



KEARNEY BUFFALO COUNTY CASA

Spring NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

~Men In Tights

~CEU's

~Upcoming New Volunteer Trainings

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Pinwheel Garden 2016



Above was our Pinwheel Garden ceremony in Minden on April 7, 2016 at the Kearney County Courthouse!

Below was our Pinwheel Garden ceremony in Kearney at the Kearney Clinic on April 8, 2016!



April: Child Abuse & Prevention Month



Nebraska Appleseed

Nebraska Appleseed is a nonprofit organization that fights for justice and opportunity for all Nebraskan's. They work on complex issues including child welfare, immigration, healthcare that's affordable and poverty. Nebraska

Appleseed will be celebrating 20 years of service this year.

941 O Street, Ste. 920, Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: 402-438-8853

Fax: 402-438-0263

E-mail: info@neappleseed.org

Website: <http://neappleseed.org>

Twitter: @neappleseed

Facebook: Nebraska Appleseed

Quarter Happenings

Children served:	126	Number of Volunteers:	47
Cases Closed:	29	Number of New Volunteers:	4
Waitlist:	66	Hours our volunteers put in:	627
		Miles driven by our Volunteers:	6,153
Volunteers Age Range			
21-40 years of age:	11		
40-60 years of age:	19		
60 years of age & up:	17		
Volunteers Length of time with CASA		Type of Cases	
< 1 year:	13	Neglect:	106
1 year:	18	Physical Abuse:	15
2 years:	3	Sexual Abuse:	2
3 years:	6	Other:	3
4 years:	2		
5 years:	5		

April, May, & June Birthdays



April

Kathryn Gifford

Rita Skiles

Deb Woolen

May

Teresa Carey

Janna Ingram

Diana Luscher

Nicole Peterson

June

Shannon Cameron

Connie Choquette

Ron Eckloff

Angela Gibreal

Atricia Kenagy

Linda Martin

Barbara Petska

Andrea Potthoff

Volunteer of the Month: *April*

Kearney/Buffalo County CASA is proud to honor Robert Zuehlsdorf of Kearney for his advocacy for abused and neglected children. Robert approaches his case with an open mind. He develops great rapport with the children and engages with all of the individuals involved in the child's life to make sure he has a complete picture of the child's life. He is dedicated, flexible, and works very well with the team to make sure that the children's best interests are pursued and are a priority.

Robert says, "I have marveled at the number of people and organizations that care for and support vulnerable children of all ages. The dedication and hard-work of these people and organizations may not always be rewarded, but the children that they have helped will remember that somebody cared. Just knowing that sometime, somewhere, the person(s) that I may help as a CASA volunteer, will benefit from that help and will strive to become a better person."



Kearney/Buffalo County CASA is proud to honor Connie Choquette of Upland for her advocacy for abused and neglected children. Connie has been a CASA volunteer for five and a half years and has been an advocate for 3 different families. Connie takes the time to give each child she advocates for individual time each week, time that is just focused on them. She is that consistent person for the child and is there for them from the beginning of the case until the end. She observes them interacting with their parents, tracks parental progress, attends team meetings, appears at court hearings, and advocates and works with the team to make sure that decisions on the case uphold the child's best interests and that the children find a safe, permanent home, as soon as possible.

Connie says, "I started because I wanted to volunteer and someone suggested it. What got me really hooked was when after I wrote my first court report a lawyer asked me how I got the kid to tell me that. I went to my supervisor, because I didn't know how to handle that question. The kid had just told me and I didn't think I had done anything special. My supervisor said that since I visit once a week, I may have built a better relationship with the child than any relationship they have. That broke my heart to know that one hour a week with the child of focused attention was more than they were getting anywhere else. It made me realize how important it was that there be someone in their life they can trust."

May Volunteer of the Month



Upcoming Event

We are honoring our CASA volunteers for all that they do for their CASA children and for the Kearney/Buffalo County CASA program! Without them, our CASA children would not have a voice!



