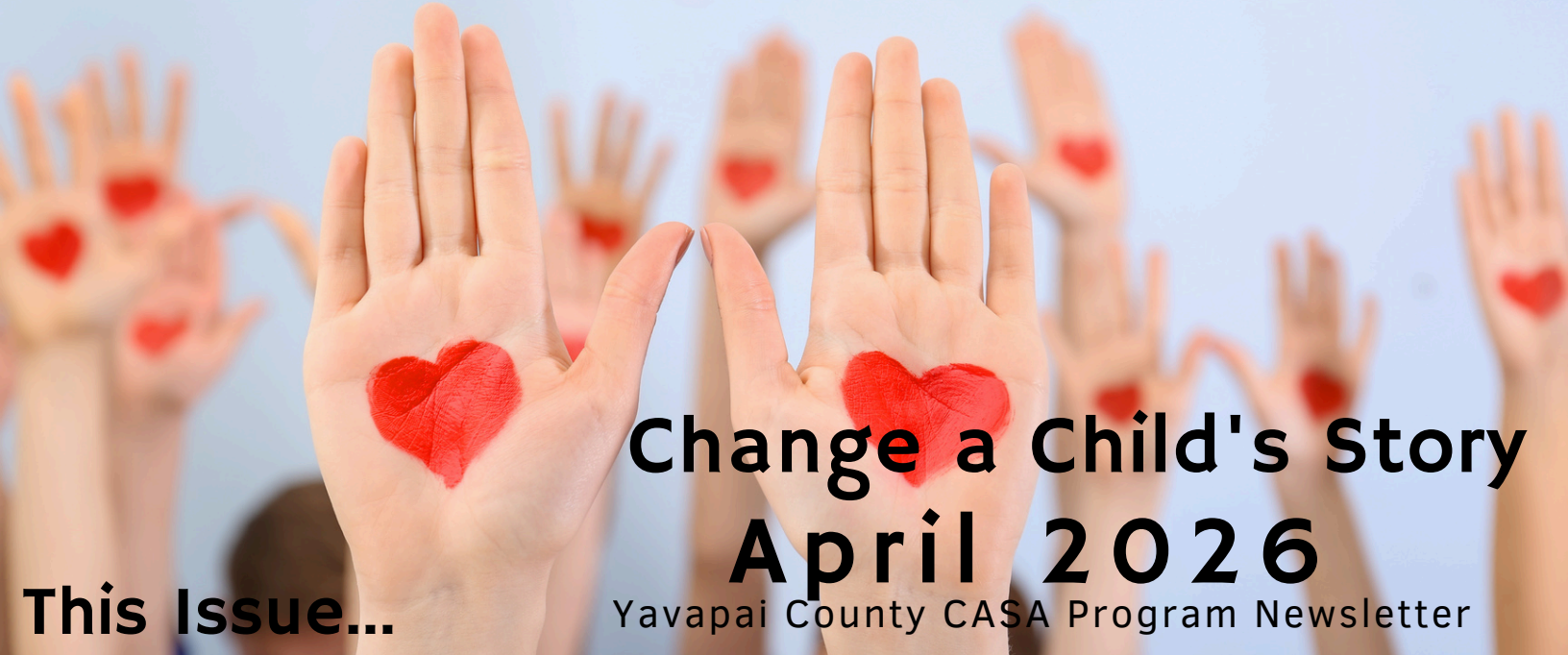




Change a Child's Story April 2026

Yavapai County CASA Program Newsletter

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Child Abuse Prevention Month & the Blue Pinwheel in Arizona

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness, strengthen families, and protect vulnerable children.



How CASA Volunteers Help Prevent Child Abuse

- ♥ Being a stable, caring presence
- 📋 Ensuring timely services & support
- 🗣️ Advocating for safe, informed decisions
- 👥 Encouraging healthy family connections
- 📢 Speaking up for a child's wellbeing

A Symbol of Hope

When you see blue pinwheel gardens, remember the difference you make as a CASA volunteer.

Thank you for bringing hope and protection to our children.



Strong Families. Safe Kids.

