

COCO CASA NEWSLETTER

December 2025/January 2026

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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates

FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF COCONINO COUNTY

PROGRAM REVIEW, STATS, & UPDATES

Review:

In Oct and Nov, we had our NAU CASA Appreciation Football Game - thanks to those who came! (See cute photo below :))

We had an awesome training on trauma and victim rights from Debbie with Victim Witness! We'll have a couple more of those same trainings coming up next year so watch out; not one you want to miss!

We've had some successful Coffee with a CASA events! Kate will keep planning those so let her know if you want to help out!

We had a fun time tabling down at the Sedona Fest of Fall! We are so Flagstaff-centric that we sometimes forget we cover all of Coconino County, and it's fun to get out to the corners and spread the word about CASA!

We had a great training on Family Treatment Court from Sandy Quintanilla; if you missed it, ask Kate for the recording and you can watch it and still count it towards your 12 yearly hours!

Stats:

As of Dec 1st, we are at 31 CASA volunteers, and 127 children in care. That means that 1 out of 4.2 kids in Coconino County gets a CASA assigned to them (23.6%), which is higher than the state average, but still not enough! Get out there and recruit your friends! ❤️

Celebrating 40 years of CASA in Arizona!

In 2025: you amazing Coconino CASAs drove 12,647 miles and logged 1,443 hours on your cases. You wrote 62 court reports for 96 children. Thank you!!!



Birthdays

Audrey Cullen - December 22nd

Becky Lewis - January 3rd

Martha Garner - January 9th

Judith Marfechuk - January 28th

CASA-versaries

Kimberly Reitmeyer is a new CASA that was certified in October. Welcome Kimberly!!!

Micaela Leighton - December 2nd

Martha Garner - December 12th

Sally Ruhland - December 21st

Rose Cope - January 25th

SPOTLIGHT: KATHERINE (KATHY) MAJOSKY

Why did you become a CASA?

After retiring in the spring of 2020, I wanted to do something meaningful in my community. I received a postcard in the mail describing the role of CASA volunteers in the life of children and teens in foster care and I was intrigued. CASA seemed like a good fit for my interests and desire to positively contribute to our community.

How long have you been a CASA?

Since March 2021, so about 4 and ½ years.

What surprised you about doing CASA work?

What I've learned about the child welfare system in our state and in the U.S. has been very helpful in doing this work. It can often be frustrating however the majority of people involved in this work are very dedicated to their mission of making sure children are safe and well cared for. The system is far from perfect, but from what I've experienced most people are doing the best they can to meet this mission. Additionally, the resilience of children in the system has been a surprise in many ways. Witnessing or hearing of children who have experienced some of the most troubling, complex situations and seeing them move forward despite these circumstances is surprising and uplifting.



Spotlight Cont.

Why do you stay a CASA?

When I first became a CASA, I thought perhaps I would stay a volunteer for 5 years, maybe a bit more. Now that I'm approaching 5 years, I have no intention of stopping at this time. Not only is it very satisfying to see a case resolved and children reunited (I know this isn't always the case) but I've learned how great the need is since being a part of this community. I've also become attached to the children and families I've supported, and it gives me great pleasure to meet new children and families who could use support. I feel if I can impact one person and make a small difference in their life, I've done something meaningful.

Any advice for new CASA volunteers?

For anyone considering becoming a CASA volunteer I would advise you to be as open minded as possible. You will meet and interact with children and families who may be very different from you and from how you were raised. It's difficult, at times, to set aside judgement, but remember children are children no matter what and if you can be a stable, consistent support for them while they navigate situations they cannot control then you are hopefully making an impact that can positively influence their lives. Take advantage of the supportive community of other CASA volunteers and staff that is always available to assist you.

What's your favorite winter/holiday season tradition?

I look forward to the holidays (especially Thanksgiving) and one of my favorite traditions is viewing the various luminaria displays around Northern AZ. I try, every year, to attend the lighting ceremony in Sedona at Tlaquepaque. Hope we get some snow for Christmas this year! Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season!

