



Change a Child's Story July 2026

Yavapai County CASA Program Newsletter

This Issue...



Welcome Jordyn!	2
Coordinator's Corner	3
Calendars	4-6
CASA Kudos	7
Birthdays/Anniversaries	8
Ask the Coordinator	9-10
YC4KF News	11
Best for Babies	12
Court Report Writing	13
Nature Ninos	14
CASAs Connecting	15
Operation Back to School	16
Book Club	17
Mental Health Conference	18
Juvenile Court Institute	19
Summer Resources	20-23
Summer Camp	24
League of Extraordinary Grandparents	25
Wrapped in Love	26
Celebration Cards	27
FaceBook and Numbers	28
Contact Us	28-29



250

YEARS OF FREEDOM





**WELCOME ✨
to the TEAM**

**Meet Jordyn Baker,
our new Coordinator
I who will be splitting
time between the
Verde and Prescott
offices.**

Hello! My name is Jordyn and I am a new program coordinator with the CASA program! I was born and raised in Flagstaff and got my bachelor's degree in criminal justice at NAU. I then moved down to the valley where I got my master's degree in forensic psychology at ASU. I have a diverse background in the legal field and have worked for multiple attorneys and courts, as well as working in the fields of crime scene, and detention. I am so excited to be working for CASA because I LOVE this program. I want to be able to make a difference in people's lives, and I am very passionate about the work we do.

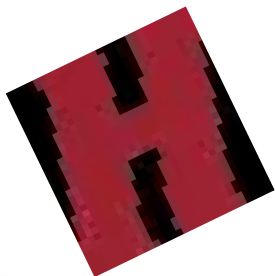
When I'm not at work, I enjoy spending time with my family & dogs, crafting/painting/sewing/anything creative, cars, and finding new places to explore. I look forward to working with you 😊

Coordinators' Corner



(And, yes, I know CASA Eileen R. is wearing one, too, but you can't see it very well because the adorable pupper, Eden, is in the way 😊)

OK, I know I'm asking a lot to have you ignore the adorable pupper in this picture. But, what I want you to focus on is our very own adorable Amy modeling our State Forty-Eight CASA Shirt. If you have not received one yet, please stop by the office and procure one of these comfortable and fashionable t-shirts for yourself before we run out!



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: whensthecft@polarahealth.com

Spectrum: please email: susans@spectrumhg.org

Please give the clinics 48 hours to reply to your email



2026

PRESCOTT

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

1

2

3

HAPPY
Independence
DAY
150
YEARS!

FCRB

6

7

FTC 2:00

8

CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM

9

10

FCRB

13

14

Hearings

15

16

17

20

21

FTC 2:00

22

23

24

27

28

Hearings

29

30

TELE-CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM

31

August

2026

PRESCOTT

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

3

4 **FTC 2:00**

5

6

FCRB

7

FCRB

10

11
Hearings

12

**CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM**

13

14

17

18 **FTC 2:00**
Hearings

19

20

21

24

25

26

27

**TELE-CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM**

28

31

July

2026

VERDE

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

1

2

3

★HAPPY★
Independence
★DAY★
150
YEARS!

6

7

FTC 2:00

8

Hearings

9

CASAS
CONNECTING
9:15-11:15AM
COTTONWOOD
LIBRARY
DEDE EWALD RM

10

FCRB

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15

16

17

20

21

FTC 2:00

22

23

24

27

28

29

Hearings

30

TELE-CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM

31



CASA Kudos

Kudos to Leslie G for taking a new teen case who is placed almost 3 hours away.

Kudos to Roberta and Steve for taking a new case with 3 siblings, all in different placements and also for thinking outside the box 😊

Kudos to Janice M for supporting the mother and child on her case through a placement disruption.

Kudos to Greg B for taking a new case.

Kudos to Jan L for finding a music camp, securing funding and transporting her teen back and forth to camp. The smile on his face after camp was PRICELESS!!

