



Johnson County CASA Program



UPDATED STATS:

During the month of December, an additional 7 CHINS Petitions were filed in Johnson County, putting the county at 153 CHINS petitions for the year.

That number represents 153 children in Johnson County that needed a voice in court due to abuse and/or neglect in 2024.

Currently, Johnson County CASA has 65 children on our waitlist who need a voice!

🎁 JANUARY BIRTHDAYS 🎁

Julie Menefee: 1/3

Tammi Hickman: 1/6

Carolyn Kamo: 1/9

Happy Birthday Ladies!

Be sure to show our fearless leader & boss lady some extra big love this month as she just celebrated a birthday!

JANUARY - ANNIVERSARIES

No January Anniversaries....



Getting to Know Your Fellow Volunteers

MEET LINDA SIMONS



If you happen to catch up to Linda or see her in the community, be sure to say hello!
20,000 steps a day... wow!

Let's ring in the New Year by introducing Linda Simons, our CASA Volunteer for January. Linda and her husband, Greg, have lived on the southside of Indianapolis for 30 years where they raised two daughters. Both girls now live and work in Chicago. This gives the Simons the excuse to make frequent trips to the "Windy City" when their daughters can't come home.

Linda retired in 2022 after working for 34 years in institutions involved with public accounting, auditing and finance. While Linda worked for BKD (now Forvis), she became familiar with the CASA program because the company always provided (and continues to provide) presents to CASA children at Christmas time. After she retired, she had time to volunteer, and since she had family in Franklin, she decided to volunteer in Johnson County.

In addition to volunteering, Linda is an avid walker and strives to walk at least 20,000 steps every day. The family dog, Brody, is most happy to help her reach that awesome goal.

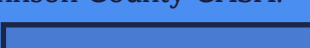
When asked about why she chose to become a CASA volunteer, Linda said that she has found her volunteering time most worthwhile, and the experience has also been eye-opening and challenging.

If it's repeated, it's important...
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Johnson County currently has 26 unassigned cases with 65 children needing an advocate. We need more CASA volunteers! Please share this need with family, friends and organizations you're involved with. Who do you know that would be great at this? Think about church, other parents at little league, gymnastics, school events, neighbors, colleagues at work, book clubs, rotary clubs, etc. You may refer them to: Mandy Anderson at 317-346-4523 or manderson@co.johnson.in.us



ALREADY KNOW SOMEONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER??

Johnson County CASA has solidified the dates for our first training for the 2025 new year! If you know someone who may be interested in training, please refer them to Mandy ASAP! Application process must be complete prior to beginning class and participants must be able to commit to ALL dates, as we cannot make up missed work or class time. Please be thinking about who you know that may be a good fit for Johnson County CASA! January Training Schedule Here: 



MON. 1/27/25	6-9pm -ONLINE
MON. 2/3/25	6-9pm -IN PERSON
MON. 2/10/25	6-9pm- ONLINE
MON. 2/24/25	6-9pm IN PERSON
MON. 3/3/25	6-9pm ONLINE
MON. 3/10/25	6-9p IN PERSON

*One additional date TBD for swearing-in and Optima Training following 3/10/25 class.



Join the Newsletter Committee!

Are you interested in connecting with and getting to know other Johnson County CASA Volunteers? Do you have fresh ideas to bring to the table for future issues of the Johnson County CASA Program Newsletter? We are looking to put together a "Newsletter Committee." This will be a great opportunity for you to meet and get to know some of your fellow volunteers, bring new fresh ideas and articles to the newsletter, and will be a fun way to stay engaged with the program! The committee would meet once a month, in person is preferred, but virtually could be an option occasionally. If you are interested in joining the committee and discussing ideas for articles in upcoming issues of the newsletter, please reach out to Mandy!

2024 Program Reflections:

- We celebrated our 36th year as a program in April.
- In 2024 we trained and welcomed 8 new volunteers to the program.
- We rebranded our website and social media platforms to better inform and engage with our community.
- In September we took 9 volunteers to Ft. Wayne for State CASA Conference.
- We did our absolute best to advocate for the best interest of 153 children in our community that needed a voice, due to being victims of abuse or neglect.