CCFK CORNER

CCFK provided holiday gifts for over 200 youth through the annual Giving Tree program. We are grateful for the partnership with multiple community partners that make this event possible:

- WL Gore West Campus
- NAU Service Professional Staff Advisory Council
- Crossfit Tusk
- Edward Jones
- High Altitude Roller Derby
- Northern AZ Association of Realtors
- Shepherd of the Hills Church



CALENDAR: CASA & COMMUNITY

CASA Happenings

Dec 16th @ 12-2pm @ the Aquaplex - CASA Winter Appreciation Lunch. If you haven't already RSVPed to Kate and you want to come, please let her know ASAP!

Jan 8th @ 3:30 @ CCJC - Small Group

Jan 15th @ 5:30-7pm @ CCJC - Bring a Friend! Kate will talk about CASA for a little bit, and then we'll have a New Year's Themed Trivia Night with CASA swag as the prizes!

Jan 20th @ 3pm via Zoom - Training on ICWA. Since both ICWA and CASA workers have been asking for a training regarding the other, we thought we could just all get together on a Zoom meeting and do a joint training! Navajo Nation ICWA Supervisor Lashaina Hoskie will talk about ICWA and their work for a half hour and then take questions from our CASAs, and then I'll talk about CASA for a half hour (and our CASAs can chime in) and the ICWA workers can ask questions.

Jan 29th @ 3pm @ CCJC - Book Club (We'll be discussing Gifts of Imperfection by Brene Brown. If you need a copy, ask Kate :))

THE LASTING INDIGENOUS FAMILY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM PRESENTS:

ARCHERY GAMES



Discover the art and excitement of archery! Whether you're a first-time shooter or a seasoned archer, this event offers something for everyone. All are welcome to play!



KILLIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM
2300 E 6TH AVE, FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86004

1-4 PM (MST)

DECEMBER
6TH

SCAN QR
CODE TO
RSVP



928 - 773 - 1245
EXT 221



SCAN QR
CODE FOR
DEMO



Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 9 AM – 10 AM

Storytime with Santa - FREE!

Public · Event by **Downtown Flagstaff AZ**

Downtown Flagstaff is introducing Storytime with Santa, a brand-new tradition where Santa himself will read festive stories to get the whole family in the holiday spirit. Each week, Santa will visit a different local coffee shop. Sip something warm, hear classic holiday tales, and celebrate the season with our downtown community! This FREE, family-friendly event will take place on the first three Sundays in December at 9am:

- Dec 7th - Mix
- Dec 14th - Late for the Train
- Dec 21st - Firecreek Coffee

After Storytime with Santa, Bright Side Bookshop will have all the books read during the sessions available for purchase.

NATIVE AMERICANS FOR
COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

PHOTOS WITH SANTA

AND MAKE-YOUR-OWN
ORNAMENT



THURSDAY
DECEMBER 18
NACA HOPI ROOM
5 - 7:30 PM (MST)

*Free and open to the
community! Snacks will
be provided*

For more information:

NACAINC.ORG

OR CALL: (928) 526-2968



NACA
NATIVE AMERICANS
FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Reminder that the deadline to log your training hours for 2025 is the end of December!

Remember that you have to obtain 12 hours of continuing training every year as a CASA. If you are having trouble with this, reach out to Kate! It is her job 😊 In the meantime, here are some ideas:

Books: We have our CASA book club, and also Kate has a bunch of books in her office that you can check out and read.

Podcasts: Here is a great Radiolab episode that touches on ICWA that y'all can count: [link](#)

Remember that Kate holds office hours every Wed from 3-5pm. You are welcome to just show up with your laptop and ask any questions: technology or otherwise!

Culture Moment

This edition's culture moment will focus on language!

For many of the children we work with, English is not their first language, or the historical language of their people. According to the [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#) (NAEYC), children learning their native language is essential for their overall development, as it fosters cognitive growth, cultural identity, emotional connections, and language acquisition skills. So how can we as CASAs help if we only speak English?

