

September 2023

**icab** | IOWA CHILD  
ADVOCACY BOARD

# Connection

Advocating for the protection of Iowa's children and improvement of the child welfare system.

**Stay Up to Date**



## Advocates Circle

On average in Iowa, it costs \$1,800 for one child to have a CASA volunteer for one year and \$850 for a volunteer foster care review board to review one child for one year. Friends of Iowa CASA has created the Advocates Circle, where any donor who contributes \$850 or more to

Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB on an annual basis will receive recognition in our Annual Report and verbal recognition at events in the donor's local area!

Your leadership gift today will help recruit, train and support more CASA and FCRB volunteers in Iowa who provide the best outcomes for our state's most vulnerable children. There is option for a one-time donation or a monthly gift. [Donate here today!](#)

Membership Levels:

Ally: \$850 (or \$70 monthly)

Champion: \$1,800 (or \$150 monthly)

Guardian: \$2,650 (or \$220 monthly)

Visionary: \$3,000 (or \$250 monthly)



## Friends of Iowa CASA Hosts Inaugural Eastern Corridor Light of Hope Fundraiser

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters who made the inaugural Eastern Corridor Light of Hope fundraiser possible! Long time and new supporters joined Friends at the Cedar Ridge Winery and Distillery August 17 for the event. The fundraiser included a performance from Bryce Janey and raffle prizes including a spa package, concert tickets and more.

A special thank you to our sponsors, the Accel Foundation and the Cedar Rapids Area Realtors Association, and to our coordinators Jennifer Gericke and Nancy Manion for their work putting this event together.

## End of Fiscal Year 2023 Program Statistics



From July 2022 through June 2023, CASA of Iowa volunteers continued to do some amazing work for Iowa's children. Here are some of the highlights:

### Year End Stats - FY2023

- Total children served in FY: 1303
- Total families served in FY: 701
- Total number volunteers serving as advocates in FY: 477
- Total number volunteers serving in all case-related roles in FY: 528
- Total number applications received during FY: 184
- Total new Advocates sworn during FY: 103
- Average number families served per month: 439.9
- Average number children served per month: 797
- Average number cases assigned to each coach in any month: 3
- Volunteer time contributions:

Case-related hours	17,645
Training-related hours	<u>8,168</u> (all volunteer statuses)
Total hours contributed	- 25,813
- Volunteer mileage contribution: 205,642
- The average CASA volunteer spent 33.4 hours in case-related activity and drove 389 miles for the CASA program in the FY

One Black Hawk County CASA volunteer had 594 case-related hours

One Lyon County CASA volunteer drove 7,975 case-related miles

One Scott County CASA volunteer participated in 63.5 hours of continuing education

**Trainer's Corner**





## September is Suicide Prevention Month

September is Suicide Prevention Month. All of us can help prevent suicide. As Advocates and Board Members concerned about our youth's well-being, it's important to understand what might indicate someone is at-risk, showing warning signs, or experiencing suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Not sure how to talk with someone struggling with suicidal thoughts? Learn about [the actions you can take at YourLifelowa.org](#). Your Life Iowa is an Iowa-based helpline where people can call, text, or chat live for free and confidential support if concerned about suicidality for themselves or others.

988 is the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. If you think a child, adolescent, or someone you may know is struggling with thoughts of suicide or would like emotional support, 988 provides free and confidential support for people in distress and prevention and crisis resources.

Talking to children and adolescents about suicide can be hard, reach out to your Coordinator and learn how to advocate.



## Additional Resources

- [Preventing youth suicide](#) University of Iowa
- [The Trevor Project](#) The Trevor Project is a suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization that supports young people 24/7 with suicidal thoughts who identify as LGBTQ+

- [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#) Funded through SAMHSA and operated by The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center provides education, resources, and training on suicide prevention.
- [Training - Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#)
- [Foster Care Providers: Helping Youth at Risk of Suicide 2014](#) This information sheet addresses suicide prevention among youth in foster care. It is written for professionals and volunteers who interact with foster children or work with their caregivers.
- [Preventing Suicidal Behavior Among Youth in Foster Care](#)
- [Youth suicide and self-harm: What advocates need to know \(2008\)](#)
- [Facts About Suicide](#)
- [Prevention Strategies | Suicide | CDC](#)



## Training Credits for CASA Advocates

Contact your local coordinator or the State Trainer at [lesa.christianson@dia.iowa.gov](mailto:lesa.christianson@dia.iowa.gov) to receive information on how to complete the following on demand webinars to receive in-service training credit.