Kudos to Shelly M for transporting her teen back and forth to court from Flagstaff so she would feel comfortable attending.

Kudos to Rose V.N. for supporting her CASA kiddo at his sporting events 😊

Kudos to Stephanie R. for tackling her first court report!

Kudos to Michael L. Julie S. and Nancy M. for taking on their first case and jumping right in! Your dedication and willingness to get involved are greatly appreciated, and we're excited to see the positive impact you'll make for the children and families you serve.

A special kudos shout-out to Laura P. & Diane J. for all of the extra support and guidance you've provided to our new CASA volunteers. Your willingness to share your knowledge, answer questions, and mentor others does not go unnoticed.

Lilly M- For working closely with her Courtesy CASA from Coconino County.

Donna T- For seeing her first case through to adoption.

Eileen R- for seeing her case through to dismissal.

Nancy T and Bev M- for working so closely together as Co CASAs advocacy for the best interests of the children they are appointed to.

Pam P- for advocating for reunification and helping the children she is appointed to get placed in a relative placement.

Ellen D and Debbie S for working together well and meeting the children they are appointed to.

A special thank you to all of Amy's CASAs who are patiently waiting for her return!

Rose Valle-Norris

7/10

Cathy Johnson

7/15

Dorie Scott

7/23

Diane McClure

7/30



ask the coordinator



It is difficult to believe we are already halfway through 2026! But here we are! The state CASA program requires that all CASA volunteers complete 12 training hours a calendar year so we wanted to write to make sure that you are aware of the requirement and the changes to the types and amounts of training that can be counted. As many of you are aware, a new CASA policy is coming into effect on July 1, 2026 and there are some changes in the amounts of training that can be counted and the documentation required for the hours reported.

The 12 hours of continuing training should include a variety of types of training. Please see the training requirements listed below:

Allowable Training		
Training Type	Allowable Hours	Documentation Requirement
Workshops, seminars, conference	Length of event, minus breaks, and lunch	Enter in the Electronic Training Log in CASAaz and answer responses to the prompt question in #12 below or provide a Certificate or Agenda to the CASA coordinator
Online training module or webinars	Use recommended credit hours listed or length of webinar if not provided	Enter in the Electronic Training Log in CASAaz and answer responses to the prompt question in #12 below or provide a Certificate or Agenda to the CASA coordinator
College course (social welfare related)	Maximum of 12 hours per year	Enter in the Electronic Training Log in CASAaz and provide a copy of the syllabus to the CASA coordinator
Case support group	Maximum of 4 hours per year	Enter in the Electronic Training Log in CASAaz. Verification will be the sign-in sheet that is maintained by the county office
Recommended Podcast (professional, social welfare specific)	Length of podcast. Maximum of 4 hours per year	Enter in the Electronic Training Log in CASAaz and answer responses to the prompt question in #12 below
Articles in professional magazines or journals	Minimum of 15 pages. Maximum 1 hour per article, Maximum 9 hours per year	Enter in the Electronic Training Log in CASAaz and answer responses to the prompt question in #12 below
Non-Fiction books that address social welfare issues	Maximum 3 hours per book, Maximum 3 books per year. Maximum 9 hours per year.	Enter in the Electronic Training Log in CASAaz and answer responses to the prompt question in #12 below
County newsletters and newspaper articles	Maximum of 1 hour per year	Enter in the Electronic Training Log in CASAaz and answer responses to the prompt question in #12 below
Documentaries	Maximum of 4 hours per year	Enter in the Electronic Training Log in CASAaz and answer responses to the prompt question in #12 below

ask the **coordinator**



All training must relate to social welfare and/or your role as a CASA. Please submit the required training certification to the CASA office either by email, mail or drop it by the office. If you do not have a certificate of attendance, agenda or syllabus, please answer the following questions in the Training Summary section in your Dashboard entry:

1. What type of training did you complete (Please refer to the training table)?
2. List 3 key points that were made in the training.
3. How can the information obtained in this training enhance your volunteer role?
4. Would you recommend this training?