Coordinators' Corner



DID YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE BOOKS FOR YOUR CASA KIDDOS? THESE BOOKS HAVE BEEN GENEROUSLY DONATED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE PRESCOTT PUBLIC LIBRARY. STOP BY THE OFFICE TO PICK UP ONE OR TWO FOR YOUR KIDDO. AS YOU CAN SEE WE ARE OVERFLOWING!

Volunteer Appreciation Month

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and April 6-12 is CASA Volunteer Week! Come celebrate with us for the Presentation at the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors Meeting. See the following page for details. We want to let you know that we cannot tell you enough how much we appreciate all the hard work you do and are in awe of your dedication. We believe you have the most difficult job of any kind of volunteer.

THANK YOU!



HERITAGE PARK
ZOOLOGICAL
SANCTUARY



**DONT
FORGET
ABOUT
OUR
PASSES
AND
MOVIE
TICKETS!**

Child and Family Team Meetings

To receive information about an upcoming CFT with:

CFSS: please email: dawnr@cfssinc.com

Polara Health: please email: whenthecft@polarahealth.com

Spectrum: please email: susans@spectrumhg.org

Please give the clinics 48 hours to reply to your email



Yavapai County Board of Supervisors

CASA Proclamation Presentation

Proclaiming CASA of Yavapai County Week: April 6–16, 2026!

Join us for the reading of the CASA volunteer week proclamation.



Date: April 1, 2026



Time: 9:00AM



Location: 1015 Fair Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

Arrive by 8:50am, Meeting starts at 9:00am



CASA Volunteers Are Invited!

- ✓ **Wear your CASA t-shirt!**
- ✓ **Come represent the voice for children!**
- ✓ **Let's celebrate this special recognition!**



*Together we are
the voice
for children.*

APRIL

2026

PRESCOTT



MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI



1 CASA
PROCLAMATION
PRESENTATION
9 AM

2

3

6

7 **FTC 2:00**
Hearings

8 **CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM**

9

FCRB

10

FCRB

13 ✨ *Book
Club* ✨
9:30

14
Hearings

15

16

17

20

21 **FTC 2:00**
Hearings

22

23 Parent
Support
Now
Training
9:00

24

27

28

29

30 **TELE-CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM**

THANK
YOU
😊

May 2026 PRESCOTT



MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI



1

4

5 **FTC 2:00**

Hearings

6

7

FCRB

8

FCRB

11

12

Hearings

13

**CASA
APPRECIATION
EVENT**

14

15

18

19 **FTC 2:00**

Hearings

20

**CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM**

21

22

25 **CLOSED**

**MEMORIAL
DAY**

26

27

28

**TELE-CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM**

29

April 2026

Verde

We ♥ our
Volunteers



We appreciate
all that you do

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

Truly
Grateful
for you.



You're
awesome

1 Court Report
Writing
Training
Hearings

2

3

6

7 FTC 2:00

8

9 CASA
Connecting
9:15 Virtual
FCRB

10

FCRB

13

14

15

Hearings

16

17

20

21 FTC 2:00

22

23

24

27

28

29

Hearings

30

CASA DCS Meet
& Greet
Luncheon



CASA Kudos



Kudos to Patricia B. for engaging the father on her case and making him feel comfortable enough to attend mediation.



Kudos to Meg R. for being available to her CASA child during a hard time



Kudos to Pam P. for taking on a new case and working with a Courtesy CASA out of Navajo County.



Kudos to Bev M. and Nancy T. for working together to help their appointed CASA Children have fun child centered experiences while going through challenges in their case.



Kudos to Diane M. for advocating for her CASA child for the past 6 years!! Thank you for working so well with your Courtesy CASA and the team. You are making a big difference in this teen's life!



Kudos to JB for advocating for services for her appointed youth to help set her up for success when she turns 18.



Kudos to Dorie S. for supporting her appointed CASA children as they transitioned to a new placement in a new community.



Kudos to Tricia C. for being on top of her CASA case and keeping everyone informed of current happenings and concerns.



Kudos to Melinda M. for having to finagle a last minute appearance at a TDM with grace and style to make sure that the outcome is in alignment with her CASA child's requests.



