



CASA Connection Out & About in the community

CASA Connection has been busy this quarter.

July



Our newest Colfax County volunteer, Raylynn Latorra was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Patrick McDermott.



The CASA Connection staff enjoyed spreading awareness of the organization during the Colfax County Fair in Leigh.

Our Board of Directors had their annual meeting during which the new officers were appointed. We appreciate our officers donating their time & talents to CASA.

2017 Officers & Board Members:

President: Lisa McFarland
Secretary: Harriet Berlin
Treasurer: Robbin Cutsor
Travis Hill Doug Pauley
Sandy Seckman Shelley Stempel
Carrie Trofholz

August

Winners of the "I'm a Little Cutie Baby Contest"



The winners of the 0-6 months category, from left to right:
Walmart store manager Stephen Vavra
3rd place winner : Clay Krafka/Parents: Tony & Betsy Kraftka
2nd place winner: Taliah "babycakes" Schuett/Parents: Travis & Tonia Schuett
1st place winner: Carson Jarecki/Parents: Brian & Jennifer Jarecki



The winners of the 7-12 month category, from left to right:
Walmart store manager Stephen Vavra
3rd place winner : Camilla Quiroz/Parents: Arnie & Anna Quiroz
2nd place winner: Addisyn Joell Charron/Parents: Kraig Charron & Alyssa Fischbach-Charron
1st place winner: Emry Stenger/Parents: Joey & Erica Stenger



The winners of the 13-18 month category, from left to right:
Walmart store manager Stephen Vavra
3rd place winner : Owen Smith/Parents: Jason & Tiffany Smith
2nd place winner: Kaylen Jay Gutierrez/Parents: Leonardo Gutierrez & Juanita Valdorinos
1st place winner: Yareli Cerros/Parents: Frankie Cerros & Jessica Rojo



The sons of Eric & Andrea Kloke spin the prize wheel during Columbus Days

New Volunteer Training

During August we had a New Volunteer training class with our 2 newest volunteers Tami Altstadt & Annette Davis.



A BIG THANKS GOES TO

- ❖ **Walmart** for being our corporate sponsor for the baby contest. They provided our prizes for the winners & treats for all the participants. We had 57 babies participate this year.
- ❖ **Our baby contest judges who have the hardest task:** Jan Hinrichsen from Omaha, Juana Hansen and Evelyn Olietti of Columbus.
- ❖ **Our wonderful emcee,** Riley Scott who did a great job keeping all the names straight.
- ❖ **Jeanne Quinn** for taking such great photos.
- ❖ **Leslie McCuiston** for using her mad math skills by tallying the scores.
- ❖ **ADM Cares** for providing funding for the game & prizes in our Columbus Days booth.

September



On September 1 The Honorable Frank J. Skorupa swore in our 2 new volunteers, Tami Altstadt & Annette Davis and our Outreach Coordinator, Lisa Rosendahl, who are all trained to take cases.

WELCOME LADIES! THANK YOU FOR STEPPING UP TO ADVOCATE FOR THE ABUSED & NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN OUR AREA

CASA Connection received a \$500 check from BD to match the volunteer hours of their associate, and our own Tracy Duncan.



During September our volunteers & staff had the opportunity to attend a couple out of town training conferences which provided us all with great useful information.



Rhonda Scott



Renee Held



Brenda Vermeire



Carrie Trofholz



October



CASA Connection is lucky to have several dedicated men who have agreed to share their time & hearts to helping abused children in our area. We are so grateful for what they do for us.

