



Quarterly Newsletter January 2022

Dear Friend,

Like 2020, 2021 was certainly a challenging year. However, many wonderful and amazing things happened in the midst various challenges. Thanks to the wonderful support of people like you who make it possible for our amazing volunteers and staff to advocate for the most vulnerable kids in our community, we are looking forward to an inspiring 2022!

In 2021 we:

- Co-hosted the Bo's Hog Wild Kidsfest & charity Brewfest and BBQ on Aug 28th
- Hosted our inaugural Winds Across the Prairie benefit concert on Sept 10th
- Recruited and trained 11 new volunteers and hope to continue that trend throughout 2022. We are also **recruiting new board members**, so if you or someone you know has a passion for helping children by providing governance and oversight to our agency, please contact me to talk and for more information (evaughn@dccasaks.org, or call 785-832-5172)

In 2022 we look forward to:

- Growing through the work of a new Recruitment & Training Coordinator who started this month and will help increase our capacity to recruit and train new CASA volunteers and other skilled volunteers who help support our mission
- Continuing to provide high quality best interest advocacy for children from Douglas County
- Recruiting and training at least 25 new CASA Volunteers
- Recruiting and training at least 12 new volunteer recruiters

Thank you for your ongoing support of Douglas County CASA, for being a part of this amazing mission and setting us up for a great 2022!

Sincerely,


Erick Vaughn
Executive Director

2021 Stats



72 volunteers served 124 children

11 new volunteers and 31 new children



Volunteering over **2,170 hours**



Driving over **17,755 miles**

The 2021 results are in. In addition to the inspiring stats above, one of the longer-term outcomes we track is re-entry of children with a CASA volunteer into the child welfare system.

We are proud to report that none of the 39 children who were involved in cases that closed in 2019 have come back in to care.

Holiday cheer for CASA kids; care and support for their families



Thanks to the compassionate group of supporters the CASA Ambassador President Jill LaPoint (pictured here) assembled, CASA was again fortunate to provide a holiday stocking to every child and sibling group that we serve. Thank you to everyone who took part in this wonderful group effort!

We keep hearing about the range of ways current & former CASA volunteers are able to assist entire families of CASA kids (beyond their advocacy work on behalf of the kids with open cases) and are so proud of their heartwarming efforts to make so many lives better:

- A husband and wife who volunteer as a team helped the single mom in their case locate free and affordable furnishings for a new apartment. They helped her move those items into her apartment so that she could begin having visits with her son in her home, including an extended overnight visit for Christmas.
- We have another volunteer who had a case that closed but still wanted to help CASA kids out over the holidays. She and her family adopted the family of a mom who had recently reintegrated with her 5 children. With clothing sizes provided by their current CASA volunteer and an understanding of the family's main needs, they provided gifts for the entire family.
- A past CASA volunteer who maintains a relationship with their now 23-year-old former CASA youth helped get funds to the person while they are in residential treatment.
- Another current volunteer learned of some very urgent needs of the family of the child with whom they are working and helped them secure resources to meet those needs. Just after the child had transitioned to living back home with their parents, our volunteer helped get their utilities turned back on, install new smoke detectors, and get access to food & shoes.

What do CASA volunteers need to know?

When CASA volunteers advocate on behalf of children who have experienced abuse and neglect they are equipped with extensive training and support from professional supervisors on staff at CASA. Our CASA volunteers begin by completing 30 hours of training on a wide range of topics that will prepare them for the issues they might face once they are matched with a kid in the child welfare system. CASA staff, who have child welfare, social work & legal backgrounds, work with a curriculum developed by the National CASA Association that covers topics including:

- Federal and state laws governing the child welfare system
- State and local program policies about our agency and volunteers, including confidentiality
- Child development, abuse and neglect,



- trauma, resilience
- Communication skills for volunteers, including being professional and culturally sensitive
 - Common family dynamics involved in most cases, e.g., trauma, substance abuse, mental illness, domestic violence, poverty
 - Five case studies that allow volunteers to “practice” communication skills, keeping notes/records, and writing reports (including making appropriate recommendations for the child / family)
 - Volunteer self-care, to avoid secondary trauma

Do you know anyone who might be willing to take the time and be that safe, caring adult who can stand by one of these kids in the child welfare system, speak up on their behalf & give them some hope?

CASA is actively recruiting 24 new volunteers to join us immediately & help us reach more kids on our waiting list. Please send people our way.