Thank you for your willingness to agree to these additional training requirements from the state office. If you wonder if a training will meet the new requirements, please check with your coordinator or the CASA office. Please contact Amber or your coordinator if you have any additional questions or concerns. We want to make this change to the new requirements simple as possible for you. We all so appreciate all you do to advocate for the children and families you are appointed to. You make such a huge difference in their lives.





LATEST NEWS

The Foundation would like to welcome its newest board member Miranda Fisher!

**COMING
SOON**

They are also very excited to announce the opening of **2** new Family Visitation Centers. One center will be located in Camp Verde and will be opening later in July. The other center will be located in Prescott. Stay tuned for more details regarding location and opening dates.

YOU'RE INVITED to join us for **Yavapai BestforBabies**

First Friday of the Month*
10 A.M. - 12 P.M.
Prevent Child Abuse Arizona Office

What is it?

The monthly Yavapai Best for Babies meeting brings together child welfare professionals and community members to discuss what we can do to ensure best outcomes for infants and toddlers in foster or kinship care.

Who should attend?

Child Welfare Professionals • Foster Parents and Kinship Families • Foster Parent Licensing and Training Personnel • CASAs • DCS/DDD Supervisors and Caseworkers • Parent Aides • Visit Coaches • Court Personnel • Attorneys • Guardians ad litem • Behavioral Health Professionals • Early Care / Education Providers • Providers of Services to Families • Anyone who works with or cares for young children

*No meeting July 2026

 **Prevent Child Abuse** **3298 Bob Dr, Prescott Valley**
Arizona Questions? Email meghan@pcaaz.org

Yavapai Best for Babies meets in-person on the first Friday of each month from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Prevent Child Abuse Arizona office (3298 Bob Dr., Prescott Valley). These monthly meetings bring together child welfare professionals and community members to collaborate, share ideas, and strengthen outcomes for our youngest children.

NO MEETING
IN JULY

COURT REPORT WRITING

*Thursday, July 9th · 9:00pm-11:00am
JJC Hearing Room*

This is a comprehensive Court Report Writing class for all CASA advocates.

All new advocates are highly encouraged to attend this training to learn the requirements for Court Report Writing for Yavapai County. We will also address your concerns and issues with using the dashboard system for writing reports.



Veteran advocates are encouraged to attend this training as a refresher course and to offer your experience to the discussion.

You are welcome to bring your own lunch or snacks. Coffee and water will be provided.

(training credit given to all CASAs)



Nature Niños



2025-2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

One Saturday a month



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

1701 Sarafina Drive
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

20 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

Antelope Park

6933 N. Cattletrack Road
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314



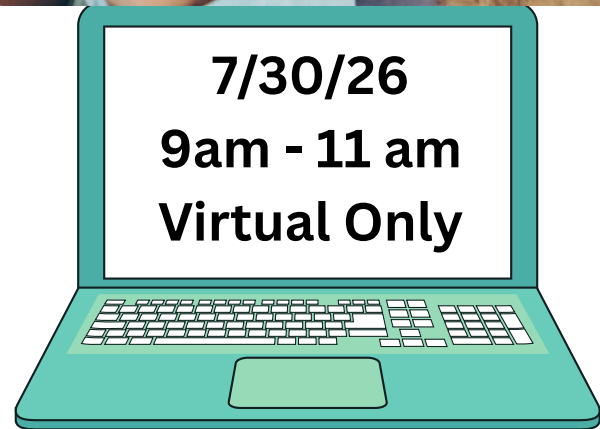


7/8/26

9am - 11 am

in person at the JJC

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



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!



