

MARCH 2022

# THE VOICE

The Official Newsletter of Southeast Nebraska CASA

## A Letter from Our Director...

The world has a lot going on right now. Fear of war. Fear of inflation. Hurt and fear are all around us. Now, imagine being a child who has experienced abuse and or neglect. They live in fear every day. For these children, fear is nothing new, they fear for their safety, they worry if they will have food, or if they will need to hide while mom and dad fight so they don't get physically hurt. They are afraid to tell anyone their story.

Even though each person experiences fear differently, all of us have experienced fear. I wish I had the answer to help eliminate fear. But one thing I get to see every day at Southeast Nebraska CASA is our volunteers helping these children talk about fear. Our CASA volunteers are willing to share their time, their feelings and their experiences with children who are afraid. Our volunteers build a connection and help that child find their strength and their voice. Our volunteers remind these children that fear is all around us, but they do not have to walk through fear alone.

We still have children waiting for a CASA volunteer. If you are afraid you don't have the time or don't know how to be that voice.... Please reach out to us! Our training and support is top notch. I would love to talk to you more about this opportunity.

You can reach me the following ways:

Email. [director@southeastnebraskacasa.org](mailto:director@southeastnebraskacasa.org)

Phone: 402-643-3695 x1

Website: [www.southeastnebraskacasa.org](http://www.southeastnebraskacasa.org)

I hope to hear from you soon!

Marci

## 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](#)



## Upcoming Events

See Pages 07 & 08 for a list of upcoming training events that we have available for our volunteers & the community.

# 2021 Accomplishments

## Southeast Nebraska CASA 2021 Annual Report

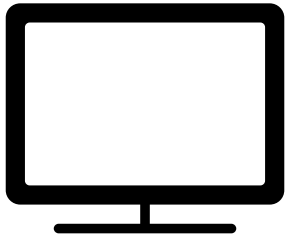
2021 brought a lot of change to Southeast Nebraska CASA. We hired a full time Training and Recruitment Director. (Sonia Almodovar) We updated our website and we increased the number of community trainings our program facilitated.

Awareness for Southeast Nebraska CASA includes many different areas. We have continued to host the podcast "CASA Talk" with 2 new episodes each month. "CASA Talk" explores the crossroads between advocacy and humanity. To be strong, effective advocates for children means we take seriously our role as neighbors, role models and life long learners.

***This is where we still need YOU!***

Our volunteers make a real difference in a child's life. In 2021, Southeast Nebraska CASA served more children than ever before, but we still have 28 kids waiting for an advocate.... Will that voice be YOURS?





**12**

community members  
that attended the  
New Guided Learning  
Curriculum

# *Year In Review*



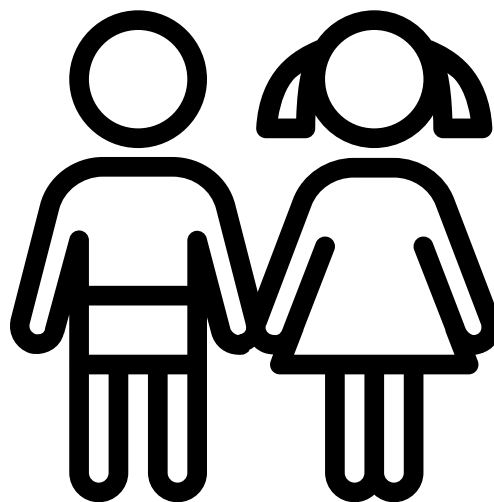
**12**

New  
Volunteers  
Sworn In



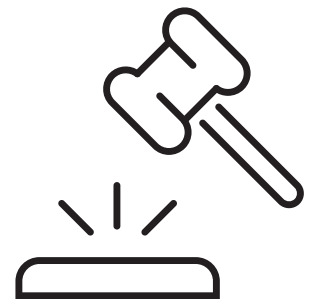
**17**

Children who  
achieved  
Permanency



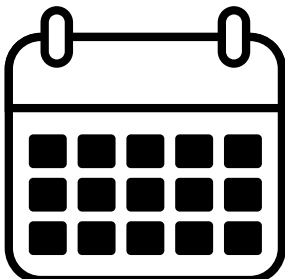
**98**

**Children Served  
by a Volunteer**



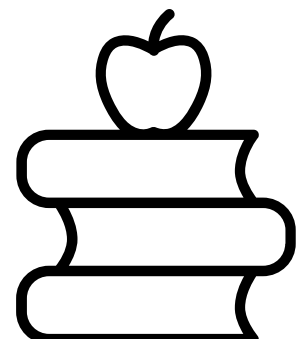
**57**

Court Reports  
Submitted



**2,173**

Volunteer Hours



**1,345**

Continuing  
Education Hours

# Who Are We?



## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Marci Fehlhafer

(402)-643-3695 Ext: 1

[director@southeastnebraskacasa.org](mailto:director@southeastnebraskacasa.org)



