

October 2023



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

Stay Up to Date

CASA Advocate Spotlight, Jo Stumo



Jo Stumo of Northwood has been a CASA volunteer for 19 years, which makes her one of the longest-serving advocates in the state. In her time as a CASA volunteer, she has advocated for over 50 children! It takes a special person who can do this work so well for so long. Jo Stumo is that person.

Through the years and changes to the CASA program, Jo has kept her focus on what matters most – the kids. Jo never fails to visit and spend time with the children she advocates for. In fact, she goes above and beyond in the time that she spends with them and on her cases as a whole. Jo's consistent presence as a CASA has had a profound effect on the children and families she serves.

Resources

Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB

The second annual Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB year-end appeal kicked off September 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, click [here](#).

Save the date! Your generosity to the children of central Iowa has truly made a difference. To thank you for changing a child's story, Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB invites you to a sponsored Leaves of Change Happy Hour from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18 at Peace Tree Brewing Co. (317 E. Court Ave., DSM). Learn what's new at Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB and bring a friend who's new to our organization and programs we support: CASA (court appointed special advocate) and FCRB (foster care review board). No registration required!

Children Reviewed

The cases of 1,099 unique children were reviewed from 52 counties.

Some children's cases are reviewed more than once in the fiscal year. The reviews conducted involved 1,696 children.

FCRB Reports

1,166 reports were filed with juvenile courts and provided to HHS and other interested parties.

99% of the reports were filed in accordance with Iowa Code timelines.



Our Volunteers

132 volunteers served on 26 boards to review cases of children in foster care.

Volunteer Commitment

FCRB volunteers collectively gave 9,944 hours of their time, driving a little more than 15,000 miles, to serve on local boards.

Volunteer Development

FCRB volunteers logged 1,590 hours towards pre-service training and continuing education to remain current on child welfare practice and laws.

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 our upcoming Speaker Series in-service training session!

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.

Years of Service and New Volunteers



Ann Empen

Administrative Assistant
Foster Care Review Board
of Eastern Iowa
Celebrating 21 Years!



Dawn Bliss

Marketing and
Graphic Design Specialist,
Iowa Child Advocacy Board
Celebrating 1 year!

October Anniversaries

Thank you for your dedication and service!

Iowa Child Advocacy Board

Welcome New Volunteers!

Noah Beacom, CASA

Whitney Hahn-Rogers, CASA

Jordan Potter, FCRB

Andrea Fuemmeler, FCRB

Nancy Hayes, FCRB

Alyssa Rodriguez, CASA

Yvonne Greene, CASA

Caroline Koerner, CASA

Kaytlynn Williams, CASA



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