- Addressing and Preventing Self-Harm in Kids & Teens
- Disparities in Suicide Risk Among Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Adults
- How Social Media Can Exacerbate Self-Injury
- Meeting the Moment: How Child Welfare and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Professionals Can Address the Needs of Adolescents at Risk of Suicide and Mental Health Concerns

- Overview of Adolescent Suicide
- Self-Harm in Kids and Teens
- Substance Use Disorders and Suicide
- Understanding Cutting, Burning, and Self-Injury
- Understanding Self-Harm: Cutting, Self-Injury, and Mutilation

## 2023 Speaker Series

Register Now!

To support your continuous learning journey within our organization and your advocacy efforts as a CASA or FCRB Board member, please consider registering for one of our upcoming Speaker Series in-service training sessions!

### ***Domestic Violence: The Name Doesn't Tell the Story***

***September 29, 12:00pm - 1:30 pm***

[Click here to register](#)

Join Kirsten Faisal, Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence to discuss Domestic Violence: The Name Doesn't Tell the Story. One in three Iowa women experience domestic violence in their lifetime, yet most of us know little about this issue or how to help. Victims of domestic violence face many barriers including myths such as "leaving is the key to safety" and "it takes two to tango". This webinar takes a closer look at the abusive strategies used to intimidate and control an intimate partner. From reproductive coercion to cyber stalking, these behaviors extend beyond physical violence and occur far outside the domestic sphere. They impact their target in traumatic and often life-long ways. Break your old notions and learn the truth about this national health crisis for women and families. This training will be recorded, please only register to attend the live event. The recording can be made available upon request following the event.

### ***New Directions in Child Welfare Practice for Cases Involving Domestic Abuse***

***October 3, 2023 12:00pm - 1:00 pm***

[Click here to register](#)

Join Kirsten Faisal, Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence to discuss New Directions in Child Welfare Practice for Cases Involving Domestic Abuse. The most conservative estimates indicate that child maltreatment occurs in at least 30% of families in which domestic abuse takes place. Child welfare workers interact with many of these families. In the past decade, Iowa has taken numerous steps to develop an informed response that: 1) examines how patterns of behavior among intimate partner abusers impact the safety and well-being of the family; 2) elevates standards for fathers; and 3) focuses on keeping children safely together with the non-offending parent. This webinar will introduce

the framework behind this change in response, called the Safe and Together Model, and give examples of how it looks in day-to-day practice. This training will be recorded, please only register to attend the live event. The recording can be made available upon request following the event.

***Understanding HHS' Family Centered Service, SafeCare (Rescheduled)***

**October 18, 2023 12:00pm - 1:00pm**

[Click here to register](#)

Join Sara Buis as she focuses on the SafeCare program for families served by the Iowa child welfare system. Hear what this service provides to families for support and education and the expected positive outcomes from Safecare. This training will be recorded, please only register to attend the live event. The recording can be made available upon request following the event.

If you have questions, please contact the State Trainer at [lesa.christianson@dia.iowa.gov](mailto:lesa.christianson@dia.iowa.gov).

## Years of Service and New Volunteers

**Janice Brewer**

Program support  
CASA of Iowa  
Celebrating 34 Years!

**Nancy Manion**

Program Coordinator  
CASA & FCRB of Eastern Iowa  
Celebrating 28 Years!



**Anne Christensen**

Program Coordinator  
CASA of Southwest Iowa  
Celebrating 24 Years!

**Karie McMillian**

CASA Assistant for CASA of Southeast Iowa  
Celebrating 4 Years!

# September Anniversaries

Thank you for your dedication and service!

**IOWA** | Iowa Child Advocacy Board

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# Welcome, New Volunteers!

## Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Bobby Baccam	Nichole Bauer	Carole Cherne
Katelyn Chumbley	Miles Cloyd	Anne Grampovnik
Jan Jacobson	Lee Johnson	Elisa Koler
Maggie McDonough	Marni Mosher	Marisa Petersen
Lora Ridgway	Rene Schaaf	Nicole Sunderman
Jacqueline Thompson-McKeever	Emily VanGent	

## Foster Care Review Board (FCRB)

Andrea Fuemmeler	Nancy Hayes
Jill Lane	Jordan Potter



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Website: [childadvocacy.iowa.gov](http://childadvocacy.iowa.gov)  
Email: [cab@dia.iowa.gov](mailto:cab@dia.iowa.gov)



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