



Change a Child's Story

Yavapai County CASA Program Newsletter

AUGUST 2025

This Issue...

Coordinator's Corner 2

Calendars 3-5

Birthdays/Anniversaries 6

Kudos 7

Ask the Coordinator 8

YCFKF News 9

Nature Ninos 10

CASAs Connecting 11

Book Club 12

Hope Horizons 13

Mental Health Matters 14

Juvenile Court Institute 15

Verde Meet and Greet 16

5K and Halloween Fest 17

Celebration Cards 18

FaceBook / Numbers 19

Save the Date 20

Contact Us 21-22

Happy Back to School Season!

As your kiddos head back to school after the awesome summer camps you helped them attend with a YCFKF grant, it's time to think about YOUR learning goals. Specifically, your required 12 hours of training. We are more than half way through the year and many of you have a few more training hours to go to meet the goal. YOU CAN DO IT! If you are not sure where you stand with your training hours or need some ideas where to find some training, call your coordinator. There are plenty of ideas in this newsletter as well.

The CASAs Connecting meeting in September will have a speaker talking about how to advocate for your school aged child and explaining the ins and out of Special Education, IEP's, 504 plans, etc.

Coordinators' Corner



The CASA office has some exciting news to share! Laura Gray, who has worked as an Administrative Assistant in our Verde CASA office for the past 8 years, was recently promoted to Program Coordinator I. Laura will continue with some of her administrative duties (as well as her IT prowess), and will also have a roster of CASAs to oversee in the near future. We are excited for Laura and know she will do an excellent job in her new position.

Congratulations, Laura!

*Welcome, Julie!
and Congratulations on
completing your training
and taking your first
case!*



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

Prescott
2025

AUGUST

MATH

SCIENCE

LITERATURE

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

ART

MUSIC

GEOGRAPHY

History

4

5

FTC 2:00

6

7

FCRB

8

FCRB

11

12

Hearings

13

9:00
CASA
Connecting

14

FCRB

15

18

19

FTC 2:00

20

21

22

25

26

27

28

Tele-CASA
9:00

29

SEPTEMBER

PRESCOTT 2025

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

1

2 **FTC 2:00**

3

4

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10
9:00
CASA
Connecting

11

12

FCRB

FCRB

15

16 **FTC 2:00**

Hearings

17

18

19

22

23

24

25
Tele-CASA
9:00

26

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30

AUGUST

2025 VERDE

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

1

4

5

FTC 2:00

6

7

FCRB

8

FCRB

11

12

13

14

CASA
Connecting
9:15-11:15
Cottonwood Library
Dede Ewald Room

15

18

19

FTC 2:00

20

21

22

25

26

27

Hearings

28

Tele-CASA
9:00

29

Happy Birthday



August Anniversaries



LAURA PRATT 9 YEARS

KATHY MCLAUGHLIN 8 YEARS

DIANE JOHNSON 6 YEARS

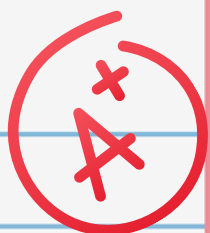
KATHY LUCAS 5 YEARS COLIN BROWN 5 YEARS

LAURI DELFELD 3 YEARS

PAT MCKAY 2 YEARS LILLY MCBEE 2 YEARS

DON O'NEIL 1 YEAR ANGELA PATRIARCA 1 YEAR





CASA Kudos

Laura A. for getting creative about spending time with her CASA children.

Randy K. for supporting the mother on her case in throwing birthday parties for her children.

Carol H. for seeing her case through to reunification.

Renee O. for seeing her case through to adoption.

Rita D. for recognizing a need and advocating for her child's behavioral health.

Kim N. for taking her CASA child to get her social security card before she ages out.

JB Birdt as she continues to be an advocate for two teen girls on two separate cases as they move to various placements.

Dorie Scott for advocating for needed educational services for her CASA child.

Donna Tanzi for taking her first case.

Colin Brown and **Kathy Lucas** for helping their CASA child address some significant health issues.

Amy Edwards for stepping up for her CASA child during a time of crisis.

Tricia Crean and **Jody McCabe** as their CASA case reached reunification.

Pat McKay for getting involved with his case as the bioparent gets involved with Family Treatment Court.

Loraine West as she works with the placement for her CASA child to find appropriate services.

Sue Fitzsimons as she continues to support her four CASA children as they reunify with their biological family.

Sue F, Ron S, Shelly M, Leslie G, Debbie T, and Dawn B for attending the Mental Health Conference: Exploring Dimensions of Wellness.

