

# SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA CASA NEWSLETTER



## OUR UNSTOPPABLE TEAM

*Written by: Marci Fehlhafer, Executive Director*

Hello from Southeast Nebraska CASA! I am so excited that we are finally launching this newsletter! Our team has talked about starting this newsletter since I started in September 2016, but July 2020 appears to be the perfect time to start! While a lot of businesses were shutting down for the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff and volunteers at Southeast Nebraska CASA virtually moved full speed ahead.

I want to introduce you to our current "Unstoppable" team. My name is Marci Fehlhafer, and I began working at Southeast Nebraska CASA as Executive Director in September 2016. I can honestly say... I LOVE MY JOB! I do not love the reason I have my job, as child abuse and neglect is heartbreaking, but the volunteers who advocate for these children are some of the most amazing people I have met, and their desire to help these children, gives me the drive to work to make our program stronger every day!

Kim Richters has been with Southeast Nebraska CASA since May 2016. She currently serves as the Program Coordinator for Seward and Saline County, and she loves working with volunteers! She has a passion for helping people, and wants every child to have a voice.

Amber Lovitt is our Gage County Program Director. She began July 2019, and has already trained and assigned 12 volunteers in Gage County. Her passion for the program, and energy level are a huge blessing as we grow our program in Gage County.

Sheena Halverstadt started as our Program Coordinator for Jefferson and Thayer County on April 1st, 2020. I was worried about virtually training a new employee, but she is catching on quick and is eager to build a team of volunteers to serve in Jefferson & Thayer Counties.

We plan to publish 6 newsletters a year. With these newsletters, we want to feature our amazing volunteers, give updates about the program, and celebrate the positive steps we have made.



Marci Fehlhafer Executive Director  
Southeast Nebraska CASA and State  
Farm Agent Brenda Henning

## A **HUGE THANK YOU** to Brenda Henning State Farm

Brenda received a \$500 Good Neighbor Community Grant for Southeast Nebraska CASA. When children are removed from their homes and placed in foster care they often have only a grocery sack of belongings. They are often missing necessities like fresh socks/underwear and a meal. Sometimes social workers need to grab clean bottles & formula. Brenda requested various gift cards for a grand total of \$500 to help our program. THANK you Brenda for being our Good Neighbor and helping the Southeast Nebraska CASA Children!

## MEET *Maggie!*

### OUR FIRST FURRY CASA VOLUNTEER

Maggie has made a huge impact in the lives of the children she has helped. She is a joy to be around and an inspiration to everyone!

Maggie always puts a smile on kid's faces and comforts them from daily stresses. Whenever kids are in a bad mood, sad, or crying all they have to do is pet Maggie and she makes them feel better! Maggie works hard to keep everyone around her happy.

Seeing Maggie allows kids to feel more comfortable with their environment, giving kids the feeling of being safe and protected.



**#CASASUPPORTDOGS**

You can follow Maggie on Facebook  
@maggiesmissiontherapydog



## *Volunteer Spotlight*

### **BRUCE AND SUE DICKINSON**

Bruce and Sue Dickinson have been volunteering in Seward County as CASA volunteers since 2005. Bruce is a retired middle school counselor and started as a CASA volunteer in 1999. Sue is a retired elementary school teacher and joined Bruce as an CASA in 2005 and together they have volunteered over 1100 hours!

Bruce and Sue have advocated for over 20 CASA children in addition to all the volunteer work they do in the Seward Community.

When the case they were assigned to closed in February 2020, they decided to retire as advocates, but they still participate in our training and support groups and support our program throughout the community. We want to THANK Bruce and Sue for all they have done for Southeast Nebraska CASA.

## **I WANT TO HELP**

# *Now What?*

**Volunteer  
Advocate  
Donate**

@SoutheastNebraskaCASA



@SoutheastNECASA



<https://www.southeastnebraskacasa.org>



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