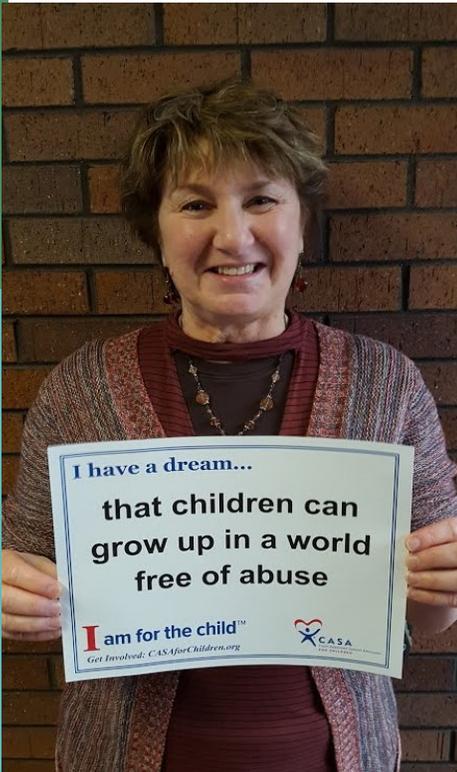




**March  
2018**

## **Time of Transition: Carol to Retire after 14 Years**

There are people who are truly pillars of a community - people who help keep the sky from falling, who keep the bottom from dropping out. CASA Director Carol Knieriem is one of these. After 14 years, she's built up CASA for York County into a thriving organization with three staff members, a solid nonprofit board, and many dedicated volunteers. At a time when drug use and foster care placements are on the rise in Nebraska, York County can boast that the numbers of kids in the court system are at an all-time low. This is partly a tribute to the hard work and professionalism of Knieriem, CASA staff and the many CASA volunteers. It is therefore with deep regret that the CASA board is announcing Knieriem's retirement. A search process to find a replacement begins April 1, Board President Brent Magner said.



Not that it will be easy.

"I wouldn't even care to guess how many people they would need to properly replace Carol Knieriem," County Attorney Chris Johnson said. "As many fabulous people as CASA uses, Carol's on another level."

"Losing Carol is a monumental challenge," said CASA board member Don Keelan-White. "Carol is someone leading the charge."

Said Magner, "At the heart of Carol's success after so many years and dealing with so many details, is that she never loses sight of the goal. Carol is absolutely passionate about helping children."

Magner said that the board and the CASA staff and volunteers will carry on her legacy and move forward. "As a community, we have a calling to defend those who are most vulnerable, and that is always going to include children."

Knieriem said her work in York has mainly been to provide a "multiplier effect" - supporting and building up others so that they can serve, as well. "Mine's been a supportive role, allowing other people to thrive," she said. "I love working one on one with people but also wanted to help others to do that, so they can touch more children and families."

As she leaves, Knieriem says her heart is full. "We have a good base here and I feel a lot of support for this program from the community. From the county, with its solid financial support, and other programs that are helping people in York." She is "very, very grateful" to her board and all the volunteers, whether they "stick addresses on envelopes, write the newspaper, are CASAs, or send us \$10. Whatever it is, that's awesome. I'm so appreciative. They are the ones who make everything possible." ~ *written by Karen Fillman*

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

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*In memory of Theodore 'Ted' Janzen,  
 LaDonna Richert and  
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**AND OTHER  
 ANONYMOUS GIFTS**



**Say "Hello" to our new class of  
 volunteers.  
 (Clockwise from right: Carolyn  
 Sandall, Adene Maronde, Cathy  
 Harrington, Jane Thompson, Ana  
 Carvalho)**



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 newsletter please call the CASA  
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# In for the Long Haul: After more than 4 years, Kathy Moore's CASA Child finds Permanency

Every child needs and deserves a stable and loving home. That's why there's nothing more encouraging than hearing about a child who has been in the court system for a long period of time, finally being adopted by parents who are committed to providing just that.

But before an adoption can take place in the court system there are a team of key people that play an integral part in making that dream become a reality. In this case, one of those people is Kathy Moore, a CASA volunteer. Kathy has a background as a foster parent and adoptive parent so was familiar with the court system and all the steps that are involved in an adoption.

"I became a CASA volunteer because of a young man I knew about who was in foster care. I knew his family situation and hoped he had a CASA who was familiar with the dynamics that made up this family," said Kathy when asked why she became a CASA volunteer.



Kathy meets with Destiny after a Court Hearing.

As a new volunteer Kathy was assigned a case that involved a young girl named Destiny who was placed in a foster home over 100 miles away from Kathy. For four and half years, Kathy was committed to Destiny by staying in contact with her through calls and visits. Kathy expressed one of the benefits of having a CASA volunteer on a case is that everyone else is required by their job description to fulfill a certain role or script.

"As a CASA I was free to say whatever I believed to be in the best interest of the child and that's important," said Kathy. One of the other benefits Kathy brought to the case was her experience as a foster/adoptive parent. She felt she could speak from that experience and push for the family to get all the help they needed to be successful in the adoption.

"Probably one of the biggest struggles was staying in contact with Destiny since she was so far away. However, her DHHS Case Manager, Mystique Lauer, worked tirelessly on this case and never gave up. She kept me well informed and we worked well together," said Kathy.

"CASA was an integral part of this legacy case (a case that had been with DHHS for many years). Kathy supported the DHHS ward throughout by attending team meetings, providing encouragement, insight and guidance," said Mystique. "She was a constant in the life of a young woman who had very few people who stood by her over the years." ~ *written by Jo Larson, CASA Volunteer*



## Free from Worry: Glenda Starvaggi's CASA Kids Adopted

Adoptive mother / grandmother, Shelly M, says "I used to be worried about her when she was with her mom—now I don't have to worry."

CASA Volunteer Glenda Starvaggi says, "It brings great joy to my heart knowing my CASA kids are loved and have a happy and stable home. Seeing the joy in their eyes and the love that their parents have for them, makes being a CASA very rewarding!!"

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CASA Supervisor of Volunteers,  
Maureen Diaz, says "Every child  
should feel loved and protected."

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