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By giving a voice to children, we break the cycle of abuse and neglect, one child at a time.

SAVE THE DATE! Friday, March 16, 2016 CASA's 6th annual Red Wagon Event

Mark your calendars for an evening
of fun, laughter, and making a
difference!



2015 CASA Advocate of the Year
Denis Anderson



@casawynatrona



CASA of Natrona



Coming soon to
LinkedIn



CASA at a Glance

- In 2015, CASA has had 77 Volunteer Advocates.
- In 2015 alone, those 77 Advocates have given a voice to 271 children in Natrona County.
- Those 77 Advocates have donated 1244 hours to their CASA kids and an additional 97 hours to help with community outreach projects.
- Those 77 Advocates have driven 5165 miles so far in 2015.
- Since CASA of Natrona County's inception in 2002, there have been 244 Volunteer Advocates who have given 19, 158 hours to make a difference in the lives of 1018 children in our community.

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The CASA Voice

A Newsletter for Advocates, Friends, & Supporters

CASA of Natrona County

Fall 2015

2015— Record Breaking Year for New Advocates

CASA of Natrona County is thrilled to announce that we have sworn in 22 new volunteers already in 2015...and we still have 2 more training classes to go this year! Thanks to these 22 volunteers, along with our other 55 dedicated advocates, we can truly say CASA is giving a voice to abused and neglected children in Natrona County.

Although CASA is proud to announce we currently have 77 Advocates, there are still children on our waiting list, whose voices are going unheard. As the rate of abused and neglected children in Natrona County continues to rise, so does the need for CASA Advocates. Don't sit quietly while another child goes through the system alone; lift up a child's voice. A child's life. Volunteer today!

If you are interested attending our upcoming October training, please fill out our online application at

www.casaofnatronacounty.net or contact CASA Program Manager Cammie Mengwasser at 307-237-0889 or by email at cammie.casa@mcmurry.net.

Sign up today! Deadline to enroll is September 25th!



May 2015 Swearing In: Wendee Tobin, Honorable Catherine E. Wilking, Chrystal Taylor. Not pictured: Kallie Allington.



July 2015 Swearing In: Mary Austin, Andrea Morgan, Honorable Catherine E. Wilking, Katherine Ruiz. Not pictured: Lori Cetak.



March 2015 Swearing In- Back row: Pitt Covert, LaRae Covert, Tammie Bertelson, Erin Essary, Shawndra Cooper, Honorable W. Thomas Sullins, Doug Floyd, Brian Helling, Don Luke. Front row: Bev Dye, Jamie Haigler, Jeanni Jones, Debbie May, Linda Toohey, Terri Diggs, Cathy Rosser, Andrea Aguilera-Moreno.

CASA Advocate Training Goes Online

All too often we hear "I'd love to volunteer, but I don't have 30 hours to sit in training" or "I don't have 30 hours of childcare available." You are now in luck!...CASA training is now partially online! While our training course is still 30 hours, approximately 18 of the 30 hours is online, and available to you to complete at your convenience during a 5 week period. That's right!...we will

train you on CASA's role, National CASA guidelines, and other general circumstances you may encounter during your service with CASA (substance abuse, poverty, domestic violence, educational issues, etc) from the comfort of your own home, day or night, when you have the time. The other 12 hours of training will be in person, during 4-3 hour classes. In those 4 in-person

classes, we will train you on our local program policies and expectations, Wyoming laws pertaining to child abuse/neglect, the Multi-Disciplinary Team Approach, what to expect in a formal court setting, and how to write a court report. This new, flexible training allows all who wish to volunteer, the ability to do so, regardless of your schedule!

CK Mechanical's 2nd Annual "Canines & Kids" Golf Tournament



CK Mechanical is hosting the 2nd Annual Canines and Kids Golf Tournament on Friday, September 11th at the Paradise Valley Country Club. 1:00 pm is a shot gun start to a scramble tournament to benefit CASA of Natrona County and The Pet Ring Foundation.

Get out, enjoy some golf and support a couple worthy causes at the same time. The weather should be great with a cause that is equally as great. There will be hole prizes, cash awards to the top 3 teams and other fun surprises throughout the day.

Teams are \$400 each (32 team max). Each team will receive 10% of their combined handicap. We encourage registered guests to arrive with plenty of time to eat lunch and visit the Pro Shop prior to the departure of the carts. There are sponsorships still available as well. If you are interested in sponsoring or playing, please see our website for more details as they arise. www.casaofnatronacounty.net



"It is important to fix your eyes forward on what you can do, not back on what you cannot change."

Letter from the Executive Director

CASA of Natrona County is now in its 14th year standing up for children. CASA advocates use their voice daily concerning the abused and neglected children they advocate for. I am so aware of just how important it is to use our voices now, in ways that we have not used them before and make sure that CASA is where it should really be..... in the hearts and minds of the public... of EVERYONE.

