebraska. This life-changing project brings the needs of hurting children and families in your community to your attention.

Children and Family Services Worker's uncover and share needs and submit them through the CarePortal. CarePortal technology makes local Churches aware, giving a real-time opportunity to respond.

If you would like to help others in your community, contact Ryan Stanton at Ryan@COMPASSnebraska.org for more information.

You can also go online to learn more and how the CarePortal works.

<https://www.compassnebraska.org/careportal/>

January 2018 Advocate of the Month: Maria Graham

Kearney/Buffalo County CASA is proud to honor Maria Graham of Kearney for her advocacy for abused and neglected children. Maria has been with CASA for 3 months and has already been doing an amazing job. Since finishing her training she has been working very hard on her case, putting in several hours, being in contact with the team and writing a fantastic CASA report.

Maria shared, "I had personal experience that involved the court system. I unfortunately didn't get the opportunity to have a CASA advocate but feel that I could have benefited to have one on the case. I want other families to know that there are people out there that want them to succeed and reunite them with their children. I want families to know that CASA advocates are human too and have struggles as well but can overcome them. I want families to know that we like cheerleaders on the sideline cheering for reunification."

Maria wants others to know, "I want people to know that we need more volunteers to become advocates. There are always families that need support. CASA helps families in many ways. CASA advocates look at the whole picture and can help with what's best for the child(ren). If you have always wanted to help others in your community but don't have a lot of time, I suggest that you become a CASA advocate!"



February 2018 Advocate of the Month: Bridget Limbach

Kearney/Buffalo County CASA is proud to honor Bridget Limbach of Kearney for her advocacy for abused and neglected children.

Bridget has been a CASA Volunteer for a year and a half and does a fantastic job. Bridget has had three different families in which she has been a CASA Volunteer. Bridget is a true asset to the team on her cases. Bridget is very detail oriented, gathers a great deal of information on her case in order to make educated recommendations to the court as to the best interest and needs of the children. Bridget does a great job of asking lots of questions and speaking up in team meetings. Bridget puts a great deal of thought and work in on writing great CASA Reports and goes above and beyond to ensure the needs and best interest of her CASA children are heard.

Bridget shared, "I love making a difference—even if it's only one person at a time."



CASA ADVOCATE BIRTHDAY'S

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

McKenna Peplinski
Josseline Gonzalez

APRIL

Rita Skiles
Kathleen McAdams
Kathryn Gifford

MARCH

Kathie Merritt
Christy Bochart
Ashley Whitley
William Aviles
Emily Lyons

MAY

Nicole Peterson
Janna Ingram
Diana Luscher
Ramona Sexson
Jean Kolbo
Courtney Arram
Heather Crowley
Teresa Carey

Happy

BIRTHDAY!

to you.

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:

**Lorissa Anderson
Heather Crowley
Carmine Dixon
Maria Graham
Brandon Graves
Anna Hernandez
Barb Icenogle
Jean Kolbo
Jessie Perez
Nicole Peterson
Andrea Potthoff
Amir Rizik
Ramona Sexson
Caroline Sikes**

GREAT JOB!!!!KUDOS!!!!!!



Breakfast With SANTA 2017



This event was filled with fun activities such as bounce houses, Christmas craft, writing letters to Santa, and even meeting Santa himself, and pancake breakfast by Kearney Kiwanis! Capturing special memories with Holiday Family photos with Santa by Katie Autry Photography. CASA was truly blessed to be able to help up with this fabulous event!

Christmas for CASA 2017



Christmas this year was a little more special for each of the children we serve in Kearney/Buffalo Counties.

Many citizens from our community donated gifts for 97 children! We are so very grateful for their support and generosity. Pictured above are CASA Volunteer Supervisors Jessica Knoell and Margot Icenogle-Larsen.

ASHLEY FURNITURE HOPE TO DREAM PROGRAM

Every child deserves a bed. When purchasing a mattress from a participating Ashley HomeStore, a portion of your mattress purchase goes toward Hope to Dream. Ashley HomeStore has delivered more than 50,000 beds to children and their families.

They provide a twin mattress, bed frame, bedding and pillow (a \$399 value) to a deserving child; a child who might otherwise suffer the negative physical and emotional effects of sleep deprivation.

To learn more about this program, please contact Ana Martinez at a.martinez@hometrends-afhs.com or call

Benefits of Sleep

- increases the attention span for better academic performance
- enhances creativity
- boosts immune system to fight off sickness

Importance of Sleep

Poor sleep leads to:

- emotional turmoil
- behavioral problems
- anxiety
- difficulty concentrating
- developmental problems

*The American Psychological Association

Sleep Recommendations

Age	Hours
3-5	10-13
6-13	9-11
14-17	8-10

Sleep Requirements

Requirements for good sleep:

- exercise and good nutrition
- dark, quiet room
- appropriate bed linens
- clean, comfortable mattress



Facilitator Training for CASA Staff

CASA Staff from the Central Service Area went through the Facilitator training on December 5th and 6th. During this training, staff learned about the new curriculum and volunteer manuals that rolled out January 1st, 2018. The staff are super excited to use this new curriculum which has new topics and structure.



