

February 2024



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

Resources

Friends of Iowa CASA and FCRB



Looking Ahead for 2024

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 to review one child for one year. While Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB has made progress towards serving every at-risk child in Iowa, we still have work to do.

In recognition of that, Friends has 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](#).

Year-End Appeal: For the second year in a row, Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB surpassed its year end appeal fundraising goal! The goal was \$15,000 and Friends raised a grand total of \$15,829! Thank you to all of our generous donors for changing a child's story - 2024 looks bright!

Feb. Coffee + Chat: Thank you to the CASA and FCRB volunteers who joined us for our first Coffee + Chat session in January. There was lots of great conversation about fundraising and other support needs. Coffee + Chat is a virtual meeting over the lunch hour, providing volunteers with more information about the Friends organization and how Friends can better serve volunteers in their communities and achieve the shared goal of changing a child's story. The next Coffee + Chat is Feb. 15 from 12-1 p.m. focused on the Cedar Rapids metro (note: volunteers from across Iowa are welcome to join, but the discussions may be regionally specific). Register for [February's session here](#).

Trainer's Corner



Trainer's Corner

For FCRB Members & CASA Advocates: 2024 Iowa Child Advocacy Board Speaker Series

Hello from the State Office!! We are excited to share with you our plans for the 2024 Speaker Series offered as training opportunities to support your continuous learning journey within our organization! Join us as we gather together virtually in learning!

Victim Assistance in the Attorney General's Office Join John Gist and Lisa Bickelhaupt on February 6, 2024 from Noon to 1 pm to learn about the resources available through the AG's office. From grants to free training and most significantly, crime victim compensation, learn how these services could enhance advocacy efforts. Open to CASA and FCRB volunteers. [Click here to register!](#) Please register if able to attend the live session. As this session will be recorded, please only register to attend the live session. A recording will be made available upon request following the session for independent study in-service credit.

Understanding Safety and Risk in Iowa Child Welfare System Sara Buis, Linda Dettmann, & Roxanne Riesberg from HHS will assist CASA volunteers in learning about definitions of safety and risk and how current practice is impacted by the understanding of each term for families being served by the child welfare system. Join us on March 5th from noon to 1 pm. [Click here to register!](#) As this session will be recorded, please only register to attend the live session.

Youth Suicide: A Silent Epidemic Suicide has been cited as a national public health issue among our youth since 1999, when Surgeon General Satcher identified it as such. In this presentation, we will talk about how suicide continues to be an issue today. We will present statistical information about youth suicide and discuss signs that a young person may be suicidal and factors that can increase suicide risk. Join Brett Marciel from the Jason Foundation, Inc. on April 17, 2024 at Noon to learn about the magnitude of the problem of suicide among our youth, common signs of suicidal ideation and factors that increase suicide risk and common best practices after a struggling young person is identified. This is not to be missed! [Click here to register!](#) This training will be recorded so only register to attend the live session. A recording can be made available upon request following the event for viewing to receive in-service credit.

Current Drug Trends and Updates in Iowa Join us on May 1st from noon to 1 pm as Susie Sher, the Office of Drug Control Policy Bureau Chief shares current drug trends across Iowa. Learn more about the Office of Drug Control Policy, upcoming legislative action, and drug take back days. Bring your questions! As this session will be recorded, please only register to attend the live session. A recording can be made available upon request following the session for independent study in-service credit. [Click here to register!](#)

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

February Anniversaries

Cynthia Goellnitz - Administrative Assistant for FCRB,
CASA of Iowa - Greater Cedar Rapids Area, 27 years.

Amy Hennies - Child Advocacy Board Program Coordinator,
CASA of Iowa - Woodbury County, 8 years.

Cara Galloway - Child Advocacy Board Program Coordinator,
CASA & FCRB of Southeast Iowa, 5 years.

Welcome, New Volunteers!

Rachel Krell, CASA
Caroline Persons, CASA
Rachel Peterson, CASA



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