Let's get to know our MEN OF CASA



Travis Hill. Board Member

- 1. Tell us about yourself-family, job, if you volunteer anywhere else:** *I've been married to my wife Tara for 12 years and we have 4 children. I coach Lakeview youth softball and also assist with youth basketball. I continue to serve in the United States Army Reserve with a total of 15 years of service and 2 deployments to Iraq.*
- 2. What drew you to becoming a CASA Volunteer/Board member?** *I was having a conversation with Lisa McFarland [CASA Board President] about wanting to become more involved in the community. She gave me two options. CASA was one of those options. One of my first jobs was being a family support worker, that followed by being a foster parent. I've always had a heart for children and have missed having the opportunity to provide support to them. CASA was a perfect fit!*
- 3. Do you have any crazy talents? If so, what?** *Patience... I once took all four of my children and 5 of my nieces and nephews to the pool for a few hours. No one died... We all had fun... Maybe my talent is that I'm just a tad bit crazy.*
- 4. If you could tell your 16-year old self 1 thing what would that be?** *Don't grow up too fast. If you haven't done anything "stupid" and you're 22 and people are still calling you a "kid" for good reasons, that's great! Life will happen, chasing the next thing isn't always as great as it seems... It typically comes with more responsibility. Responsibility is great, but savor your youth.*



Kenneth Young. Advocate

- 1. Tell us about yourself-family, job, if you volunteer anywhere else:** *Moved to Columbus in 2007. Married to Lorie with two grown children and two grandchildren. Work at NPPD. Past volunteer experiences in Columbus: Habitat for Humanity, YFC, Columbus Rescue Mission, and Trinity Lutheran Church.*
- 2. What drew you to becoming a CASA Volunteer/Board member?** *The opportunity to advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.*
- 3. What book have you read that has inspired you? Why?** *There are two recently; Bonhoeffer by Eric Metaxas and Radical by David Platt, both of which have encouraged me to more courageously live my faith.*
- 4. If you could tell your 16-year old self 1 thing what would that be?** *Life gets better.*

"The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope." — Barack Obama





Dan Britt. Advocate

1. Tell us about yourself-family, job, if you volunteer anywhere else: *39 years Auto Tech. 35 years married. Help at school functions. Heavily support Youth Baseball.*
2. What drew you to becoming a CASA Volunteer/Board member? *My wife is A CASA volunteer advocate.*
3. If you could trade lives with someone else for a day who would it be and why? *Don't want to change places with anyone.*
4. If you could tell your 16-year old self 1 thing what would that be? *If someone is willing to teach you, you should be willing to learn.*



CASA Connection sends a huge Thank You to the following for all of their past support, funding, and in-kind donations!

- Platte County, Nebraska*
- Colfax County, Nebraska*
- Columbus Area United Way*
- Nebraska CASA Association*
- National CASA Association*
- Snow Redfern Foundation*
- ADM Cares*
- Cornhusker Goodwill Fund*
- Walmart*
- Linda K. Price*
- VOCA*
- BD Medical*

PROGRAM STATISTICS
for the 3rd Quarter of 2017

8 Children referred to our program	51 Cases on a waiting list
38 Children served with an advocate	17 Active volunteers
3 Served cases closed	2 New volunteers sworn in

Board Members

Lisa McFarland ~ President
Robbin Cutsor ~ Treasurer
Harriet Berlin ~ Secretary
Travis Hill
Doug Pauley
Sandy Seckman
Shelley Stempek
Carrie Trofholz

Volunteer Advocates

Rolaine Blaser
Kenneth Young
Tracy Duncan
Carrie Trofholz
Misty Lawrence
Renee Held
Bonnie McPhillips
Wendi Petersen
Rhonda Scott
Brenda Vermeire
Jeanne Quinn
Jean Britt
Dan Britt
Leslie McCuiston
Tammy Micek
Colette Hansen
Deb Wright
Kimberly Kwapnioski
Tami Altstadt
Kenneth Young
Annette Davis

CASA Connection

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@CASAConnectNE

BIRTHDAYS

Tami Altstadt	October 11
Robbin Cutsor	October 24
Dan Britt	November 11
Deb Wright	November 20
Renee Held	November 20
Kim Kwapnioski	December 1
Harriett Berlin	December 6
Doug Pauley	December 28



CASA Connection is affiliated with the Nebraska CASA Association and the National CASA Association.

CASA Connection is a  agency.