NAEYC provides some guiding questions to get to know multilingual families. The following might be useful to you as CASAs:

- What language(s) do you speak in your home?
- What are some things you'd like me to know about the language(s) your family speaks?

There are also many language learning apps and tools available! Spanish and Navajo can be found on the Duolingo app. [This website has a lot of good child welfare terms translated into Spanish.](#) Even learning one word in a child's native language can have a big impact, and they'll think you're pretty cool for learning it 😊

Cross-Cultural Communication Skills with Native Peoples

Description: This training will help you gain skills to work more effectively with Native American youth and families. American Indian/Alaska Native child welfare requires knowledge and information on the diverse cultural nuances and history of tribal communities. Utilizing NICWA's Relational Worldview Model as a framework, this training will provide guidance on how to build cross-cultural skills and implement culturally responsive services to connect with tribal communities you serve.



Presented by:
Tara Reynon, NICWA
Senior Program
Director

December 3rd, 2025
1:00pm-2:30pm
Juvenile Court or Zoom

Limited in-person setting available, email
jschuldt@courts.az.gov to reserve a seat

To Register for Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/CjAYZw7eQ9SiLBvyzPMw7Q>



Scan QR code
to register



3rd Annual Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Symposium

*Wrapped in Culture, Rooted in Connection:
Family, Healing & Networking for the Future Generations*
Friday, Dec. 05, 2025 | 9 AM - 3 PM



Join us for this free, one-day symposium to better understand ICWA & the Foster Care process.

I'tom Hiapsi Pascua Yaqui Tribe
9405 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe, AZ 85283



Contact our Prevention Team for information:
602-264-6768 | uicaz@phxindcenter.org | www.uicaz.org



Registration for this training is free, and you can request a grant from CCFK to pay for gas and lodging if needed.

Register here: [3rd Annual Indian Child Welfare Act \(ICWA\) Symposium](#)
[Tickets, Fri, Dec 5, 2025 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

As CASA volunteers, we are not investigators, but hopefully in our building rapport with the child, they feel comfortable enough to talk to us. That means we want to be trauma informed and avoid re-traumatization when talking with our kiddos and families. Here are some ideas to help you do that:

Avoid These Practices	Instead do These Practices
Do not initiate conversation about the individual's trauma history.	Listen attentively and practice active listening skills if someone chooses to share their story.
Avoid asking the individual "why" when it comes to their past and current responses to traumatic events.	Instead normalize the way the individual responded to the circumstances at hand. This may sound like "It makes sense that you..." or "it is understandable that you..."
Avoid asking curious or probing follow up questions if the individual has chosen to share about traumatic events in their life.	Respect the individual's boundaries with their story. Acknowledge the courage it took to share what they did.
Do not convey expressions of shock, surprise, or being overly concerned if someone chooses to disclose something difficult/traumatic.	Convey a facial expression of openness and attentiveness. This could look like relaxing facial muscles and practicing attending behaviors such as a slight head tilt and gentle head nods as you take in information.
Avoid exclamations of surprise and shock when someone tells you about difficult experiences.	Instead affirm the individual's strength and resilience in surviving the experience.
Avoid giving value judgements regarding the individuals involved in the trauma history.	Help the individual to identify and utilize their own strengths and to apply their preferred coping skills.
Stay away from giving advice based on your own trauma history and journey of healing. Each individual's journey of healing is unique.	



SERVICES & RESOURCES

As CASAs, you are in the best position to see what your kiddos and families need, but you might not know how to fill that need. If you ever have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out! There's a whole team to help these families, including the CASA staff. But the next several pages include some resources that might be useful to you and them:

AZ DCS Newsletter for Foster and Adoptive Parents

This is a great monthly newsletter that DCS puts out that you could pass along to placements that you're working with: <https://dcs.az.gov/foster-adoption/newsletter>

Indigenous Children, Youth, and Families Newsletter

November was Native American Heritage Month, but we know that for our kiddos and families here in Coconino County, we don't stop the celebration and the advocacy for their culture once the month is over!

Child Trends, a child welfare research center, has a cool newsletter that you can sign up for that talks about issues impacting Indigenous children and their families.

