



**Volume No. 2  
CASA for York County  
Spring 2023**

Spring is here and summer is hot on its heels! Yep, it’s already time for our bi-annual newsletter; time for an update on what has been happening here at CASA for York County, Nebraska. It’s been a busy year, with two new CASA advocates successfully completing training and being sworn in, another training on the horizon .

Since our last communication, the number of children referred for our services has continued to grow. The number of children climbed from 29 to 40 over the past year. That’s why trainings are so important ... because it is our goal for each child in need to have a CASA representing their best interests in the court. With a CASA, the chances of a positive outcome for these children improves greatly. Assisting in finding abused and neglected children safe and permanent homes is the objective of our program.

**We’ve  
been  
busy!**



**Jake Owens of the York County Health Coalition presented at a recent training on resources available to CASA volunteers to assist with their cases.**

**Thanks to our generous donors, CASA was able to purchase a bunkbed for a foster family!**

**York County Court Judge, The Honorable Lynelle Homolka, recently swore in the two newest CASA for York County volunteers, Sue Crawford (at left) and Stephanie Howe (at right). Thank you for choosing to become a CASA. Both have already accepted cases and are advocating for the York County children.**



**Cross County Community School Family and Consumer Science students stopped by the office to donate items to fill Easter baskets for the children we serve!**

**The York area community came together and provided Easter baskets and filler again this year. Advocates look forward to the Easter Basket Project and filling baskets for their CASA kids.**

**2023 CASA Volunteer Appreciation Banquet**

The “Heart of CASA Award” is granted to an individual, who embodies the mission of CASA, goes above and beyond in all facets of their role, and has made a substantial impact to the program and the children they serve.

This year’s “Heart of CASA Award” recipient is Anna Johnson. Anna is newer to the CASA team. But don’t let that newness fool you; in just a few short years she has proven herself to be an incredible asset. For more about Anna’s CASA journey visit our Facebook Page.



The 2023 CASA for York County Volunteer Appreciation Banquet was held recently at the Mackey Center on the York University Campus. Guest speaker was Corrie Kielty, Nebraska CASA Executive Director. CASA advocates were thanked for pouring their hearts into everything they do.



# Coffee with Elizabeth

Over the past year, we have seen a significant increase in the number of children who have experienced abuse and neglect. It is deeply concerning as we see this trend continuing, and we know that it will take all of us working together to make a difference.

Despite these challenges, I am proud to say that our dedicated team of volunteers continues to work tirelessly to advocate for these children. They are the backbone of our organization, and we are grateful for their selflessness and unwavering commitment to our mission.

To those of you who have volunteered with us in the past or supported us financially, I want to extend a sincere thank you. Your contributions have made a real difference in the lives of the children we serve, and we could not do this work without you.

However, we know that there is still much work to be done. With your support, we can continue to provide critical services to abused children and their families.

Every child deserves to live in a safe and nurturing environment, and it is our responsibility to ensure that they have the support they need to thrive. By working collectively, we can make a real difference in the lives of these children and help them heal from the trauma they have experienced.

So, let us take a moment to acknowledge the gravity of the situation we face while assuring we not lose sight of the hope and the difference we can make. With your support, we will continue to advocate for the children who need us most, and we will do everything in our power to ensure that they have the bright and happy futures they deserve.



## A bit about Friends of CASA

Carrie Colburn, CASA for York County Board of Directors Member and Public Relations Committee Chair, explains the advent of Friends of CASA as a setback turned opportunity. A setback in the fact that a grant on which York, and many other CASA programs depended was no longer a reliable source of funding. And, an opportunity in the chance for York County CASA to become more self sufficient. A chance to reach out, to share the story and message of CASA with area businesses and individuals and invite their participation in this worthwhile program.

As Friends of CASA enters its second year Colburn says, "As it turns out we are excited. We started earlier than others to replace grant funds," and that is a good thing. "We are grateful for the support." Colburn looks forward to seeing Friends of CASA grow from its 12 Charter Friends as others come to realize the importance of CASA to York County youth.