E-mail: sparyzek@dccasaks.org, call 785.832.5172 or

[Click here for more details](#)



Community Partnership with Truity Credit Union

CASA is honored to be the [Truity Credit Union](#) Community Cares charity partner for 2022 and we are most grateful for the support that Truity employees in Lawrence are committing to provide to kids in the child welfare system via this employer incentive program. Thank you for all you do to strengthen our community.

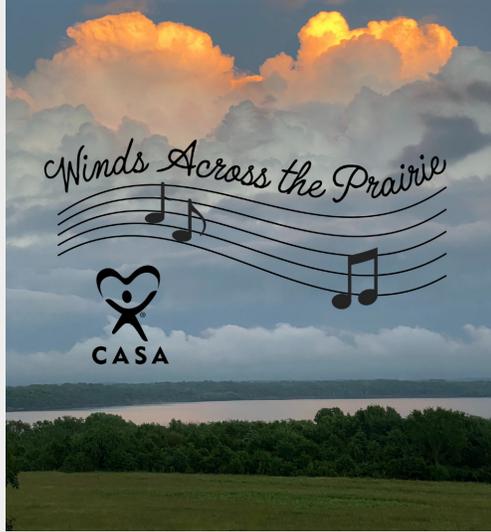


Upcoming CASA events

Winds Across the Prairie benefit concert returns this fall

CASA is looking forward to hosting our 2nd annual Winds Across the Prairie benefit concert at this beautiful private property overlooking Clinton Lake and we're honored to welcome back the [KU Wind Ensemble](#) for another magical, multi-sensory evening. We'll share the date as soon as it is confirmed. Stay tuned!

FALL 2022



We're currently accepting new sponsors as well as volunteers who are interested in helping plan & produce the event. Please contact shoadley@dccasaks.org for more information and/or to hear about when about pre-sale tickets will be available.



Save the Date: August 27th, 2022 for Bo's Hog Wild Brewfest and BBQ

Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more details about volunteer opportunities & ways to support this great community event that benefits child-serving charities in both Douglas and Franklin Counties.

Thank you to all of the supporters of this event & the Bo's Hog Wild Children's Fund for including CASA in this tradition.



The CASA Collective



The CASA Collective

The CASA Collective, our society of recurring donors, was established in 2021 with 6 caring friends who answered the call to make speaking up for CASA kids a top priority. By the end of the year the group had grown to 25 members making monthly or quarterly gifts (or pledging recurring annual gifts) and was responsible for providing a CASA volunteer to 4 children or sibling groups for an entire year.

[Join now](#)



25 recurring donors provided CASA volunteers for 4 children or sibling groups for an entire year

It costs \$2500 to recruit, train & supervise a volunteer to serve one child or sibling group in the foster care system for a year. In 2021 the CASA Collective came together to care for 4 of them. With 92 children on our waiting list, your support can help us reach more.

Please consider joining this inspiring group and providing ongoing support for kids who have experienced abuse & neglect and wait an average of 3 years for a safe & permanent home. Together we can give these kids some stability and make sure their voices are heard & their needs are met while they wait.

A BIG thank you to our anonymous CASA Collective members as well as:

- Jennifer & Mohamed Adhima
- Mary & Mac Boatright
- Jerree & Harley Catlin
- Sarah & Phil Cauthon
- Brigitte Channel
- Ashley Coles
- Joseph Dougherty
- Donna Eades
- Rhonda Gibler
- Kim Glover
- Liz Lanphear
- Tracey & Dean Noll

- Katy Price
- Loretta & Jeff Severin
- Ingrid & Andrew Stewart
- Rita & Scott Still
- Nancy Ulrich & Carl Gallagher
- Kitty Ware
- Marc & Kate White
- Patricia & David Willer
- Evan Williams
- Eleanor Woodyard
- Charles Yockey, M.D. and Nancy Yockey

CASA is so grateful to partner with these Agency Sponsors. Please support the following businesses and thank them for supporting CASA.



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Thank YOU for supporting kids in the child welfare system.



Help us spread the word

Follow CASA on social media (using the links below) and please share & comment. Or simply have a conversation with your family, friends, or neighbors about why you love CASA.

Thank you for helping us increase awareness and connect with prospective volunteers!

[Learn more about volunteering](#)



DID YOU KNOW that you can link your [Dillon's Plus](#) and [Amazon Smile](#) accounts to CASA?
You can unlock automatic donations every time you make a purchase.

Douglas County CASA | DCCASAKS.ORG



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