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March 2025 Newsletter



A Farewell and a Thank You

After a decade of dedication to CASA of the 8th Judicial District, including seven years as Executive Director, I have made the bittersweet decision to step down from my role, with my last day being May 2, 2025. Serving this organization has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I first joined CASA in 2015, driven by a passion for advocating for children we serve. Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving in multiple capacities, growing alongside the organization as we worked to expand our impact and serve more children and families in need.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has been part of this journey—our incredible volunteer advocates who dedicate their time and energy to changing a child's (and family's) story for the better, our donors and partners whose generosity makes our work possible, and our community members who continuously champion the needs of our most vulnerable youth. To the staff and Board members of CASA of the 8th Judicial District, your dedication and passion for this mission have been truly inspiring, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked alongside such a devoted team. It has been my honor to represent our program locally, across the state of Kansas, and nationally as a member of the National CASA/GAL Suburban Leadership Council for four years, and as a member of the Geary County NCJFCJ team.

As I prepare for this transition, my hope is that CASA of the 8th Judicial District will continue to grow and thrive under new leadership. The search for my successor is underway, and I have every confidence that the next Executive Director will bring fresh energy and ideas to continue our vital work. Though I am stepping away from my role, my belief in the CASA mission remains steadfast. I look forward to supporting this organization in new ways and continuing to advocate for the children who need us most. Thank you for an unforgettable decade and the opportunity to serve.

With gratitude,

Lisa Hatt

NEW ADVOCATES!



Congratulations Russell and Cassandra! We are so happy to have you as *CASA* Volunteers!

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW TO JOIN CASA AT THE PAINT BARN IN JUNCTION CITY ON SATURDAY, APRIL 26, TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

RESERVE HERE

The graphic features a central QR code on a blue background. Above the QR code is a red button with the text 'RESERVE HERE'. On either side of the QR code is a blue and grey pinwheel graphic on a stick.

Thank You United Way!

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8th Judicial District is incredibly grateful to the United Way of the Flint Hills for their generous grant in support of our work in Morris County. Their commitment to making a difference in the lives of children is truly inspiring, and we couldn't be more thankful to have them as a partner in our mission.

At CASA, we advocate for children in the foster care system, making sure they have a voice and someone looking out for their best interests. It's work that takes dedication, heart, and community support—and thanks to United Way of the Flint Hills, we can continue providing this crucial advocacy for children who need it most. Grants like this help us recruit and train volunteer advocates, provide ongoing

every child we serve has someone in their corner. The impact of United Way's support extends far beyond the funding itself—it brings hope, stability, and the promise of a brighter future for vulnerable children in Morris County.

From all of us at CASA of the 8th Judicial District, thank you, United Way of the Flint Hills! Your generosity makes a world of difference, and we're honored to stand alongside you in serving our community's children.

[Want to learn more about CASA or get involved? We'd love to hear from you! Visit our website or reach out to see how you can help make a difference.](#)

March 21, 2025

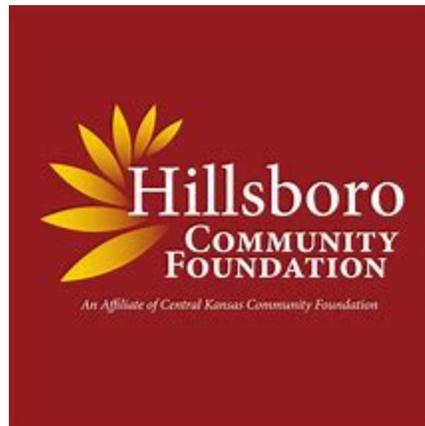
On March 21, 2025, our community has a special opportunity to come together and make a lasting difference for children in need. CASA of the 8th Judicial District is thrilled to participate in the Community Foundation of Dickinson County's Match Day, where every donation made at www.donatedickinson.com will be matched—amplifying your generosity and deepening the impact we can make.

At CASA, we work to ensure that every local child in the court system has a dedicated advocate standing by their side. Our volunteer advocates serve as voices for children navigating the uncertainty of the court system, providing them with the stability and support they deserve. The funds raised on Match Day will allow us to recruit, train, and support more volunteer advocates, extend our outreach, and continue our mission of advocating for the best interests of local children and their families.

Your support on March 21st is more than just a donation—it's an investment in a child's future. By giving on this special day, you help ensure that no child faces the court system alone. With the Community Foundation's matching funds, your contribution goes even further, creating a meaningful ripple effect throughout our community.

We invite you to mark your calendar and join us in making a difference. Whether you give a little or a lot, every dollar counts. Visit www.donatedickinson.com on Match Day and help us continue our vital work for children in need. Thank you for being a part of this mission and for standing with the children who need us most.

DONATE HERE



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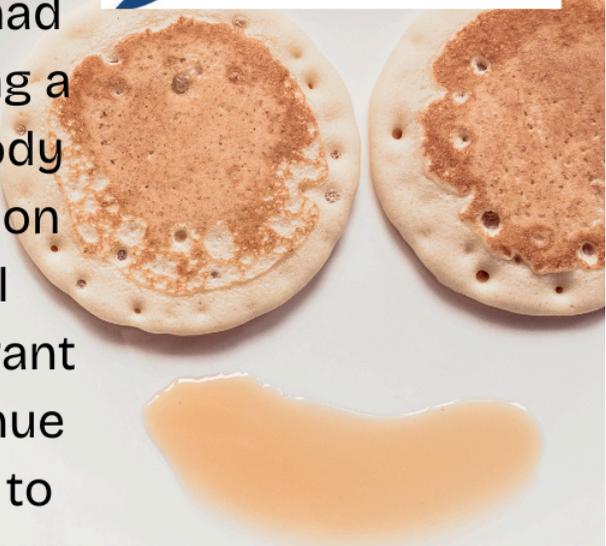
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Hillsboro Community Foundation, we can continue recruiting and training advocates who make that possible. We were thrilled to receive a generous grant from the foundation, which will help us expand our efforts to recruit volunteers who stand up for children in need.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the **Hillsboro Community Foundation** for believing in our mission and helping us change children's stories. This support means more advocates, more hope, and more bright futures. We'd also like to thank them for a fun evening celebrating these grants with Mardi Gras games, trivia, and an evening of laughs.

Laissez les bon temps rouler - Let the good times roll!

On Saturday, February 1st, CASA of the 8th had the honor of accepting a grant from the Peabody Community Foundation during their Annual Pancake Feed. This grant will allow us to continue our outreach efforts to recruit the best volunteer advocates. Thank you, Peabody, for the amazing breakfast and hospitality.




Junction City's Esports & Technology Program is Here!

The Official Esports team, **the Twisters**, will represent Junction City in competitive gaming, training in our state-of-the-art Esports arena opening in **April**. The Twisters will compete in local and online tournaments, showcasing the talent and dedication of our community's gamers. Located at the 12th Street Community Center.

SPRING TRAINING

Our next training starts on March 25th, every Tuesday evening via zoom until April 8th. Don't delay your training, reach out to us about becoming a CASA volunteer

LEARN MORE



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