Kudos to Connie B. whose job demanded a greater amount of her attention this last month, but she still managed to get time in with her CASA kids and get her report in! Way to balance work and being a CASA!



Kudos to Dawn B. for her dedication and commitment to her case which resulted in dismissal.



Kudos to Bart B. for his dedication and commitment to his case which resulted in dismissal.

CASA Kudos



Kudos to Stephanie R. for taking her first two cases!



Kudos to Miranda F. for her continued efforts to advocate for the best interests of her CASA children.



Kudos to Pat S. and Jeni O. to ensuring their CASA child's behavioral health needs are being met.



Kudos to Diane J. for her consistent efforts to recruit CASA volunteers!
Kudos to Scott N., Lynn M., Miranda F., and Connie B. for helping out at Dewey-Humboldt Day!



SPECIAL KUDOS



to Leslie Golich for seeing her case through to permanency. Leslie was assigned in Oct 2020 to 4 children with a Co-CASA. The oldest child went into guardianship and the youngest was adopted, both occurring in 2021. With two of the children no longer involved in the case, the Co-CASA was rescinded. The oldest child's guardianship was dissolved in 2023, and she came back into care until she aged out in 2024. The youngest boy was adopted in 2024 after living in 9 different placements, and the eldest boy is now aging out. Both boys were placed down in the Valley for several years. Leslie made many trips to group homes, foster placements and their favorite spot, McDonalds over the years. She was the historian for the children's foster care story, the only constant on the team. Leslie kept the siblings in touch with each other and other family members. When they had big milestones in their lives, she made sure to reach out. Leslie has put in 500+ hours, and goodness knows how many miles over the last 5 and a half years. All the children are doing well and the teen boy that is aging out is currently attending college. He had this to say about Leslie,

"Leslie is a wonderful advocate. She was always consistent. She had lots of things to offer, but the biggest thing is she cared. She came to visit me, she checked on me mentally. I would tell other foster kids, listen to your CASA."



A bouquet of pink tulips with green leaves is positioned in the top right corner of the image.

• HAPPY •
April

No April birthdays

A collection of small, colorful star-shaped confetti is scattered on the left side of the light blue background.

Happy Anniversary

Diane McClure

7 years

Carol Hinrichs

3 years

Melinda Mitchell

1 year

A roll of silver foil is located in the bottom left corner of the image.

Child Abuse Prevention Month & the Blue Pinwheel in Arizona

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness, strengthening families, and reaffirming our commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of our communities. For CASA volunteers, this month carries deep meaning, as it highlights the essential work you do every day to promote safety, stability, and healing for children experiencing the child welfare system.

One of the most recognizable symbols of this month is the blue pinwheel, chosen for its bright, uplifting design. The pinwheel represents the joy, hope, and healthy childhoods that every child deserves.

Across Arizona, you'll see blue pinwheel gardens displayed outside nonprofits, government buildings, schools, and community centers throughout April. These gardens serve as visual reminders of the importance of prevention and they honor the work being done statewide to protect children and empower families.

How CASA Volunteers Help Prevent Child Abuse

While CASA volunteers often meet children after maltreatment has occurred, your advocacy plays an important role in preventing further trauma, reducing future risk, and strengthening protective factors in a child's life. CASAs help prevent child abuse by:

- **Being consistent, stable adults** in a child's life, something many system-involved children lack. Your presence alone builds resilience and emotional safety.
- **Ensuring children receive services early**, such as therapy, educational support, medical care, and community resources that reduce the risk of future harm.
- **Identifying unmet needs** and advocating in court, helping judges make informed decisions that prioritize safety and long-term well-being.
- **Encouraging safe family connections**, when appropriate, by supporting reunification efforts that are rooted in stability, accountability, and healing.
- **Speaking up when something doesn't feel right**, preventing additional maltreatment by monitoring placements, communicating concerns promptly, and ensuring the child's voice is central in all decisions.

Each Court Report you write, each conversation you have with a provider, and each visit you make reinforces a protective circle around the child. Your advocacy helps prevent children from falling through cracks and reduces the likelihood of further abuse or neglect.

