



Johnson County CASA Program



DID YOU KNOW?

During the month of November, an additional 10 CHINS Petitions were filed in Johnson County, putting the county at 146 CHINS petitions for the year.

That number represents 146 children in Johnson County that needed a voice in court due to abuse and/or neglect so far this year.

Currently, Johnson County CASA has 57 children on our waitlist who need a voice!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sheri Burk: 12/18

Amanda Harris: 12/20

Kari Ryback: 12/20

Becky Lancaster: 12/21

Gretchen Doyle: 12/22

Lacey Keller: 12/25

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Janis Small: 12/22/2011

MEET GARY COFFMAN



Hats Off to GARY COFFMAN, our Johnson County CASA Volunteer for December!!

Gary Coffman, a native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, has lived in Johnson County since 1987. He and his wife, Leanne, have four children and are grandparents to eight. Before retiring five years ago, Gary was a sales representative for a tooling company. Now that he has more free time, Gary's hobbies include woodworking, reading and playing with his dogs.

Because he has always enjoyed working with kids, he has devoted over thirty years of his life to volunteering. He initially began volunteering with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Once he retired, becoming a CASA volunteer seemed like a logical way to continue working with kids. He was most appreciative of the fact that as a CASA he could help provide a voice for children in the courts.

When asked what being a CASA has meant to him over the last four years, Gary replied, "Being a CASA is both frustrating and rewarding, but serving children in this way will stretch you in ways that you could never imagine. Becoming a CASA volunteer is not for the faint of heart, but the opportunity will provide you with experiences you will remember the rest of your life."

PLEASE HELP US RECRUIT

Johnson County currently has 25 unassigned cases with 57 children needing an advocate. We need more CASA volunteers! Please share this need with family, friends and organizations you're involved with.

You may refer them to: Mandy Anderson at 317-346-4523 or manderson@co.johnson.in.us



ALREADY KNOW SOMEONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER??

Johnson County CASA has just solidified the dates for our first training for the 2025 new year! If you know someone who may be interested in training, please refer them to Mandy! Application process must be complete prior to beginning class and participants must be able to commit to ALL dates, as we cannot make up missed work or class time. Please be thinking about who you know that may be a good fit for Johnson County CASA! January Training Schedule Here:



MON. 1/27/25	6-9pm -ONLINE
MON. 2/3/25	6-9pm -IN PERSON
MON. 2/10/25	6-9pm- ONLINE
MON. 2/24/25	6-9pm IN PERSON
MON. 3/3/25	6-9pm ONLINE
MON. 3/10/25	6-9p IN PERSON

*One additional date TBD for swearing-in and Optima Training following 3/10/25 class.

NEW VOLUNTEERS IN 2024

March 2024:

Erin Arashiro	Lindsey Calhoun
Molli Mings	Tonya Thompson-Howard

July 2024:

Sheri Burk	Judson Vaught	Sukhdeep Kaur
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A HUGE CASA THANK YOU....

To Franklin Community High School Senior, Jackson Frazier!!

For those of you who had to miss our meeting last month, Jackson, as his Senior Project, put together and delivered dental hygiene bags for the children that the Johnson County CASA Program advocates for.

If you have a visit planned with the kiddos you advocate for coming up, be sure to swing on by and pick up a sweet little dental hygiene package for them to have! We have plenty to share!

And if you know Jackson, or see him in the community, be sure to thank him for his generosity and thoughtfulness. Our community will smile brighter for days to come thanks to his creative project!

Does your child have a need?

The CASA office has continued to receive donations of brand-new clothing, pajamas, socks, shoes, hats, coats, gloves, blankets and toys through the month of November. If your child is in need of any of these items, please schedule a time to stop in at the CASA office to check out the vast inventory of items that we currently have on hand. We hate to see them sit here and would love to help meet the needs of the children we serve.

COLD WEATHER IS UPON US!

If you enjoy reading, don't forget about the CASA Book Collection!

COLD WEATHER IS UPON US! WHAT BETTER TIME TO CURL UP WITH A GOOD BOOK?

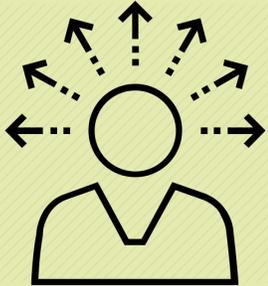
JUST A REMINDER THAT THE CASA OFFICE HAS BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR CHECK-OUT ON TOPICS THAT WE FACE IN OUR ADVOCACY WORK EVERY DAY.

WITH OVER 30 TITLES TO CHOOSE FROM, IF YOU ENJOY READING AND WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FOSTER CARE, ABUSE & NEGLECT, ADHD, DRUG ADDICTION, ABANDONMENT, STRENGTH BASED STRATEGIES, AND MORE, STOP IN AND CHECK OUT OUR BOOK COLLECTION!

CLICK THE PHOTOS BELOW TO FIND MORE INFO ON HOLIDAY & OTHER EVENTS AT JOHNSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES!

A trip to the library with the kiddos we advocate for is always a good time. Get out and see what our local libraries have to offer!



UPCOMING TRAINING-MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**DECEMBER CASA Training Academy Session****December CASA Training Academy Session This Friday (12/5/2024)****—Situational Awareness and Volunteer Safety—****December 5, (2:30-3:30 PM Eastern)**

Join Detective Corey Whaley of the Lawrence, Indiana, Police Department as he leads this important session on situational awareness and volunteer safety. Staff and volunteers will learn about the dos and don'ts to keep in mind when visiting in homes, and while out in the community as you serve in your role as an advocate. Registration for this virtual session is now open.

Register here: <https://mycourts.wufoo.com/forms/pww17sy1bev2y7/>

Stay connected!

WE HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD ON NEW MARKETING IDEAS THIS YEAR.

CHECK OUT AND FOLLOW OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE AT:

<https://www.facebook.com/JoCoCASA.indiana>

CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY BRANDED WEBSITE AT:

WWW.CASAJOHNSONCO.ORG

OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO ON THE LEFT!



Director's Corner- From the desk of Tammi Hickman:

Can you believe it is already December and Christmas is just a few weeks away?! As much as I hate to share this news, I wanted to let all of you know that we won't be hosting a Christmas party for the children this year. Due to the overwhelming volume of work Mandy and I have had the past few months, we just didn't have the time to adequately plan and prepare for a party also. And, when we looked over the placements of all the CHINS children, there are so few that are placed in Johnson County and it didn't seem to be a good use of CASA funds to spend on catering and party supplies when so few children would be able to attend. This decision hurt me very much as we have always tried to host a Christmas party for the past 15 years, but I hope you will all understand why we made this difficult decision.

But, even though we won't be hosting an in person Christmas party, there are still plenty of gifts to be shared with all the children! To assist in that, we will be hosting an open house both during the day and night time hours so you will all have an opportunity to drop in, say hello, and shop for your children! We have plenty of clothing, blankets toys to choose from and I hope you will all find time to visit the CASA office to shop for the children. To sweeten the deal, we will also have a Christmas present just for you!

Thank you everyone for all that you do for the children and the families we serve. May the 2024 Christmas season bring you all the blessings and 2025 be even better!