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CASA Newsletter

A Better Life for Every Child

August 2014

Fun Activities to do with your CASA kids!

Here are some great ideas of fun things to do when you visit with your CASA children:

*Find out what sports they enjoy playing and play with them.

*If you are a coach of a certain sport or really enjoy playing a sport, try teaching that child a your sport.

*If your CASA child is working on homework during one of your visits, have them teach you what they are working on. (this builds rapport and allows you to see where they are developmentally)

*Bring art supplies and do crafts together.

*Bring a favorite movie or game to do together.

*If the child has chores, have them show you how to do the chores, sometimes you could even help them with the chores. Teamwork!

*Go for a walk outside or see if the foster parent is willing to bring the child to meet you at a park or other fun outdoor activity. (The first Tuesday of every month Klehm Arboretum is free. The third Thursday of every month at the Anderson Japanese Gardens is free. The Rockford Art Museum is free every Tuesday from 10-5

*Read a book with your CASA child or have the foster parent meet you at the

library to pick out books together.

Engaging in play is a great way to build your relationship with your CASA child. Anytime you can find a common interest it helps strengthen the bond between the CASA and child. You don't always have to be speaking directly with your CASA child to gather information that will be helpful for court.

Remember to always take an interest in what your CASA child likes to do. Giving these children the feeling that they are special is important, it doesn't matter how we go about it.

From the CASA Office:

Fall is in the air! Football is back on TV, the kids are in school, and the leaves are dropping from the trees! This is my favorite time of year so there is an extra big smile on my face these days.

We have a FULL month ahead of us. With school starting up again, I know I will see many of you in the office waiting for court. Please keep in contact with your CASA kids through their school administrators for the updated info on the children's progress. The Judges rely on you for the most accurate information.

Please stay on the lookout for a notice coming from our Training and Retention Coordinator, Cassandra Richardson, about updating your Mandated Reporter Training. Also, Cassandra has been busy putting together some incredible In-service trainings for all of you. These trainings came specifically from your requests. This month's schedule will be sent out shortly!

As you know, CASA is a non-for-profit organization. We do not receive federal funding. We rely solely on donations from our generous community supporters

to operate. Our annual appeal will be mailed out shortly. Some of you are included on this mailing. Please do not feel pressured to donate. We believe the time, energy, and service you give to your CASA children is donation enough. However, if you would like to donate please feel free. Our Board of Directors work very hard to raise over \$200,000 to keep our program growing and helping our children find safe and permanent homes.

Thank you for your dedicated service!



We want to **thank** and **recognize** the CASAs who closed a case during the month of August.

A CASA's dedication to the children they represent is greatly appreciated, and we are confident that efforts on behalf of these children will reap many benefits for them in the future.

Thank you:

Cherie Dominguez

Kathy Donnelly

Dena Hobbs

Rachel Schultz

Robin Griswold

Lenore Lund

Jill Gentry

**UPCOMING ADVOCATE
SUPPORT GROUP
MEETINGS:**

September 16th: 12-1 PM

September 30th: 6-7 PM

These meetings are held at Heartland Community Church in the Bride's room. Any questions contact Gail at the CASA office



Time Sheets for August 2014:

We want to thank and recognize the following CASAs and Board members who turned in a timesheet last month. We appreciate your extra effort!

**Bernie Sehr
Lonii Schinder
Tom Harrolle
Faye Marcus
Kate Schnell
Laurie Cecil
Angela Collins
Lauria Johnson
Sharon Pickett
Elaine Leslie**

**Burnette Shivers
Raquel Vera
Carole Perrin
Karen Christianson
Randy Cecil
Marilyn Clark
Bruce Erickson
Dena Hobbs
Joyce LaMont
April Juarez**



Kegel's Ride & City Market

Coming up in September:

Kegel's Superhero Ride on Sept 6th: Come out for our motorcycle ride to raise awareness and money for the Winnebago Co. CASA program. Superhero costumes are optional!

Rockford City Market on Friday Sept 12th from 3 -8 PM: Come out and enjoy an evening by the river and check out all the fun booths at the Rockford City Market, including the CASA outreach booth.