## **TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT**

Sonia Almodovar

(402)-643-3695 ext 5

[office@southeastnebraska.org](mailto:office@southeastnebraska.org)



## **SEWARD / SALINE COUNTY**

Lisa Lindau

(402)-643-3695 Ext: 2

[lisal@southeastnebraskacasa.org](mailto:lisal@southeastnebraskacasa.org)



## **THAYER / JEFFERSON COUNTY**

Sheena Halverstadt

(402)-643-3695 Ext: 3

[sheena@southeastnebraskacasa.org](mailto:sheena@southeastnebraskacasa.org)



## **GAGE COUNTY**

Amber Lovitt

(402)-643-3695 Ext: 4

[amber@southeastnebraskacasa.org](mailto:amber@southeastnebraskacasa.org)

**SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA CASA  
PO BOX 215  
SEWARD, NE 68434**

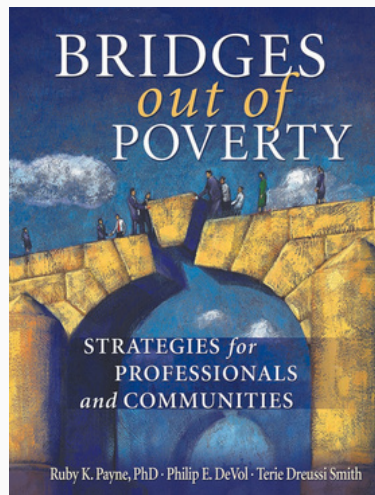


## CASA Talk

### The Official Podcast of Southeast Nebraska CASA

This month we bring you TWO awesome episodes of  
CASA Talk!!

Our first episode is a mini-episode with our  
Training & Recruitment Director,  
Sonia Almodovar, talking about  
Bridges Out of Poverty training  
and how she is now certified to  
lead workshops too! Contact the  
office to find out more about  
bringing this very important  
training to your community soon!



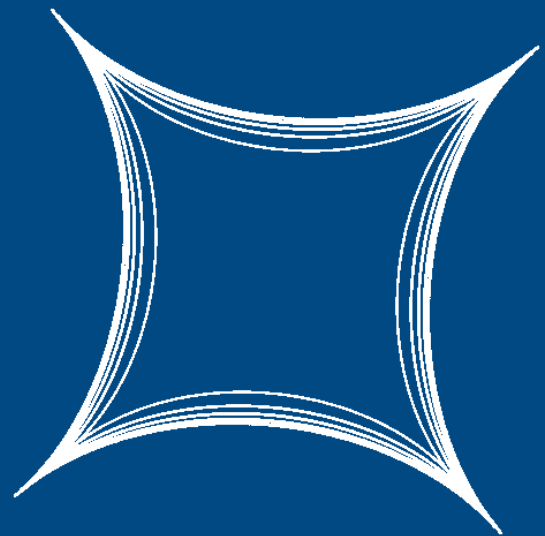
[CLICK HERE](#) to listen  
to the podcast. **UPDATE**

In our second episode, my friend, Joel Endorf, and I  
sit down to talk about money, our lives and building  
the world we want to live in on purpose. I hope it  
helps spurs conversation around these themes in  
your own life.

[CLICK HERE](#) to listen  
to what Joel has to say.



**A podcast produced by  
Southeast Nebraska  
CASA**





# Thank You to Our CASA Heros!!!

We are so very LUCKY to have amazing community sponsors for Southeast Nebraska CASA! This month we'd like to give a shout out to our CASA Heroes, our CASA Champions, and our CASA Advocates...

Et Cetera Thrift Store - Seward, Nebraska

Kirby Roth Insurance - Seward, Nebraska

Wake Charitable Foundation - Seward, Nebraska

Lindy Studios - Seward, Nebraska

Crossmakers of Seward - Seward, Nebraska



# VOLUNTEER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



## Seward County Sheriff Department Overview

Zoom or  
Seward Civic Center

All are welcome!  
12:00pm-1:00pm



SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA  
CASA BOOK CLUB



### RECLAMATION

*By Lisa Clouch Tschawer*

MARCH 28TH  
7:00PM  
MEET THE AUTHOR

FOR OUR 1ST QUARTER BOOK CLUB!  
[REGISTER HERE](#)

ALL ARE  
WELCOME!  
ZOOM OR  
IN PERSON



JOIN  
US!

March  
9th  
NOON

## Are You Interested in Becoming a Volunteer??



THANK  
YOU



*We love our volunteers!*

*There are so many ways to  
give back to CASA.*

IF YOUR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS  
WITH BENEVITY, YOUR EMPLOYER WILL  
DONATE TO CASA BASED ON THE NUMBER OF  
HOURS YOU VOLUNTEER FOR US!



