

CASA of Natrona County  
1701 East E St., Ste. 120  
Casper, WY 82601



Winter 2017

# CASA of Natrona County



## You Can Be The Voice

As the number of children coming in to care increases, so does the realization that as a community, we need to engage in this fight. We all need to be a part of something social and responsible—helping the abused and neglected children in our community have a voice!

The goal of CASA of Natrona County is to recruit, educate and empower community volunteers to advocate in court, for the best interests of abused and neglected children in our community, to ensure that each and every child is able to grow up in a safe and permanent home.

Being a CASA volunteer requires your compassion and willingness to fight on a child's behalf. You may or may not be rewarded with a truly wonderful outcome on your case ... you may be able to help a severely abused child get a new start in life with a loving family ... you may just do the best you can. We do know that the child you are assigned to will have a chance of a better life in a stable home if you are involved.

Take the next step.

1. Go to our website [www.casaofnatronacounty.net](http://www.casaofnatronacounty.net) and fill out the online application.
2. Someone from our office will call you within 48 hours of receipt of your application to schedule an in person meeting to talk about training and the background paperwork.
3. Fill out necessary paperwork and have it returned to the CASA office before training starts!

### Upcoming Trainings:

#### January/February 2017

- In session now.

#### April/May 2017:

- Deadline to enroll is April 17th.
- Online training begins April 24th (day the online class is available to begin).
- In person training dates are May 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th from 5:30-8:30 at the CASA Office.

#### July/August 2017:

- Deadline to enroll is July 5th.
- Online training begins July 17th (day the online class is available to begin).
- In person training dates are July 27th, August 3rd, 10th, & 17th from 5:30-8:30 at the CASA Office.

### 2016 Stats

- 327 Children Served
- 26 New Advocates Trained & Sworn In
- 144 Children Went to a Safe Permanent Home
- 2154 Hours Dedicated by Advocate Volunteers
- 11,138 Miles Driven by Advocate Volunteers



### THANK YOU

Spearheaded by Advocate Dorothy Reimann, we are grateful of the generosity of our Casper Community. The patrons of Wind City Books donated over 180 books to our children in the CASA program.

Thank you Casper Community, Wind City Books and Dorothy Reimann!

I am for the child™



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### Inside this issue:

You Can Be The	2
There's No Place Like Home	2
Meet The Team	2
Advocate Spotlight	3

# There's No Place Like Home

"Home is a place we all must find, child. It's not just a place where you eat or sleep. Home is knowing. Knowing your mind, knowing your heart, knowing your courage. If we know ourselves, we're always home, anywhere."  
~ Glinda the Good

## CASA of Natrona County

### 7th Annual Red Wagon Event: Follow The Yellow Brick Road

There are over 300 kids each year that are appointed to CASA of Natrona County, and placed in the foster care system. Like Dorothy, when she first lands in Munchkin Land, these youth are oftentimes forced to navigate the complexities of life on their own. It only takes one caring person to change the course of their life for the better. Dorothy's lucky—she found three! Together they were able to achieve their goal of finding the Emerald City and meeting the Wizard of Oz. CASA of Natrona County matches foster youth with specially trained, court appointed volunteers who provide on-going support, guidance and hope. CASA advocates change lives and help ensure our community's most at-risk youth have a safe place to call home. You will hear stories, much like the Tin Woodman, Cowardly Lion and Scarecrow—from the Foster/Adoptive Family, CASA Advocate, Guardian ad Litem and most importantly, the child. They all play an important part in the success and outcome of finding a safe place to call HOME. Hear one adoption story through the perspective of everyone on the case. As there were many setbacks and delays in Dorothy's trip to get home, there are similar delays, struggles and setbacks that can happen before a child in the foster care system is finally able to get back home. CASA invites you to join us in an evening of laughter, spirit, community and fun. (Dress is casual attire, red shoes encouraged!)

#### The Evening

6:00 pm—7:00 pm

#### Reception

Heavy Appetizer Stations,  
Full Cash Bars,  
Dessert & Silent Auction

7:00 pm—7:45 pm

#### Program

Drawing for the Spirit Wagon

7:45 pm— 9:00 pm

#### Path to a Home

Perspective of all—Child, Foster Family, Guardian ad Litem,  
CASA Advocate

9:00 pm— 11:00 pm

#### Paddle Raiser

Music from Local Favorites  
(and dancing if you'd like to give those red shoes a spin...)

Friday, April 7, 2017

6:00 pm

Fairgrounds Industrial Building

## Meet The Team



**Andi Braden:** Office Manager/Accounting Specialist  
Andi joined CASA in January 2016. Not only did she bring with her accounting specialties, she brought humor and creative talent. Andi's cheerful and helpful expression is exactly what you want to hear on the other end of the phone.



**Vickie McMurry:** Program Manager  
While Vickie has been at CASA for over 3 years, her passion for helping children in foster care systems and abuse/neglect situations has been going on for over 18 years. She is a real mentor and leader to comforting, challenging and supporting the case managers she oversees and the volunteer advocates she supports and appreciates. Vickie displays passion and commitment to protecting children that cannot be questioned.



**Shawn Coleman:** Case Manager  
Shawn joined CASA just over a year ago. He brings an altering perspective that allows for more in-depth discussions and allows us all to remain grounded. Shawn is dedicated and passionate about the children and families he works with. He truly wants to assure there is a difference made in their lives.



**Hailey Doyle:** Case Manager  
Hailey, fresh to the profession and fresh to CASA, but already has that perceptive intuition and dedication. She brings excitement to her position and is always willing to lend her creativity. Hailey has great compassion and understanding with the volunteer advocates she oversees and has the ability to help them through the difficult cases they have.

## Advocate Spotlight: SHANNAN MORRIS

Shannan Morris was sworn in as a CASA advocate on October 10<sup>th</sup> of 2015. Since joining CASA, Shannan has advocated for 3 children, has driven 248 miles and volunteered almost 80 hours of her time for her CASA kids. In addition to being an amazing advocate, Shannan has supported our CASA office by assisting us during our annual Red Wagon event and has been an integral part of the Superhero 5K planing committee.

During our 'I am for the child' campaign, we asked advocates to come take a picture with our 'I am for the child' sign and tell us why they are "for the child." Shannan, like many of our advocates, gave a great example of what it means to be a CASA advocate. Shannan stated "I want to make a difference in the life of a child who needs me. I want to be a positive light for a child who may be fighting darkness. I want to be the voice for the child so he/she is heard."

Shannan's message can resonate with all of us and is another reminder of why the advocates are the backbone of our organization. We are proud to call Shannan an advocate and especially proud of the work all our advocates do for the abused and neglected children in our county.

Thank you for everything that you do.

