

OCTOBER 2022

THE VOICE

The Official Newsletter of Southeast Nebraska CASA

A Letter from Our Director...

As I am sitting down to write this director's letter, it is October 14th - we are almost halfway through October, and it has been a very busy month! Southeast Nebraska CASA has two really big things happening this October.

1. Our Seward Office is Moving! We have been working remotely since the storm damaged our office in June. A blessing that has come from that storm is we will be moving to the courthouse! (3rd floor of 529 Seward Street) Our stuff will be moved by October 31st, and we look forward to working downtown again.
2. Scare at the Fair! We are hosting Scare at the Fair on October 30th from 4:00-6:00. This year it will be held in the 4-H Building - and we have a great lineup of booths and activities for all ages. PLEASE JOIN US!

In addition to moving and planning Scare at the Fair, our team of staff and volunteers continue to be committed to helping be the voice for abused and neglected children. As our program continues to share our mission throughout our communities, we have found so many families needing more assistance. I'm so thankful for how our team builds connections with various organizations and people to help find whatever the family might need. Just this month, we've been able to help with gas cards, bunk beds and parenting classes!

The book Chop Wood Carry Water by Joshua Medcalf tells a story about an 18 year old (John) who buys a one-way ticket to an ancient city in Japan to enroll as an apprentice samurai archer. At the end of the book Akira Sensei says.. "I've done my best to equip you with a toolbox to help you as you navigate the territory alone and map it for yourself: a compass. As an internal one, built on the principles and timeless wisdom of 'chop wood carry water'. You have learned the value of beating on your craft, being bold and courageous, always asking 'who says' and you have truly fallen in love with the process of becoming great. As you go out into the world, you will need these tools more than ever to find your way."

I have been thinking a lot about this book and how it relates to Southeast Nebraska CASA. Our volunteers and staff help find resources for the families we serve, but we can't do the work for them. We give families a tool box. We encourage, support and teach our families to "chop wood, carry water" - over and over and over and trust the process of our role of Court Appointed Special Advocates. Our jobs will never be done - but we are growing as a team, and watching our program grow has been such a blessing to me and I have truly fell in love with the process.

Volunteer Portal

We are excited to announce a new feature to our website... the Volunteer Portal! Here you will find all the resources you need to do your job! If there's something you'd like to see here, please let us know and we can add it!

[Click Here to Log In](#)



DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE AND
AWARENESS
MONTH 2022



Ask the U.S. Congress to Support an Increase in Victims of Crime Act Funding for 2023



Please take a few minutes to contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives now and ask for their support for an increase to the VOCA cap for FY2023.

The Crime Victims Fund (CVF) was established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984 and is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime. The Fund is financed by the collection of federal crime fines, forfeitures and special assessments rather than taxpayer dollars. The Fund helps an average of 3.7 million victims of all types of crime every year.

The Fund is used to provide crime victim assistance grants in every state, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories. States, in turn, provide subgrants to community-based organizations and public agencies that provide services directly to victims. Court Appointed Special Advocate and Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) state organizations and local programs across the country benefit from over \$90 million in VOCA dollars annually.

In recent years deposits to the CVF have decreased dramatically which in turn has diminished VOCA funds made available to states; many of which are passed through to CASA/GAL organizations. The dollars deposited to the CVF have decreased due to fewer federal fines and fees that fund the CVF and VOCA.

The proposed funding cap for the CVF, which funds VOCA, may be significantly lower for FY2023. The cap took a significant cut from \$4.4B in FY2018 to \$3.5B in FY2019. In FY2020 the cap was set at \$2.541B and dropped to \$2.015B in FY2021 followed by an increase in the cap to \$2.6B in FY2022.

For FY2023, the President included a \$1.75B cap to VOCA in his budget. The House followed with a \$2.05B cap. It was expected that the Senate would come out with a higher number, however, they have a \$1.75B cap for VOCA in their budget bill.

Such cuts in the VOCA cap could significantly impact funding to CASA/GAL state organizations and local programs and ultimately children in need.

Please take a few minutes to contact your members of Congress now and ask for their support for increasing the VOCA cap for FY2023. Their support is critical to keep VOCA funds flowing to CASA/GAL state organizations and local programs in the year ahead.


Thank you very much for your time and support of vulnerable children in need.



COME CELEBRATE!

 **OCTOBER**
 **30TH**

 **3:30-4:00PM SPECIAL
NEEDS INDIVIDUALS**

 **4:00-6:00PM EVENT**

 **SEWARD 4-H CENTER
555 N. 16H SEWARD, NE**



SCARE AT THE FAIR



FREE!
**FOOD
GAMES
CANDY
AND MORE!**


*Free event
for all!*



**SEWARD CASA OFFICE
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
DECEMBER 16TH**

SAVE THE DATE

**HEBRON CASA OFFICE
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
DECEMBER 11TH**

TOGETHER, WE CAN END THE ABUSE.

FIGHT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Help end the silence. Report it if you see it.

One in Nine Men are Survivors

One in Four Women are Survivors

What is the Physical/Mental Impact?