Our Volunteers do  
**SO MUCH MORE** than just  
advocate for children inside  
the Courtroom!  
Visit our website to fill out the  
[Volunteer Application](#)  
and take the next steps toward  
becoming a **CASA Volunteer!!**

# COMING UP IN APRIL....

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month! Check out what we have coming up at Southeast Nebraska CASA to create awareness for the children!!

## SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA CASA

*exciting things  
happening all month  
long!!*



### 'FOSTER' A DOCUMENTARY

Showing on April 2nd in Fairbury  
and on April 9th in Seward.



### CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER TRAINING

Our April 13th community  
training featuring the CAC.



### CASA 5K FUN RUN

Creating community awareness  
in Crete, April 30th.

### ADDITIONAL HAPPENINGS:

- April 1 : Coffee on CASA in Fairbury
- April 8 : Coffee on CASA in Seward
- April 11 : Volunteer Support Group
- April 29 : Coffee on CASA in Crete
- Every Friday in April : Wear Blue for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness
- Every Sunday in April : Blue Sunday - Pray for Abused & Neglected Children

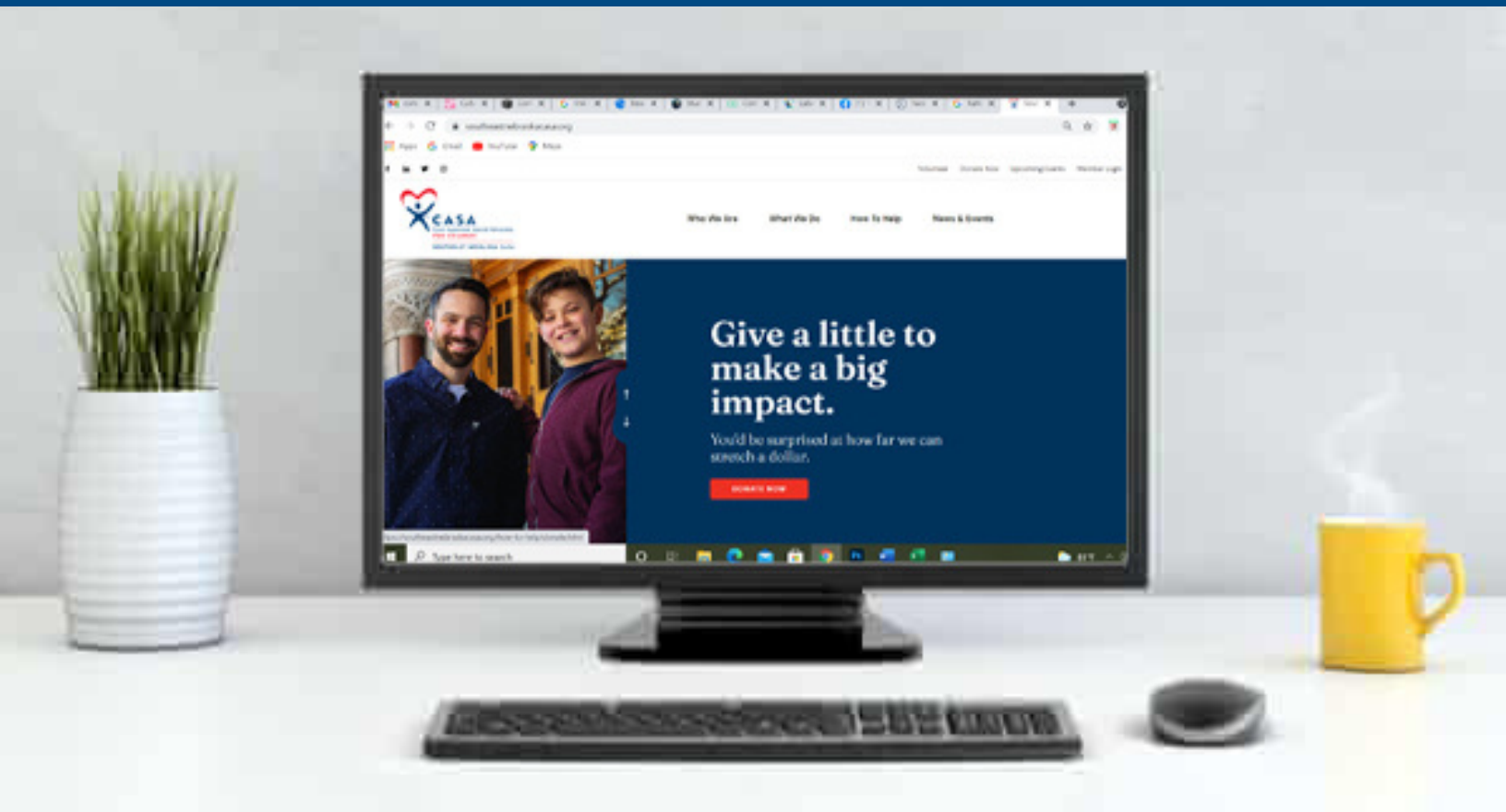
 (402) 643-3695

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# 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!](#)**