



# Johnson County CASA Program



### UPDATED STATS:

During the month of January, an additional 11 CHINS Petitions were filed, creating 6 new cases.

We ended the 2024 year with 65 children on our waitlist.

Despite adding 11 children and 6 cases to our caseload, and adding no new volunteers last month, we are down from 65 to 43 children on our waitlist!

**THANK YOU SO MUCH** to those of you who were able to pick up an extra case as we work to build our volunteer base back up!

### 🎁 FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS 🎁

**Janis Small: 2/6**

**Greg Menefee: 2/16**

**Happy Birthday!**

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- **Vince Cullers: 7 years of service on 2/5**
- **Bruce Gale: 7 years of service on 2/5**
- **Jan Fredbeck: 6 years of service on 2/27**

**Thank you for your continued loyalty and commitment to the CASA Program!**

## Getting to Know Your Fellow Volunteers

### MEET GRETCHEN DOYLE



**“Even with a busy job, travel, and a household that could rival a sitcom, I find the time because helping even one child have a better future is worth it.”**

What a fabulous outlook! If you run into Gretchen in the community or at one of our events, perhaps she could recommend a good movie and or pizza place!



Hats off to Gretchen Doyle, the CASA Volunteer for February.

Gretchen Doyle manages to find time to be a CASA volunteer while working as Vice President of Corporate Operations for Everline Coatings and Services, a job which has her traveling both in and outside the United States. She does these things along with being the mother of five children, ages 16 to 1 year. Gretchen is quick to say that her husband, Jeff, “is my rock, my biggest cheerleader and the one who brings calm to my chaos.”

Gretchen grew up in Greenwood, Indiana, so she is very familiar with Johnson County. During the last five years, the Doyle family has lived in Bargersville where Gretchen admits that her favorite family tradition has become movie night. Every other Friday night, the Doyle family gathers to eat pizza and watch a movie together, which they hopefully have all agreed upon.

While being a CASA volunteer for nearly four years, Gretchen does admit that being a CASA can be heartbreaking and frustrating at times. She feels that this is often due to imperfections within the foster and judicial systems. But she goes on to say, “Even with a busy job, travel, and a household that could rival a sitcom, I find the time because helping even one child have a better future is worth it.”



### Does your child have a need?

Don't forget- We are still fully stocked on clothing, hats, coats, gloves, blankets and more! We still have plenty of items on hand, so if you discover your child has a need, feel free to reach out to Tammi or Mandy to **schedule a time to drop by!**

### Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Community Project

You may have received my email explaining that I am currently a part of the 2025 Leadership Johnson County Signature Program, planning to graduate in May. As part of our "graduation requirements" we were put into small groups and each group has to put together and complete a project that benefits the community in some way.

My project group has partnered with SAWs (Servants At Work), an organization that builds wheelchair accessible ramps for people with permanent/long-term disabilities in no-income/low-income situations who are otherwise trapped in their homes, all over the state of Indiana.

**Our group is holding a Ramp-a-thon on Friday April 11<sup>th</sup>** with the goal to eliminate the entire waitlist in Johnson County in one day. SAWs provides all the funding and materials, they really just struggle to find volunteers to assist with the builds.

I would love for anyone who is interested in this project to join us! There will be a morning and an afternoon shift, and you can sign up for one or both. You can join individually, you can form your own team of friends and family, or perhaps a few teams of CASA volunteers. My team has already gotten together and built one ramp back in November. It is super easy and requires no special skills. If I can do it, anyone can do it! 😊 -photos attached on next page.

I have attached the graphic on the next page, as well, that we are using to spread the word. All you have to do is scan the QR code to sign up. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me on my cell or by email at any time and I'm happy to chat with you about the project.

I know some companies offer volunteer hours, so please feel free to share this opportunity with your friends, families, co-workers, and employers. Worst case scenario, we have too many teams and we can either expand to our surrounding counties, or teams can be waitlisted for a future build, as applications are received for assistance every day, and the need is always there. What a great problem that would be!! We are still ironing those details out. **Registration deadline is March 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**To learn more about SAWs and FAQs you can visit [www.sawsramps.org](http://www.sawsramps.org)**

**To learn more about Leadership Johnson County you can visit:**  
[www.leadershipjohnsoncounty.org](http://www.leadershipjohnsoncounty.org)



## Ramp-a-thon 2025: Ramp It Up!

Ramp-a-thon 2025



- Building Ramps for people in Johnson County with permanent disabilities through a partnership with SAWs Inc.
- Ramps are metal (2 hours to build) or wood (4 hours to build)
- April 11<sup>th</sup> - 2 chances to build
  - 8am-12pm
  - 1pm-5pm
- Deadline for Sign-ups March 28<sup>th</sup>
- Groups of 7-10 people
- YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW HOW TO BUILD
- Everything will be precut; we will be using an impact drill and they have Project Managers who will provide instruction!



## HUGE SHOUT OUT AND THANK YOU TO THOSE THAT PARTICIPATED IN MEDIA DAY ON FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup>!!

We captured so much footage, so many testimonials, and an abundance of photos! Judge Nugent's interview has already been posted on the Johnson County CASA Facebook page, so if you've not seen that yet, be sure to go to our Facebook Page and check that out. (Link below in the "Stay Connected" box) While you're there, be sure to like and or share the video and drop a comment thanking Judge for his support of our program! And, if you haven't already, be sure to like and follow our page so you can see all the wonderful things to come!

We are anxiously awaiting sneak peaks at everything else that was captured that day, and can't wait to see all the fruits of that labor!

Thank you all, so much, for your continued support of the Johnson County CASA Program!

Without you, there could be no us, and you guys are some of the best folks around! ♥♥

### Stay connected!

**WE WORKED HARD ON NEW MARKETING IDEAS LAST YEAR. IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY-**

**CHECK OUT AND FOLLOW OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE AT:**

<https://www.facebook.com/JoCoCASA.indiana>

**CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY BRANDED WEBSITE AT:**

[WWW.CASAJOHNSONCO.ORG](http://WWW.CASAJOHNSONCO.ORG)

**OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO ON THE LEFT!**



## **EASY TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!!**

Need some training hours? Remember, we are **REQUIRED** to have 12 continuing education hours per year! I've posted a virtual training below from the State CASA Office on **Volunteer Safety and Situational Awareness**. This is a subject and training I think all of us could benefit from!

Feel free to check it out, and shoot me a quick email letting me know you've watched the recording, and I'll be happy to enter the training hour for you. I'd love to hear what your biggest take aways were as well! See information and link below:

**CASA Training Academy session on Situational Awareness and Volunteer Safety with Detective Cory Whaley.**

**RECORDING LINK AND PASSCODE:**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/0UAzKnvhyXf1g\\_jGo-Pq9iZ3zH91Luiw8PH1Y3F8pvcxzdQNvWsfxfvvehliY4k.UDYSMhRHvwdZTwPk](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/0UAzKnvhyXf1g_jGo-Pq9iZ3zH91Luiw8PH1Y3F8pvcxzdQNvWsfxfvvehliY4k.UDYSMhRHvwdZTwPk)**

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