Operation Back to School



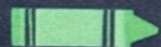
July 25th from 9am to noon
116 E Pinal St in Cottonwood



Free Back Pack



Free School Supplies



Free Breakfast Food Boxes



Must reside in the Verde Valley Area
(Proof of Address Required)

Pre-school - 12th Grade - Kids Must Be present!
(May come at 11am if your child is unable to attend)

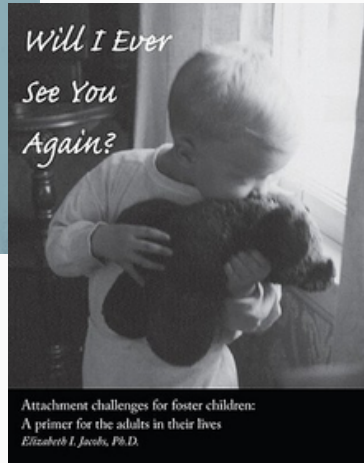
For more info visit oldtownmission.org



LOOK

**I FOUND MORE GORGEOUS
PEOPLE MODELING OUR
AWESOME STATE FORTY-
EIGHT SHIRTS! GET YOURS
TODAY**

THANK YOU GREG, JEN AND LAURA!



Book Club

Book Club is doing something a little different this time, reader's choice. We have selected 3 different books that we have copies of in the office. Participants have chosen different books and then are going to report to the Book Club their thoughts on each book.

A Place Called Home: A Memoir by David Ambroz

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride

Will I Ever See you Again? Attachment challenges for foster children by Elizabeth Jacobs

Changes coming 7/1/2026 to what will be allowed for books to count as training hours:

- Only non-fiction books that address social welfare issues
- maximum of 3 hours per book
- maximum of 3 books per year
- maximum of 9 hours total

Must include these points in Dashboard:

1. List 3 key points that were made in the training/book
2. How can the information obtained in this training/book enhance your volunteer role?
3. Would you recommend this training/book?

****Next selection will be a fiction book - no training credit****

Book Club

August 3,
2026
9:30am
Virtual or
In-
Person

Ask
Jessica
for the
link

Yavapai Mental Health Conference: Hands On!

Join us for Yavapai County's 5th annual mental health conference!



July 28th, 2026

8:30 AM - 4:45 PM



Cliff Castle Hotel

Camp Verde, AZ

For professionals, advocates, & community members who care about mental wellbeing.

Register online today!

Tickets are \$40

*Tickets include all day access to the conference, lunch, a free book from one of our keynote speakers, and networking opportunities.

Visit www.healthyyavapai.com for more information.

SCAN HERE



Help us get the word out! Share with coworkers, friends, family, and clients! During registration, people who you encouraged to attend the conference have the option to enter your name for a drawing of a gift card* to Dutch Bros or REI!

Winners must be present at the conference to win

Sponsored by:





JUVENILE COURT INSTITUTE (JCI)

FALL 2026 FIVE-WEEK SERIES

An exciting opportunity for community members, students, and volunteers to learn about the Juvenile Justice System and discover effective ways to ***"Influence Positive Change"*** in the lives of youth in our community.

This training is highly recommended for CASAS!



WHEN

**Thursdays
3:00 – 6:00 PM**

**Sept. 10, 17, 24,
and Oct. 1, 8, 2026**



WHERE

Juvenile Justice Center
1100 Prescott Lakes Parkway
Prescott, AZ 86301

*Virtual Attendance
also Available*



WHY PARTICIPATE?

- ✓ Learn how the Juvenile Justice System works
- ✓ Hear from local professionals
- ✓ Make a meaningful difference in our community



SEATS ARE LIMITED, SO RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!

QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER



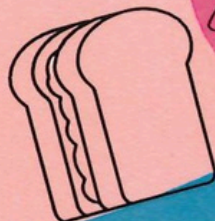
jlongstreth@courts.az.gov



(928) 442-5684

FREE SUMMER MEALS!

