

CASA of Coconino County

November 2017



## Coconino Academy Graduates



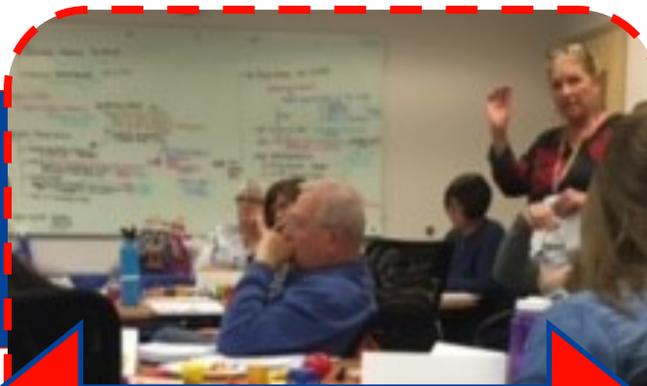
Congratulations to the nine participants who graduated from the Coconino County Training Academy on Saturday, October 21. In Coconino County we welcome Susan Wright, Faith Van Horn, Karen Getto, Jennifer Hartin, Lori Edwards, Angel Goodman and Idunn Hallbjornsdottir. When you meet this group of fabulous people in training sessions, be sure to welcome them to the CASA team.

*CASA of Coconino County pays tribute to all Veterans who have served our country and to the CASA advocates who serve a dual role in both protecting our freedom and our children. Thank you Fred and Richard for all of your service.*



### In This Issue

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**NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS  
LORI & SUSAN**

# Training updates



**JENNIFER, KAREN AND IDUNN  
NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS**



## LEARNING ABOUT THE CFT (CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM MEETING)

**“DEAR CFT”**

**Thursday, November 9, 2017**

**9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon**

**Flagstaff Aquaplex**

**1702 N. 4th Street**

**RSVP please to Christina Gee @: 928-774-0775  
or christinag@cfssinc.com**

## Northern Arizona Anti-Sex Trafficking Summit

**November 15-16**

**9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. both days**

**Museum of Northern Arizona**

**3101 Fort Valley Road**

**Register @**

**[nasextraffickingsummit.eventbrite.com](http://nasextraffickingsummit.eventbrite.com)**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Laura Winkler	November 1
Carrie Derr	November 4
Christine Orr	November 20
Marilyn Harris	November 24
Nancy Guelzow	November 24



**Krissa Ericson, State CASA training  
facilitator at our CASA Academy**

## “The Boy who was Raised as a Dog” by Bruce Perry and Maia Szalavitz, book review by Dave Lehman

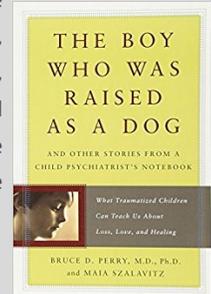
Why a review of a child psychiatrist’s book? Because the ten case studies which Dr. Bruce Perry has chosen to share--although disturbing, some might even say, bizarre- -just may be encountered in your work. I suggest that his approach to healing these young people offers valuable insights for all of us to heed, particularly when, as he notes, our child welfare system, social workers, and foster parents are typically overworked and under-trained. The lead author is an American psychiatrist, currently the Senior Fellow of the Child Trauma Academy in Houston, Texas and an adjunct professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. Previously he was chief of psychiatry at Texas Children’s Hospital, and vice-chairman for research in the department of psychiatry at the Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston, Texas. In a brief “Author’s Note” with which he begins this book, Dr. Perry informs readers: “The sad reality is that these stories are but a tiny percentage of the many we could have told. Over the last ten years our clinical group at the Child Trauma Academy has treated more than a hundred children who have witnessed the murder of a parent. We have worked with hundreds of children who endured severe early neglect in institutions or at the hands of their parents or guardians.”

