

COCO CASA



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2026



June is **Pride Month** a month- long observance dedicated to the celebration of LGBTQ pride, commemorating the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) culture and community. Pride Month is observed in June, coinciding with the anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall riots, a series of gay liberation protests.

June is also **reunification month**. Throughout the month of June, we celebrate the power of family reunification and its positive impact on the lives of children in the foster care system and their parents. National Reunification Month allows us to highlight the importance of family preservation and the efforts undertaken to ensure children remain or are reunited with their families whenever safely possible.



Flagstaff
Resource
Guide
CLICK
HERE

CASA SPOTLIGHT:



Sharon Sifling

Why did you become a CASA?

That's a funny story, actually. Like most CASAs, my heart has always belonged to kids. If it were up to me, I would have brought every single one of them into my own home—but since reality wouldn't allow that, I had to find a different path! Becoming a CASA felt like the perfect bridge. It allows me to deeply connect with the vulnerable youth in our foster care system, stand up for them, and make a tangible difference in their lives, one child at a time.

How long have you been a CASA?

It is hard to believe, but I've been a CASA for seven years now. Even though the calendar says it'll be a decade in a couple of short years, it still feels like just yesterday that I started. In a way, I still feel like a 'newbie' because I've had the rare and rewarding experience of being partnered with the exact same family the entire time. Growing alongside them has given me a perspective on advocacy that I never expected when I first signed up.

What surprised you about doing CASA work?

When I first started, I had this picture-perfect idea of what being a CASA would look like: lots of ice cream dates and sunny afternoons at the park. We definitely had those moments, but I quickly learned that taking a group of siblings to the park all at once isn't always the 'fun' I imagined! We'd leave with a mix of injuries, tears, and total indifference. I realized pretty fast that siblings will be siblings, and the real 'ticket' was providing one-on-one time and undivided attention. Beyond the playground, the biggest surprise was the professional side of the role. I expected the work to be hard, but I didn't anticipate the level of frustration I'd feel toward 'the system'—the very people who are supposed to be the help. There were times I was so overwhelmed that my amazing CASA Coordinator had to talk me down off the ledge, helping me channel that frustration back into advocacy for the family.



CASA SPOTLIGHT continued

Any advice for new CASA volunteers?

If I could give any advice to a new CASA, it's this: take it one day at a time, and try to leave your expectations at the door. These kiddos have so much going on in their lives already. Whatever kind of day you're having, don't bring that baggage into theirs. Just show up for them in the way that matters to them—because at the end of the day, it is entirely about them. You also need to be deeply aware of your own biases. We all have them, and we inherently view the world through them. The family you are serving might see the world in a totally different way—and it's important to remember that 'different' doesn't mean one way is better than the other. Be conscious of what your biases are and how they might be affecting your perspective and your recommendations. Finally, never forget about the parents. When the goal of a case is reunification, building a relationship with the parents is just as crucial. Whether it's helping ensure they have access to the services they need or even figuring out the transportation to get there, supporting the parents is a massive part of helping to make the family whole again.

Just for fun, What is your favorite thing about Spring?

My favorite thing about spring is the profound sense of renewal it brings after the long, dark months of winter. There is something so restorative about seeing the first new buds on the trees, hearing the birds chirp again, and feeling the days stretch out as the sun rises earlier and sets later. It serves as a beautiful reminder that there are always new beginnings and new possibilities ahead of us. There truly is a season for everything.

Thank you for your service Sharon!



**Happy
Birthday:**

**Happy CASA-
versary:**

Lia- June 3rd
Diana- June 11th
Mark J- June 19th
Mark E- June 22nd
Kim A- June 27th
Kim R- June 30th
Deborah- June 30th

Ilona Anderson
June 5th

**Program
Stats:**

Kids in Care:
135

CASAs:
40

VOLUNTEERS

make the world a

**BETTER
PLACE**

EVENTS:



SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY RUN AT
THORPE PARK

THE SMPR IS OPEN TO
ALL!

PARTICIPATION PRIZES
INCLUDED WITH 5K &
10K REGISTRATION

06.06.2026

NACA 43RD
ANNUAL
SACRED
MOUNTAIN
PRAYER RUN

- FAMILY 2K - FREE
- 5K \$35 7:35 AM (MST)
- 10K \$45 7:30 AM (MST)

VIEW OUR
WEBSITE FOR
MORE INFO



CONTACT HPWC@NACAINC.ORG FOR
QUESTIONS



What does running mean
to you?

Tag us @NACAFlagstaff
and use #NACARun
#2026SMPR



EVENTS:

FLAGSTAFF WOOL & FIBER FESTIVAL

JUNE 6-7,
2026

Fort Tuthill
Fairgrounds
Flagstaff, AZ

THREADED TOGETHER VENDORS - ANIMALS - DEMONSTRATIONS -
WORKSHOPS - FOOD - FAMILY FRIENDLY



Create and Connect

Every Wednesday 5:30-7:30

LEARN AND SHARE SEWING AND
TEXTILE SKILLS

x x x x x x x x

THREADED
TOGETHER

Route 66 Centennial Adoption Event

June 6TH | 11:30AM-3:30PM



FLAGSTAFF MALL

JUNE 13TH
MEET WOODY AND JESSIE &
MAKE A "FORKY" CRAFT

FREE
EVENT

Character
KINDNESS CLUB

DRESS UP!

2ND
SATURDAYS
11AM TO
12:30PM

FUNERGY
PLAY IN THE PLAY



EVENTS:



STAR PARTY

**Jim Cullen
Memorial Park
Jun 13 | 8-10 pm**

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!



FLAGSTAFF SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA **MAX JERRELL COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES** **FREE ADMISSION DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

NAU ELDEN BRASS QUINTET

MUSEUM NORTHERN ARIZONA
(1000 N Fort Valley Rd)

**JUNE 13
3PM**

Featuring:
Kevin Tague - trumpet Cindy Gould - trumpet Nancy Sullivan - horn
Allen Fast - trombone Ben Ordaz - tuba



FLAGSTAFF FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC PRESENTS THE 24TH ANNUAL

FLAGSTAFF FOLK FESTIVAL

JUNE 13-14, 2026

FEATURING 100+ ACTS ON 5 STAGES
SATURDAY 10 AM TO 6 PM • SUNDAY 10 AM TO 6 PM



June 20th Thorpe Park

CASA will be there!

BACK TO OUR ROOTS

Pride in the PINES

EVENTS:





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