Sign up here: [ICYF Newsletter](#).

Our **Prevention and Education Vending Machine** provides convenient access to **FREE** lifesaving supplies.



Product selection may vary due to availability of supplies

Firearm Safety Locks

Fentanyl Test Kits

Xylazine Test Strips

NARCAN/Naloxone

Safer Sex Kits

Multivitamins / Folic Acid

FREE Items Available!

Located in the lobby of the **CCHHS Southern Region Office**
2625 N. King St., Flagstaff

Access available **Monday - Friday** from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

coconino.az.gov/VendingMachine





NOW PROVIDING **DIAPER ASSISTANCE**

Who Qualifies?

- Each pre-newborn to 17-year-old child in a household
- Households whose income is at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

What Should I Bring?

- Parent or guardian I.D.
- Child's Birth Certificate **OR** document with **BOTH** parent and child's names
- Income verification (example: paystubs/income statements, AHCCCS, SNAP/EBT, **or** WIC card)

TO SIGN UP, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY:

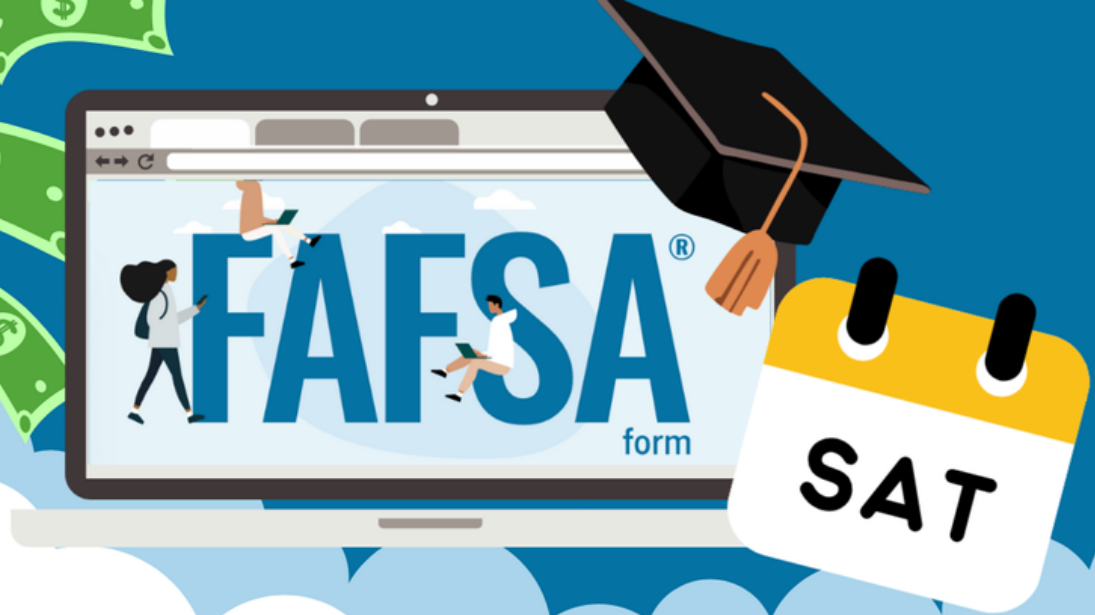
2625 N. King Street, Flagstaff, AZ 86004 | (928) 679-7272

467 Vista Ave., Page, AZ, 86040 | (928) 645-9400

coconino.az.gov/SocialServices



Diapers provided by the **Arizona Diaper Bank** in partnership with **Wildfire AZ** made possible by the Diaper Distribution Demonstration & Research Pilot.



GET COLLEGE-READY WITH **FREE FAFSA HELP**

Join us to get one-on-one help from the Educational Opportunity Centers' FAFSA experts. Whether you're just starting or got stuck, we're here to help!

- Get help from trained FAFSA experts. Walk-ins are welcome!
- Complete your 2026-27 FAFSA on the spot
- Bring your questions – leave with confidence!
- It's FREE and open to all – anyone thinking about college can attend!

