



**HOLIDAY  
2015**

*“CASA for York County supports and provides volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children, enabling them to thrive in a safe, permanent home.”*

## ***A Home for the Holidays and Always***

**Featured homes, all decked out in their Christmas finery, include:**

- Ken & Bev Jensen 34 Eastridge Ave, York, NE
- Ross & Michelle Ronne 1210 Road O, York, NE
- Jeff & Tami Krejci 1549 Clearview Boulevard, York, NE
- Matt & Holly Spencer 1003 N Lincoln Ave, York, NE
- Ben & Tracy Babcock 809 N Beaver Ave, York, NE

**SATURDAY, DEC. 5TH**  
**TOUR OF HOMES FROM 2-5 P.M.**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 6TH**  
**TOUR OF HOMES FROM 2-5 PM**

**FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$15 YOU CAN ENJOY A  
WINE TASTING AND APPETIZER BUFFET**

**SATURDAY DEC. 5TH 5:00 - 7:00 PM**  
**AT THE "WAREHOUSE" (321 DIVISION AVE)**  
**OWNED BY JON AND JOAN STRONG**

**Tickets for Home Tour only (good on either/both days) \$25**  
**VIP Tickets including Home Tour and Wine Tasting \$40**

**Tickets available beginning Nov. 1st at:**

**CASA office (York County Courthouse, 2nd Floor, Suite 200)**  
**Greater York Area Chamber of Commerce (603 Lincoln Ave.)**  
**Heritage Realtors (316 S. Lincoln Ave.)**

# A Note About Year End Donations



Many people give to charity each year during the holiday season. Remember, if you want to claim a tax deduction for your gifts, you must itemize your deductions. There are several tax rules that you should know about before you give. Here are six tips from the IRS that you should keep in mind:

**1. Qualified charities.** You can only deduct gifts you give to qualified charities. Use the IRS [Select Check tool](#) to see if the group you give to is qualified. Remember that you can deduct donations you give to churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and government agencies. This is true even if Select Check does not list them in its database.

**2. Monetary donations.** Gifts of money include those made in cash or by check, electronic funds transfer, credit card, and payroll deduction. You must have a [bank record or a written statement from the charity](#) to deduct any gift of money on your tax return. This is true regardless of the amount of the gift. The statement must show the name of the charity and the date and amount of the contribution. Bank records include canceled checks, or bank, credit union, and credit card statements. If you give by payroll deductions, you should retain a pay stub, a Form W-2 wage statement, or other document from your employer. It must show the total amount withheld for charity, along with the pledge card showing the name of the charity.

**3. Household goods.** Household items include furniture, furnishings, electronics, appliances, and linens. If you donate clothing and household items to charity they generally must be in at least good, used condition to claim a tax deduction. If you claim a deduction of over \$500 for an item it doesn't have to meet this standard, if you include a qualified appraisal of the item with your tax return.

**4. Records required.** You must get an [acknowledgment from a charity](#) for each deductible donation (either money or property) of \$250 or more. Additional rules apply to the statement for gifts of that amount. This statement is in addition to the records required for deducting cash gifts. However, one statement with all of the required information may meet both requirements.

**5. Year-end gifts.** You can deduct contributions in the year you make them. If you charge your gift to a credit card before the end of the year it will count for 2015. This is true even if you don't pay the credit card bill until 2016. Also, a check will count for 2015 as long as you mail it in 2015.

**6. Special rules.** [Special rules apply](#) if you give a car, boat, or airplane to charity. For more information visit [IRS.gov](#).

