



CASA of Kay & Noble Counties' NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

CASA of Kay & Noble Counties Recognized for Quality Child Advocacy

CASA of Kay & Noble Counties recently received notification of certification by the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association. This certification recognizes that the CASA of Kay & Noble Counties program is in compliance with National CASA's 12 best practice standards for quality child advocacy.

According to Michael Piraino, CEO of the National CASA Association, "The National CASA quality assurance process is very rigorous, and reflects our commitment to ensure every child we serve has the most powerful volunteer advocate working on their behalf. This certification says CASA of Kay & Noble Counties has demonstrated to the Association a strong capacity to provide excellent services to the abused and neglected children within their community."

National CASA's letter of certification added, "It is evident that this program has put effort and time in developing strong programmatic and organizational policy and procedure documents. . . . Many of the policies submitted could serve as models for other CASA programs."

CASA of Kay & Noble Counties' has received this certification with thanks in part to its dedicated Advisory Board. The CASA Advisory Board safeguards the CASA program by crafting and maintaining policy that maximizes our local CASA program's ability to serve abused children in the best way possible.



The CASA Advisory Board, shown left to right, are: Deb Spaulding, Diane Crossland, Myrlene McArthur, Ann Bandy, and Lynda Clark. Not Pictured are Marlene Foxworthy, Winston Henry, and Barbara Davis

Are you being called to serve a child?

Training for new CASA Volunteers begins Thursday, April 8th, from 5:30 pm-8:30 pm at Northern OK Youth Services, 2203 N. Ash in Ponca City. Call CASA at 762-8341 for more information on becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

Our mission is to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children by providing quality volunteer advocates who work toward a safe, permanent home as soon as possible for each child.

Six New CASA Volunteers Begin Their Journey to "Make a Difference"

We would like to welcome the most recent additions to our family of devoted CASA Volunteers, Carol Steichen, Evelyn Stone, Tammy Kleinmann, Cherody Janda, Margaret Cathey, and Nancy Lopeman! These volunteers (pictured with the Honorable Judge D.W. Boyd) completed an 8-week training class that provided a comprehensive overview of the CASA Volunteer role and the issues faced by the children and families within the child welfare system.



Carol and Evelyn (pictured below) completed their training this winter, and have now been assigned their first cases, where they will learn as much as possible about the children, their needs, and their families' circumstances that led to the abused children's entrance into foster care.

Tammy, Cherody, Margaret, and Nancy (above) completed Core Training a few weeks ago, and look forward to their first cases. These CASA Volunteers will compile valuable information into a court report for the judge presiding over the children's case, giving that judge the crucial information needed to make informed life-altering decisions about the direction of the case in the court system. As CASA Volunteers, they will follow these children through this difficult time in their lives until they reach a safe, permanent home.



"For a short amount of time, we are involved in a process that can turn a hopeless situation into a real opportunity for children to grow and thrive...the end result we hope for is that we leave families stronger than we found them."

~ CASA Volunteers Larry and Debbie Meyer

Debi Topper honored as CASA's AAUW Woman of the Year



The American Association of University Women held its annual Women's Day Banquet on March 25, 2010, honoring outstanding woman volunteers from around our area. CASA was proud to nominate Debi Topper to receive this honor for her work as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children. Debi Topper has been a volunteer with our CASA program

since November of 2006. In her tireless efforts as a CASA Volunteer for the 8th Judicial District, Debi has spoken for the best interests of six abused children in three separate court cases. Debi has invested more than 250 hours while performing this invaluable service to the children of our community.

 **April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month** and Oklahoma hosts many activities across the state in support of this month. This year's theme is "It's your turn to make a difference for children". Here are a few ways that we can protect children in our community during Child Abuse Prevention Month, and throughout the year.

- Volunteer your time to child abuse prevention and healthy family programs.
- Discipline your children thoughtfully.
- Support prevention programs to stop child abuse before intervention is needed.
- Learn what child abuse is, and what the signs are.
- If you suspect abuse, report it to the Oklahoma 24/7 Hotline: 1-800-522-3511
- Invest in kids by encouraging family-friendly work environments and benefits.
- Urge your elected officials to support child abuse prevention programs.
- Participate in ceremonies to memorialize children.
- Raise public awareness. Educate yourself and others to bring child abuse into the light and away from being a "family matter".

Source: Child Welfare League of America, CWLA.org

YES! I'D LIKE TO SUPPORT CASA BY...

ENCLOSING A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION.

\$25 \$50 \$100 _____ OTHER

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:

BECOMING A CASA VOLUNTEER.

PLEASE SEND ME AN INFORMATION PACKET
WITH MORE INFO ON BECOMING A
CASA VOLUNTEER.

Name

Address

City

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Pho

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Please mail form to: CASA, 2203 N. Ash Street, Ponca City, OK 74601

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In honor of Craig Starks by Charles & Virginia Starks
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*CASA of Kay & Noble Counties is grateful to our supporters and donors whose contributions make our work possible.
Thank You.*

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