In the Introduction to *The Boy Who Was Raised As A Dog*, Dr. Perry first notes the overall situation facing children and young people who have experienced horrendous abuse. For example, PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) was diagnosed and introduced only recently into psychiatry in 1980. Today it is believed to affect at least 7% of all Americans with an impact that is far greater in children than in adults. While not all children fortunately will ever experience any of these events, approximately 40% of American children will experience at least one traumatizing event by the age of 18, including the death of a sibling or parent, ongoing physical abuse and/or neglect, sexual abuse, a serious accident, natural disaster, domestic violence, or other violent crime. Dr. Perry ends his Introduction noting – **“The core lessons these children have taught me are relevant for us all.... In order to appreciate how children heal we need to understand how they learn to love, how they cope with challenge, how stress affects them. And by recognizing the destructive impact that violence and threat can have on the capacity to love and work, we can come to better understand ourselves and to nurture the people in our lives, especially the children.”**

Here is a brief overview of a sample of 5 of the 10 case studies described in detail in this book. What I found particularly useful are Dr. Perry’s discussions of his own thinking, his reasoning and unique approaches to healing these individual young people, beginning with deep listening, and often with the littlest children, simply getting down on the floor and quietly coloring. (1) Tina – Dr. Perry changes the names of each of these children – was sexually abused from the age of 4 to age 6 by the 16-year old brother of her babysitter. (2) Leon, was 16 and in a maximum- security prison for having sadistically murdered two teenage girls, and then raped their dead bodies. He was diagnosed a “classic sociopath” with ASPD (Antisocial Personality Disorder), with Autism, and suffered from early childhood parental neglect. Here Dr. Perry was called upon to determine Leon’s mental capacity to know what he had done in order to determine an appropriate sentence. 3) Three-year-old Sandy was being called by an attorney from the Public Guardian’s office in Cook County, Illinois to testify about the murder of her mother.

This case led Dr. Perry into a deeper understanding of the effects of trauma on the brain, particularly “sensitization,” “tolerance,” and “dissociation.” (4) A fourth case involved 21 children, specifically those who were released and survived the Waco, Texas Branch Davidian compound and their cult leader David Koresh. Readers may recall this tragic situation in February of 1993 involving the FBI and BATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) and fire-arms violations. This experience led Dr. Perry to form one of his major conclusions about healing traumatized children: **“Relationships matter: the currency for systemic change was trust, and trust comes through forming healthy working relationships.... The seeds of a new way of working with traumatized children were sown in the ashes of Waco.”** We must recognize that relationships are indeed key, and make sure we are creating the conditions in which every child, every student, has at least one meaningful relationship with a caring adult is absolutely essential. As Dr. Perry puts it – “People, not programs, change people.” (5) The fifth case is about Jason, who is 7 yet socially still a toddler. Dr. Perry presents this case to illustrate the importance of peers in the healing process, stating, **“while we realized that ongoing relationships are critical to healing, we hadn’t yet fully understood how important peer relationships, are, especially as children get older.”**

In his closing chapter, “Healing Communities,” Dr. Perry notes the dramatic changes that have occurred in the caring for our children, particularly in this country. For example, countless generations of humans initially lived in small groups of 40 to 150 people, most of whom were closely related to each other and lived in community. As late as the 1500s the average European family consisted of about 20 people whose lives were intimately connected on a daily basis. By the mid-18th century this number was 10 living in close proximity, and by 1960 the number in this country was 5! By 2000, the average size of a household was less than 4, and 26% of Americans live alone. Other changes he notes include – in 1905 only 1% suffered depression, by 1955 it increased to 6%, and in 1955 teen depressions have increased by a factor of 10! Dr. Perry states, “The disconnect between what we need in order to be mentally healthy and what the modern world offers can also be seen in the constant unease felt by parents – about the internet, the media, drugs, violent predators, pedophiles, economic inequality, and above all, the values of our culture that shape our responses to these issues.”



(continued on the next page)

## Continued Book Review of “The Boy who was Raised as a Dog” by Dave Lehman:

I'll close this brief review, by first urging all of you to read this book, and secondly, quoting this summary from Dr. Perry in the closing chapter – “... my experience as well as the research suggests that the most important healing experiences in the lives of traumatized children do not occur in therapy itself. Trauma and our responses to it cannot be understood outside the context of human relationships. Whether people survived an earthquake or have been repeatedly sexually abused, what matters most is how those experiences affect their relationships – to their loved ones, to themselves, and to the world. **The most traumatic aspects of all disasters involve the shattering of human connections. This is especially true for children. Being harmed by the people who are supposed to love you, being abandoned by them, being robbed of the one-to-one relationships that allow you to feel safe and valued to become humane – these are profoundly destructive experiences. Because humans are inescapably social beings, the worst catastrophes that can befall us inevitably involve relational loss.**

