

The CASA Voice

First Circuit Court Appointed Special Advocates

From the Desk of Executive Director



Jackie Horton

I love spring/summer! My heart lights up, seeing the trees budding and flowers blooming. My hope always returns at the sight of new life. It is a time of hope and rebirth. It is also a time for us to reflect on Child Abuse & Neglect, emphasizing awareness. I think many of you already know how many children face fear and abuse here locally and across our State. It is a challenging subject, but let me help you be aware of the community of hope surrounding them and fighting against abuse. You probably have been standing next to a CASA (a hope giver) in line at the grocery store and did not know it.

We had 67 CASAs in 2020, so chances are pretty good you know a CASA or have passed one on the street. IF you have ever met a teacher, you have met a hope giver; a physician, counselor, dependency or family court judge, or foster parent... all hope givers. The organizations that our CASAs are blessed to work with, such as Abbott House, Avera Behavioral Health, Children's Home Society, Department of Social Services, Falls Academy, Lutheran Social Services, Our Home, and so many more... All hope givers. Each of us works in different departments, providing vastly different services. Still, we are all part of the same group of people giving hope, providing a voice, standing in the gap for babies, toddlers, children, youth, and parents giving our time and hearts to make children's lives better, safe, hopeful.

Therefore, don't lose heart at the injustices you know are in the world; for every injustice, someone will rise to fight against it. That someone could even be you.

More than ten abused and neglected children in our area need a CASA volunteer, but their needs are virtually invisible, which is part of the problem. What our CASA kids need more than anything else is someone like **YOU**. If you'd like to explore the possibility of becoming a CASA, call 996-1212 or visit mitchellcasa.org - Help a child replace a life of hurt with one of hope!

For the kids,

Jackie Horton



VOLUNTEER TRAINING SCHEDULE

5/11/2021	Court Report Writing/Optima	Presenter/Bonnie Scott
6/8/2021	Understanding Grief and Loss for Children In Foster Care	Presenter/Crystal Wilkinson ICWA representative
7/13/2021	ICWA & Historical Trauma	Presenter/ Jocelyn Dockendorf
8/10/2021	Communicating with Children	
9/14/2021	The Damaging Effects of Abuse On Brain Development	Presenter/ Pediatrician from Mitchell Area
10/12/2021	Understanding Drugs & How Parental Substance Abuse Affects Our Cases	Presenter/Dan Fechner from Mitchell PD

June – Ruth D., Kim M., Chery N., Taylor W.
July – Jocelyn D., Mark G., Deb O.
August – Sharon H., Mark L., Amy S., Mandy S., Pam V.



Amy H. – 7 years	Ranae D. – 1 year
Peggy B. – 5 years	Mary H. – 1 year
Renae G. – 4 years	Kim M. – 1 year
Jennifer F. – 3 years	Crystal S. – 1 year
Marci F. – 2 years	Mandy S. – 1 year
Byron S. – 2 years	Taylor W. – 1 year

**Congratulations to Court Appointed Special Advocates
for receiving new CASE assignments in May!**
Renae G., Kay M., Ricky M., Jan V.



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY



May 18, 2021

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) volunteers speak up for children in the court system due to parental allegations of abuse or neglect. These CASAs are highly trained and motivated to make a difference in our community, one child at a time. CASAs are experts on the children

they are appointed to, as they are the only people dedicated solely to speak up for the child. There are many other individuals involved in the case. The CASA is the only adult solely dedicated to seeking the child's best interest, safe and permanent home as quickly as possible. CASAs interact with all aspects of the child's life, educational, psychological, medical, dental, familial, etc. While the CASA interacts in the court system and writes reports entered into the legal record, they are not experts in the law. CASAs do not have to possess any particular skill to be a CASA. They have to care about kids, be motivated to speak up when they see something is lacking for that child, and communicate effectively and professionally with many people. Most importantly, CASAs have to have hope that they can make things even just a little bit better for a child in our community. And that is what our fantastic superhero CASA volunteers do every day.

Thank you, Murder Mystery sponsors!

Presenting Sponsor: First National
Matching Sponsor: Thrivent

Table Sponsors: A&B; Alvine Weidenaar LLP;
KlockWerks; Mitchell Roofing & Siding;
Zach Scott Construction; SunGold Sports.

A Special Thank You to: Moose Lodge; Tyler Sutton;
Businesses who donated items for auction



First Circuit CASA115 E. 11th Ave.

Mitchell, S.D. 57301

Phone: 605-996-1212

Fax: 605-990-2758

Email:

jackie.horton@**mitchellcasa.org**

Contact

Michelle Mogck

to volunteer at

michelle.mogck@**mitchellcasa.org**

VISIT us at:

www.mitchellcasa.org

Help CASA Recruit Volunteers

In 2019, 48 CASA advocates served 97 abused or neglected children. Advocates have served more than 1,080 hours. A CASA volunteer can make all the difference in the life of an abused child. Please join us in our efforts to make sure that every child we help has a CASA volunteer advocate to speak for them.

"My CASA worker was my voice and my advocate in court hearings, reunification meetings, and countless conversations. I feel very fortunate to have had a CASA worker who was invested in my well-being, success, and safety." - Former CASA Child



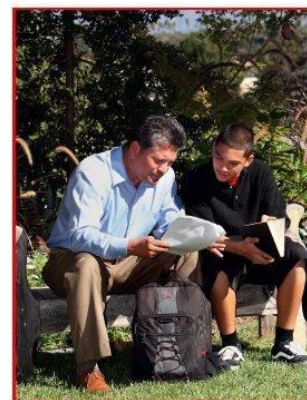
C
A
S
A

What is a CASA?

(Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children)

A trained CASA volunteer investigates the child's circumstances, provides fact-based information and makes recommendations to the court while becoming a source of support for the child.

Ultimately, the role of the CASA is to decrease the amount of disruption in a child's life and to help ensure that the child has a safe and permanent home.



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.

Please return this contribution form with a donation to:

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

Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to donate to First Circuit CASA in the amount of \$ _____

I am enclosing my payment in the form of _____ a check (made payable to CASA)

___ 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.

(Contributions to First Circuit CASA are tax-deductible.)