

November 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



Leaves of Change

Thank you to our supporters and volunteers who joined us for the first Leaves of Change Happy Hour October 18 at Peace Tree Brewing Co. in the Des Moines East Village. It was wonderful to meet so many of you! If you are a donor or volunteer and are interested in having this thank you

event for your local area supporters, please contact Friends' Executive Director Meghan Malloy at mmalloy@casaandicfcrb.org.

Advocates Circle

In Iowa, it costs an average of \$1,800 for one child to have a CASA volunteer for one year; on average, it is \$850 for a volunteer Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) to review one child for one year. While Friends of Iowa CASA and FCRB have made progress towards serving every at-risk child in Iowa, we still have work to do.

In recognition of that, Friends created the Advocates Circle: 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 Iowa's most vulnerable children. You may make a one-time donation or a monthly gift (NOTE: please enter your gift in the custom field and set the frequency to recurring).

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)

Join the [#AdvocatesCircle](#) today by [clicking here](#).

Annual Appeal

The second annual Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB year-end appeal kicked off Sept. 18! As we approach the season of hope and light, the end of the year is a prime time to reflect on the good work CASA and FCRB volunteers have done in their communities in 2023, and how we can all work together to change a child's story in 2024. To make a gift today or any time before the end of the year, please [click here](#).

Kendra Scott Giveback

Save the date! Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB is partnering with Kendra Scott Jewelry Store again this December for their two-day giveback event. On December 15-16, Friends will receive 20% of the sales made at the Jordan Creek Kendra Scott store in-person and online with a special online code. Finish your holiday shopping while supporting CASA and FCRB! An online code will be provided next month – check December's ICAB newsletter and our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts for updates!



Kristina Chandler Named as Volunteer Manager with CASA of Greater Des Moines

Kristina brings a vast amount of experience and education to her position as a volunteer manager with the CASA of Greater Des Moines team. She was previously employed as both a social work case manager and as a child protective worker with Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. Additionally, Kristina is a former CASA advocate and coach. Welcome to the team, Kristina!

Trainer's Corner



For FCRB Members & CASA Advocates: Continuous Learning to Expand Advocacy Skills

In the child welfare system, policies are updated, programs change, and new laws are enacted that can impact the system and the efforts we provide as CASAs and FCRB board members. Our goal is to be as effective as possible in our specific roles as we advocate for the best interest of children and youth and make recommendations to impact and improve their lives. One strategy that supports that goal is to be provided and participate in continuous learning opportunities that will enhance our knowledge and skills. Ongoing training can help volunteers reach their full potential in advocating for the specific needs and issues on a case.

The ICAB Training Program can help with your specific training needs!

The ICAB training program's goal is to effectively support volunteer's learning needs. As you consider the issues on the cases you are advocating for and the tasks you are asked to complete respective to your program's role, what training topics will assist you the most? Volunteers share their training needs with us via program surveys, in-service training evaluations, emails and conversations with their Coordinator or State Trainer, or in conversations with their CASA Coach. Based on the feedback we receive; we build our internal ICAB training library and seek out speakers to provide statewide or local training and share local live training opportunities or virtual webinars hosted by other organizations.

Volunteers are encouraged to enhance their learning journey by requesting one of our independent studies from their local coordinator or the state trainer or request to participate in a live, instructor-led session, watch an on-demand webinar hosted by other organizations, or

register for one of the upcoming monthly State Office Speaker Sessions. Check out these [past speaker sessions](#) that are available as webinar recordings that you can request at any time.

For CASA Advocates: If you would like a specific list of training options unique to your role or specific to your assigned case issues, contact your local coordinator or the State Trainer at lesa.christianson@dia.iowa.gov.

Years of Service and New Volunteers

November Anniversaries

Steffani Simbric (Executive Director, Iowa Child Advocacy Board) - 4 years

Amy Carpenter (Bureau Chief of CASA Iowa) - 16 years

Carrie Phelps (Program Coordinator for CASA & FCRB of Greater Des Moines) - 17 years

Welcome, New Volunteers!

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Michaela Collins

Jennifer Engelhardt

Shana Liu

Magen Richard

Suzanne Sorensen

Lee Zook

Foster Care Review Board (FCRB)

Teresa Clevenger



Iowa Child Advocacy Board
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4th Floor Lucas Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 1-866-448-4608

Website: childadvocacy.iowa.gov
Email: cab@dia.iowa.gov



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