*From Candy Otte, Treasurer  
CASA for York County Board of Directors*



Above: Maria Sutter  
Right: Lynne Barnts



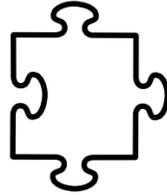
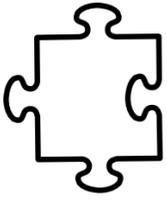
Above: Barb S. Lehman  
Left: Glenda Starvaggi

## *New Class of Volunteers*

To Unsubscribe from this newsletter please call the CASA office @ 402-362-5454

# Pieces of the Puzzle

*Every donation, and every volunteer, is a vital piece of the puzzle for the children we serve.*



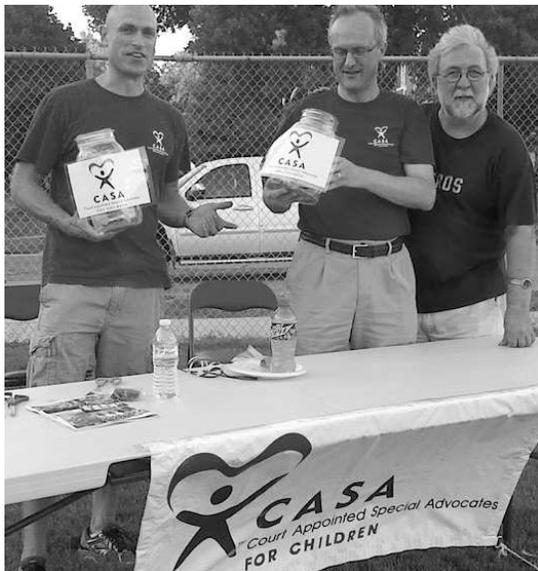
*(Clockwise from top left)*



Jaclyn Smith donated a box of puzzles for our volunteer appreciation banquet. After the banquet, the puzzles were added to our closet of toys for the kids we serve.

Gayle Coffin presents a check from the Blue River Area Board of Realtors to Carol Knieriem and Melody Coehoorn.

Following a parade with ice cream and root beer, Heritage Realtors knew just how to hit the spot with their fundraiser for CASA for York County.



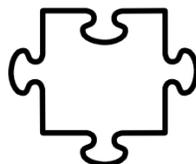
Board members, Dan Goodwin, Brent Magner, and Don Keelan-White were ready to collect donations at the York Duke football game on 9/4/15 while other board members and volunteers passed out balloons. The balloons were released the first time the Dukes scored.

York College student Kylie Wroot helps the CASA Board inflate balloons — and she gets credit in her Gen. Psych. class for helping.

*Your GIFTS are much appreciated. Send a check to:*

**CASA for York County**  
510 N Lincoln Ave.  
York, NE 68467

**Or give online at:**  
[www.casaforyork.org](http://www.casaforyork.org)



WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET.

**WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE.**

—WINSTON CHURCHILL

**#GIVINGTUESDAY**

DECEMBER 1, 2015

CASA for York Co.  
510 N Lincoln Ave.  
York, NE 68467  
(402) 362-5454  
www.casaforyork.org

Nonprofit org  
US Postage  
Paid  
York, NE  
Permit No 3

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Sherry Tonniges

Sherry has been a CASA volunteer for 2 years now. She learned about CASA for York County after seeing the cut-outs of children on the courthouse lawn. Sherry currently serves three children in two families. Usually a CASA volunteer only has one case (child or sibling group) at a time, but can choose to volunteer with two cases at once.

Most memorable moment as a CASA volunteer? *The commitment became real standing in court in front of Judge [Caster] Senff and taking the volunteer oath.*

Why should someone become a CASA volunteer? *Being a CASA volunteer is a great way to connect with children and the community. Life isn't always fair but with CASA in their lives, children get needed representation. At first I felt my involvement was intrusive, but I soon realized the necessity.*

One last thought: *I feel blessed to be a part of CASA. I work with compassionate people who are highly motivated to provide a certain quality of life for children. I couldn't ask for better people to work with. Carol and the members of the CASA for York County Board are amazing and extremely knowledgeable. The training is eye-opening and extensive. I wish all educators could go through this training.*



In addition to her role as a Child Advocate, Sherry represents all of our Advocates as our Volunteer Representative to the Board of Directors.

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER**

\* [www.casaforyork.org](http://www.casaforyork.org) \* #402-362-5454 \* [carol@casaforyork.org](mailto:carol@casaforyork.org) \*