KEEP
CALM
AND
Be An
Advocate

Upcoming New Volunteer Trainings In

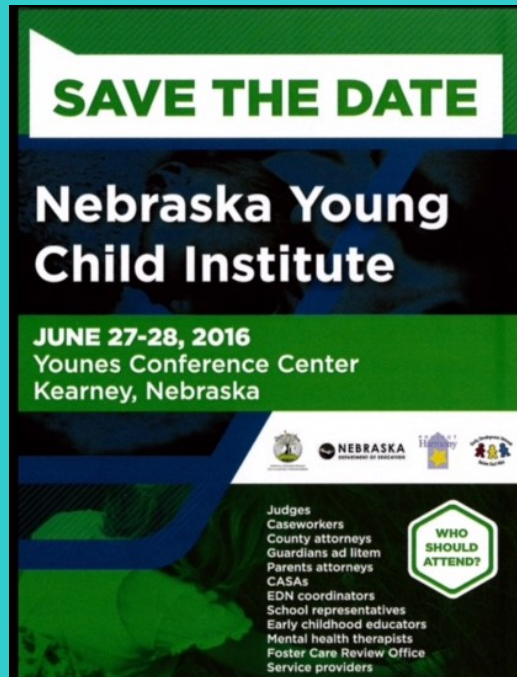
Kearney:

May 2016 Blended

August 2016 Regular

For an application, call 308-865-5675!

CEU Opportunities



Nebraska Young Child Institute
Conference
June 27th and 28th-Kearney

Reunified: The Experience of a
Mother
June 2nd-Kearney

Date: 6/2/2016

Time: 5:30pm—6:00pm

Reunified: The experience of a mother

Contact person: Claire Morrison

Mid Nebraska Community
Action Partnership building
16 W 11th St.
Kearney, NE 68845

Phone: 308-865-5675 ext 134
email:
kearneybuffalocasa2@mnca.net

Date: June 2nd
Time: 5:30—6pm
CEUs: 1

Maria Graham will share her story about her experience as a mother who lost custody of her children and made the changes she needed to make to be successfully reunified with her daughter. Worth 1 CEU.

For more CEUs stick around to do practice case studies with our new volunteer class.



Volunteers with at least 12 CEUs this fiscal year

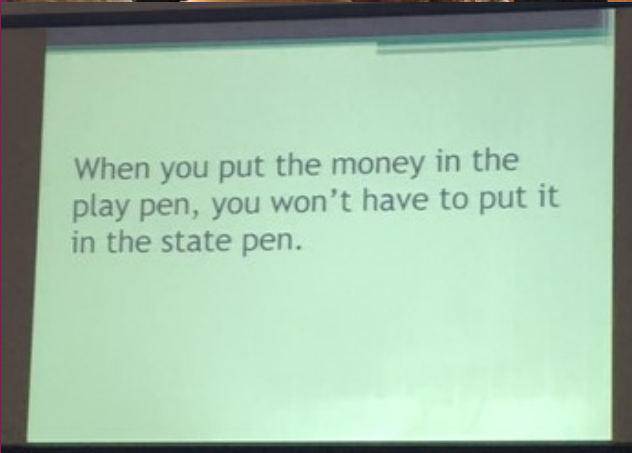
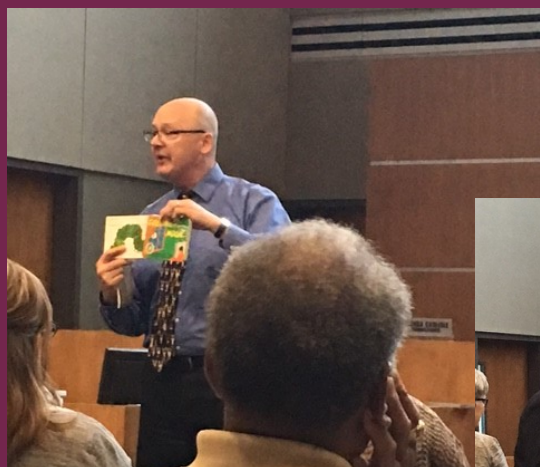
*Cameron Shannon
Shawntel Daniell
Cody Dvorak
Cheryl Echtenkamp
Ron Eckloff
Kathryn Gifford
Josseline Gonzales
Amy Hendrickson
Susan Honeyman
Juliane Jefferis-Fitch
Atricia Kenagy*

*Connie Larsen
Roberta Loescher
Katie McAdams
Nicole Peterson
Andrea Potthoff
Lisa Tolles
Ashley Whitley
Robert Zuehlsdorf*

All our volunteers are required to get 12 continuing education credits each fiscal year. Our fiscal year runs from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Thanks to all our volunteers who are ahead of the game and already have all their CEUs nailed down for this fiscal year!