SEVEN DAY MEAL PACK PICK UP



FREE



HUSD Child
Nutrition

IMPORTANT

You do not have to live within HUSD boundaries. Any family with children 18 and younger in the quad cities that are able to pick up meals from one of these locations are encouraged to register.

Locations:

1. Humboldt Elementary School - 2750 S. Corral Street **OR**
2. Pronghorn Ridge Middle School - 6411 N. Robert Road

Time:

Meal pack pick up is 7AM to 3PM only on dates listed below

Pickup Dates:

Monday, June 1st

Monday, June 8th

Monday, June 15th

Monday, June 22nd

Monday, June 29th

Monday, July 6th

Monday, July 13th

Monday, July 20th

Register Now

SCAN HERE



No proof of residency or income is required! All children 1-18 years old qualify for **free** meals over the summer months regardless of what school district they attend. **Registration is required.** Scan the QR code above or visit: <https://forms.gle/dMHM7quiasvJtSqG6> to register now! Call 928-759-5017 if you are unable to register online.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

2026 Summer Reading at Prescott Public Library

May 21 – July 25



Starting May 21, sign up for Summer Reading, then log your minutes to earn prizes!

THREE WAYS TO PARTICIPATE—CHOOSE ONE!

- Sign up at the Youth Desk and receive a paper reading log
- Use the QR code to sign up and log your minutes online at <https://prescottpl.beanstack.com/>
- Download the Beanstack app, create a free account, join our Summer Reading challenge, and log your minutes in the app
- Prizes can be collected from June 1-August 2, 2026



215-E Goodwin Street - Prescott, AZ 86303 - (928) 777-1537 - www.prescottlibrary.info



**Grocery benefits are available
for eligible school-age children
during summer break.**





SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

SUN Bucks provides \$120 in grocery benefits per eligible school-age child when school is out for summer. **Children who get SUN Bucks can also participate in Summer Meals programs.**

Your child may be eligible if your family's annual gross income* is **LESS THAN:**

Family Income	Family Size
\$37,814	2 people
\$47,767	3 people
\$57,720	4 people
\$67,673	5 people

*For 2024-25 School Year

Can my child get SUN Bucks?

Your child will automatically get SUN Bucks if they participated in any of these programs between July 1, 2024- August 5, 2025:

- Children ages 6-16 years old and your family participated in SNAP or TANF.
- Children ages 6-16 years old and your family participated in AHCCCS with a household income of 185% of the FPL or below.
- Children ages 6-16 years old who are unhoused, foster, runaway, or migrant students.
- Children who attend a NSLP participating Head Start.
- Children who attended a school that participated in the NSLP in School Year 2024-2025 and who were certified for free or reduced-price meals.

SUN Bucks will be mailed to the address on file with your school. Please make sure it is up to date!

IMPORTANT: Do not discard the letter that comes with your card. It contains your case number, which will be needed to set up your card's PIN!

Your child may be eligible, consider applying for SUN Bucks if your child meets **any** of the following:

- Children that attend a school that operates the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs **AND** submitted a completed alternate income form with their child's school.
- Children that attend a school **that serves free meals to all enrolled students AND** they would qualify for free or reduced price school meals.

If you think your child is eligible based on your household income, visit the Arizona Department of Education application screener or call 833-648-4406 to find out if you should submit an application.

The SUN Bucks application will close on August 5, 2025.

How does SUN Bucks work?