STATISTICS

A sincere THANK YOU to all of our CASA advocates who continue to serve their children and the CASA program. Your contribution in hours and miles for August 2014 total:

338 hours and 2170 miles

Great Work CASAs!

CASA Night at Casey's Pub

Come out and join CASA for a fun filled night at Casey's Pub.

In addition to the large drawing there will also be a Chinese auction area including:

Tickets are \$10 dollars and include entry to win a 50 inch plasma TV along with pizza, pasta, salad, and cookies.

An American Girl doll/book set. Abreo Restaurant gift card package, Napleton's Car detailing package, and an Anytime Fitness Package!

Tickets can be purchased in the CASA office or on the CASA website:

www.winnebagoountycasa.org

We hope to see you all there!

September 2014 Docket:

09/02/14	9:00 AM	10JA60	CASA: E. Leslie	Permanency Review
09/04/14	9:00 AM	14JA223-225	CASA: Vayr	Pretrial Conference
	10:00 AM	14JA226-227	CASA: Ingle	Pretrial Conference
	3:30 PM	09JA124	CASA: Fierz	Status on School
09/05/14	9:00 AM	12JA438	CASA: Schindler	Permanency Review
	9:00 AM	13JA81-82	CASA: Blanco	Status on Services
	9:00 AM	13JA288	CASA: McKinney	Permanency Review
	3:30 PM	14J03	CASA: Fierz	Status on School
	4:00 PM	14JA135, 153-155	CASA: Vacant	Status on School
09/08/14	10:00 AM	09JA406	CASA: Webster/Ralston	Permanency Review
	10:00 AM	13JA374	CASA: J. Miller	Status on School
09/09/14	9:00 AM	13JA355, 584	CASA: L. Johnson	Review
	9:00 AM	14JA106-109	CASA: Schwenk	Review
	11:00 AM	14JA134	CASA: Dane	Permanency Review
	4:00 PM	08JA327-328	CASA: Staff	Permanency Review
09/10/14	9:00 AM	13JA406	CASA: Vera	Adjudication
09/11/14	9:00 AM	13JA100-101	CASA: Rutz	Status on Summer School
	9:00 AM	14JA237-240	CASA: Szula	Pretrial Conference
09/17/14	9:00 AM	10JA440	CASA: Schaal	Status on School
	9:00 AM	14JA186	CASA: Franzen	Status on School
09/18/14	9:00 AM	14JA223-225	CASA: Vayr	Adjudication
09/19/14	4:00 PM	11J09	CASA: Sargent	Status on School
	4:00 PM	13J15	CASA: Harrolle	Status on School
	4:00 PM	14J14	CASA: Vacant	Status on School
09/22/14	9:00 AM	13JA102	CASA: Hosmann	Status on School
	9:00 AM	13JA260	CASA: Hoople	Status on School
	1:30 PM	09JA78-79	CASA: Dane	Permanency Review
	1:30 PM	11JA132	CASA: Ingle	Permanency Review
	1:30 PM	12JA338-339	CASA: Keeling/Green	Permanency Review
09/23/14	9:00 AM	12JA349-350, 88	CASA: Dyreson	Permanency Review
	11:00 AM	13JA422	CASA: Royal	Status on School
	1:30 PM	13JA534-538	CASA: McKinney	Permanency Review
	2:30 PM	13JA397-399	CASA: Cecil/Cecil	Permanency Review
	3:00 PM	13JA30-31	CASA: DiTomassi	Permanency Review
	4:30 PM	11JA401-402	CASA: March	Status on F case/poss. Closure
09/25/14	9:00 AM	14JA226-227	CASA: Ingle	Adjudication
09/26/14	8:30 AM	10JA64-65, 11JA433, 13JA05	CASA: A. Sigener	Status on Appeal
	8:30 AM	11JA15-16	CASA: Perrin	Status on Appeal
	3:30 PM	10JA86	CASA: Staff	Status on School
	3:30 PM	11J21	CASA: Fierz	Status on School
	3:30 PM	12JA53, 280-281	CASA: Kickertz	Status on School
	3:30 PM	12J37	CASA: Turner	Status on School
	3:30 PM	13JA337	CASA: Teske	Status on School
	4:00 PM	14JA117-118	CASA: Young	Status
	4:00 PM	11JA205, 12JA134	CASA: Vining	Status
09/29/14	9:00 AM	13JA343-344	CASA: Sidener	Status on Services
	10:00AM	13JA223-225	CASA: Gentry	Permanency Review
	11:00 AM	13JA366-367	CASA: Pickett	Permanency Review
	4:00 PM	13JA231-234	CASA: Christianson	Permanency Review
09/30/14	3:00 PM	10JA121	CASA: Schaal	Permanency Review
	3:30 PM	12JA123	CASA: Tell	Permanency Review
	4:00 PM	12JA272	CASA: Holmes	Review
	4:30 PM	07JA86	CASA: Sigener	Status on Placement
	4:30 PM	13J09	CASA: K. Harvey	Permanency Review

