

# LIFE STORIES

child & family advocacy

QUARTERLY

IMPACT REPORT

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2025

## A LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Dear Friends of Life Stories,

As this year draws to a close, *I want to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished together*, and to express my sincere gratitude for the incredible community that makes our work possible.

At Life Stories Child & Family Advocacy, we often say that it takes a village: donors, volunteers, community partners, and friends to protect and uplift children. This past year once again solidified that. Your generosity has created a space for children who have endured unimaginable challenges to find safety, healing, and hope through compassionate advocacy and care. Families found the strength to rebuild and **our community grew stronger, united by a shared belief that every child deserves to be safe and supported.**

Your contributions, whether a financial gift, a volunteer hour, a sponsorship, or simply sharing our mission with others, have a ripple effect that extends far beyond what you may see. Every dollar helps ensure that no child faces their trauma alone. Every partnership allows us to reach more families in need. Every act of kindness reminds us that **we are not doing this work in isolation, but as part of a larger movement of people who care deeply about the wellbeing of children in Weld County.**

This year, you helped us expand our reach, strengthen our programs, and deepen our impact. From the joy and energy of the Superhero Run to the outpouring of support at our Annual Gala and Santa's Workshop, we've seen firsthand how our community steps up to make a difference. Each event, each donation, and each conversation has fueled our mission and reinforced our belief in what's possible when we come together.

**To our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and partners, thank you.** You are the reason Life Stories can continue this essential work. Your trust and commitment sustain our organization, inspire our volunteers, and most importantly, bring hope to children who need it most.

As we prepare to enter a new year, we do so with immense gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose. The work ahead is significant, and because of your continued support, we are ready to carry it forward for the children and families who rely on us. Together, we will keep writing stories of resilience, compassion, and healing one child and one family at a time.



With Gratitude,

**SUSAN MCKENZIE**

Fundraising & Development Manager

## GUARDIAN CIRCLE





## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DANGER & SAFETY

A 6-year-old girl came to our Child Advocacy Center (CAC), terrified to disclose the severe abuse she had suffered from her adoptive parents. Initially, she was unable to talk about what had happened. Recognizing the importance of safety and stability, our team worked to ensure she had a supportive place to stay, spending the long weekend with a trusted babysitter. When she returned, it was a night and day difference. She found her voice, shared her story, and, with the help of our multidisciplinary team, was placed in a safe home.


This child's journey reminds us why CAC's exist: without a coordinated, child-centered approach, her disclosure and her safety could have been delayed.

Thanks to our team and the support of donors like you, children in dangerous situations can be heard, protected, and given the chance to thrive. **Every story like this is a reminder that your support directly changes the trajectory of a child's life.**

*Respectfully submitted by Elizavet Carranza Arroyo,  
Bilingual Family Advocate*

LAST FISCAL YEAR  
July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

**303**  
FORENSIC  
INTERVIEWS

**524**   
NON-OFFENDING  
FAMILY MEMBERS

**242**  
CHILDREN  
ADVOCATED FOR  
IN COURT

## PARTNER WITH US IN 2026

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)**



**RED CARPET RODEO  
ANNUAL GALA**  
Friday, April 17



**PULL FOR YOUTH  
CLAY SHOOT**  
Saturday, June 13



**SUPERHERO  
RUN**  
Saturday, Sept 19

TOGETHER, WE GAVE  
**1,069 CHILDREN**  
AND FAMILY MEMBERS

A VOICE, HOPE, AND A  
PATH TOWARD HEALING.

## WHEN ONE VOICE CHANGES A CHILD'S PATH

For nearly two years, a **CASA volunteer served as the consistent voice for a 3-year-old girl caught in a stalled court case.** Each visit with her mother caused hours of emotional distress, yet those impacts could have gone unnoticed without a dedicated advocate. The CASA volunteer carefully documented these patterns, spoke up in difficult moments, **and challenged a system that was not working for the child.**

Her persistence **led the court to reduce visits that were causing harm, bringing the child much-needed stability and emotional safety.** Without the CASA program, this little girl might have continued to endure distress in silence. **This quiet but life-changing outcome was made possible because donors like you** ensure children have someone protecting their well-being and speaking solely in their best interest.

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



## WE'RE MOVING!

## WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW HOME FOR SOUTH COUNTY'S CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

We're excited to share that our **Fort Lupton Children's Advocacy Center will be relocating to a larger space in Firestone.** This move is primarily focused on strengthening CAC services for children and families across South County and the Carbon Valley area. The additional space will also allow us to host CASA volunteer trainings, Darkness to Light child abuse prevention workshops, and collaborative networking events. As we prepare to open this new space, we look forward to welcoming the community and celebrating together. Stay tuned for details on our upcoming ribbon cutting!



Our final podcast episode in a year-long partnership with La Jota Mexican Radio, featuring our Executive Director, Lisa Drake; Podcast Host, William Neidig; and North Range Behavioral Health leaders Jennifer, Ruby, and Kenya



Thank you to White Horse for choosing Life Stories as the beneficiary of their Customer Appreciation Night. They raised over \$1,000 to support children in Weld County!



Local nonprofits celebrated the launch of Colorado Gives Day



Board Member Marie Warren hosted a charcuterie board class, with proceeds benefiting Life Stories.



Thank you to Kodak for brightening the holidays for 60 children we serve—donating \$1,500 and gifts to show these kids they are supported, celebrated, and cared for.



Basalite Concrete Products generously supported Santa's Workshop this year, providing gifts to help children who received forensic interviews experience the magic of the season. We're grateful to all our partners who make this possible!



Sam Summers & Jason Appelhans from Mountain Valley Bank joined us on KFKA to talk about their longstanding partnership and participation in hosting a toy drive for Santa's Workshop



Life Stories joined children for the annual Reggie the Reindeer event, hosted by First FarmBank, bringing holiday cheer and memorable moments to the kids we serve.



One of our newest team members, Maria Peña, represented Life Stories at the Evans Craft Fair where she met Santa!



Our Fundraising & Development Manager, Susan McKenzie, and Board Member Marie Warren attended the NOCO Women in Business Empowered Women Gala, where they shared information about Life Stories. The evening highlighted our agency thanks to Sarah Dick's selection of Life Stories as the featured nonprofit.