A Symbol of Hope

So when you see Arizona's blue pinwheel gardens this month, let them be a reminder not only of the importance of prevention, but also of the meaningful impact you make as a CASA volunteer. You are part of the movement to ensure every child can experience the safety, happiness, and carefree moments that the blue pinwheel symbolizes.

Thank you for the hope and protection you bring into the lives of children every day.



**CHICANOS
POR LA CAUSA**

**PARENTING
ARIZONA**

Yavapai Communities for Kids

a program of **Prevent Child Abuse
Arizona**



2026 PRESCOTT VALLEY PINWHEEL PARTY

**SATURDAY
APRIL
25TH**



**Prescott Valley
Civic Center Lawn**
7501 E. Civic Circle
Prescott Valley, Az. 86314

**11AM - 2PM
CELEBRATE
STRONG FAMILIES
IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
COMMUNITY RESOURCE TABLES AND ACTIVITIES
FOR KIDS.**

FOOD TRUCKS, GAMES, RAFFLES & MORE.

Thanks to generous support from:



Dignity Health.

Yavapai Regional Medical Center



**Raber &
Mortenson**
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY



PV
PRESCOTT VALLEY



In collaboration with:

FIRST THINGS FIRST

DEPENDENCY 101

FOR KINSHIP & FOSTER PLACEMENTS

Learn More About Your Role in the Dependency Process



WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 | 5:30PM – 6:30PM

CAMP VERDE SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE
2840 North Commonwealth Drive
Camp Verde, AZ 86322

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- ✓ How a dependency hearing works
- ✓ The role of each person in the courtroom
- ✓ What to expect during hearings
- ✓ Your role in the dependency process

**Training Certificates provided
to placements who attend**

PRESENTERS INCLUDE:

- Judge Young
- Assistant Attorney General
- DCS Case Manager
- Child's Attorney
- Guardian ad Litem (GAL)
- Parent's Attorney
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Behavioral Health
- Kinship/Foster Placement



CHILDCARE PROVIDED BY DCS

Childcare is for dependent children only.

RSVP REQUIRED BY MAY 8, 2026



JEN BAHR



928-554-8903



JBAHR@COURTS.AZ.GOV

MEET & GREET

Supporting
relationships
between
DCS & CASA to
create the best
outcome for our
youth

VERDE DCS & CASA

**APRIL 30, 2026
12:00PM - 2:00PM
COTTONWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING ROOM
199 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COTTONWOOD, AZ 86326**

**RSVP AND SUBMIT ANY DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS TO JEN BAHR AT
928-554-8903 OR
JBAHR@COURTS.AZ.GOV
BY APRIL 20, 2026
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED**



**ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY**



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocate
FOR CHILDREN

**WE LOVE
OUR CASAS**

Thank You

Nature Niños



2025-2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

One Saturday a month

Go Explore!



Park Rangers and community partners lead child-centered play events at a different family friendly park each month. At every Nature Niños event there are take-home items, a healthy snack, creative nature activities, story time, all encouraging us to Leave No Trace and make Healthy Choices. Nature Niños events are led by Park Rangers and community partners with a strong understanding of child development and experience leading child-centered outdoor programs.

