

# LIFE STORIES

child & family advocacy

QUARTERLY

IMPACT REPORT

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2025



## A LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Dear Friends of Life Stories,

At its core, the word *support* means helping someone in a meaningful way—whether it’s a beam holding up a structure, a friend offering encouragement, or a community showing up for a cause.

I joined the team at Life Stories in February of this year and have the honor of serving as the Program Manager for the Child Advocacy Center. Over the last ten years of working in the field of child safety, I have held many roles which touched a multitude of topics under the umbrella of child abuse- physical abuse, sexual abuse, child sexual abuse materials (CSAM), domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST), emotional abuse and neglect, etc.

Although my work isn’t what most people expect (and isn’t exactly a “life of the party” type of conversation), my favorite question to be asked is, “What do you do for work?” This question allows me to talk about the work that means so much to me in a passionate and easily digestible way. **Typically, by the end of my explanation, the follow-up sentiment is, “how do you do it?” The answer is quite simple- I feel supported.**

From July to September 2025, our Child Advocacy Center had some of our highest numbers for the year. Our small but mighty staff of three **completed 69 forensic interviews over the last quarter.** That means there were 69 different families throughout Weld County who received advocacy, resources, and care when they needed it most. Between children and their families, the Child Advocacy Center was able to **directly impact the lives of over 150 people throughout the last three months** while remaining committed to our mission of providing advocacy, healing, and prevention education to Weld County and beyond.

If you are reading this, it is **because of you** that Life Stories is able to make an impact every single day. Creating a safer future for children to thrive in is a team effort, and we are so grateful to have you on our team.

**Thank you for trusting and empowering Life Stories to protect and support the children in our community.**



With gratitude,

**JILLIAN HENRY**

CAC Program Manager

## GUARDIAN CIRCLE





Equipping community leaders to protect children: Boys & Girls Club staff complete our Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children training, learning how to prevent child abuse and create safer environments for every child.



CASA Case Supervisor, Marsha Stoll, and Outreach Coordinator, Mattie Falk, spreading awareness at Friday Fest in downtown Greeley.



Wishing Kodie Rosten the best of luck in her new adventure after dedicating 9 years as our CASA Program Manager.



Life Stories Board and Staff members at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Superhero Run.



Life Stories staff members were honored to be guests at this year's NOCO Unify Suitcase Party.



CAC Forensic Interviewer, Michelle Brown, and Detective Zakavec from the Greeley Police Department showing what it's like behind the scenes.

## A CASA VOLUNTEER'S QUIET VICTORY

Sometimes advocacy means stepping into uncomfortable spaces and saying the hard things no one else will.

For nearly two years, a CASA volunteer stood by a 3-year-old girl whose court case dragged on without much progress from her parents. Each visit with her mother, who was visibly unwell and unable to care for herself, left the child emotionally distressed and disoriented for hours. The volunteer noticed the pattern, documented it, and fought tirelessly to reduce the visits that were harming the child's stability.

After months of advocacy, her request to the judge was approved. It wasn't a dramatic courtroom moment, but it was a life-changing one. **A vulnerable little girl finally had someone protecting her peace, and that's the kind of quiet victory that shows exactly why this work matters.**

*Respectfully submitted by Melany Marrero,  
Bilingual CASA Case Supervisor*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MAYRA GONZALEZ



Mayra Gonzalez has been a CASA Volunteer for four years, passionately advocating for children in her community.

As a bilingual advocate, she helps families feel seen, heard, and supported. Beyond her advocacy, Mayra generously volunteers at Life Stories events and uses her voice to raise awareness—appearing on morning talk shows and our podcast series with La Jota Radio.

**Thank you, Mayra, for being a powerful force for change!**

## SUPERHERO SUCCESS



600+

RUNNERS



30+

VENDORS



120+

VOLUNTEERS

Our 13th Annual Superhero Run was a vibrant celebration of community and advocacy. With over 600 runners, 30+ vendors, and 120 volunteers, the event brought together families, supporters, and local partners to champion the wellbeing of children in Weld County.

## BECOME A 2026 SPONSOR



**Sponsorship opportunities for 2026 are officially open!**

When your business partners with Life Stories, you're not just sponsoring an event—you're investing in a safer, stronger, and more compassionate community. We offer flexible sponsorships to match your goals and values.

**For more information, email [susan@lifestoriesweld.org](mailto:susan@lifestoriesweld.org)**