Franklin County CASA — April - June 2023
DonorNewsletter



## CASA in the SPOTLIGHT

On May 4, Franklin County CASA received the 2023 Optimist Friend of Youth Award from the Optimist Club of Washington.

We were also nominated for the Sullivan Area Chamber of Commerce Public Service Award for 2022.

Congrats to our Executive Director, Glenda Volmert, for being appointed to serve a two-year term on the National CASA/GAL Leadership Council. She will play an integral role in voicing the unique needs of 893 local programs that make up the National CASA and Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) network.



Pictured above Megan Maurer, Robin Kluesner, Glenda Volmert, Julie Purschke, Elieen Spratt, Brandy Taylor, Mary Tinsley

Congrats to our new Advocates!

On April 5, Judge Joseph Purschke and Judge Ada Brehe-Krueger swore in 6 new advocates at the Gasconade County Courthouse. Congratulations to our newest class of CASA Volunteers: Bronya Gumper, Stephen Gumper, Kelly Stone, Vanessa Nations, Annie Hurst and Hannah Andrews.

#### **Program HIGHLIGHTS**

Several of our staff, board members and volunteers attended the Missouri CASA conference in Columbia on May 6. We were able to send 10 volunteers thanks to a generous scholarship given to us.

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## National CASA



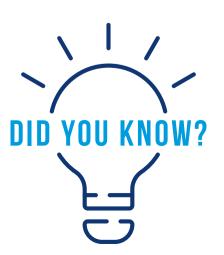
#### The National CASA Conference was held June 10-13 in St. Louis with nearly 750 in attendance! Our Executive Director, Glenda Volmert, was honored to be a presenter. The passion behind the speakers, authors, award winners and child advocate experts was simply amazing! Our team is more knowledgeable and motivated than ever to help create change and build stronger families. It was great to reconnect with some admired colleagues while creating friendships with new ones from across

## Volunteer Appreciation

On April 27, we held a volunteer appreciation event at The Axe Depot in Washington. The event was a huge success! Everyone enjoyed each other's company, throwing axes, eating delicious Pizza from the Landing & dessert (home made by our one and only Monica!) It was a fun event showing appreciation for all our wonderful volunteers!



In the State of Missouri, there are currently 24 CASA programs serving 27 of the 46 Judicial Circuits.



Our programs, including 2,189 volunteers, served nearly 4,800 children. This is a great accomplishment, but there are over 8,000 children without a volunteer advocate. The number of children in care continues to grow.



#### Splash for Cash Raffle Tickets!

CASA & the Optimist Club of Washington will be joining forces once again to sell raffle tickets. This year only 400 tickets will be sold with a chance to win \$400 every weekday in September & \$1,000 on Labor Day, with winning tickets being returned to the pot. Tickets are \$50 each & will be sold by CASA Board and office. Sales begin July 1 & end Aug 30. First come, first serve - don't miss your chance!

# DONOR spotlight

One of our outstanding family support team members in the juvenile court system, Christina Baer, made a CASA connection in the community. With Christina's help, CASA, I.B. Nuts & Fruits, Small Batch Winery and Washington Coffee Shop participated in the Crack an Egg Raffle. Tickets were sold for a large plaster adult Easter egg filled with wine and other goodies, as well as a large child's Easter egg filled with toys and candy. Everyone collaborated to raise \$525 for CASA.

Another one of our generous donors, the Western Catholic Union Branch 269 in Clover Bottom held a Burger Day and 50/50 Raffle on Sunday, May 21 with all proceeds benefiting Franklin County CASA. They raised over \$700 with a match from corporate for \$500. It was a fun and well attended event!

Thank you all for your generosity and continued support!



## YOUR INVESTMENT MATTERS

The transition into adulthood is a significant and challenging developmental phase of life for all young people. Youth aging out of foster care sometimes face this without the support of a stable, loving family. With a CASA, these young adults can be positively influenced, receive support and resource, achieve stability and reach their full potential. CASA volunteer, Kathleen Boulay-Eaton, was this person for Cammi. As a young woman in her twenties, Cammi is a shift manager at her job and a full-time college student working hard to become a therapist. When speaking about her CASA, Cammi said, "Kathleen was there for me since pretty much when I entered foster care." Cammi said she is a big support system for her and considers her family. Although Kathleen's time as Cammi's CASA has ended, the two both stated they still get together to talk over lunch or dinner as friends. Kathleen said Cammi is a very caring, young woman who also plans to become a CASA volunteer to help children that have been where she has been.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 Graduating Senior CASA Kiddos! We had a youth from Sikeston, Union and St. Louis walk across the stage and earn their diploma this year.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?

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We send quarterly newsletters with CASA updates we think you'd like to hear about. As a donor, is there something we're missing that you'd like to know? If so, email <u>trista@franklincountycasa.com</u> and tell her what you'd like to see in the next newsletter! We appreciate your feedback! TUNE-IN

to KLPW 1220 AM every 1st Thursday of the month at 7:45AM to hear the latest CASA news from our Executive Director, Glenda Volmert.

Children who have experienced abuse or neglect fare better with a CASA volunteer by their side. Studies have shown:

THEY ARE: more likely to find a safe, permanent home THEY ARE: more likely to succeed in school THEY ARE: half as likely to re-enter the foster care system