*“As a result, recovery from trauma and neglect is also all about relationships – rebuilding trust, regaining confidence, returning to a sense of security and reconnecting to love. Of course, medications can help relieve symptoms and talking to a therapist can be incredibly useful. But healing and recovery are impossible – even with the best medications and therapy in the world – without lasting, caring connections to other.”*

That’s a message which all educators and all parent/caregivers I think need to hear in this day and age of an over emphasis on academic learning, the common core, and the loss of time for our children and youth to play, to be creative, to simply sit quietly, to turn off the TV, put away the “smart” phones, and to even dare to touch each other, to give hugs, and simply listen!



### Angel and Faith, two new CASA volunteers



### INTRODUCTION to The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

### Including the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016

**This complete legal document is attached to the e-mail that distributed the November 2017 newsletter.**

The basis for government’s intervention in child maltreatment is grounded in the concept of parents patriae—a legal term that asserts that government has a role in protecting the interests of children and in intervening when parents fail to provide proper care. Beginning in the late 19th century, states and local jurisdictions started initiating mechanisms to assist and protect children. Then in 1912, the Federal Government established the Children’s Bureau to guide federal programs that were designed to support state child welfare programs as well as to direct federal aid to families, which began with the passage of the Social Security Act (SSA) in 1935. The child welfare policy of the SSA layered federal funds over existing state-supervised and administered programs that were already in place.

It has long been recognized that parents have a fundamental liberty, protected by the Constitution, to raise their children as they choose. The legal framework regarding the parent-child relationship balances the rights and responsibilities among the parents, the child, and the state, as guided by federal statutes. This parent-child relationship identifies certain rights, duties, and obligations, including the responsibility of the parents to protect the child’s safety and well-being. If parents, however, are unable or unwilling to meet this responsibility, the state has the power and authority to take action to protect the child from harm. Over the past several decades, Congress has passed significant pieces of legislation that support the states’ duty and power to act on behalf of children when parents are unable or unwilling to do so.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) is one of the key pieces of legislation that guides child protection. CAPTA, in its original inception, was signed into law on January 31, 1974 (P.L. 93-247). It was reauthorized in 1978, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2003, and 2010, and with each reauthorization, amendments have been made to CAPTA that have expanded and refined the scope of the law.

CAPTA was most recently reauthorized on May 29, 2015 by the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-22) and, on July 22, 2016, by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (P.L. 114-198).

This booklet presents CAPTA as amended by the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016. The booklet also contains the Adoption Opportunities program and Abandoned Infants Assistance Act, as amended. To view the full text of the Act, as well as other legislation relevant to child welfare policy and practice, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov> or the website of Child Welfare Information Gateway at [www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/federal](http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/federal).

## FOR TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN, AN OFFER OF HELP FROM THE MUPPETS



Cookie Monster is all wound up. The Count has him hold up his furry blue fingers, count them (of course), and blow on each one in turn as if he were blowing out a birthday candle. Afterward, Cookie declares, in his familiar growly voice, that he feels much better.

"Hey! Me feel terrific! Me calm. Me relaxed."

You won't be catching this scene on HBO or PBS. It's part of a special initiative called Sesame Street in Communities. Free materials, including videos, books and games, has been **released** to help parents and caregivers, in turn, help young children cope with traumatic experiences. The science of adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs for short, is beginning to transform education and social services.

ACEs include poverty, abuse and neglect, domestic violence, divorce, and mental illness or substance abuse on the part of a caregiver.

A new analysis of the 2016 National Survey of Children's Health, released today, shows that nearly half of American children experience at least one of these adversities, and 1 in 5 have had at least two. Research shows that growing up with more ACEs negatively affects children's development, education, and even later in life, chronic disease and longevity. But children's brains are also resilient, and they can recover with the right kind of responsive care.