SATURDAYS
10:00 - 2:00

- OCT 18, 2025
- DEC 13, 2025
- FEB 21, 2026
- JUN 13, 2026



LOCATION

**Flagstaff City-Coconino
County Public Library**
*Downtown Library
Conference Room*
300 West Aspen Ave.
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

REGISTER NOW!

SCAN BELOW OR VISIT
tinyurl.com/FAFSAEOC

**SCAN
ME!**



EOC is 100% grant-funded by the US Department of Education. \$613,354 was approved for the 2025-2026 grant year. We are not funded by any non-governmental agencies. This program is not sponsored, nor endorsed, by the Flagstaff City-Coconino County Public Library. All views and opinions expressed therein do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Library.



**OPEN FRIDAYS:
(TO THE PUBLIC)**

**NOVEMBER 7 AND 21 9-11A.M.
DECEMBER 5 AND 12 9-11A.M.**



We have FREE clothing & shoes in all sizes as well as household items!

We accept used clean fall/winter clothing at the closet on days we are open.

We are located at the Grand Canyon School in HS building upstairs. Park at Rec Center, and walk on the track around the soccer field OR Park next to Catholic Church off Boulder, walk past the first two buildings, turn right and go thru the unlocked gate, and look for the outdoor staircase.



For more info: The Grand Canyon School PTA
<https://bit.ly/TheGrandCanyonSchoolPTA>

Food resources in Northern AZ:

Flagstaff

Flagstaff Family Food Center 1903 N. 2nd St., Flagstaff, AZ 928-526-2211	Every Day: 10 AM-2 PM, 4 PM-5:30 PM *Providing Hot Meals
Flagstaff Family Food Center 3805 E. Huntington Dr., Flagstaff AZ 928-526-2211	Tuesday-Saturday: 9 AM-1 PM *Providing Food Boxes
Flagstaff Family Food Center Mobile Truck 928-526-2211	Visit hotfood.org/find-food/ *Providing Food Boxes
The Salvation Army 507 N. Humphreys St., Flagstaff, AZ 928-774-1403	Monday-Thursday: 9 AM-4:30 PM *Providing Food Boxes
CCPHSD Senior Food Program 245 N. Thorpe Rd., Flagstaff, AZ 928-774-2606	Monday-Friday: 12 PM-2 PM (Request to Make Reservations) *Providing Hot Meals (Ages 60+)
Sunshine Rescue Mission 124 S. San Francisco St., Flagstaff, AZ 928-774-3512	Every day: 6 AM-8 AM, 6 PM-7 PM *Providing Hot Meals
St. Vincent de Paul 2133 N. East St., Flagstaff, AZ 928-774-6511	Thursday-Saturday: 10 AM-3PM *Providing Food Boxes (Must call helpline to determine eligibility)
Flagstaff CSA & Local Market 116 W. Cottage Ave., Flagstaff AZ 928-213-6948	Sunday: 10 AM-2 PM, Monday-Saturday: 10AM-6 PM *Bring SNAP/EBT card for vouchers
FUSD 3285 E. Sparrow Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 928-527-6000	Food Assist application: lingconnect.com/public/meal-application/new?identifier=N758GH

Williams

St. Mary's Food Bank Various Sites 480-310-0530	Call as Needed *Providing Food Boxes
Flagstaff Family Food Center 100 Pinecrest Trail, Williams, AZ 928-526-2211	1st Wednesday of the Month: 11 AM-1 PM *Providing Food Boxes
Williams Family Harvest Church 220 S 7th St Williams, AZ 254-644-0891	Call as needed (Pastor Dave Gutshall) *Providing Food Boxes
Williams Hope for the World 117 W Route 66 Suite 125, Williams, AZ 330-386-0928	Call as needed (Harold) *Providing Food Boxes
Williams Senior Center 850 W. Grant Ave. Williams, AZ 928-679-7485	Monday-Friday: 12 PM-1 PM *Providing Hot Meals (Ages 60+)