- Women abused by their intimate partners are more vulnerable to contracting HIV or other STI's
- There is a relationship between intimate partner violence and depression and suicidal behavior
- Boys who witness domestic violence are 2 times as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults

Call the Domestic Abuse Hotline 800-799-7233

<https://ncadv.org/STATISTICS>

NEW CASA NUMBERS

CALL OR TEXT US!

Main	Main Number: (402)-643-3695
Ext 1	Marci Fehlhafer (531)-727-4038
Ext 2	Lisa Lindau (531)-727-4024
Ext 3	Sheena Halverstadt (531)-727-4006
Ext 4	Sonia Almodovar (531)-727-4057

SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA CASA OFFICE HOURS

Hebron Office

6150 US Hwy 136
Hebron, NE 68370

Monday and
Wednesdays

9:30-3:00pm
or call for an
appointment!

Seward Office

1313 285th St
Seward, NE 68434

Temporary Closed
due to the storm.

Staff is working
from home. Call for
an appointment!

All staff work from home, out in the community, and in the Hebron office. Please email or call to set up an appointment. We would love to see you!



VOLUNTEER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

HOPE
crisis center
1-877-388-HOPE (4673) FREE CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

CASA

Understanding and Responding to Domestic Violence

Mandy VanLaningham

Development and Education Specialist
Hope Crisis Center

Seward Civic Center or Zoom All are welcome!
12:00pm-1:00pm

WHAT IS A CASA?

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

NEBRASKA CASA ASSOCIATION

VOLUNTEER **LEARN MORE**




Court Appointed Special Advocates are volunteers who are appointed by a judge to speak in court for the safety and well-being of an abused and neglected foster child.

SUPPORT CASA TODAY



REGISTER HERE



JOIN US!

Oct. 12th NOON

FREE Movie Showing

JOIN US

Free Movie
Nov. 12th 2:00pm
Bonham Theatre
Free to community

← →
"130 YEARS AFTER NATIVE AMERICAN BOYS DIED AT AN INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL, THEIR TRIBE TRIES TO BRING THEM HOME."
SAVE THE DATE




CASA

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR CASA CASE

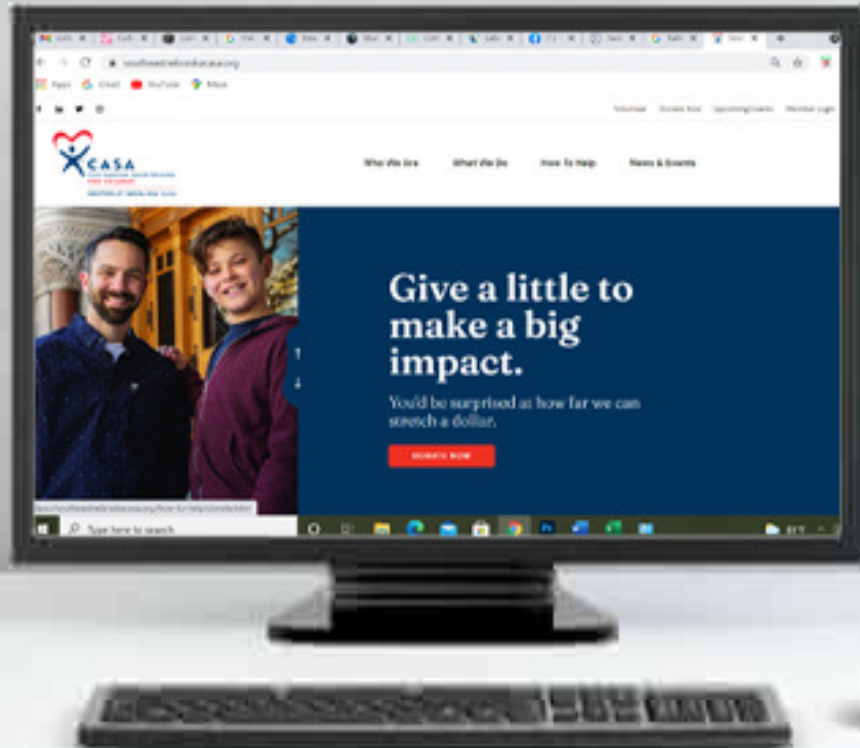
SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA CASA SUPPORT GROUP
CURRENT CASA VOLUNTEERS ONLY
TIME AND DATE BELOW!

THAYER AND JEFFERSON:
TUESDAY, OCT 18TH 6-7PM
HEBRON CASA OFFICE

SEWARD AND SALINE:
WEDNESDAY, OCT 19TH
7:00 PM ON ZOOM



Southeast Nebraska CASA Online



**Check out our website where you can find
all the information about CASA!**

Fill out a Volunteer, Board Member or Internship Application

Stay up to date on CASA News & Events

Make a Monetary Donation

Find out more about our Programs & Services

Listen to our Podcast 'CASA Talk'

Purchase CASA Apparel

Find out more about our Mission, our History, and our Location

Contact Us with Questions or to see how you can become involved with CASA

[Click here to visit our Website!](#)