Sesame is better known for teaching preschoolers letters and numbers. But those familiar furry characters are also taking on tougher topics, says Jeanette Betancourt of Sesame Workshop. In the past two years, Sesame in Communities has addressed the incarceration of a parent and bereavement, partnering with local organizations to share directly with families affected. The new trauma material focuses on simple coping skills for what many in the field call "big feelings" — like anger, anxiety and sadness. The goal, says Betancourt, "is to provide positive ways to connect children and the adults around them regardless of what the situation is."

In one short video, Big Bird imagines himself in his comfy, cozy nest. In another, Rosita, a green monster Muppet, punches a pillow to let out her anger. Sesame's human characters, Alan and Sophia, play the roles of nurturing, encouraging adults. Sophia tells Rosita, "It's OK to let your feelings out. There are safe ways to let your feelings out."

### "Really hard starts in life"

Ann Thomas is CEO of The Children's Place in Kansas City. It's a full-day therapeutic program for children who, on average, have experienced five traumatic events before the age of 6. "They've had some really hard starts in life," she says. "That does impact their development." Thomas consulted on the new material, even visiting the set when the Muppets were filming. She applauds the focus on skills to manage emotion, rather than having Muppets delve into what caused the emotions. This mirrors the course of treatment for children moving beyond trauma. "Teaching these coping skills first, creating a sense of safety, consistency and predictability — that is the No. 1 step," she says. "It doesn't matter if it was sexual abuse or a house fire. You're scared, you're not trusting, you're not sleeping." Though the videos speak directly to children, Thomas thinks they can also help adults. "I think one of the biggest values of this material is as a bridge for adults to take grownup issues and put them in developmentally appropriate words to help children heal," she says.



This is a skill that even the most well-intentioned grandparent, teacher or foster parent may not have. "When it's your child, you don't want them to hurt," she says. "Sometimes we want to say, 'get over it.' It's hard to be with a child in that pain." She notes that it can be comforting in itself for children to see familiar characters dealing with these emotions. Traumatic experiences are sadly common, but not much talked about in most kids' media. "When it's done by Sesame it gives it credibility," she says. "If Sesame is doing it you're not alone." Therapists at her organization, The Children's Place, will share the videos with families in the hope that caregivers will follow the lead of characters like the Count, find the words to reassure children feeling big feelings, and teach them how to create their own safe places.

<https://www.sesamestreet.org/toolkits/incarceration> The incarceration of a loved one can be very overwhelming for both children and caregivers. It can bring about big changes and transitions. In simple everyday ways, you can comfort your child and guide her through these tough moments. With your love and support she can get through anything that comes her way. At this website are some tools to help you with the changes your child is going through.

## Flagstaff Business News November Article:

### CASA of Coconino County honors those who continue to serve

CASA of Coconino County is celebrating Veteran's Day on November 11 by honoring CASA volunteers who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and continue to serve their community by speaking up for children who have been abused or neglected.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteers are everyday members of the community who are specially trained and appointed by judges to advocate for abused or neglected children in court. Their mission is to help the children move out of foster care and into a safe home environment as quickly as possible.

Veterans often walk away with an ability to work cooperatively with individuals from various backgrounds as well as a desire to stand for what is right. Those skills translate well to becoming a CASA advocate and working within the system to speak up for abused and neglected children. Nationally the CASA Program has a relationship with the American Legion which offers its support to the program.

CASA of Coconino County pays tribute to all Veterans who have served our country and to the CASA advocates who serve a dual role in both protecting our freedom and our children. Coconino County CASA volunteers Fred Meek and Richard Vihel proudly served our country in the U.S. Armed Forces and now serve as outstanding advocates for Coconino County children.



CASA volunteers are professionally trained to advocate for children in foster care. Advocates get to know one child or sibling group and speak to others involved in the children's lives, including family members, teachers, doctors, lawyers and social workers. Their recommendations and the information they gather help judges overseeing dependency cases make informed decisions on a child's best interest.

Court Appointed Special Advocates don't have to have any special degree or background. Advocates from all walks of life are desperately needed to volunteer their time so no child falls through the cracks in the foster care system. For more information, visit <http://www.azcourts.gov/casaofcoconinocounty/>.

