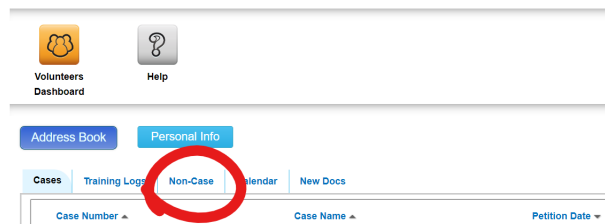


CASA of Washington County Indiana Newsletter



CASA in the Community

Thank you so much to everyone who volunteered at the Fair Booth this year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable experience and we can continue this in the future. If you volunteered, please enter this as a NON-CASE activity using these steps:



1. Log in to Optima and select Non-Case from the Volunteer Dashboard

2. Click the green Add button

Add

3. Enter the date you volunteered, the activity as "Fair Volunteer", hours spent, and any notes you would like to add.

Non-Case Activity

Date

Activity

Fair Volunteer

Hours

Mileage

Expenses

\$0.00

Notes

(0 out of 2000)

Cancel

Create

Non-Case hours and activities are important to track in Optima so please make sure to do this!!



IMPORTANT UPDATES AND REMINDERS

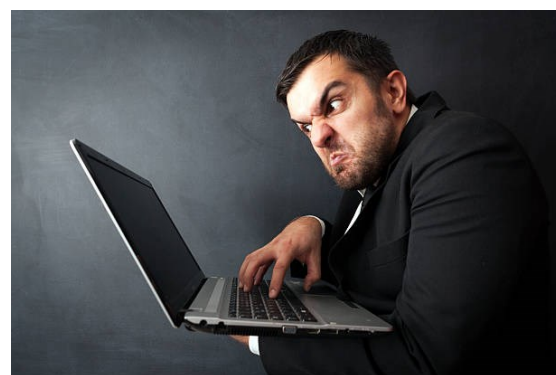
- ⇒ The State CASA Conference for all Directors, Staff, and Volunteers will be held in French Lick, IN on **Saturday October 1, 2022**. If you are interested in attending, please let Courtney know! It would be great to have as many volunteers there as possible to represent Washington County and learn from presenters and other volunteers!
- ⇒ If you attended the Volunteer Meeting on 6/30, please log training hours in Optima! The training topic you will select is “Technical Education”, Training Format will be “In-Service”, and the Trainer you should select is “CASA Staff”.
- ⇒ Quarterly Reports for Directors are due to the State Office on 7/19. **ALL OPTIMA ENTRIES MUST BE MADE PRIOR TO THIS DATE.** If you have outstanding Optima entries, **PLEASE GET THEM ENTERED.** Optima is how our program is funded at the State and National level so these entries are extremely important.
- ⇒ Remember, as a CASA Volunteer you **must** complete 12 hours of continuing education training per year. This is your halfway point reminder to get your 12 hours completed and logged in Optima! **Way to go Corrina for already completing 12 hours of training this year!!!** If you need assistance with finding training and/or logging these hours into Optima, please let me know!
- ⇒ June 30th will be George Wright’s last day with CASA of Washington County as a volunteer. George has served as a CASA for an impressive TEN YEARS! Thank you, George, for everything you have done for the program, all the children you have positively impacted, and all the training you have provided countless CASA Volunteers. You will be missed!



This month we are continuing our deeper look at the Indiana State GAL/CASA Code of Ethics and how they apply to us as CASA Staff and Volunteers. We have all had times that are frustrating and difficult with service providers and other parties to cases.

Consider the scenario below:

You have just had enough! You are so upset with the service provider in your case that is providing supervised visits for the children. You know from talking to the foster parents that visits have not been going as well as she is reporting to the court. The staff member has reported many issues back to the foster parents that you've not heard anywhere else. You ask the provider for copies of her notes from visits and she informs you that you'll have to get them from the FCM. The FCM forwards them to you but there is no mention of the problems that foster parents reported to you. You ask the FCM about it, and the problems do exist...the provider must have just forgotten to include those issues in the reports! You need to vent, so you are not going to mention any names, but you are sure going to be talking about this when you log on to your Facebook account tonight!



The Indiana State GAL/CASA Code of Ethics tells us! Code of Ethics #2 says: “GAL/CASA programs and volunteers will uphold the credibility and dignity of the GAL/CASA concept by conducting all business in an honest, fair, professional, and humane manner”.

In this situation, it would be inappropriate and a violation of the Code of Ethics to speak poorly of another service provider on Facebook, or to another person outside the CASA network, even if you do not share any confidential information. If you find yourself in a difficult situation with a service provider or another member of the team, talk to the Director and figure out a way to handle the situation in a way that is appropriate and in accordance with our Code of Ethics.

Volunteer Spotlight

Heather Padgett



CASA of Washington County is pleased to announce that we have hired Heather Padgett as our Wellbeing Advocate! The Wellbeing Program is a program of the Indiana State CASA Office that will offer ongoing assessments of children appointed a CASA. Assessments will be conducted on **each child assigned to our program dating back to 1/1/22**. Assessments will also be conducted on an ongoing basis every 6 months or at other critical junctures of the case, such as a change in placement, TPR, change in permanency, etc. Heather will work collaboratively with each assigned CASA and other members of the Child and Family Team to complete these assessments. When an assessment is completed, the child will be assigned a score of low, medium, or high. These different categorical rankings will assist the CASA Program in determining how frequently visits with a child are happening, how cases are assigned to volunteers, and give us specific and concrete items to focus on with children in our cases while working toward permanency.

Heather is 39 years old and was raised in Santa Barbara County, California on a thousand acre cattle ranch. Heather spent most of her childhood working with horses and cattle. On September 12, 2001 Heather joined the US Navy, and left the service in 2002 after she was injured. In November 2013 she moved with her family to Evansville, IN. Heather met her husband, Shawn, in 2018 after she says she “tripped over him at the Evansville airport”. After meeting Shawn, Heather moved to Orange County, IN at the end of 2018. They now own a small hobby farm with chickens, ducks, horses, and several Great Pyrenees dogs. Together, they also own a construction company, Bluemoon Construction. Heather is a mother to 6 children: two boys and four girls, ages 16, 15, 8, 6, 2, and 14 months! Heather says she chose to become a CASA because she believes very strongly that children should have a voice. Heather believes that CASA has been as life-changing for her as she believes it is and has been for the children CASA serves and works with. Heather says she loves knowing that the CASA program gives children a better chance at a successful adult life. It is important to Heather that, as a CASA Advocate and a mom, that she invests her time into something that helps her community and sets a good example for her children.

Heather is eager to begin working on Wellbeing Assessments and collaborating with other CASAs!

Birthdays

June 6—Kim Crady,
Savannah Jones

June 25—Courtney
Williams

June 26—Mickie
Alexander

Anniversaries

June 12—Laurie Carr, Sonja
Heath, and Rosemary Jones
(4 years of CASA Service)

June 30—Corrina Gilbert
(12 years of CASA Service)

AND REMEMBER

IF IT ISN'T IN



Optima™

THEN IT DIDN'T HAPPEN!