August 2nd

West Granite Creek

Splash Pad

350 N. Montezuma Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

September 6th

TEVA Community

Prescott National Forest

2900 N. Granite Basin Rd.
Prescott, AZ 86305

October 4th

Stricklin Park

1751 Sherwood Dr. Prescott,
AZ 86303

November 1st

Pioneer Park

Kayla's Hands

1200 Commerce Drive
Prescott, AZ 86305

December

No event

Go explore with our
Junior Ranger Guidebook

January 3rd

Vista Park

1751 Sherwood Dr.
Prescott, AZ 86301

February 7th

Community

Nature Center

1980 Williamson Valley Rd
Prescott, AZ 86305

March 7th

Watson Lake

Upper Ramada

3101 Watson Lake Drive
Prescott, AZ 86301

April 18th

Prescott Earth Day

Downtown Courthouse

120 S. Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

May 2nd

Goldwater Lake

Upper

2900 S. Goldwater Lake Road
Prescott, AZ 86303

June 6th

Granite Creek Park

554 6th Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

July 11th

Interpretive Park

6933 N. Cattletrack Road
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

PRESCOTT
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



CITY OF PRESCOTT
ARIZONA

YAVAPAI
COUNTY



COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

NATURAL HISTORY INSTITUTE



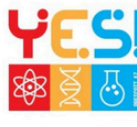
Cooperative Extension
Yavapai County



stepUp kids



girl scouts
LEAVE NO TRACE



CFSS CHILD & FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES



ASAs

Connecting

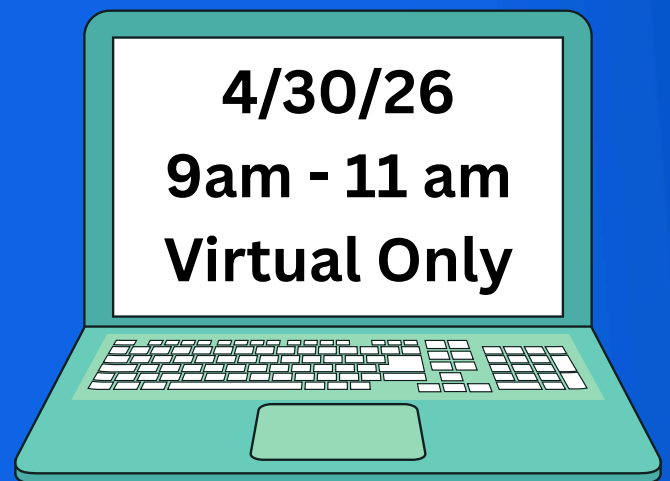
**Attend our
CASA Peer
Support Group
to help you be
more effective
on your case**



4/8/26

9am - 11 am

in person at the JJC

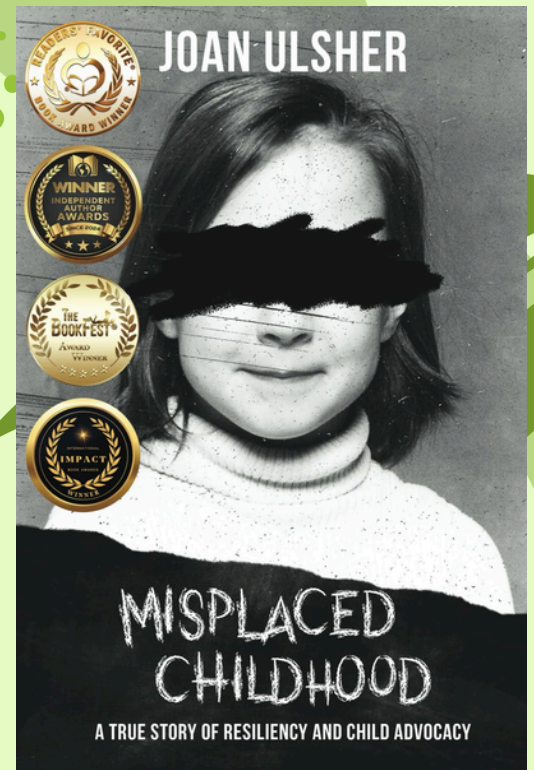


Watch your email for
link to this meeting
during that week!

Because the work of a CASA is confidential, it is important to have a safe place to talk about your case. ALL CASAs are highly encouraged to attend a CASA support group. This support group provides lively and informative discussions. The attendees include a mix of veteran and new CASAs and CASA staff. These discussions can help you understand system issues, procedures, identify needs and solve unanswered questions. CASAs Connecting qualifies for training hours!

Book Club

MISPLACED CHILDHOOD: A TRUE STORY OF RESILIENCY AND CHILD ADVOCACY BY JOAN ULSHER



After foster care, Joan is returned home and subjected to more abuse. How can she be saved?

