

North Iowa CASA News

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND
MARCH 2013

The Dreamer Mission

by CASA Katy Thoreson

In October of this year, I had the great opportunity to travel to Cochabamba, Bolivia, South America, through my church (Rhythm Church) to serve an orphanage, The House of Dreams. The orphanage was founded by and is operated by an American Missionary couple, Angie and Daronn, who wanted to address the orphan problem in Bolivia.

Orphanages are still utilized in Bolivia and many are large and very institutionalized, housing up to 150 children. Children end up orphans for various reasons, but many for economic reasons because Bolivia is the poorest country in South America.

In speaking with Angie, I learned that the Bolivian government does have a Child Pro-

TECTIVE SERVICES and that in many ways it operates as the United States does but there are also many differences. They do have a foster care system but lack foster homes so many children end up in orphanages. The court system oversees placement and review hearings just as we do, but the government leans in favor of the parents with no time limits, and children are often either returned to homes with little parental improvements or remain in the system for years before being placed as available for adoption. Once available for adoption, the incident of adoption is dire because many of these children are older when finally open for adoption and the government places re-



strictions on who may adopt. Only residents of at least 2 years may adopt Bolivian children and because of the poor economic conditions of the country many "resident" Bolivians are not in a position to add to their family.

The founders of the House of Dreams wanted to help but have decided to run their orphanage in a very different way. They operate as a family unit and as such limit their size to 15 orphans. There is a close knit staff that the children refer to as Tias (Aunt) or Tios

...continued on page 3

Inside this issue:

Written by kids.....	2
The Dreamer Mission, contd.	3
Recipes	3
Events	insert

Special points of interest:

- Congratulations to CASA Jason Lloyd on his marriage October 6, 2012



THANK YOU TO:
Stratford Foundation



Written by kids.....

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHOM TO MARRY?

You got to find somebody who like the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.
- Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with.
- Kristen, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then.. - Camille, age 10

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. - Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.
- Lynnette, age 8 (isn't she a treasure)

On a first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

When they're rich. - Pam, age 7 (love her)



The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - Curt, age 7

The rules goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. - Howard, age 8

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

It is better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age 9 (bless you child)

HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? - Kelvin, age 8

AND THE #1 FAVORITE IS.....

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck. - Ricky, age 10



The Dreamer Mission contd.....

(Uncle). I was impressed with how well-mannered the children were in such a large family unit. Many of the older children helped with household chores and the children often acted as supports for one another as siblings would.

While there our team assessed some of the needs at the orphanage



and spent the week making some necessary repairs, including the boys shower and replacing a torn window screen, but we also spent a lot of time just showing the orphans some love.

One of the greatest triumphs we had was in teaching the children how to play baseball. As they all attend a bilingual school they often read about baseball in textbooks but baseball is non-existent in Bolivia. We came prepared with bases, whif-



fle balls, and a bat. We had so much fun, even other neighborhood kids at the park joined in!

While the culture in Bolivia is different from what we know in America, the children captured your heart just the same.



“Being good is commendable, but only when it is combined with doing good is it useful.”

Author Unknown

RECIPES

Dried Beef Dip by CASA Angie Lien

8 oz. cream cheese
2 T chopped onion
2 T chopped green peppers
1 cup sour cream
1 bag of dried beef - chopped up
2 T milk
pepper to taste

Serve with Town House crackers

1 2 3 Cookies by CASA Sarah Grant

1 cake mix
1 container whipped topping
1 egg
Powdered sugar

Mix first 3 ingredients well. Scoop by spoonful into powdered sugar and coat. Place on a lined cookie sheet. Bake at 350 for 12-15 minutes.

Phu Phu Soup (an African Soup)

by CASA Katy Thoreson

1 26 oz. can tomato soup	1/2 c. sugar
1 c. white rice (Minute Rice)	3 - 4 cooked diced chicken breasts
1 stick butter	3 - 4 jalapenos sliced and deseeded

Combine can of tomato soup with 2 cans of water. Add butter, rice, sugar, chicken and jalapenos. Simmer until rice is tender. You may adjust amount of sugar and jalapenos for preferred sweetness and spiciness.



NORTH IOWA CASA

Phone: 641-421-3080

Fax: 641-421-3134

Email: cocasa@co.cerro-gordo.ia.us

www.childadvocacy.gov

In mid October State Child Advocacy Board Administrator, Dick Moore, informed the Child Advocacy Board of his plans to retire from state employment effective December 31, 2012. In his letter to all staff and volunteers he stated "My decision to retire at this time has probably been the hardest decision of my life. I will miss many, many things about working with all of you and trying to assist the great things you do to help abused and neglected kids and their families." He went on to say "The State Board, DIA administration, our



state office staff, all of you and the hundreds of FCRB and CASA volunteers are amazingly resourceful, and I'll look forward to hearing of many ICAB achievements in the years ahead." In summary he stated, "You are a special group of people bound together with a common cause with which I will always be proud to have been a part. Thank you for all your hard work, patience and camaraderie over the last six and a half years."

Wendy and Suzan in the Mason City CASA office have enjoyed having Dick at the helm of the Child Advocacy Board. He has been very knowledgeable, committed, supportive of our efforts and appreciative of our volunteers. We wish him well in his retirement.

Efforts are underway with the State Child Advocacy Board to find Dick's replacement. The application deadline has passed and interviews with the final candidates are scheduled. We look forward to working with the new Child Advocacy Board Administrator to take the statewide CASA program to the next level.

North Iowa CASA/ICAB
Cerro Gordo County Courthouse
220 North Washington Avenue
Mason City, IA 50401





Thank you Judge Rosenblatt!

As most of you know, Judge Gregg Rosenblatt was named a District Court Judge earlier this year, ending his responsibilities in juvenile court. Judge Rosenblatt has been a strong supporter of the CASA program, providing guidance and making frequent case referrals. We will miss working with him on a regular basis and but he has assured us he will remain a strong advocate for the CASA program in North Iowa. Congratulations to Judge Rosenblatt on his new position in the Court system!



Welcome New DAJs!

Two new District Associate Judges will be replacing Judge Rosenblatt in juvenile court proceedings. Annette Boehlje is now overseeing juvenile hearings in Cerro Gordo and Worth counties in addition to other DAJ responsibilities. Judge Boehlje had previously been with the State Public Defenders Office.

Karen Kaufman Salic has recently been named the newest District Associate Judge in District 2A. Karen has been the Hancock County Attorney for over ten years. She has assisted with CASA training and been a strong advocate for the CASA program over the years. It is our understanding that Karen will be overseeing juvenile court in Hancock, Winnebago, Mitchell and Floyd counties in addition to other DAJ hearings.

We are fortunate to have experienced and passionate new judges in juvenile court!



EVENTS

- Jan 25-27 –**Cabin Fever Weekend**—Charles City—Winter fun for all the family! - infor@charlescitychamber.com
- Jan 26 **Kids Karnival**—Southbridge Mall 11 am—3 pm FREE
- Feb 16 **Color the Wind Kite Festival**—On the lake at Clear Lake 11 am—4 pm