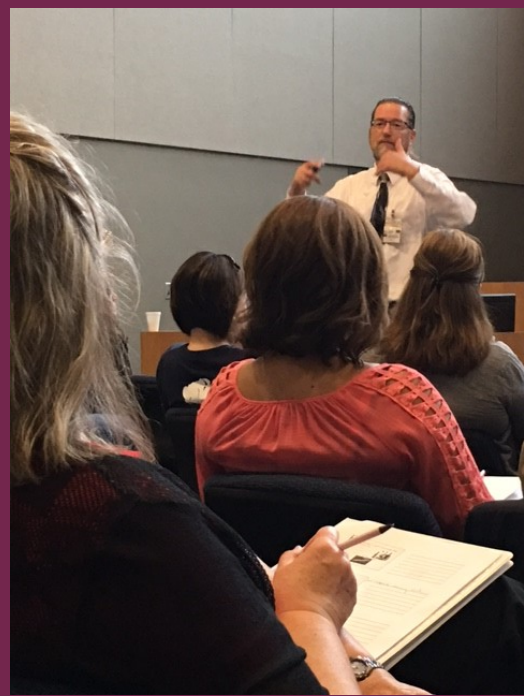
Nebraska CASA Conference - Papillion
April 16, 2016

Honorable Judge Douglas Johnson
Douglas County Juvenile Court



Jerome Barry, LMHP, LADC
Director of the Independence Center

Joe Gerstandt



Early Development Network



Left to Right: Sheri Jones, Kate Boston, Donna Short, Lindsay Albrecht, Jera Hinkle & Christie Behle

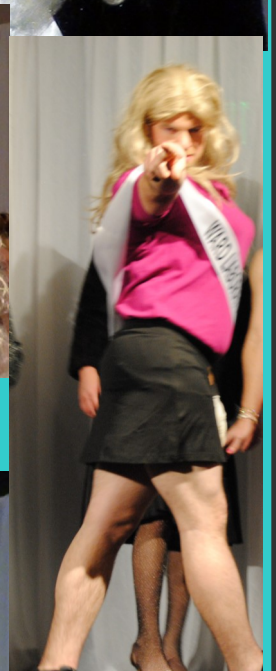
The Early Development Network program serves children birth through age three who are not developing typically or who have been diagnosed with a health condition that will affect their development. Some of the services they provide would include but are not limited to; services coordination, parent to parent support, parenting information, early childhood special education, speech/language pathology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, vision screening, audiology, and assistive technology devices and services. They provide service coordination for EDN in 9 central NE counties and serve in 27 school districts. In the month of March, they hit an all time high of serving 207 families in 1 month!

Location: 1755 Prairie View Place
Kearney, NE 68848
Phone: 308/865-7131 or (800)/689-7131
Fax: 308/865-2921

Men In Tights 2016

Thank you so much to all of our contestants, those who helped to make the evening such a great success and all of our wonderful sponsors!





Men In Tights 2016

Sponsors

Contestant Sponsors

AdvoCare
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Miller Abstract & Title Co.
Morris Press
Randal Wolfe



**KEARNEY/BUFFALO
COUNTY CASA**

Kearney/Buffalo Co. CASA

16 W 11th St.

PO Box 2288

Kearney, NE 68848

Phone: 308-865-5675

Margot - Ext. 115, CASA@mnca.net

Claire - Extension 134

kearneybuffalococasa2@mnca.net

Christina - Extension 117

kearneybuffalococasa1@mnca.net

Fax: 308-865-9202

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.

Follow us:

Website: <http://kearneybuffalocountycasa.com/>

Facebook: Kearney/Buffalo County CASA

Twitter: @KBCASA



*Meet our Resource
Committee Members*

Lisa Cline
Carol Dart
Marcia Davis
Cody Dvorak
Catherine Johnson
Marilyn Kenton
'Cody Krull

Nicole Mailahn
Jayne Meyer
Pat Miller
Tim Peterson
Janet Slegers
Beci Vanfossen
Linda Younes

Staff

Christina McIntire, ED
Claire Morrison
Margot Icenogle-Larsen