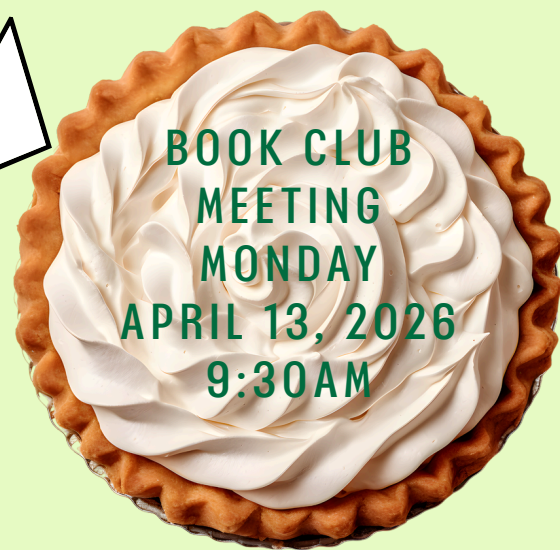
Misplaced Childhood chronicles one woman's powerful journey to overcome a tragic past and use her "lived experiences" to inspire others. Wounded by poverty, child abuse, and foster care, Joan Ulscher discovers a purpose-filled life through military service and faith in God. This transformational journey of survival and triumph ultimately leads Joan to become a fierce volunteer advocate for children in foster care, despite not having a dedicated advocate as a child herself. *Misplaced Childhood* introduces readers to the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) model, where Joan continues exploring childhood memories while highlighting her exceptional advocacy journey shaped by the children whose lives are impacted along the way.

With its candid look at child welfare and advocacy alongside a personal narrative of healing, *Misplaced Childhood* opens up new levels of compassion for children suffering from abuse and neglect. Impeccably researched and told with great transparency, empathy, and vulnerability, *Misplaced Childhood* will inspire readers to embrace the vulnerable inner child in us all and take action for America's forgotten children.

Books Available

IN THE CASA OFFICE

-AND ON KINDLE UNLIMITED-





Parent Support Now!

Come meet the Parent Support Now providers from FIC. Hear their stories and learn how they offer peer support to parents involved in the dependency system.

No RSVP Required



Thursday, April 23, 2026



9am - 11am



JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
1100 Prescott Lakes Parkway
Hearing Room