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Coconino County is privileged for our partnership with a nonprofit organization called Coconino CASA for Kids, Inc. This nonprofit helps provide financial resources to assist the children the CASAs advocate for in the child welfare system. This organization exists to serve and improve the lives of abused, neglected, and abandoned children, youth and young adults of Coconino County Arizona and to support the work of the CASA program and CASA volunteers.

Coconino CASA for Kids, Inc. is a Qualifying Charitable Organization (QCO)! What does this mean? The state of Arizona offers its taxpayers the opportunity to make contributions to non-profit organizations that reduce the amount of tax owed to the state or increase the amount of the taxpayer's refund, dollar-for-dollar! There is no net cost to the donor, and deserving organizations and individuals around the state benefit. With nonprofit organizations serving children in foster care, like Coconino CASA for Kids, Inc., you can make a \$400 individual or \$800 joint donation and your Arizona tax bill can be reduced by the amount of your contribution, dollar for dollar. This is great information to have at your fingertips as you consider year-end gifts that benefit local charities as well as a way to lower your tax bill. Making a financial gift to Coconino CASA for Kids,

Inc. is one of the best ways to help the organization focus on improving the lives of abused, neglected and abandoned children of Coconino County. This organization relies on the generosity of supporters to continue this important work. Donations are made online at [http://](http://www.coconinocasaforkids.org/donate)

[www.coconinocasaforkids.org/donate](http://www.coconinocasaforkids.org/donate) and more information is found at <http://www.coconinocasaforkids.org>.

Coconino CASA for Kids, Inc. organizes holiday gift-giving for children with CASA advocates and November/December is the time they work to collect gifts through the Giving Tree. This year the organization is the proud recipient of a donated pallet of children's toys through Jeweler's for Children as a great start to the collection of toys for the children. If you would like to donate a gift for a child, contact Coconino CASA for Kids, Inc. at <http://www.coconinocasaforkids.org> to find out what is still needed for the Giving Tree for CASA kids.

## 2016 National CASA Annual Report: Momentum

### Across the Country, we are Serving more Children than ever Before

Our mission is to ensure every child who has experienced abuse or neglect has a caring, consistent adult to advocate for his or her well-being. This bold promise to give every one of America's most vulnerable children a voice requires the passion, dedication and collaboration of a network of 938 CASA/GAL programs, government and judicial partners and our dedicated donors and philanthropic supporters.

**86,995**  
**VOLUNTEERS**  
**+13% increase**  
**since 2015**

We are pleased to report that 2016 marked an exceptional year for the National CASA Association and the entire CASA/GAL network. Through high-performing collaborations taking place in 49 states, nearly 87,000 volunteers served more than 280,000 children—that is a 13 percent increase in volunteers and a 12 percent jump in children served over the prior year.

**280,316**  
**Children Served**  
**+12% increase since**  
**2015**

Even as we celebrate the great strides we made in 2016 and the new children we served, we still have more work to do. Over the last five years, the number of children in foster care has risen 8 percent, a rise that public health officials, analyzing other data trends, increasingly attribute to the growing use of opioids. Sadly, we expect this number to continue to climb.

**More new volunteers**  
**trained**  
**+10.6% over 2015**

Meeting these growing needs requires momentum. We know the key to continued progress is adding more advocates who can help expand our service to children. That means recruiting new volunteers to serve more children, leaders who can provide strong governance to our member programs

across the country and supporters who can advocate for policies that meet the needs of the children we serve. National CASA is at the helm of this nationwide effort to recruit more advocates.

We are also pleased to share with you a number of initiatives that served as catalysts for the exciting increase in children served and laid the groundwork for CASA/GAL program expansion. These include our work to strengthen the capacity of programs in key states, our focus on bringing our advocacy to new levels of effectiveness with our performance measurement initiative and the progress we made this past year to update our volunteer training curriculum.

**6.2 million**  
**VOLUNTEER**  
**HOURS**

**938 state and local**  
**programs**

We consider it an honor to provide leadership to National CASA and serve the CASA/GAL network. We are very grateful for the role you play in moving more than a quarter-million young lives forward. We could not do this incredibly important work without the generous support of our donors and partners.

National CASA needs your support, collaboration, and engagement in our mission more than ever as we build on 2016's momentum with continued drive, dedication and purpose.