To find out more about becoming a Friend of CASA visit the CASA for York County website at: [www.casaforyork.org](http://www.casaforyork.org) or call us at (402) 362-5454, we would be happy to visit with you about benefits of becoming a Friend. We would love to add your name to our list!



### 2023 Friends of CASA for York County

- Cornerstone Bank
- Heritage Realty
- Metz Mortuary
- Mierau & Co., Inc.
- Nolan Transportation, LLC
- Scott & Cindy Naber
- York Family Dentistry
- York General



*Add Your Name or Business Here*

**CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE  
WE MUST TAKE CARE OF THEM  
WITH MAXIMUM EFFORT.**

— naomi campbell

We wish every child in need could have a CASA.



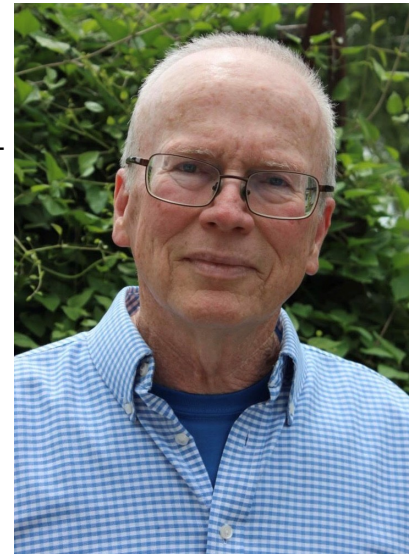
The  
**FUTURE**  
depends on  
what we do  
in the  
**PRESENT.**  
Mahatma Gandhi

## From the desk of Dan

In our last newsletter, we spoke of the eight new casa volunteers we recruited, screened, and trained in 2022. It has been exciting to watch these enthusiastic recruits become involved with newly assigned cases as they interact with professionals from other agencies and learn about case management, as they develop relationships with those involved in their assigned cases.

By now, most of these volunteers have completed their first court report and have shown no bashfulness when asking their supervisor (me) questions regarding procedure, supervision, strategies, resources, and case management. They all have demonstrated a sincere interest in the children they have chosen to be assigned to. These volunteers are off to an impressive start. Some have even taken on more than one assignment due to the number of youth who could benefit from a CASA Volunteer. These numbers have significantly increased in recent months. The CASA for York County office is not resting on its laurels. We will be recruiting and training as many volunteers as possible to meet the need.

It's important to remember, CASA volunteers serve our future; the children. If you have "become a CASA advocate" on your list of things to do, please give us a call us at the office at (402) 362-5454. We will be happy to tell you all about this opportunity to make a difference for a child right here in York County.



### We thank these donors for Caring & Sharing November 2022 ~ April 2023

#### **Individuals**

Beverly Howe  
*In Memory of Chris Tonniges*  
 Bill and Lorraine Grenfell  
*In Honor of Marcia Schlegelmilch*  
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 Gail, Tony and Tyler Chapman  
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 Gina and James Mestl  
 Jacki Peterson  
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 Jane Antholz  
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CASA FOR YORK COUNTY  
NEBRASKA

York County Courthouse  
510 N Lincoln Ave.  
York, NE 68467

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*Join us for our Color Run/Walk as we Run Child Abuse Out of Town!  
It's a fun family-friendly event!!*

**When:** Sunday, May 21, 2023

**Where:** Mincks Park, York, Nebraska

**Registration:** 1:30 p.m.; Walk Start: 2 p.m.; 5K Run Start: 2:30 p.m.

**Cost:** 5K \$25; 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk \$15; Family Fun Run/Walk \$50 (includes 4 shirts); Extra shirt; \$10

Must be registered by May 12, 2023 to guarantee a T-shirt.

For more information or to sign up visit:  
[www.casaforyork.org](http://www.casaforyork.org) or call us at: (402) 362-5454