Ash Fork/Seligman

St. Vincent de Paul 47061 7th Street, Ash Fork, AZ 928-308-3294	Wednesday: 2 PM-3:30 PM *Providing Food Boxes
Seligman Food Pantry 130 Conant St. Seligman, AZ 928-432-5027	Seniors: 1st Monday of the Month Non-Seniors: 4th Monday of the Month *Providing Hot Lunch Monday-Friday: 11AM-12:30PM

Grand Canyon

GC Community Church 20 S Entrance Rd, Grand Canyon Village, AZ 928-638-2340	Call to make a pick-up appointment *Providing Food Boxes
Grand Canyon Food Pantry 87 Sunset Dr. Grand Canyon Village, AZ 928-707-2755	Monday: 11 AM-1 PM Wednesday: 5:30 PM-7:30 PM Saturday: 2 PM-4 PM *Providing Food Boxes

Winslow

Winslow Comm. Food Cupboard 212 E 2nd St, Winslow, AZ 207-616-0076	2 nd & 4 th Thursday of the Month: 8 AM-12 PM, 2 PM-6 PM *Providing Food Boxes
Winslow Comm. Food Trailer Various Sites 207-616-0076	Visit wccpantry.com/trailer-schedule *Providing Food Boxes
Winslow Indian Health Center 500 Indiana Ave, Winslow, AZ 928-526-2211	2 nd Thursday of the Month: 11 AM-1 PM *Providing Food Boxes

Show Low/Pinetop/Lakeside

First Baptist Church 700 Central Ave. Show Low AZ 928-537-4749	Tuesday-Thursday: 5 PM-6:30 PM Thursday: 9 AM-11:30 AM *Providing Food Boxes & Hot Meals
White Mountain Catholic Charities 3807 Porter Mtn. Rd., Lakeside, AZ 928-367-2244	Tuesday-Thursday: 8 AM-2 PM *Providing Food Boxes
White Mountain Community Food Bank 820 Moonridge Dr. Lakeside, AZ 928-367-0975	1 st & 3 rd Monday of the Month: 8:30 AM-10 AM *Providing Food Boxes
Love Kitchen @ RE:Center 814 E. White Mountain Blvd, Pinetop, AZ 928-457-1707	Soup Kitchen: Monday-Thursday, 11 AM-1 PM Food Boxes: Tuesday-Thursday, 10 AM-4 PM
RE:Center 2035 S. Penrod Ln. Pinetop, AZ 928-457-1707	Monday-Thursday: 11 AM-1 PM *Providing Hot Meals

HELP US RECRUIT!

Hopefully you all received an email from Colleen Fitch at State CASA in November. If not, here is what she said:

“As you gather with friends and family this [season], please consider sharing information about CASA and FCRB volunteer opportunities. We learned from years past that **word of mouth is the most powerful way to recruit new volunteers!** Let’s ‘*Talk About CASA in Your CASA*’ and ‘*Get on Board with the FCRB!*’”

She then attached some short YouTube videos you could share with your friends and family:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hq_Dj9VrfE4
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UEshpMGuuk>

Kate also has an abundance of fliers, pamphlets, postcards, business cards, etc. that you are free to come grab and then hand out to your friends and family!

Let’s get out there and Talk About CASA!

STAFF CONTACTS

Let us know if you need anything!

Jill Schuldt

Dependency Division Manager - jschuldt@courts.az.gov

Nicole Snow

CASA Program Coordinator - nsnow@courts.az.gov

Valorie Barriga

CASA Program Coordinator - vbarriga@courts.az.gov

Kate Bracken

CASA Recruiter and Trainer - kbracken@courts.az.gov

Shannon Hardy

CASA Public Support Specialist - shardy@courts.az.gov

Kirsten Mellinger

Dependency Clinician - kmellinger@courts.az.gov

Sandy Quintanilla

Dependency Program Coordinator - squintanilla@courts.az.gov

Amanda Gallegos

*Family Treatment Court Peer Recovery Support Specialist -
agallegos@courts.az.gov*

Jessika Nelson

Family Support Coordinator - jenelson@courts.az.gov