



## Johnson County CASA Program



### DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that last year, DCS only filed **67** CHINS petitions in Johnson County for the entire year of 2023?

That number has already doubled, and as of October 31<sup>st</sup>, we are already at **134** CHINS petitions for the year 2024.

It has been a busy year in the CASA office this year!

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**Tonya Thompson-Howard**  
11/3

**Jan Fredbeck-** 11/8

**Molli Mings-** 11/15

**Gary Coffman-**11/20

### NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

**Michele Hagan:** 10 years on 10/8

**Julie & Greg Menefee:** 9 Years on 10/5

**Kristine Shaub:** 12 years on 10/1

### TAMMI HICKMAN

25 years as of 10/1

CONGRATULATIONS and  
THANK YOU for your  
commitment and dedication!

### **REMINDER!!!!**

**ALL HANDS-ON DECK MEETING- PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND:**

*Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the CASA OFFICE*



### **MEET LACEY KELLER**

Lacey is a 2004 graduate of Center Grove High School. She and her husband, Tyler, have two boys Jetsen (7) and Dasher (5), and they have lived in Greenwood since 2017.

Lacey is a Nurse Practitioner working in Wound Care and Cardiothoracic Surgery. When she is not working, she is a member and coach at a local Cross Fit Gym, CGX CrossFit. She also enjoys hiking, baking sourdough bread and spending quality time with family and friends.

Lacey has been a CASA for three years, and she said that her primary reason for becoming a CASA was because she was following God's prompting to share her spiritual gifts with children in need. She says that the time and effort that she puts toward supporting these children will make a huge impact on their lives both now and in the future. While the time commitment is not overwhelming, the possibility of sharing love and providing support to these families and children is a priceless experience.

## **HELP US RECRUIT**

Johnson County currently has 22 unassigned cases with 55 children needing an advocate. We need more CASA volunteers! Please share this need with family, friends and organizations you're involved with.

You may refer them to: Mandy Anderson at 317-346-4523 or [manderson@co.johnson.in.us](mailto:manderson@co.johnson.in.us)

*Help*  
**WANTED**



## **NEW VOLUNTEERS IN 2024**

### **March 2024:**

Erin Arashiro                      Lindsey Calhoun  
 Molli Mings                      Tonya Thompson-Howard

### **July 2024:**

Sheri Burk                      JudsonVaught  
    Sukhdeep Kaur



### **Does your child have a need?**

If your CASA child(ren) might need something that simply says, “You are special,” plan a visit to the “Treasure Box” at the CASA office.

Here you may choose from an assortment of items, from clothing, to books and toys that might brighten their day or help celebrate a birthday. Everyone could use a bit of surprise and wonder in their lives. If the time is right, help your CASA child experience that feeling.

## **CASA Book Collection:**

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CASA OFFICE HAS BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR CHECK-OUT ON TOPICS THAT WE FACE IN OUR ADVOCACY WORK EVERY DAY? WITH OVER 30 TITLES TO CHOOSE FROM, IF YOU ENJOY READING AND WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FOSTER CARE, ABUSE & NEGLECT, ADHD, DRUG ADDICTION, ABANDONMENT, STRENGTH BASED STRATEGIES, AND MORE, STOP IN AND CHECK OUT OUR BOOK COLLECTION!



**THIS MONTH'S FEATURED BOOK: MADE IN THE USA**

Billie Lettes, an award-winning author of Where the Heart Is, has written another book entitled, Made in the U.S.A. This novel shares the lives of Lutie and Fate McFee, sister and brother, whose mother has died and their father has gone to find his fortune in Las Vegas. Dad leaves the children in the care of his three-hundred-pound ex-girlfriend who promptly dies at the local Walmart.

Lettes provides her readers with an insight into the cruel, unfair, and frightening world many children face before they find their "forever" home.

Available for check-out at the CASA Office.

**ALREADY KNOW SOMEONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER??**

Johnson County CASA has just 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! 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:

**Stay connected!**

**WE HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD ON NEW MARKETING IDEAS THIS YEAR.**

**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!**

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.

## **Director's Corner- From the desk of Tammi Hickman:**

Join me for a video training watch party! If you are like me, and need to add to your training hours for this year, contact me and we can schedule a time to meet at the CASA office and select from numerous videos provided by the State CASA office. I'll even provide the pizza and popcorn! Training is more fun in groups! Let me know if you are interested and I'll be happy to schedule times that work for everyone!

### **UPCOMING TRAINING-MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

#### **November CASA Training Academy Sessions**

We are holding two CASA Training Academy sessions during the month of November! It is nearing the end of the calendar year, and all staff and volunteers are required to complete 12 hours of continuing education training each year. This is our way of providing you with more opportunities to fulfill this requirement for all staff and volunteers associated with your program.

**Friday, November 8—11:00 AM-12:30 PM (Eastern)**



##### **Advocating for Infants and Toddlers (with Holly Schlaack)**

As GAL/CASA staff and volunteers, we are often referred to as "the voice" of the children we serve. That is even more important when the children we are advocating for are too young to even tell us their needs and wishes. This session will help us better understand the developmental and emotional needs of the youngest children we serve, and how to better advocate for them.

Register here: <https://mycourts.wufoo.com/forms/p14uyzy60hfiudb/>

**Wednesday, November 20—2:00-3:30 PM (Eastern)**



##### **Older Youth Initiatives—Rewriting Their Story (with the DCS Older Youth Initiatives Team)**

Join the Indiana Department of Child Services Older Youth Initiatives team as they take you on a journey of how they used youth voice to rewrite the narrative of older youth services. This session will provide an overview of DCS Older Youth Initiative programs which encompasses older youth services, collaborative care, voluntary services, and much more!

Register here: <https://mycourts.wufoo.com/forms/p1o2m19z12ey32k/>