

NCK CASA Speaks up for Children

January & February
2012



Responsibilities of a CASA Volunteer.

Permanency: It's in the Relationships

(adapted from the Connections magazine, Summer 2009)

For older youth, permanency is about having relationships with one or more reliable adults, preserving important connections, including those involving neighbors, community, faith, family, school and friends. Permanency also means having the means to access resources that can provide support and guidance long after they have left the child welfare system. For younger children permanency is a behavioral health issue. “Quick, seamless, permanent placement minimizes trauma and improves brain development, self-esteem and social relationships. Sound pretty important, doesn't it.

Unfortunately, the system is accustomed to moving in a slow, straight line, from SRS intake to reunification attempt by the foster care contractor, to permanent placement as in adoption or custodialship. We are all too familiar with that slow, straight line! Sadly, a child's likelihood of being adopted decreases by 50% the moment they turn 9.

The development of one plan around reunification with the birth family can slow down permanency for a child if reunification does not occur and concurrent planning, dual tracking toward reunification and adoption or permanent custodialship, conflicts with the child welfare systems linear structure. But without a backup plan, many children end up “drifting” in foster care for years without finding a place to call home, at great costs to themselves and to society.

Whose responsibility is it to speed up the process? While the caseplan states there is a concurrent plan the reality is that the social workers are overscheduled and cannot devote much, if any, time to concurrent planning. You, as the child's advocate, can encourage and support social workers by helping them develop the concurrent plan early in the child's journey through the system. How you ask?



Inservice Opportunity

What: Soup Supper at 6:30 with
Inservice following at 7:30

When: Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Where: **Neighbor to Neighbor**
103 6th Street, Concordia, KS



We will review Court Reports
and the Case Plan Attachment.

If there is time we can discuss, in more depth, the
article in the Newsletter about
concurrent case planning.

RSVP by Monday, Jan 23rd.

nckcasa@cloudcountyks.org



NCK CASA. Thanks for playing Santa for us Braxton, and for being so generous with your winnings!!

Fran Garrison also responded to our plea for stuffed animals for the CAC last fall and brought by two adorable ones for the CAC. Our goal at Hope's Place is to provide a safe, neutral, and child friendly place for children to disclose their abuse. We want them to walk away from the experience on a positive note and a soft, cuddly stuffed animal helps to make that happen! Braxton and Fran—thank you so much for you support.

Check it out Check it out

Damaged by Cathy Glass

The Heartbreaking True Story of a Forgotten Child

This book tells the true story of the authors relationship with one of her foster children, an eight-year old girl called Jodie, who was the most disturbed child the author had ever cared for in her more than 20 years of fostering.

Somebody's Daughter by Julian Sher

The Hidden Story of America's Prostituted Children and the Battle to Save Them.

Journalist Julian Sher takes the reader behind the scenes to expose one of the most underreported crimes: the trafficking of American girls on American streets.

Reading a book and submitting a short report will earn CASA volunteers two hours of inservice credit. Contact our office for more information.

Just before Christmas, Braxton Kindel made a visit to our office and presented Jennifer Kindel, new CAC Coordinator/Family Advocate for Hope's Place CAC, with a stuff animal. Braxton won \$500 in a drawing and chose to share his wealth with organizations that serve children. In the photo at the left he is presenting Jennifer with a stuff animal for children who are interviewed at the CAC. He brought another stuffed animal and some office supplies for Hope's Place and



AREA RESOURCES

Neighbor to Neighbor



Neighbor to Neighbor is here for you! The center at 103 E. Sixth St. in Concordia, provides a wide array of services to women and women with young children from throughout Cloud County. Yet its most important function

may be as a place for women to come together and meet other women who are facing or have faced the same kinds of life challenges.

There is a full kitchen on the main level for use at the center.



Sisters Jean Befort, Pat McLennon and Ramona Medina, the three sisters behind Neighbor to Neighbor, see it as a place for women to build informal networks and help them connect with any services they need and with other women in the community. From Monday through Friday they offer services that range from one-on-one tutoring for GED exams and book studies, classes in sewing, baking, lacemaking and household budgeting to providing a place to do laundry or take showers.