Pat S. and Jeni O. for making a difficult day a little bit brighter for their CASA kiddo 😊

Dawn B. and Lynn M. for being proactive and looking into activities for their CASA kiddos to get them prepared for the upcoming school year!

Laura P. for her willingness to travel and see her CASA youth shortly after her CASA youth was placed in a new placement in Maricopa County.

Bob M. for his continued efforts to ensure his CASA kiddos behavioral needs are being met.

The Importance of Self-Care for CASAs



As a CASA volunteer, advocating for children in the foster care system who have had to deal with the challenges, uncertainties, and chaos that often accompany the difficult situations they have encountered in their lives can be tough. As CASAs, you are witnesses to some of the physical and emotional trauma that a child has experienced in his or her life. Although a CASA may not see the trauma occur, a CASA can be impacted. To reduce stressors and ensure the success and longevity as CASAs, creating a self-care plan early on in your advocacy work and implementing a plan as needed is essential to nurturing your own well-being and preventing burnout.

Self-care looks different for everyone. Here are a few ways to achieve a healthy balance as a CASA:

1. Eating a balanced diet and incorporating a regular exercise routine:
Boosts energy and improves mood.
2. Getting adequate sleep: Being rested and recharged allows you to start your day with energy and focus.
3. Practice Mindfulness and Meditation: To build emotional resilience and manage stress.
4. Engage in hobbies that bring you joy: Devote time to enjoyable activities like spending time in nature, drawing, reading, journaling.
5. Social Support: Connect with friends and family or attend a CASA Connecting Meeting for support from fellow CASAs.
6. Establish Healthy Boundaries: Find balance between your volunteer role and personal life.
7. Ask for Help: Connect with your CASA Coordinator to discuss available resources, trainings, and additional support.

CASAs, what does self-care look like for you? Please email your responses to Jen Bahr at: jbahr@courts.az.gov by Monday, August 25th for a chance to win a self-care gift 😊 Self-care responses and the winner will be announced in next month's CASA newsletter.



ABOUT THE TOY CHEST



The Toy Chest is a program that provides physical gifts for foster youth to celebrate their birthdays and other milestones. Kinship placements, biological parents, foster parents, CASAs, and DCS caseworkers are able to utilize this program to select gifts for the foster youth in their lives or on their caseloads. There are gifts and toys available for youth ages 0-21 including bikes, stuffed animals, action figures, makeup, gift cards and more!

HOW IT WORKS



When a child has a birthday or a personal achievement, their placements, biological parents, CASAs, or DCS caseworkers can request a visit to the Toy Chest to pick out an appropriate gift for the foster youth. There are Toy Chest location in both Prescott Valley and Cottonwood Arizona at the Yavapai CASA for Kids Foundation Offices.

HOW TO REQUEST A GIFT



To request a visit to the Toy Chest or get more information about the program go to

YavapaiCASAforKids.org/toy-chest



THE TOY CHEST

Gifts to celebrate birthdays & all the milestones our foster youth achieve.

THE COSTUMES FOR KIDS SK & HALLOWEEN FEST IS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION (FREE FOR ALL FOSTER/KINSHIP FAMILIES AND YOUTH 16 AND UNDER). PLEASE SEE THE FLYER ON PAGE 18 FOR MORE INFORMATION AND THE LINK TO REGISTER.



THE FOUNDATION IS ALSO LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE DAY OF THE EVENT. PLEASE EMAIL DEVELOPMENT@YAVAPAIASAFORKIDS.ORG IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP OUT WITH THE EVENT.



Go Explore!



2024-2025 Schedule

10:00am - 12:00pm
One Saturday every month

Park Rangers and community partners will lead child-centered play events at a different family friendly park and trail each month. At every Nature Niños event there will be take-home items, a healthy snack, creative nature activities, story time, and little fun lessons on Appreciate AZ Leave No Trace and Healthy Choices. Nature Niños events are led by Park Rangers and community partner staff with a strong understanding of child development and experience leading child-centered outdoor programs.