- Families that participate in SNAP or TANF will receive funds directly to their existing household's Arizona EBT card.
- If you have an Arizona EBT card from Summer 2024, benefits will be loaded directly onto the EBT card. For questions, please contact the EBT card SUN Bucks hotline at 1 (833) 648-4406.
- If you do not have an Arizona EBT card, one will be mailed to you with your SUN Bucks benefits pre-loaded onto the card. The card works like a debit card.
- If you have more than one eligible child, you will only get one card per household. For example, if you have 2 eligible kids, you will get one card with \$240 total.
- SUN Bucks must be used within 122 days of the date when benefits are loaded onto the card. **Unused benefits will be removed on day 123.**



Arizona Department of Education:

For information on program and eligibility, such as any of the following, visit or call 833-648-4406:

- Assistance with SUN Bucks case number.
- Date(s) of benefit issuance. Report a change of address.
- Child missing on your SUN Bucks case.
- Information on SUN Bucks eligibility, to apply, or to file an appeal.
- How to opt-out.
- Eligibility screener can be found here.
- SUN Bucks application linked here.
- Requesting a replacement card.



Arizona Department of Economic Security:

For information on your EBT card or benefits, such as below, visit or call 888-997-9333:

- Activating your card.
- Checking card balances.
- Changing your PIN.
- Reporting a lost, stolen, or damaged card.



Arizona Food Bank Network:

For information on the program, such as below, and FAQ:

- List of program names and streamlined certification process.
- Information on approved retailers.
- General information on program and eligibility.



Summer Food Service Program/ SUN Meals:

Free meals for kids and teens are also available as part of USDA's SUN Meal programs. Use the QR code to find a meal service site near you.



Rise Above the Clouds **SUMMER CAMP**

Trauma-informed, overnight summer camp for foster youth ages 10-14



JULY 13TH – JULY 19TH 2026



Apply Today!



Camp Tuition \$800
Scholarships Available



@rise.abovetheclouds

(928) 925-9559

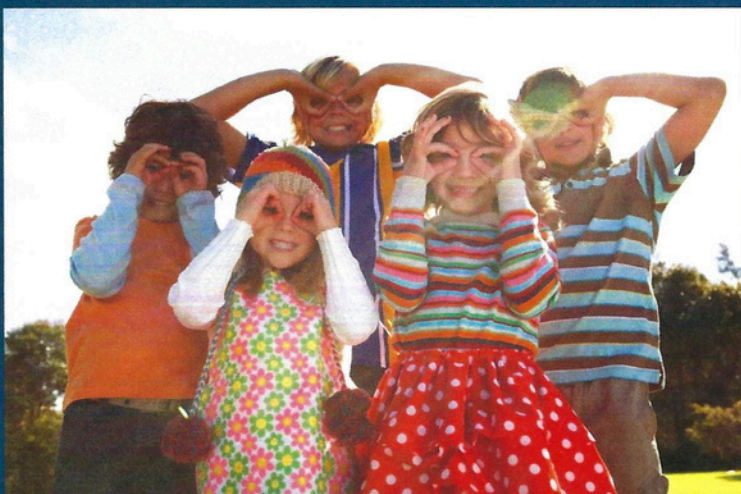
riseabovetheclouds.org



Come Have Fun!

with our Grand-Hearts for Grand-Kids

Free monthly event for kids ages 3 yrs (potty trained) to 11 who could benefit from a positive, nurturing grandparent morning of fun! 8944 East Sommer Drive, Bldg. B, Prescott Valley, AZ Registration is required; may be done on the website or at the door.



*3rd Saturday EVERY Month
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.*

**free for kids
ages 3-11**

Call - 928-899-8372

www.grandparentchamps.org

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!



 **CASA OF
YAVAPAI
COUNTY**

LIKE US!

FOLLOW US!

facebook

June in Yavapai County

4 New Cases filed

4 Children taken
into DCS custody

193 Total number of
children in DCS Care

72 Number of CASAs

95 Children with a CASA

Kids who still need a CASA

98



Contact Information

www.casaofyavapaicounty.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

Jen Bahr

Dependency Program Manager II

email: jbahr@courts.az.gov

Laura Gray

Program Coordinator II

email: lagray@courts.az.gov

Jordyn Baker

Program Coordinator I

email: jbaker@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

Miranda Fisher

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

Questions about YC4KF?

email: info@yavapaicasaforkids.org

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2010*