

I am for the child.

CASA Connection

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

We want to thank all those that give to our program through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC # 66847). The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the workplace giving program for all federal employees. There have been many changes to the CFC this year, including the fact that now all retired federal employees and federal contractors can also donate. Another change is that 100% of the funds donated to CASA of the 8th Judicial District through the CFC will be received by our program. There are no longer any CFC costs taken from the donations. So, we want to say thank you to all who serve our nation past, present, future, and all who choose CASA of the 8th Judicial District as their CFC charity!

#GivingTuesday 2017

THANK YOU!!! We set our very first #GivingTuesday campaign goal for \$1,000. Thanks to your generosity and the matching funds from First Command Financial Services our 2017 #GivingTuesday campaign was a success. In fact, we raised \$1,220 to help the local abused and/or neglected children that we serve!

Upcoming Community Events

February 15 - Dickinson County Open House 5:30pm-7:30pm (The Venue on Broadway—203 N. Broadway, Abilene)

March 10 - Annual Baby Fair 10:00am-12:00pm (Junction City)

April - Spring CASA Volunteer Advocate Training (held every Saturday—location TBD)

May 12—3rd Annual Run for the Child 5K Fundraiser (Acorns Resort, Milford Lake)

Interested in sponsorship of our annual 5K? Reach out to casaooffice@8thjd.com for more information on sponsorship levels and packages. Our goal is to raise \$7,500 in order to support our mission, recruit volunteers, and serve more children throughout the 8th Judicial District! Help us reach our goal!

***Be sure to Like us on Facebook at: CASA of the 8th Judicial District, Kansas
www.facebook.com/casa8thjds***



New Dickinson County Case Supervisor

Marsha lives in Salina and has been a CASA for four years. She has three daughters and one grandson. She enjoys reading, volunteering, going for walks, and spending time with her family and pets. Marsha has advocated for children and empowered them for many years. Marsha loves working for CASA because CASA helps to ensure that the child's needs are met and allows the child's voice to be heard in the court system. CASA is excited to have Marsha as their new Dickinson County Case Supervisor! Please join us in welcoming her to the CASA team!



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From Your Volunteer Coordinator

The CASA of the 8th staff has been busy since our last issue. In October, we hosted our first Open House event in Dickinson County. This event was a great opportunity for people in the community to meet with some of our staff and chat with volunteers about the rewarding work



they do as CASA volunteers. In November, we were at it again. This time in Geary County where we participated in the 22nd annual Junction City Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade. As the holiday season continued into December, we felt it was important to show our gratitude to our volunteers through a volunteer appreciation event. Volunteers and their families were invited to an ice cream social and given a small token of



appreciation, a CASA mug with hot cocoa. While the next session of volunteer training is currently underway, we are excited to welcome these new eager volunteers to the CASA of the 8th family come February! Reach out to me at casavolunteer@8thjd.com for more information regarding what it takes to become a CASA!

Did you know?

According to the National CASA Association:

432,677 children nationwide are waiting for a volunteer empowered to find them a safe, loving, permanent home!

Would you like to receive our quarterly newsletter online? Email us at casa@8thjd.com!

Volunteer Spotlight: Laressa Nordgren



I have been a stay at home mom of four kids ages 11, 9, 7, and 5 with a degree in Criminal Justice for the past 12 years. I have always wanted to use my degree, but it doesn't really work with a full schedule of kids' activities. I attended court with a friend a few years ago and MISSED the courtroom so I decided it was time to start looking into becoming a CASA. I have been with the program now a little over two years. My favorite part of being an advocate is getting to know the kids I have been appointed to advocate for and getting to eat lunch with them at school once a week. I also love that when they see me in public they will run up and give me a hug - I enjoy the relationships with the kids a lot.



Serving Dickinson, Geary, Marion & Morris Counties

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Morris/Marion County Happenings:

CASA participated in the Candlelight Charm event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce in Council Grove on November 4th. During this event, Hope Manchester, Morris/Marion Case Supervisor, had the opportunity to speak with several individuals about CASA's mission and several individuals that are CASA volunteers from different counties. The individuals that stopped by enjoyed homemade cookies and hot coffee. Several of the individuals asked for a business card and thanked CASA for all we do!

Hope has also been visiting Marion County on a regular basis. She participated in a presentation about CASA in October at the Marion Senior Center in hopes of recruiting some potential volunteers.

Hope also participated in the Council Grove Chamber of Commerce annual breakfast meeting on November 27th. She had the opportunity to speak with several local business owners and enjoyed the wonderful breakfast buffet at the Hays House in downtown Council Grove.

On January 17th, Hope will be visiting with a Professor at Tabor College in Hillsboro to set-up a time and place to speak with students about becoming a CASA Volunteer. Our hope is to get younger individuals interested in making a difference in their community.



Stop in and visit our Council Grove office located at 116 W. Main Street. Morris/Marion Case Supervisor, Hope will be sure to welcome you with a smile!

2017 Statistics:

Number of children served: **100**

Number of NEW children served: **48**

Number of family (sibling) groups served: **51**

Number of active CASA Volunteer Advocates: **25**

Number of NEWLY trained CASA Volunteer Advocates: **8**

Total number of CASA Volunteer case hours devoted to children in the 8th Judicial District:

1,465.5 hours!