October 5th

Fain Park

2200 N. 5th Street
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

November 2nd

Acker Park

421 S. Virginia Street
Prescott, AZ 86303

December 7th

**Santa Fe Station
Park**

6751 E Santa Fe Loop
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

January 4th

Vista Park

1701 Sarafina Drive
Prescott, AZ 86301

February 1st

Watson Lake

Upper Ramada
3101 Watson Lake Drive
Prescott, AZ 86301

March 1st

Pioneer Park

Brownlow Area
1195 Commerce Drive
Prescott, AZ 86305

April 5th

**Community
Nature Center**

1980 Williamson Valley Rd
Prescott, AZ 86305

April 19th
Prescott Earth Day
Courthouse Square

May 3rd

June 7th

Granite Creek Park

554 6th Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

July 5th

Antelope

6933 N. Cattle
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

August 2nd

West Granite Creek

Splash Pad
350 N. Montezuma Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

September 6th

Antelope Butte

Prescott National Forest
2000 Antelope Butte Road
Prescott, AZ 86305

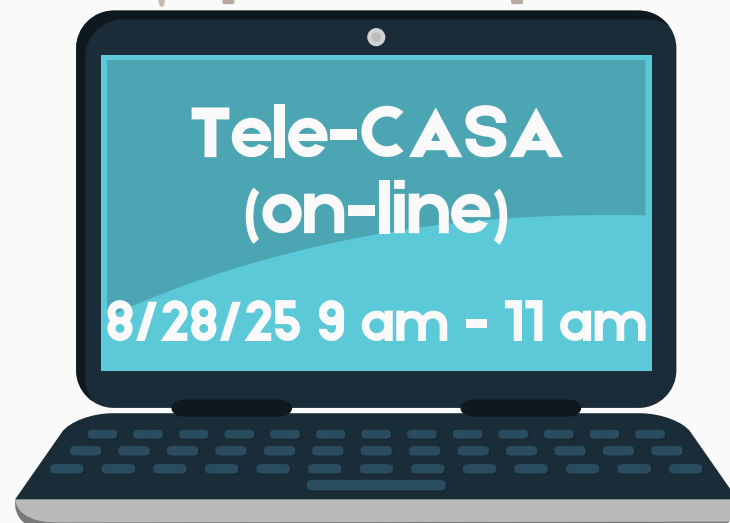


SPEAKING of LEARNING



Attend CASAs Connecting Peer support group to help you be **successful** on your case. 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
8/13/25 9 am to 11 am
in person at the JJC



The link for Tele-CASA will be sent via email the Tuesday before the meeting.

Book Club

August 25th
9:30 am
at JJC

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

"Anyone will tell you the born of this world are marked from the get-out, win or lose."

Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, this is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. In a plot that never pauses for breath, relayed in his own unsparing voice, he braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.

Many generations ago, Charles Dickens wrote David Copperfield from his experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damages to children in his society. Those problems have yet to be solved in ours. Dickens is not a prerequisite for readers of this novel, but he provided its inspiration. In transposing a Victorian epic novel to the contemporary American South, Barbara Kingsolver enlists Dickens' anger and compassion, and above all, his faith in the transformative powers of a good story. *Demon Copperhead* speaks for a new generation of lost boys, and all those born into beautiful, cursed places they can't imagine leaving behind.

Books
Available

IN THE CASA OFFICE



HOPE HORIZONS

NAVIGATING RECOVERY FOR

ARIZONA FAMILIES

Statewide Institute

SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2025

**Renaissance
Glendale Phoenix**

Community Resource Fair
Film Screening
20+ workshops

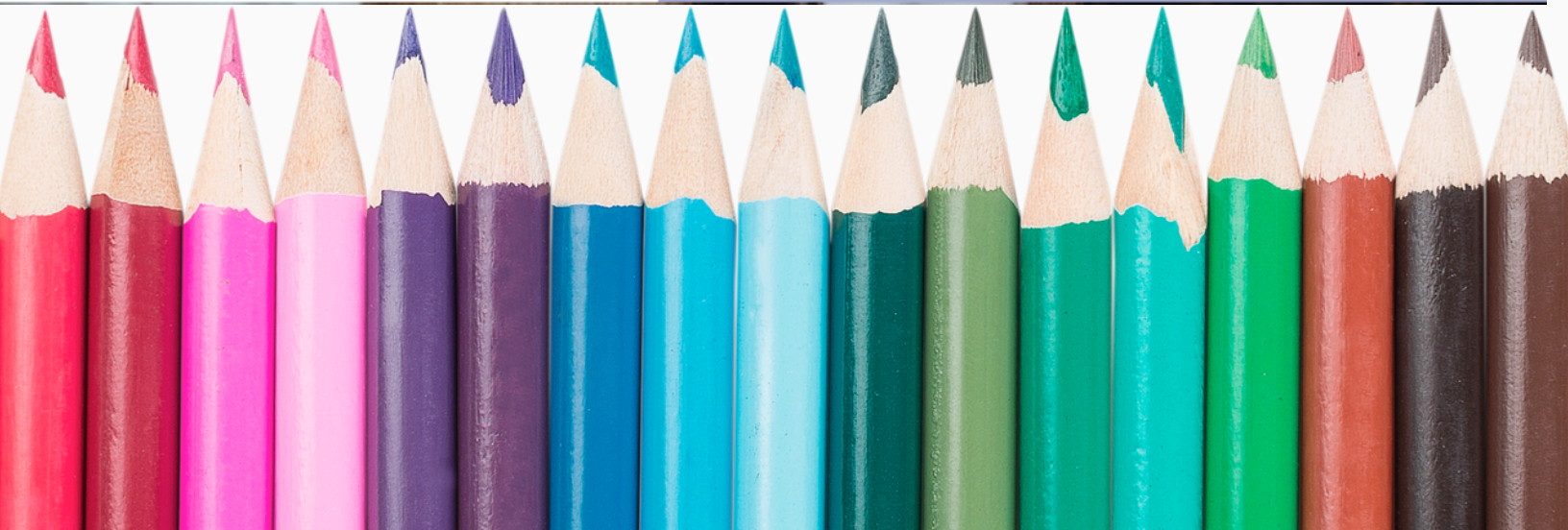
ARIZONA
HEALTH CARE COST
CONTAINMENT SYSTEM

