



# CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

## Newsletter

### MAY 2019

### Hancock County

#### Pinwheels



40 Pinwheels were planted at Hancock County Courthouse under the flag in April representing the abused and neglected children in Hancock County. Pinwheels remind us of good childhood memories and that is what we would like to see happen for these children.

#### Thank You!

\$100 from Carthage Township

\$147 Sonora Community Fund

“Standing strong for Abused Children” Thank you to all who stopped by and supported “Koins for Kids” \$164 total. Thank you volunteers and stores; Mandy and Bree at Hy-Vee in Hamilton. Judy and Janet at County Market in Carthage.



#### Celebration



Patty Stevens- 22<sup>nd</sup>

Danielle Woodyard- 30<sup>th</sup>



Donna McVeigh

Bree Hartley

Elizabeth Dixon



#### New CASA volunteer training May 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>

This is an accelerated one weekend training in Quincy. I have two registered to go through this training and will be sworn in on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

The next training in Carthage won't be until October. I could use five more CASA volunteers to serve the advocating needs of children in foster care. Request an application anytime.

**I would love to come and speak to your club, organization or business about our CASA program for Hancock County.**

**Call 319-795-3714**

**to schedule.**

#### CASA Networking May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:30PM

Shari Robesky, Placement Supervisor with DCFS will be our guest speaker. She will teach on the case worker/CASA working relationship. This will be at the CASA office in Carthage.

Hope many of you can attend!

## **State CASA conference notes from a panel of youth that grew up in foster care. They shared their personal experiences in the foster care system.**

Arieon, age 18; CASA "Always there for me." Challenge "Personal happiness and just being a kid." What is important? "Friends support that isn't going to leave even if I mess up." "Everything is temporary."

Alyssa, age 18; CASA "I don't feel alone." Challenge "Focusing on everything at once." What is important? "Christmas when I was 17 no one in my family was fighting." "Family support lived with my grandma and my church family tells me I am so strong."

Gabriel, age 16; CASA "CASA workers are nice and make us feel good." Challenge "Anger." "Wished CASA came around more." "Talking to CASA about random stuff. They didn't sugar coat it."

Bailey, age 21; CASA "A voice to a youth that doesn't feel like they have one." Challenge "Feeling normal" "I never wanted anyone to know I was in foster care." "CASA if you don't feel a connection, don't give up." What is important? "College paid for needs. Education support about my rights as a foster kid."

Jamel, age 19; CASA "I didn't have a CASA but I wished I did." Challenge "Holiday's lonely, breaks, not going on trips." What is important? "at 18 I let my anger go, I come from nothing and want to turn it into something." "Stay consistent."

The youth panel encouraged the CASA audience to talk about normal stuff not always deep stuff and to be relatable. Play ball!

When ask what is one thing you would fix for youth in care?

"Fix all broken families."

"Improve the age out of care, give more support."

"Feeling completely alone."

"All foster parents should do it for the love of children not the money. Treat them like family. Everyone needs love and affection."



*Our Mission: to help abused and neglected children have a safe and permanent homes where they can thrive; to act as a powerful voice in these children's best interest.*

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