

### What is CASA?

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a nonprofit program that recruits, trains, supervises, and supports community volunteers who advocate for abused and/or neglected children who are dependents of the court and the child welfare system. We strive to serve as many children in the Weld County dependency and neglect system as possible, but due to a shortage of volunteers, we are only serving about 30% of the need in the county.

#### Who is a CASA Volunteer?

A CASA volunteer is a trained community member who is appointed by a judge to represent the best interests of a child. The CASA volunteer spends time with the child on a weekly basis getting to know the child while also gathering information from the child's family, teachers, doctors, caregivers, and others involved in the child's life.

# No special background or education is required to become a CASA volunteer.

We provide a 39-hour training, focused on developing a strong platform of knowledge, skills, and understanding to help you be a successful child advocate. There is also ongoing training to help support your individual child and their situation. Every case is different.

Join our fight to make sure children don't get lost in the child welfare system. Ensure Weld County's abused and neglected children have a safe and permanent home.

# What is the Impact?

Children with a CASA volunteer:

- Are twice as likely to find a safe, permanent home
- Get more help while in the system and receive more services like therapy or tutoring
- Have a consistent, positive adult presence in their life
- Do better in school and are more likely to graduate

Become a CASA Volunteer Today!

Email sharon@lifestoriesweld.org or call 970-353-5970

LIFE STORIES CHILD &



## **Next Steps**

- 1. Fill out our Volunteer Application
- 2. Come in for an interview with a CASA staff member
- 3. Wait as CASA starts the background check process
- 4. Commit to a training class
- 5. Start Training!

## **Upcoming Training Dates**

#### February 2023

All sessions are from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Thurs, Feb. 2
Tues, Feb. 7
Thurs, Feb. 9
Mon, Feb. 13
Thurs, Feb. 16
Tues, Feb. 21
Thurs, Feb. 23
Tues, Feb. 28
Thurs, Mar. 2 ~
Swearing In

#### June 2023

Each day includes a 1 hour midday or afternoon break.

Thurs, June 1, 9-5
Mon, June 8, 9-5
Thurs, June 15, 9-5
Mon, June 22, 9-5
Thurs, June 29 ~
Swearing In

Independent

Independent
Learning Sessions
available throughout
the year. Ask for
dates.

#### October 2023

All sessions are from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Wed, Sept. 27
Mon, Oct. 2
Wed, Oct. 4
Mon, Oct. 9
Wed, Oct. 11
Mon, Oct. 16

Mon, Oct. 23 Wed, Oct. 25 ~

Wed, Oct. 18

Swearing In

All swearing in's and the month-long training sessions are planned to be in person. Independent learning sessions meet once a week for five weeks via Zoom.

## What Happens During Training?

Training covers a wide-range of topics and is meant for you to gain understanding on what a CASA volunteer does and how CASA volunteers advocate for their assigned child or children. During training, you will get to observe court cases and learn from current volunteers and other professionals working in the dependency and neglect system. The CASA training staff will also go over sample cases and teach you how to write a court report.