Registration is FREE

Hope Horizons is designed for professionals working directly with parents and families, in their homes, and in the community. Workshops will feature hands-on, interactive opportunities that give participants practical tools and knowledge with a focus on the intersections of brain development, treatment, supporting the parent-child relationship, and tools to soothe and care for infants and young children.

**MORE INFORMATION AND
REGISTRATION HERE**

Breakfast and lunch are included. A limited number of hotel scholarships will be available for those traveling 50+ miles to the institute





Register at
www.mentalhealthmattersarizona.com

3rd Annual MHMAZ Conference
This Year's Focus: Brain Health

SEPT. 27TH ——— 8am - 1pm

ASU Sky Song Campus
1475 N Scottsdale Rd #200, Scottsdale, AZ 85257



The event is free!

A box lunch will be provided for in person attendees.

Online attendees will receive a Zoom link via email one day prior to the event.



JUVENILE COURT INSTITUTE (JCI)

*Highly
Recommended
for CASAs*

►► FALL 2025 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.



Thursdays from 3-6
Sept. 11, 18, 25
and Oct. 2, 9, 2025

Location: Juvenile Justice Center

1100 Prescott Lakes Parkway

Prescott, AZ 86301

Seats are limited so reserve your seat today!

Contact Jeff Longstreth jlongstreth@courts.az.gov (928) 442-5684





MEET & GREET



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

DCS & CASA



**SEPTEMBER 18, 2025
12:00PM - 2:00PM
COTTONWOOD LIBRARY
DEDE EWALD ROOM
RSVP AND SUBMIT ANY DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS
TOJENBAHR AT
928-554-8903 OR
JBAHR@COURTS.AZ.GOV
BY SEPTEMBER 12TH**

**LUNCH PROVIDED BY YAVAPAI
CASA FOR KIDS FOUNDATION**



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

Yavapai CASA For Kids Foundation's

COSTUMES FOR KIDS

Benefits Local Foster Youth

5K & HALLOWEEN FEST



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 25, 2025**

PRESCOTT COURTHOUSE SQUARE

REGISTRATION AT 9:00 AM

5K STARTS AT 10:00 AM



Costume Contests, Raffles, Music, Games
Prizes, & More



REGISTRATION & MORE INFORMATION

Foster Families and Youth Under 16 Run for Free

YavapaiCASAforKids.org/Annual-5K



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!

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.



CASA OF YAVAPAI COUNTY



**LIKE US!
FOLLOW US!**



facebook



July in Yavapai County

5

New Cases filed

8

**Children taken
into DCS custody**

229

**Total number of
children in DCS Care**

79

Number of CASAs

107

**Children with
a CASA**

Kids who still need a CASA

122





CASA
HOLIDAY
& EVENT

FRIDAY



OCTOBER
24TH



2025

The wildlife is waiting for you...

Contact Information

www.casaofyavapaicounty.org

Prescott Office

(928) 771-3165

Amber Martin, Dependency Court Manager

email: amartin@courts.az.gov

Jessica Hines, Program Coordinator II

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 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

Luke Lewis, Treasurer

Cheryl Micholofki

Eileen Bond, Emeritus Member

Jayne Schwantes

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

Mona Stephens, Development



Questions about YC4KF?

email: info@yavapaicasaforkids.org