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WELCOME
JENNIFER KINDEL

Jennifer came to our organization late in November. She is the Program Assistant for NCK CASA at ten hours a week and spends the same amount of time as the CAC Coordinator/Family Advocate for Hope's Place Child Advocacy Center (CAC).

Jennifer has a degree in social work from Bethany College and has worked as a case manager for Big Brothers Big Sisters in Concordia. She is a lifetime resident of Cloud County and is married to Kevin. They have two boys, Will, 7 and Wade, 6

*Happy valentine's
day to our all
volunteers and
supporters!!*

If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.

~Mother Teresa

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

~Leo Buscaglia

Individual counseling services are also available as needed, as is help in navigating the social services maze. And, for some moms, the center has become a place to go with their young children, to give the kids a chance to play and the women a chance to befriend other moms. “This is about one neighbor helping another,” as Sister Ramona explains it.

There is never any cost to the women taking part; all the programs are offered free, with funding coming from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, a handful of grants and individual donations. While there is a small playroom on the main floor the real treasure is upstairs on the second level. On this floor is an Art Room with windows on the north and east and a room for private counseling that also has access to the internet for those taking on-line courses. Further down the hall is the Mother’s Room which features a large window which looks into the colorful, sunny playroom.



N2N is a warm, inviting place where all women are welcomed. Everyone is so gracious and accepting that you just want to stay there all day.

It is a wonderful resource for our community and we look forward to having our inservice there on January 24th.

Remember the “Connectedness Map” in the last newsletter? It is a great way for the child to be reminded that they are not alone in the world and that they really are surrounded by support. The map can also be used as a tool in concurrent planning; some of these people may be willing to reconnect with the child and become an alternative placement option that may become permanent.

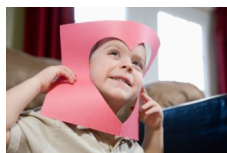
A question you can ask of the foster parents or out of home placement is are they willing to adopt these children if reunification does not occur. If they say yes then the children are in a possible permanent placement. If the answer is no that’s your cue to start looking for someone who will answer “yes” to that question. Even if reunification occurs the child will benefit from having these supportive adults in their lives.

<p style="text-align: center;">Permanency–Related Tips for CASA Volunteers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understand the federal laws related to permanency2. Support the social worker in creating a concurrent plan.3. Ensure that the child produces a connectedness map as a tool in moving concurrent planning forward.4. Keep an up-to-date document that tracks kin and significant others, and make sure this information is incorporated into the case plan and prominently placed in the current volume of each case file.5. In the Court Report, highlight how long a child has been out of the birth home, and indicate approaching limits. When appropriate, request a ruling from the court about progress toward meeting permanency deadlines.
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Donations in 2011 made

in Memory of:

Hal Roberts
Jucille Ouellette
Ione Joyner
Jeanette C. Jeardoe
Halie Hibbard
Delilah Meier
Jean Johnson
Lela Hunstinger
Rozella Harris
Virginia Brunell
Wilson Scott
All Mothers
Arlene Bridge
Burnell Ukens
Cleo Marie Brummer
Evelyn File
Glady Travis
Lula Johnson
Theresa Mahon
Olvie Dawdy
Janaice Henningser
Mary Sahlfield
Lorena Crimmins
Darcie Breen
Hal & Bobby Roberts
Jane & Hannan Freeborn
All the children neglected and abused
Daniel Finney
Calvin James
Jeanette & David
David Jeardoe
Carl Gormley
Kathryn Brotherson
Denage Arpin



in Honor of:

Eva Sanders
All Moms
All Moms
Betty Miller
Bobbie Paulson
Janice Norlin
Linda Houser
Our CASA Kids
Arlene Couture
Byrson Smith Jr
Helen Scritchfield
Teresa Douglas
Isabel Peltier
Mary Ann Lagemann
Laura Renter
Atha Mugrudge
Carol Miller
All the children who need a CASA
Kathleen Inwood
BJ
H.L. & Lela Southard

We want to take a moment to remember all those who were honored in 2011 through a donation in their memory or in their honor.

Last year, thirty-one children were provided a CASA volunteer and forty-seven children were interviewed at the CAC. Your support helps us advocate for children who have been abused and/or neglected.

*Thank you for helping us
help them.*

