

CASA of Natrona County



Spring 2017

“There’s No Place Like Home”

CASA’s Annual Red Wagon Event—“There’s No Place Like Home” was a huge success. Over 400 community members in attendance heard the story of Teagan’s adoption and the difference her Advocate, John Wallingford made in her life. To Teagan, John is a hero, a fighter and “Grandpa John.” The her now forever family, he was a part of the “dream team” that stuck by her side, made her voice heard and pushed along the agenda for Teagan’s best interests. John was dedicated to making sure this little girl had stability and an environment she could thrive in, one where she could be a happy child with loving parents who made her their priority.

The community of Casper came together on April



Teagan, with her Advocate John Wallingford

7th, 2017 to support CASA of Natrona County and hear the mission and understand the impact an Advocate Volunteer has in the lives of the children they fight for. That night they heard just one of the many stories, heard from just one of the 84 Advocate volunteers fighting for the 300+ abused children in our program.

Thank you Casper Community, donors, supporters and friends for a hugely successful evening. Your commitment and generosity ensure we have the caring advocates in place for every child that enters our program.

CASA raised over \$98,000 thanks to you. You are truly making a difference in the lives of children.



Advocate Karla Dundas



Advocate Alice Vanderveen



Advocate Denis Anderson



Advocate Jourdan Mason



Advocate Toni Billings

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Advocate of the Year—John Wallingford

John Wallingford, an advocate with CASA of Natrona County was awarded Advocate of the Year at our Annual Red Wagon Event on April 7, 2017. John became a CASA advocate in July of 2014. In that time John, has helped 9 children find their permanent home, some through reunification with their biological parents and others through helping them find

their forever family. John has the courage to speak on behalf of the children who need a voice, even when his may be the only voice. He has the heart to continue to care about each of the children he advocates for and always considers what is the very best for them and he has the strength to continue to fight for these children, even when the fight is long.

John believes that he is only doing “what anyone else would do” but we know that what he is doing is far more. He is ensuring that each child that he advocates for has someone who is there for them and someone that will be sure that what is best for them will not be overlooked. We are so thankful to have John advocating on behalf of the children of Natrona County.



John believe that he is only doing “*what anyone else would do,*” but we that he is doing far more.

Meet the new Wyoming State Organization Director, Jennifer Childs

Jennifer Childs became the Executive Director of the newly incorporated WY CASA Network on March 1st. Jennifer’s path to CASA was a winding one. In 1997 she went to work in a residential treatment setting. Her first case, a child tragically abused in foster care, made her decide to spend the rest of her career helping others. Jennifer broadened her skill set to include marketing and resource development, especially grant-writing. In addition to working in various human services agencies, Jennifer chose to “give back” by writing grants at no cost for various Wyoming non-profits in her spare time. A

local CASA Director who had worked with Jennifer encouraged her to apply for the state position.

As Jennifer assumes her new role, she is excited to be moving back to her home state of Wyoming where she will work from a remote office. Her first-year goal is to open a new program in the 8th Judicial District and expand the current volunteer base at each local program through a statewide initiative.

Jennifer is married and has two adult daughters. She is currently enrolled to

complete a Legal Studies program. In her spare time, she enjoys snow skiing. Jennifer can be reached at wycasanetwork@gmail.com or 307-756-2892.





4th Annual CASA Classic

Get your clubs out, it's that time of year. The 4th Annual CASA Classic will be held on Friday, September 8th, 2017.

Join us for a great day of golf, fun all for a great cause at the Paradise Valley Country Club. This tournament is a 4-person scramble with a 1:00 P.M. shotgun start. There is dinner and awards after play.

The golf tournament is a time for us to join together to celebrate the mission of CASA of Natrona County, while at the same time raising money to help these abused children in our community.

Last year CASA volunteers advocated for 330 abused and neglected children. A child with a CASA Advocate in their lives

spend on average, seven (7) months less time in foster care.

We are accepting Sponsorships, Teams and Donations. See the enclosed forms.

Grab your family, friends and co-workers and Tee It Up For CASA!



CASA of Natrona County

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www.casaofnatronacounty.net



I Am For The Child. I Am YOU.



Advocate Ben Mills

You can be a voice for a child who is living in foster care, who has been abused and/or neglected by their caregiver. You can be the one consistent caring person who comes to visit them, who listens to what they want, who expresses to the team

and to the judge what is best for them and allows them to be heard. You can be the one person who can change the course of a child's life and allows them the opportunity to have a better outcome.

The next Advocate Training class is July 5th.

To sign up, go to www.casaofnatronacouty.net and complete the online ap-

plication. You will get a call within 48 hours after submission.

CASA Advocates listen first. Then they act.

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