

CATCHING up with CASA

December 2017 • A Newsletter for Child Advocates of Dunklin County

CASA welcomes New Volunteers



CASA of Dunklin County would like to welcome five new volunteer advocates to our team! Pictured above are Eric Wallace, Heather Wallace, Tiffany Nelson, Jack Fortner, and Morgan Layne. Thank you for making a commitment to advocate for children in Dunklin County!

Don't forget...

Monthly forms are due on the last Thursday of the month. If you have not submitted for November yet, please do this ASAP. The forms can be found on the Volunteer Login section of the website. Please contact me if you do not have login information.

Evening with CASA – A “Chair”itable Event

CASA of Dunklin County invites you to An Evening with CASA – A “Chair”itable Event! This is an annual fundraiser for our local programs, and current, active volunteers attend for free! Please make plans to attend on Monday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:30). There will be dinner, drinks, and entertainment as we raise money for CASA of Dunklin County!



Our “Chair”itable Event has become a CASA tradition!

If you know someone who would like to donate a “conversation chair” or any other item to our silent auction, send them my way!

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Christmas Carnival

The Lion's Club Christmas Carnival is this Monday, December 4th from 5:30-7:30. If you volunteered to work the booth, please be there by 5:00 p.m. Click [here](#) for more info.

Toys for Tots

The Dunklin County Caring Council is accepting applications for Toys for Tots. Please let the families that you work with know to sign up their children this week!

Let's Get Together

Beginning in January, CASA will host monthly meetings for volunteers! This will be a time to network with other advocates, as well as gain information. Be watching for updates!

2018 is going to be a great year! Read on to learn more about the vision for next year.

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We're Stepping Up our Game for 2018!

2017 has been a great year for CASA of Dunklin County! We've served 40 kids this year, and welcomed 5 new Advocates to our team. We're making a difference in the lives of children in foster care in our community. Next year, I want us to challenge ourselves to make an even greater impact! Here's our plan to make that happen.

Serve More Children

Last year, we served 40 children. Of those, 10 were reunified with their families, 6 achieved guardianship, 6 were adopted, and 18 children are still in foster care, awaiting permanency. For 2018, here is the challenge:

- If you haven't taken a case in a while, talk to me about how you can get back involved.
- If you have had a case wrap up, consider taking another.
- If you currently only have one case, consider taking two.

Our program's goal is for EVERY child in foster care to have an advocate. If you have the ability to serve or serve more, please consider it.

Do you have ideas about how we can be even better in 2018?

Email me at

voldsen@casadunklin.org

Serve More Effectively

Our commitment to children is to advocate for what is in their best interest. In order for our program to be effective and efficient, we have to commit to the process. My role in that process is to:

- Communicate often with you regarding your case
- Support you by being available for questions and concerns
- Collect data for reporting purposes to State/National CASA

Your role in that process is to:

- Gather information and keep accurate notes
- Submit monthly reports and court reports in a timely manner
- Be present in court whenever possible
- Ask questions and reach out for help when you need it

Committing to the process makes our program be efficient, which means we do a better job advocating for children!

Build Relationships

Part of what makes a great program is knowing that you have a whole team supporting you! In 2018, let's get to know one another better... and learn a little while we're at it. In 2018, we will:

- Have monthly get-togethers to network and discuss topics related to our work as advocates
- Be involved in community events to promote awareness of CASA
- Be made aware of training opportunities as they become available
- Use resources (such as our private Facebook group) to reach out to other advocates with questions or discussions

We can be a great resource for each other!