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

CASA APPRECIATION LUNCH

MAY 13, 2026 • 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM



Please join us at

CLIFF CASTLE CASINO

**555 MIDDLE VERDE RD,
CAMP VERDE, AZ 86322**

ADHD WORKSHOP

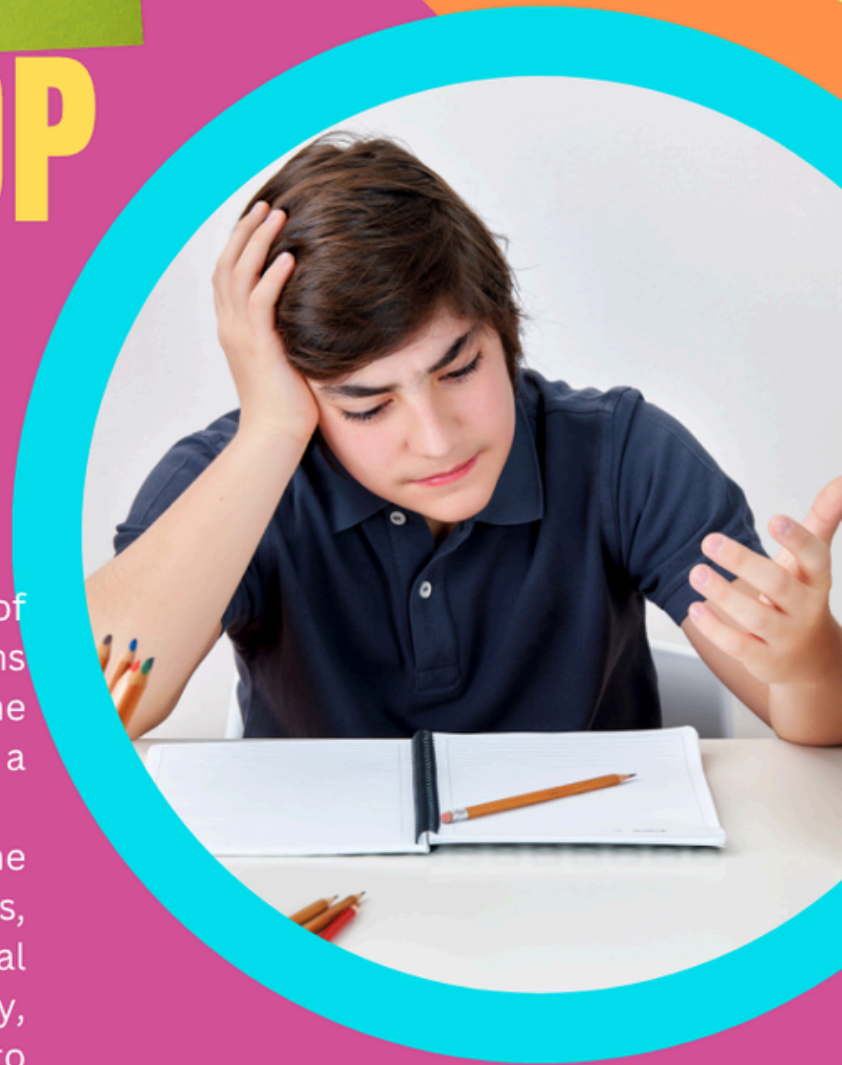
Presented by
Beth Dunn MS, LPC



Saturday
April 25th, 2026
9-11 AM

Although ADHD can present a range of challenges, it also brings unique strengths and abilities. This workshop highlights the positive impact ADHD can have on a student's life.

Participants will receive an overview of the "Big 4" symptoms of ADHD, and parents, caregivers, and teachers will learn practical strategies to help channel impulsivity, energy, creativity, and a love of fun into skills that support success in school and beyond.



☎ 928-759-5104

✉ lisa.krietenstein@humboldtunified.com

📍 6901 E Bear Path - Prescott Valley



This free and in-person workshop is brought to you by HUSD
Grant Funding
Participants will receive a certificate of completion upon
finishing the workshop.

WRAPPED
IN LOVE

The Wrapped in Love (WiL) Diaper Bank provides diapers and supplies to struggling families across Yavapai County. Diapers are given to families through their affiliation with a service agency in the community. WiL promotes health and wellness by providing Yavapai County participants with diapers, wipes and referrals to local services. The overarching goal of WiL is to alleviate the cost of diapering and strengthen access to resources for struggling families in Yavapai County. The staff and volunteers at WiL coordinate with community agencies and family programs to ensure that needy families have access to the resources available to assist them in raising healthy children.

