

## CASA Fact Sheet

-  CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates.
-  CASA volunteers are trained citizens who are appointed by a judge to speak in court for the safety and well-being of abused and neglected children.
-  CASA programs in Nebraska operate in compliance with the Nebraska Court Appointed Special Advocate Act (Nebraska Revised Statutes § 43-3701 *et seq.*) and National CASA Standards for CASA Programs
-  CASA has been in Nebraska for over 25 years.
-  22 CASA programs serve 36 Nebraska counties
-  1,237 Nebraska children had a CASA volunteer in 2011.
-  561 CASA volunteers advocated for abused and neglected children throughout Nebraska in 2011.
-  On December 31, 2011, there were 1,400 children on a waiting list for CASA services (represents only children in the counties where there is a CASA program).
-  Children with a CASA volunteer spend an average of *four fewer months* in out-of-home care than children without a CASA volunteer.
-  **If the average length of stay in care were shortened by just one month for each of Nebraska's foster children, it would realize an annual savings to Nebraska taxpayers of \$10.6 million**

### **\*A child with a CASA/GAL volunteer is more likely to find a safe, permanent home:**

- More likely to be adopted
- Half as likely to re-enter foster care
- Substantially less likely to spend time in long-term foster care
- More likely to have a plan for permanency, especially children of color

### **Children with CASA volunteers get more help while in the system . . .**

- More services are ordered for the children

### **. . . and are more likely to have a consistent, responsible adult presence**

- Volunteers spend significantly more time with the child than a paid guardian ad litem

### **CASA volunteers improve representation of children.**

- Reduce the time needed by lawyers
- More likely than paid lawyers to file written reports
- For each of nine duties, judges rated CASA/GAL volunteers more highly than attorneys
- Highly effective in having their recommendations adopted by the court

### **Children with CASA volunteers do better in school . . .**

- More likely to pass all courses
- Less likely to have poor conduct in school
- Less likely to be expelled

\*Source: National CASA Association.

## **CASA Programs in Nebraska**

- CASA Connection** (Platte & Colfax Counties)
- CASA For Douglas County**
- CASA for Lancaster County**
- CASA for York County**
- CASA Project of Dodge County**
- CASA of Northeast Nebraska** (Madison County)
- CASA of Scotts Bluff County**
- CASA of South Central Nebraska** (Adams, Clay, Nuckolls & Webster Counties)
- Cass County CASA**
- \* Cheyenne County CASA**
- Dawson/Gosper County CASA**
- Fillmore County CASA**
- Heartland CASA** (Hall, Hamilton, Howard & Merrick Counties)
- Kearney/Buffalo County CASA**
- Keith County CASA** (Keith, Perkins & Garden Counties)
- \*\* Lincoln County CASA**
- Otoe County CASA**
- Phelps/Harlan County CASA**
- Prairie Plains CASA** (Red Willow, Furnas & Hitchcock Counties)
- Sarpy County CASA**
- Saunders County CASA**
- Southeast Nebraska CASA** (Seward & Jefferson Counties)

\* New program in 2010.  
\*\* New program in 2011.

To give a child a CASA volunteer is to give them a voice.

To give them a voice is to give them hope,  
and to give them hope is to give them the world.

~Pamela Butler, former CASA child.