PHELPS/HARLAN COUNTY CASA

September 2026

THANK YOU to everyone who donated to our Back-to-School Shoe Campaign!

Every donation made a difference and helped make sure our kiddos could head back to school feeling confident, comfortable, and ready to learn!
THANK YOU!

CASA-FUN FACT

Reduced Time in Care: According to National CASA Association data, only 12% of children with a volunteer remain in long-term foster care (over 3 years), compared to 16% to 27% of the general foster care population

Calling All Artists! Chalk It Up for CASA

with Chalk It Up for CASA — A Street Chalk Art Competition!
CASA programs across Nebraska are hosting sidewalk chalk art competitions to raise awareness about CASA's advocacy for children and our need for more volunteers.
More Information Down below

🌾 Husker Harvest Days

CASA will be there representing at Husker Harvest Days September 15th, 16th, and 17th! We will be there on the 17th! Stop by, say hello, and learn more about how you can support CASA! 💙

We'd love to see you there!

Calling All Artists! Chalk It Up for CASA

Get creative and help spread the word about CASA with Chalk It Up for CASA – A Street Chalk Art Competition!
CASA programs across Nebraska are hosting sidewalk chalk art competitions to raise awareness about CASA's advocacy for children and our need for more volunteers. Information Down below

Calling All Artists! It's time for Chalk it Up for CASA — A Street Chalk Art Competition! CASA is hosting sidewalk art competitions across Nebraska.

WHEN: Sept. 17th through the 26th, 2026

WHERE: Anywhere in Nebraska

WHY: To get the word out about CASA's advocacy for kids and our need for morevolunteers

THEME: **A Future in Full Color**
Wearesearchingfor new volunteers who will be a child's foster care compass advocating incourt.

Submission: A photo of the art submitted by 5 pm central time on Sept. 26, 2026. We ask all artists to work with their local CASA program to publicize their work. Please take a photograph and submit up to 2 works of art at bit.ly/chalkart2026

.**Winners:** Announced October 1st

Prizes:
$500 Grand Prize
$250 Second Place
$100 Third Place
$ 50 Best Young Person's Piece
$ 50 Best Family Piece
$ 50 People's Choice Award

Official Rules of the Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest – "Chalk it Up for CASA"
Everyone is welcome to apply to participate. There is no cost to submit an entry. We ask that each participant work with their local CASA program. You can find your local program at: https://www.nebraskacasa.org/see_what_we_do/

Judging will be based on:
- Originality/Creativity
- Interpretation/Execution of CASA Mission, the need for more volunteers and theme, "CASA: Your Foster Care Compass"
- Overall Design

The CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Mission:
To support and promote court-appointed volunteer advocacy so every child who has experienced abuse or neglect can be safe, have a permanent home, and the opportunity to thrive.

Uploadup to2entries perpersonatbit.ly/chalkart2025

Send questions to: director@nebraskacasa.org

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
NEBRASKA CASA ASSOCIATION

Additional Rules:

1. We recommenddrawingsno largerthan 3x5 but thereis no limitto size.
2. Youmust obtainpermission from theownerof thesidewalkorareayou areusing, orifa public sidewalk the owner of the property surrounding it. For public spaces, please contact the local city, school, or other public authority.
3. Drawingsonbuildings,trees,or anyothersurfacearestrictlyprohibited.
4. Thisisa familyevent.Artworkcontainingnudity, profanity,orcontent deemed inappropriate by the committee will be disqualified from the contest. (Keep it rated G)
5. Finalchalkdesignsshouldbe free-handdrawn.
6. Thereis no limitto thenumberof drawingssubmitted.
7. Use chalkonly.Youmaymixchalkdust withwaterbut no otherliquid substancesmaybe used.
8. Do notusehairsprayoranyotherchemicalsto adherethechalkto the sidewalk.

Tips:

- Use chalksparingly.
- Build up your layers, starting with a very light layer on the bottom. Some artists prefer to lay alltheirundertonesfirst. Somepreferto worktoptobottom.
- We recommend outlining all your major elements first.
- A big chalkboarderaserworksgreat forlayingdown largeareasof color.Movingthe eraser in a circular motion works best.
- Creatinga chalk-paintbycrushing chalkintowaterand usinga paint brush isalsohelpful when filling large areas.
- If you’rea firsttimer, considerusingoneobject asthe focalpointofyour artwork –a face, a compass, etc.
- Smalldetailsaredifficulttomanageona rough surface — so thinkBIG & DRAMATIC.
- The more you work with chalk on concrete, the more comfortable you will become. So, practice on the driveway at home before you create your final art!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated to our Back-to-School Shoe Campaign!

We truly could not have made this possible without the support of our amazing community. Every donation made a difference and helped make sure our kiddos could head back to school feeling confident, comfortable, and ready to learn!





September In-Service

Thank you to Guardian and Light for joining us for our September 3rd In-Service and providing such a great and informative presentation! We truly appreciate you taking the time to share your knowledge and support our CASA program. A special thank you to all of our CASA volunteers who attended! We appreciate your continued commitment, time, and dedication to the children we serve. Your involvement makes a difference! 💙







Volunteer Training Begins in September!

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We are so excited to begin our next volunteer training in September! A big thank you to everyone who has already signed up and is ready to make a difference in the lives of children in our community.

If you're interested in becoming a CASA volunteer, please don't hesitate to reach out to us! We would love to answer your questions and help you get started.

Keep an eye out for future training dates—we'll have more opportunities coming soon!