**More new children**  
**reached +28.1% over**  
**2015**

In 2016, the number of children in foster care grew by 3.5 percent. Our network results show we kept pace with the growing need and then some, but more children need our help.

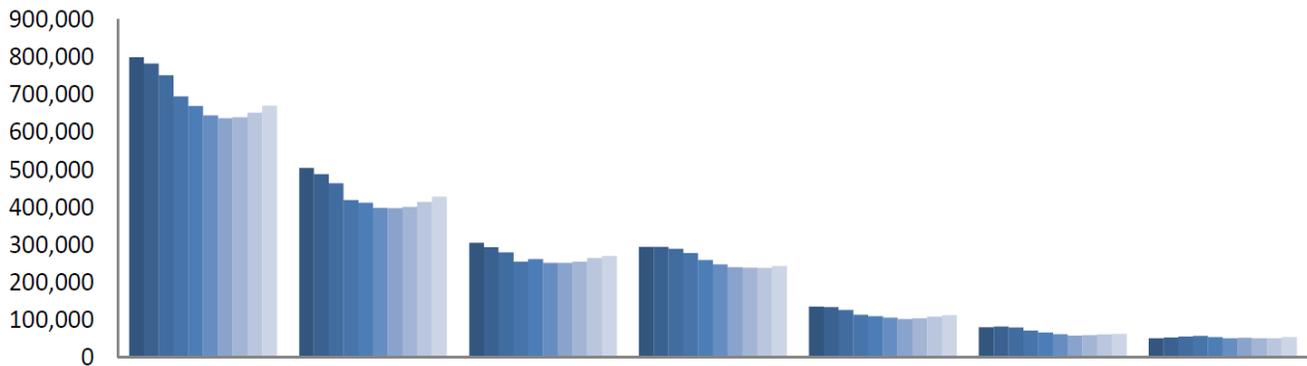




## Trends in Foster Care and Adoption: FY 2006 - FY 2015

(Based on data submitted by States as of June 8, 2016)

Source: AFCARS data, U.S. Children's Bureau,  
 Administration for Children, Youth and Families



	Served	In care Sept 30th	Entered	Exited	Waiting for Adoption	Parental Rights Terminated	Adopted
■ 2006	800,000	505,000	305,000	295,000	135,000	79,900	50,700
■ 2007	783,000	488,000	293,000	295,000	134,000	82,000	52,700
■ 2008	752,000	464,000	280,000	289,000	126,000	79,400	55,300
■ 2009	696,000	419,000	255,000	278,000	114,000	71,400	57,200
■ 2010	670,000	412,000	262,000	259,000	109,000	65,900	53,500
■ 2011	645,000	398,000	251,000	248,000	106,000	61,900	50,900
■ 2012	637,000	397,000	251,000	240,000	102,000	58,200	52,000
■ 2013	640,000	401,000	255,000	239,000	104,000	58,600	50,800
■ 2014	652,000	414,000	265,000	238,000	108,000	61,000	50,600
■ 2015	671,000	428,000	270,000	243,000	112,000	62,400	53,500

This chart includes data submitted to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) by States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico by June 8, 2016.

Please note that, for all of the years shown, some of the data may differ from that shown in earlier versions of this chart. This is due to the fact that some States have resubmitted their AFCARS data after addressing data quality issues.

FY = Federal Fiscal Year (October 1 through September 30)

# Kid Conversation Starters

When are you  
(or have been)  
most afraid?

What has been  
the happiest day  
of your life?

If you could change  
one thing in the world  
what would you  
change?

If you could change  
one thing about yourself  
what would you change?

What is  
the one thing  
you couldn't live  
without?

What is your  
favorite movie  
of all time?  
Why?

What cartoon  
character would you  
most like to be  
and why?

What is the  
worst thing about  
being \_\_\_ years old?

What is the  
best thing about  
being \_\_\_ years old?

Describe your  
perfect day.

What job would  
you like to have  
when you grow up?

Who is your  
best friend?  
Why are they your  
best friend?

# NOVEMBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>Goodbye October</b>	<b>Hello November</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8 TRAINING</b>	<b>9 TRAINING</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15 TRAINING</b>	<b>16 TRAINING</b>	<b>17 TRAINING</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Goodbye November</b>	<b>Hello December</b>



## NOVEMBER OPPORTUNITIES:

Every CASA volunteer is required to participate in twelve (12) hours of training each calendar year. Here are some November training opportunities. We look forward to seeing you at as many as you can attend. RSVP with session and your name to reserve your seat.

**November 8** 11:30 am —1:00 pm; Second Wednesday Monthly CASA Training—Juvenile Court Conference Room; today's session is set aside to discuss "The Boy who was Raised as a Dog" and how childhood trauma impacts our work.

**November 9** 9:00 am—12 noon; "Dear CFT" Learning about the Child and Family Team Meeting with presenter Matt Pierce. Located at the Flagstaff Aquaplex (1702 N. 4th Street, Flagstaff). Advance registration required through Christina Gee. (928) 774-0775 or [christinag@cfssinc.com](mailto:christinag@cfssinc.com)

**November 15-16** 9:00 am—4:00 pm both days; "Northern Arizona Anti-Sex Trafficking Summit". Located at Museum of Northern Arizona, 3101 Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff. Advance registration required through [nasextraffickingsummit.eventbrite.com](http://nasextraffickingsummit.eventbrite.com)

**November 17** 4:00—6:00 pm; You and your foster or kinship parents and invited to join us for an educational panel and discussion with community service providers about the unique needs of infants and toddlers. Learn about the Best for Babies checklist and services provided in Coconino County. At the event, each foster parent will be given a baby product bag that includes essential items. Finger foods and beverages will be served. RSVP to [MMartin@courts.az.gov](mailto:MMartin@courts.az.gov). Location—Courtyard by Marriott, 2650 S. Beulah Blvd, Flagstaff, 86001

**December 7** SAVE THE DATE—11:00 am—1:00 pm CASA Holiday Luncheon; details to follow

## 'It Shouldn't Hurt to Be a Child'

Since 1999, the Child Abuse Prevention License Plate program has generated almost \$9 million through sales of the "It Shouldn't Hurt to be a Child" specialty license plate. The money has been distributed to hundreds of Arizona agencies that offer child abuse prevention programs. The license plate was initially created as a partnership between The Arizona Republic, the Governor's Office for Youth, Faith & Families and other local funding partners.

How does it work? When you pay \$25 for the license plate, \$17 goes to a fund for the non-profit agencies. To read more about the program or to order your specialty plate, go to [servicearizona.com](http://servicearizona.com).



# COCONINO CASA FOR KIDS, INC.

Supporting CASAs and  
abused, neglected and  
abandoned children

[www.coconinocasaforkids.org](http://www.coconinocasaforkids.org)

Becky Lewis, Chair  
Victor Hudenko, Vice-Chair  
Tammy Laird, Treasurer  
Dorothy Renstrom, Secretary  
Ann Griffin, Member  
Bruce Griffin, Member  
Sue Michels, Member  
Andrea Merrihew, Member  
Brian Blue, Member  
Marti Martin, Member  
Amber Martin, Ex Officio

## Meet CASA Volunteer Debb Sheehan

I was born and raised in western Minnesota then moved to the metropolitan area of Minneapolis/St. Paul for college, grad school, early marriage and birth of our two sons. After my husband finished medical school we lived in several locations including New Zealand and South Africa, returning to western Minnesota for the last 10 years of my career. We moved to Flagstaff in July of 2016.

I had the opportunity to retire when we moved to Flagstaff, but wanted to continue to share the knowledge and experience I had attained on trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). I started giving trainings on ACEs and met Fred Meek. He talked about the CASA program which is not something that is available in Minnesota. I was intrigued, because I wanted to work more directly with children in need and their families. It sounded like just the volunteer opportunity I was looking for!

I like the fact that while we are volunteers, we are such an important part of the process for kids who are going through all sorts of life issues. The position requires us to use our heads as well as our hearts. It has a level of complexity that makes me feel like my time is really making a difference. That, and the fact that the staff at CASA are an amazing team! :-)



If I had a super hero power I'd say I would like the power of healing touch—to be able to impact people in a personal way so their pain is lessened and their lives are made whole. One by one we would see the world transformed!



## CONTACT US

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