Does your child have a need?

Believe it or not, the CASA office continued to receive donations of brand-new clothing, pajamas, socks, shoes, hats, coats, gloves, blankets and toys throughout the month of December, too. We are so blessed that so many kindhearted community members keep our children in mind at this time of year! If your child is in need of any of these things, please schedule a time to stop in at the CASA office to check out the vast inventory of items that we have on hand. We hate to see them sit here and would love to help meet the needs of the children we serve. Thank you to those that came and “shopped” for your children during our Open House times in December. We still have plenty of other items on hand, so feel free to reach out to Tammi or Mandy to **schedule a time to drop by!**



Looking for ideas to get out and get connected with your kiddos?

VISITING POSSIBILITIES

~~If you need some ideas of things to do when you visit your kiddos, you might check the Thursday edition of The Daily Journal. They feature a “Free- Time Section.” If you want to take your child somewhere nearby, this might be a good place to find some local options.

~~ **We still have passes to the Indiana State Museum that we’d love to share! Please reach out if you are interested!**

~~If you are a CASA for a younger child (2-8 yrs), reading a book with them is always a good choice, and one that might be a conversation starter, which can only help you get better acquainted with your child.

Here are two book possibilities that might work for you.

1. **Grumpy Monkey** by Suzanne Lang is a fun read because it has colorful illustrations and deals with a monkey who is having a bad day and none of his friends can understand why. They offer advice, but the chimpanzee pays no attention and just continues to have a meltdown. Since everyone is entitled to experience a “bad day” occasionally, this book might lead to discussions about being grumpy. You can find this book at all four of the libraries in Johnson County.

2. What Should Danny Do? by Ganit Levy and Adir Levy. This is an interactive book that allows the reader to make choices which will change the outcome of the story. What an interesting way to get across choices and consequences. This book is in a series so there are more stories like this one if it proves a big hit. **Copies of this book are available at Clark Pleasant, White River and Franklin libraries, or if you are interested, we are happy to purchase copies of both books to add to our children’s library here at the office. Did you know that we have several children’s books here at the office on the bookshelf right outside Mandy’s office that we are happy to share with you?**

COURTHOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION; PLEASE BE AWARE!!!!



PLEASE BE CHECKING YOU EMAILS IF YOU HAVE HEARINGS COMING UP!!!!

The Johnson County Juvenile and Family Court is currently under construction. If you have a hearing scheduled in January, PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS, as some dates, times, and locations have changed. Construction is expected for the next few weeks, so if you have questions about when or where your hearing is, please reach out. Email notices have been sent to those affected that have hearings scheduled through 1/22/25, but if you have questions, please reach out. All hearings being heard on 1/15/25 and 1/22/25 will be heard in Johnson Superior Court #2 Auxiliary Court Room located upstairs in the same building where the CASA office is located. You will enter the glass double doors on the RIGHT instead of the LEFT. Have your CASA ID Badge ready to show security, then take either the stairs or the elevator upstairs to the second floor. You may have a seat in the either of the 2 hallways.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER; FROM THE DESK OF TAMMI HICKMAN:

Volunteers, I hope you are all staying safe and warm as the snow and frigid temperatures have moved in quickly. I wanted to thank you so much for all the hard work and dedication you all devoted to getting your contact logs in. Just a gentle reminder so we get off to a good start, as I noticed that some have forgotten, **CONTACT LOGS, MUST BE ENTERED IN QUARTER HOUR INCREMENTS. For example:**

Anything between 1 minute and 15 minutes = .25

Anything between 16 and 30 minutes= .50

Anything between 31 minutes and 45 minutes= .75

Anything between 46 minutes and 1 hour = 1

Should you go over the hour, same concept applies and you continue to build on.

An hour and 1-15 minutes= 1.25

An hour and 16-30 minutes- 1.50 and so on....

If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Thank you, again, for all your hard work and dedication last year!
Looking forward to spending 2025 with you all!

**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

OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO ON THE LEFT!