BOARD/COMMITTEE TRAINING



The members of the Board of Directors, Resource Committee, and Recruiting Committee attended a training provided by Nebraska State CASA Director, Corrie Kielty. During this training, board and committee members learned about expectations and responsibilities when serving on the board or committee. We are so grateful to have Corrie Kielty come and teach us and share her knowledge and expertise.

IN-SERVICE: 1/25/18



Shane Vance
Specialized Probation Officer
Ninth Probation District

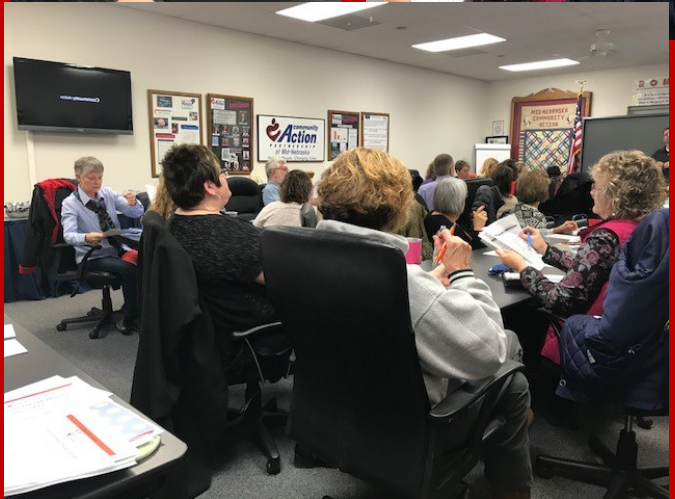
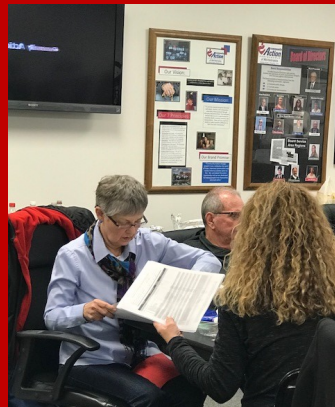
CASA Volunteers had a fabulous opportunity to meet two wonderful speakers, Shane Vance from the Ninth Probation District and Investigator Brad Butler from Kearney Police Department.

Volunteers had the opportunity to learn about drug testing, the different types there are, and the process of Probation.

Investigator Butler taught our volunteers about methamphetamine, what is in it, how it's used, what it would look like. Our volunteers were able to see what paraphernalia would look like.



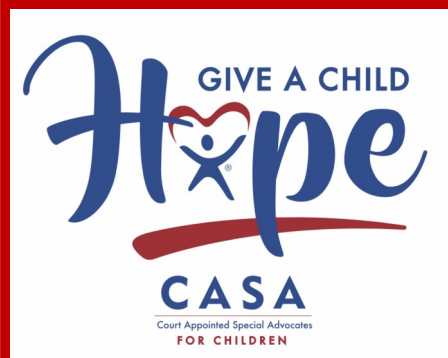
Brad Butler
Investigator
Kearney Police Department



NEBRASKA CASA CONFERENCE 2018

SAVE THE DATE
2018 Nebraska CASA Conference
April 7, 2018
9am-4pm
Ramada Inn
Kearney

Keynote Speaker:
Investigator Brad Butler
Kearney Police Department



Quarterly Happenings: November 1, 2017-January 31, 2018

Children served:	120	Children's Age Range	Case Outcome
Cases Closed:	18	0-5 = 47	Adoption- 7
Waitlist:	29	6-11 = 53	Guardianship-1
		12-15 = 15	Reunification-10
Male:	56	16-17 = 6	
Female:	67	18+ = 2	

Our Volunteers time w/ CASA	Ages of Our Volunteers	Type of Cases
< 1 year: 13	21-29= 3	Neglect: 110
1 year: 12	30-39= 8	Physical Abuse: 10
2 years: 9	40-49= 10	Sexual Abuse: 2
3 years: 4	50-59= 5	Other: 1
4 years: 3	60+ = 16	
5 years: 5		

Miles driven by our Advocates:	3,241
Hours our advocates put in:	457
# of New Advocates:	3
# of Advocates:	64
# of Active Advocates:	46

Board of Directors

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

Resource Members

Tim Peterson-**President**
Adam Bruning-**Vice President**
Jayne Meyer-**Treasurer**
Kevin Cahill
Marcia Davis
Jodi Hinrichs
Cody Krull
Alex Schwarz
Celeste Wells
Jean Wurtz

Meet Our CASA Advocates!!

Lorissa Anderson
Courtney Arram
William Aviles
Bryce Ann Bell
Christy Bochart
Connie Broweleit
Steve Buttress
Shannon Cameron
Theresa Carey
Connie Choquette
Tiffany Coufal
Heather Crowley
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
Anna Hernandez
Ramona Hill
Cathryn Hohnholt
Barbara Icenogle
Janna Ingram
Julianne Fitch
Kaleigh Johnson
Atricia Kenagy
Jean Kolbo
Connie Larsen
Amy Latter
Kent Lilly
Bridget Limbach
Roberta Loescher
Jodi Lonn
Emily Lyons
Diana Luscher
Linda Martin
Kathleen McAdams
Lisa McGuire
Vickie Meier

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

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Kearney/Buffalo County CASA

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Instagram: kearneybuffalococasa1

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 volunteer 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 volunteer 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.

