

Summer 2022



From the Desk of Executive Director



Jackie Horton

Throughout June, we recognized National Reunification Month to raise awareness of the importance of keeping families involved in the child welfare system together and recognizing how the community can better support these families.

When a family becomes involved with the child welfare system, the priority is to help reunite children with their parents whenever safe and possible – and during this month and beyond, CASA volunteers engage and connect with families so that they have support and resources for children to safely come back home.

Some may believe that once children are removed from the home and placed into foster care, no further help is needed or provided. In reality, foster care is not meant to be a permanent solution. Yet, most kids experience lasting effects, including carrying a sense of grief and loss long after being removed from their home, regardless of what their situation was like there.

CASA volunteers stay by a child's side throughout their time in foster care, advocating first for reunification when safe and possible. Our advocates get to know the children, parents, and family, as well as many others involved in their lives—including foster parents, therapists, teachers, and attorneys—collaborating with everyone to achieve a plan for safe family reunification.

We know that parents love their children and want what's best for them, and parents of the children served by CASA are no exception. We want to support families so that they have the tools and resources needed for their children to live with them safely - because going back to safe homes is the best possible outcome.

Parents involved with the foster care system often struggle to access resources, support, and knowledge needed to complete services ordered by the judge. CASA volunteers can make a monumental difference by helping bridge the gap and connect families to services and support.

CASA volunteers also ensure children and parents have a network of family and other caring adults who can help in whatever ways needed and stay involved long after CASA and DFPS involvement ends.

With a good support system, it's much more likely that a plan for family reunification will be successful and sustainable. That's what we want for the children we serve – to be safe, happy, supported, and surrounded by people who love them.

Executive Director

Summer 2022

7/12/2022	12 & 5:30	Vicarious Trauma Training by John McDaniel (12) & Crystal Wilkinson (5:30)
8/09/2022	12 & 5:30	How to be a better CASA when your child needs mental health services
9/13/2022	12 & 5:30	Native American Culture & Historical Trauma

Save the Date(s)

**Annual Community Response
to Child Abuse Conference**
October 6-7, 2022



November 19, 2022, | Highland Convention Center, Mitchell

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Become a CASA Volunteer

The Advocate Training is a 5-part series – all five classes are required.

Advocate Training Courses held online via Zoom

Upcoming Advocate Training Courses

Sept 8 – Oct 13

Thursdays

5:30 – 8 pm

The application deadline before each cycle is two weeks before the training.

Contact Yaque Delval at 605-996-1212 or by email at yaque.delval@mitchellcasa.org.

Welcome New CASA Volunteers

Six new CASA Volunteers were recently sworn in!

Thank you to these wonderful community members who completed an intensive training curriculum and stepped up to advocate for children and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect.



Continuing Education for Volunteers



Kendra Russell informed CASA volunteers and community members of ways to remain safe on the internet. We learned that it is important to help kids become aware that people and situations online aren't always as they seem. Discerning what's real and fake is a very real lesson in online safety. Personal privacy and security are just as important online as they are offline. Safeguarding valuable information helps kids avoid damaging their devices, reputations, and relationships.

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FIRST CIRCUIT CASA

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Mitchell, S.D. 57301

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Email: jackie.horton@mitchellcasa.org

Contact Yaque
Delval to
volunteer at
yaque.delval@mitchellcasa.org

Visit us at:
www.mitchellcasa.org

Help CASA Recruit Volunteers

There are NUMEROUS ways to support CASA.

Introduce your company, organization, or church to CASA. Invite CASA to talk about volunteering at your next employee lunch & learn about organization membership meetings or special events. Display a CASA poster in your company break room or local community bulletin board.

Share your love for CASA on social media. Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. Help us connect with new volunteers and supporters by sharing our posts.

Save the Date for our annual CASA's Got Talent on Saturday, November 19, and invite your friends to attend with you.



First Circuit CASA's goal is to ensure safety and permanency for children whose lives are in turmoil. Our ultimate goal would be that we are able to advocate on behalf of 100% of the abused and neglected children in our jurisdiction.

CASA, 115 E. 11th Ave., Mitchell, SD 57301

Name: _____

Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ Contact me; I am interested in volunteering as a CASA advocate

☐ I want information about CASA speaking at my business, service club, or church group.