Reminder: Please make sure to complete your mandated reporter training online and submit your completion certificate to Cassandra at the CASA office, no later than the end of September. Thank you!



CASA Birthdays:

To the following advocates and friends who will be celebrating a September birthday:

Happy Birthday!!

Jill Gentry	09/04	CASA for 8 years
Namor Barnett Jr.	09/05	CASA for 9 years
Susan Sabrowski	09/11	Friend of CASA
Michael Harvey	09/12	CASA for 2 years
Kathy Laird	09/19	CASA for 2 years
Jeanine Elsberg	09/28	CASA for 5 years
Dena Hobbs	09/30	New CASA

Must Do's as a CASA:

1. See your CASA child/children at least monthly
2. Keep in touch with the case worker on the case
3. Turn in court reports two weeks before court date
4. Attend court dates for your CASA case
5. Keep in touch with the parents on the case

From your Advocate Rep:

Hello again,
Here it is, the end of August, Labor Day in a few days. A beautiful summer it has been and a busy one! But busy is good. I would rather be 'busy' than standing around, wondering what to do next. Have we had enough rain? I guess for some areas, but not for others. So we just roll with it. What choice do we have?

Did we not have a wonderful time at the **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**. It was great to see so many advocates there, especially if you've not seen them for a while. Then all the other guests made the night a 'grand affair'. We applaud Raquel for giving us an outstanding message about CASA. Any of us listening to her could feel her words, knowing she was speaking from her heart. Thank you Raquel!! Also, thank you for securing a spot for CASA at the Black Family Reunion. I had a grand time telling anyone who would listen about CASA. We had at least seven to sign our sheet

and gave out two applications. Again, thanks to Raquel and **Outreach**.

Again we thank Taryn and everyone in the CASA office for the work they do to keep our program operating at the highest level. We give a special 'Thank you' to Taryn for the Advocate Update Training session. No matter how long we have been an advocate, there is always new things to learn and others areas where we need to be refreshed. So thanks again. Read your **NEWSLETTER**. It's filled with important dates and valuable information and good recipes. Don't forget the **'Must Do's as a CASA'**.

Food for thought:
"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

Nelson Mandela

Shivers

CASA in the Community:

Our Outreach Coordinator, Raquel Vera, and CASA volunteers will be selling soda and bottled water at the 2nd Annual Winnebago County Diversity Concert: We are One On September 20th at Davis Park from 1-7 PM

CASA will also be donating an item to help support La Voz Latina's annual dinner fundraiser on September 26th.

Spreading CASA awareness!

CASA's outreach team will be making presentations to the following organizations in the next month:

Legal Secretaries of Winnebago Association
Christ United Methodist Church

Thanks to everyone for their support!

CASA RACE THE RUNWAY!!!

Get ready for the first ever **CASA Race the Runway** event!

October 4th at the Rockford

International Airport

There will be a 1 mile, 5 K Run/Walk, and kids fun run all starting at 8 AM.

Register in the **CASA** office or at:

www.casacetherunway.org



Any suggestions or ideas that you have about the **CASA** newsletter, please contact Larissa Stern at the **CASA** office or by email.

Emails:

Taryn Marko-Director: casataryn@wincoil.us
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Jillisa Benton-Case Manager: casajillisa@wincoil.us
Raquel Vera-Outreach Coordinator/Case Manager.: casaraquel@wincoil.us
Gail Wemlinger-Case Manager: casagail@wincoil.us
Cassandra Richardson-Training & Retention Coordinator.: casacassandra@wincoil.us

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