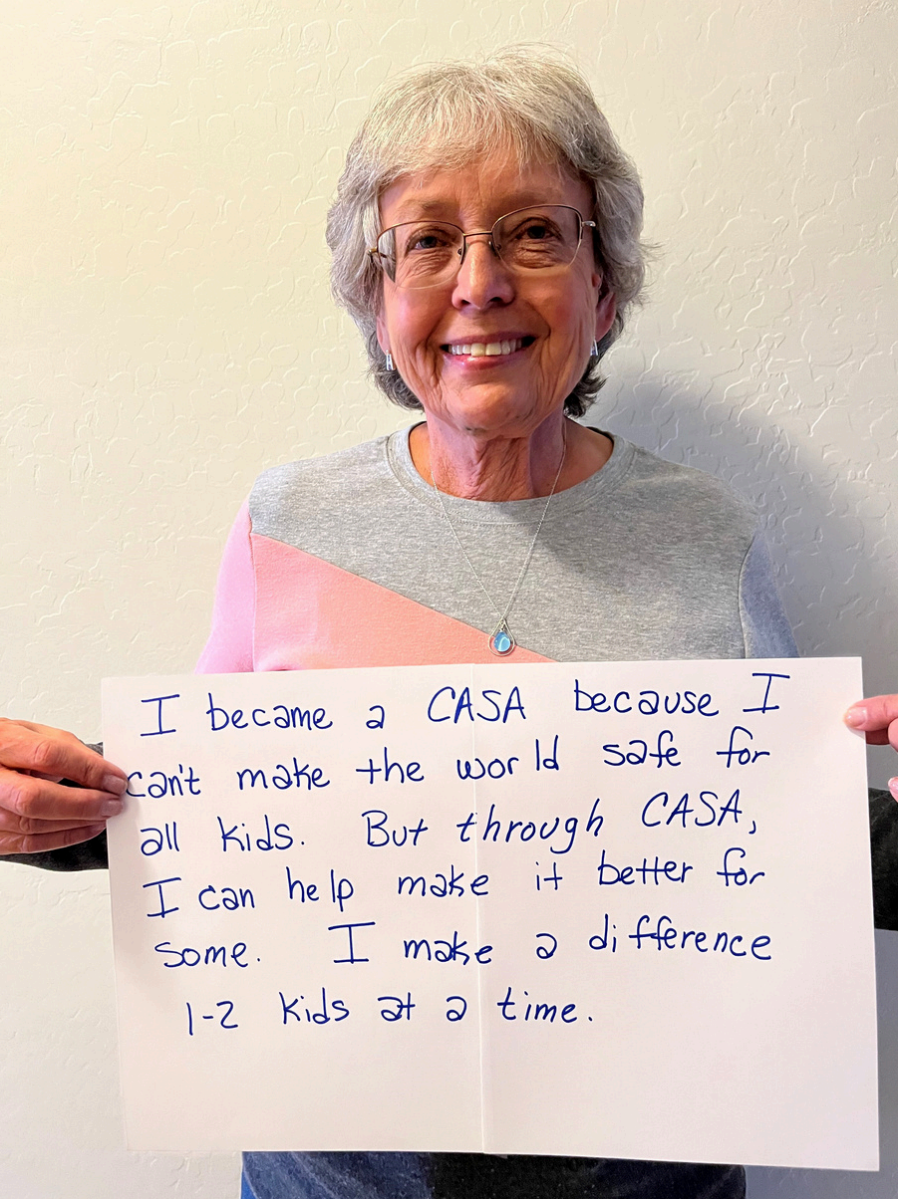
Yavapai County CASA Volunteers can request diapers for their foster or kinship families who are struggling to buy diapers.

If you would like to order diapers for your CASA baby's family, please contact your coordinator.

CELEBRATION!

Gift Cards

Does your CASA kiddo have a birthday coming up? Get a great report card or improve in a class they were struggling with? Successfully complete potty training? Any other event or milestone? Stop by the CASA office to pick up a Celebration Gift Card! Thank you YCFKF!



I became a CASA because I can't make the world safe for all kids. But through CASA, I can help make it better for some. I make a difference 1-2 kids at a time.

 **CASA OF
YAVAPAI
COUNTY**

**LIKE US!
FOLLOW US!**
facebook



March in Yavapai County

6 New Cases filed

12 Children taken
into DCS custody

197 Total number of
children in DCS Care

68 Number of CASAs

87 Children with a CASA

Kids who still need a CASA **110**



Contact Information

www.casaofyavapacounty.org

Prescott Office

(928) 771-3165

Amber Martin, Dependency Court Manager

email: amartin@courts.az.gov

Jessica Hines, Program Coordinator III

email: jhines@courts.az.gov

Amy Fillingim, Program Coordinator II

email: afillingim@courts.az.gov

Kathy McCormick, Mediator

email: kmccormi@courts.az.gov

Evelyn Hurtado, Admin Assistant I

email: ehurtado@courts.az.gov

Robin Fernandez Ames, Support Staff

email: rfernanzesames@courts.az.gov

Kristi Newman (928) 771-3398

Family Treatment Court Coordinator

email: knewman@courts.az.gov



Camp Verde Office

(928) 554-8900



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Program Coordinator I

email: lagray@courts.az.gov



www.YavapaiCASAforKids.org

P.O. Box 28070

Prescott Valley, AZ 86312

(928)445-0800



Board Members:

Lisa Watts, President

Greg Byrum, Vice President/Secretary

Cheryl Micholofki, Treasurer

Eileen Bond, Emeritus Member

Marlene Joy

**Yvonne Bartlett, Executive Director and
Interim contact for Grants for Kids Program**

Mona Stephens, Development

Questions about YC4KF?

email: info@yavapaicasaforkids.org

I'm a CASA because
I can be a helper and
stand beside a child
who has experienced
great loss.