



### Our Mission at Sarpy County CASA:

The Sarpy County CASA program provides volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children who are under the jurisdiction of the Sarpy County Juvenile Court. Each Casa volunteer is screened, trained, and supported by professional CASA staff and Peer Coaches, and provides well-informed, committed and persistent advocacy throughout the time the case is open. The CASA volunteer investigates the child's situation, facilitates communication and case progress, advocates for the best interests of the child and monitors the child's health and well-being until the child is in a safe and permanent home and the case closes.

### About us:

The Sarpy County CASA Program was started in 1986. Judge Bill Staley was instrumental in bringing this nationwide program to Sarpy County. Sarpy County was the first county in the State of Nebraska to establish this volunteer advocacy program. Laurie Adams was the first Director of the Sarpy County CASA program and she trained the first 5 volunteers in Sarpy County. By 1996 the CASA program had grown to include 2 full time staff members and 24 volunteers.

In 2016 the CASA Program has grown to include 135 volunteers, with 3 full time staff members. All counties in Nebraska are represented by a CASA program and the Nebraska CASA Association maintains a full-time office in Lincoln, NE. In 2016, our wonderful volunteers were able to advocate for 297 children.

Each CASA volunteer is a screened, trained, unpaid volunteer who donates time to advocate for children who have experienced abuse and neglect, and help them find safe permanent homes. Each volunteer is appointed by a Judge to advocate for one family of children. The Volunteers are given the right to meet the children and read the records and reports about them and make recommendations to the Judge about the progress of their case. Often the CASA volunteer is the only consistent adult in their lives as they move from family to foster or residential care. The CASA Volunteer remains a constant supportive presence in the lives of the children until they are in a safe and permanent home. Sometimes, that is with their parents, relative or an adoptive home.

Each volunteer works with just one family at a time and gets to know the children very well, remembering their birthday, making sure they have their homework, blanket, or favorite shoes while advocating for them with teachers, foster parents, therapists, caseworkers, and the Judge.

Sarpy County CASA [www.sarpycasa.org](http://www.sarpycasa.org)

1210 Golden Gate Drive, Papillion, NE 68046 402-593-4409

Paula Creps – Program Director