Thank you to everyone who continues to support CASA and our kiddos! 💙

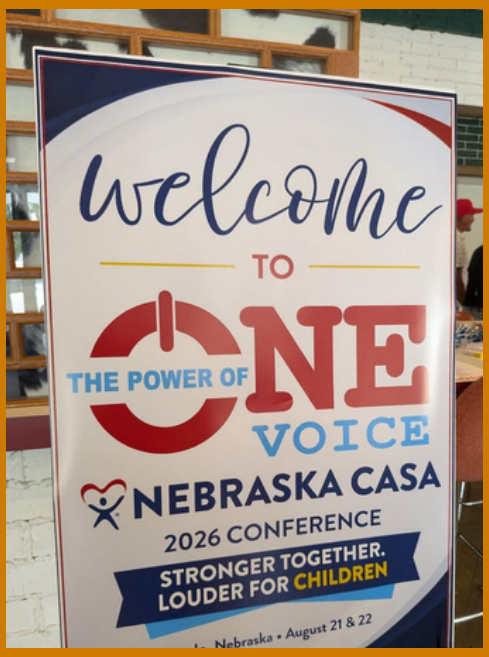
Look for Our Sign!

Be sure to look for our CASA sign outside our office!



2026 Nebraska CASA State Conference

We had such a wonderful time attending the 2026 Nebraska CASA State Conference!
It was a great opportunity to connect with CASA programs from across Nebraska, learn from incredible speakers, share ideas, and continue growing in our mission to advocate for children and families. We're grateful for the opportunity to learn, connect, and bring new knowledge and inspiration back to our local CASA program and the children we serve.
A big thank you to everyone who helped make this conference such a meaningful experience!











August Birthday Recap



Volunteers



Linda Nickel



Janet Bailey



Stephanie Jensen



Heidi Anderson



Rebecca Omundson



Theresa Puls



Michelle Baker



Kelli Sidel



Stephanie Thompson

Board of Directors



Debra O'Brien



Janet Exstrom



Robert Stoner



Barb Malm

Remington Slama
Not Pictured

Tiffany Bolz
Not Pictured

Sara Graham
Not Pictured

Mike Clements
Not Pictured



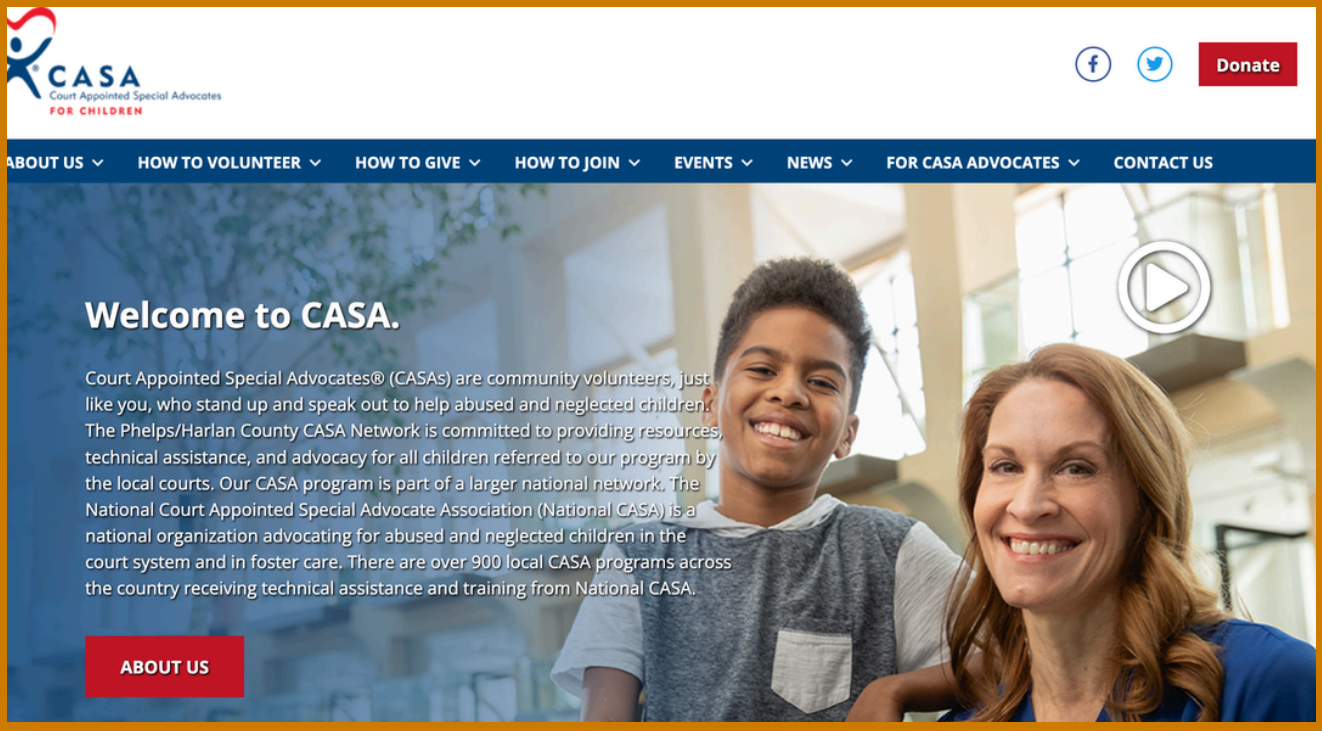
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Taylor Dunaway

Follow us on Facebook and visit our website to learn more About Phelps/Harlan CASA





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