

LIFE STORIES

child & family advocacy

QUARTERLY IMPACT REPORT

APRIL – JULY 2025

A LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Dear Friends of Life Stories,

As we reflect on the past few months, I want to take a moment to thank you for being such an essential part of the Life Stories community. **Your commitment to our mission makes it possible for children in our community—those who have experienced abuse or neglect—to have someone by their side through some of the most difficult moments in their lives.**

This past quarter, our CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program served 158 children, thanks to the dedication of 79 active CASA volunteers. We also welcomed 3 new volunteers, who completed training and were sworn in as advocates. Each one of these volunteers is now a consistent, caring adult for a child navigating the child welfare system.

One inspiring moment this quarter involves a young child who has been in multiple placement during his young short life. With the steady support and recommendations made by his CASA volunteer, he is getting some therapeutic services that he so desperately needs. It all starts with one caring adult, showing up and staying by their side. These are the stories your support helps make possible.

Of course, this work is not without its challenges. We continue to see consistency in child welfare cases opening, and the need for more trained CASA volunteers is growing. It can be daunting, but your ongoing generosity—whether through time, donations, or advocacy—helps us rise to meet these demands. Every gift and every shared message matters.

Looking ahead, we're preparing for our future CASA training sessions, the next beginning September 16th. We are also developing new community partnerships to reach more children who need a voice. With your continued support, we're not just responding to urgent needs—we're building a stronger foundation for the future of child advocacy in our region.

Thank you again for believing in our mission and for being part of this journey. Together, we are creating brighter, safer futures for the children who need us most.



With gratitude,

KODIE ROSTEN

CASA Program Administrator

GUARDIAN CIRCLE





Board Members, Life Stories Staff, and Artist, Alonzo Harrison, celebrating the completion of our mural, Hope Starts at Life Stories



Susan McKenzie, William Neidig, and Lidia Varela working on La Jota Mexican Radio podcast: Life Stories: Trabajando para un mejor Futuro



Congratulations to Chris Eisenhauer on her retirement from Life Stories! Thank you for over 18 years of dedication to our organization.



Board Members and Life Stories Staff at Life Stories Event: Pull for Youth Clay Shooting Tournament



VIP Hat Party Winners from Life Stories Event: Wrangling Hope Thank you, Trent Johnson, at Greeley Hat Works for sponsoring!



Life Stories Executive Director Lisa Drake & CAC Program Administrator Jillian Henry at Capital Day

SAVE THE DATE



Saturday,
September 20, 2025 | 8am
Greeley FunPlex
1501 65th Ave, Greeley

Suit up in your favorite superhero costume and race for a cause at this beloved community event. **With a 5K, 10K, 1-Mile, and a free Kids Fun Run**, there's something for everyone. This event fosters community spirit, promotes health and wellness, and empowers participants to be real-life heroes for vulnerable children. Join us for a day of fitness, fun, and philanthropy—because every child deserves a hero!

A SUPERHERO'S ADOPTION DAY

After five long years, a young boy's journey through the child welfare system came to a joyful close as he was officially adopted by his foster parents—who had cared for him since he was just three days old. The courtroom was transformed into a celebration at his request: superhero costumes, streamers, balloons, stuffed animals, and even a cake. Judges, attorneys, foster families, and court staff all joined in the fun, donning capes to help ease the child's nerves.

The adoption hearing was emotional and unforgettable. Both the current and former judges presided, and the courtroom was filled with those who had supported the child throughout his case—including his CASA Volunteer, who had been a steady advocate since 2020. Despite multiple caseworkers and legal changes, the CASA remained a constant presence, visiting the child in every setting and ensuring his voice was heard.

As the judge finalized the adoption and changed the child's last name, he beamed with happiness, embracing his new parents. For everyone present, it was clear: this child is exactly where he belongs—safe, loved, and home.

Respectfully submitted by Brianna Fischer, CASA Case Supervisor

INTRODUCING LIFE STORIES' STRATEGIC PLAN

In February 2025, our dedicated board of directors embarked on a comprehensive strategic planning process, investing significant time and thoughtful consideration into charting Life Stories' future direction. After months of careful deliberation and collaboration, the board approved this strategic plan in May 2025, and we are pleased to share it with our community.

Our strategic roadmap focuses on four interconnected areas that will strengthen our ability to empower children's stories and build a community where every child thrives.

We're committed to developing our people through continuous learning and high-performance culture, while ensuring our operations excel in service delivery, funding sustainability, and data-driven decision making. Our client-focused approach emphasizes delivering excellent service to the communities we serve, our referral partners, and our donors through quality, compassion, and integrity.

Financially, we're building security through diversified funding streams and efficient resource allocation. **This integrated approach ensures Life Stories remains a trusted advocate for children across Weld County, with the stability and expertise needed to make every child's story matter.**

Through this strategic framework, we're positioned to expand our impact while maintaining the compassionate, trauma-informed care that defines our mission.



Thank you for being apart of it,

LISA DRAKE

Executive Director

LIFE STORIES STRATEGY MAP updated June 2025

child & family advocacy

MISSION:

Empowering children to share their stories through compassionate advocacy, healing services, and prevention education.

VISION:

A community where every child's story matters, and every child thrives.

OUR VALUES: Integrity, Commitment, Trust, Compassion, and Collaboration

FINANCIAL

Areas we will focus on to financially sustain our mission



Seek funding alternatives to enhance financial security

Expand donor base

Develop efficient way to allocate capital, operational, and contingency dollars, and maintain assets

CUSTOMER

Areas we will focus on in regard to other people to achieve our vision



Deliver an excellent service (quality, timeliness, truth, privacy, compassion, expertise, and competency) to our communities and children, partners, and donors

Educate and inform on our mission and the work of the organization

Be good stewards of our finances and allocate with integrity

OPERATIONS

Operational processes we must excel at to satisfy our clients



Ensure a presence in key service and market areas

Maintain a funding approach adequate to meet financial expectations for service delivery

Enable quality data analytics for effective decision making

Ensure consistent processes for delivery of robust services/programs

Enhance relationships and efficiencies with donors

Establish process formality for continuity of service

LEARNING/PEOPLE

Ways we will sustain our ability to change and improve



Build a high performance culture where team members are/feel valued, appreciated, and supported

Create a culture of continuous learning

Align technology with the needs of the organization

Intentional engagement between board and team members

Attract, develop, and retain top talent