Casper is so fortunate to be a community that truly believes that it takes a village to raise a child, and instead of just believing it, they step up and do it. Every CASA volunteer that gives a voice to the abused and neglected children believe with all their being that they are in the right place, doing the right thing and showing these children that no matter what, someone, they, will be there for that child every step of the way. The CASA advocate says everyday "I am for the child." It is incredibly important to them that the children they stand up for, stand beside and speak for, know not that they just believe it, but they "show" that every day, every way, that they are for the Child.

CASA has a commitment to be for the child. Our universal message, from Coast to Coast, in every state, is "I AM FOR THE CHILD." CASA will not stop until every child in every state has a CASA volunteer who will be the one constant caring dedicated

person, who through three foster homes, four schools and two case workers, who will always be there, always show up and always speak for their best interests, from their hearts and minds, because they are for that child..... every time, every day. That is the commitment that CASA has made to the children in our country. That makes me realize just how fortunate Casper is to have these dedicated individuals who are impacting children's lives, not just for today, but forever.

I hope that every person in our amazing community will take the same oath that National CASA and the staff and advocates at CASA of Natrona County have taken..... I AM THE FOR CHILD.

It is important to fix your eyes forward on what you can do, not back on what you cannot change.

- Chandra Ortiz



CASA of Natrona County
Executive Director,
Chandra Ortiz



I'm interested in becoming a CASA Advocate...what's the next step?

1. Go to CASA of Natrona County's website www.casaofnatronacounty.net and fill out the online application.
2. Someone from CASA will call you within 48 hours of receipt of your online application to schedule an in-person interview to discuss training and necessary background paperwork.
3. Fill out the necessary background paperwork and have it returned to the CASA office before training starts!
4. Attend Training!!!

Do I need any special qualifications to become a CASA?

NO!...If you are concerned about the children in our community who have been removed from their homes due to neglect or abuse, and you want to prevent them from getting lost in the system, then you already have what it takes to become a CASA volunteer! All you need is a little bit of training in how best to be an advocate for these children, and the willingness to make an 18-month commitment to the program. We will teach you the rest!

What are the dates for the October 2015 Training?

- Deadline to enroll: September 25th
- Online/ FLEX training begins October 9th
- In Person Trainings: October 13th, 20th, 27th, & November 3rd (all Tuesdays) from 5:30-8:30PM

Advocate Spotlight: John Wallingford

When John Wallingford became a CASA advocate in June of 2014, I'm sure he had no idea that in 15 short months, he would touch the lives of 7 children in 4 different families. After being sworn in, John immediately jumped in and got started on his first case; a case with 4 children! John quickly gained rapport with the children, and their parents, and was often a friendly face that showed up to the family's home at dinner time carrying in a couple of pizza boxes. John embraced this family's strengths, and supported their weaknesses.

One afternoon, John realized that the mother's lack of gas money and stable transportation was a barrier to the children getting to school. Being the problem solver that John is, he immediately sprang in to action to assist the family. He asked the mom if she was ok with the children riding the bus to school. Mom agreed, so John called the Bus Depot and worked out all the details of getting the 11 year old girl signed up to ride the bus that afternoon. Knowing that the little girl would be anxious about riding the bus, as she never had, John waited for her outside of school. When the little girl arrived outside, John's smiling face greeted her and made sure she got on the correct bus. John then drove his own vehicle behind the bus to the "bus hub" and made sure that she transferred to the correct bus and did not get lost. Again, John followed the bus to the bus stop, parked, and when the little girl got off the bus at the stop close to her home, John walked her the rest of the way to ensure she got home safely and learned her route.

"I am amazed you [John] have not been doing this forever, you seem like a pro. You have definitely been an invaluable asset to the team and this family!"

-Amanda Barnard, DFS Case Worker,



"John's dedication to his cases and willingness to work with the families involved on a variety of levels makes him a great advocate."

-Vickie McMurry,
CASA Case Manager

This story about how John made a difference in the life of this child is a drop in the bucket of "John stories" in both his advocacy at CASA, and in his everyday life. There are a thousand more stories about John, just like this one. John is one of the most humble people I have had the pleasure of meeting, so humble in fact, he will probably be mortified when he opens this newsletter to see his name and picture inside. John is not a CASA for the notoriety. John is not a CASA for the praise. John is a CASA because he truly wants to make a difference in the lives of the children he reaches, and give them a chance at a brighter future. We need more Johns in this world.

We cannot thank you enough, John, for your commitment to these children's future, day in and day out, rain or shine, no matter how busy you are. You are a shining example that one person can make a difference!