



# North Iowa CASA News



Volume 7, Issue 3

July, August & September 2013

## 2013 Recognition Event & CASA of the Year

### THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CASA:

United Way of North Central Iowa  
 St. Johns Lutheran Church of Osage  
 Brick Furniture  
 First Citizens National Bank -  
 Charitable Foundation  
 Partridge Trust



This year's recognition dinner was intentionally more casual in hopes of facilitating social growth among volunteers, judges, and staff. It was inspiring to hear the stories shared and how being a CASA has made an impact on the children we serve and on each one of you as volunteers. Senior Judge Gerald Magee, District Court Judge Gregg Rosenblatt, District Associate Judge Annette Boehlje, District Associate Judge



Karen Salic, and Child Advocacy Board Administrator, Jim Hennessey all expressed appreciation for all that you do to make the CASA program a success year after year. A five year pin was presented to Debra Haugen of Klemme. Thank you for

five years of dedication! Jo Stumo of Northwood was presented with the recognition of *CASA of the Year*. She has served 27 children over nine years, and is currently assigned to two cases and a total of eight children. She rarely says no when offered a new case and stays well connected to all involved in her cases. She is proud to be a CASA and defends her role adamantly. We are proud to acknowledge her dedication!

## Be a Face for the Child

*Real people, real impact – people taking a stand for the child*

Our very own Alan Steckman is among many faces of CASA on the National CASA website.

The faces of CASA campaign highlights the contributions of volunteers across the country with new faces being spotlighted throughout the summer.



You can join the movement by uploading your very own photo and pledging \$10 for the child at <http://35faces.casaforchildren.org/>.

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"Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate."

Watermelon ideas for the creative soul



## Senior Judge Gerald Magee elected as chairman of the Iowa Child Advocacy Board (ICAB)

Senior Judge Gerald Magee has been elected as chairman of the Iowa Child Advocacy Board (ICAB). Judge Magee was instrumental in establishing the CASA program in North Central Iowa seventeen years ago and is an adamant supporter.

He served as a Juvenile Judge for nearly 18 years within the Second Judicial District, retiring in 2008. He now serves as a Senior Judge within the district in many capacities.

Judge Magee explains the Iowa Child Advocacy Board's functions in relation to CASA as a board that provides oversight to the program. "The board sets standards for the program, administers the program state wide, and assures that the program adheres to national standards. The Iowa Child Advocacy Board also makes recommendations every year to the Governor, the legislature and the court system to improve the outcomes for children—especially in concern with occurrences of re-abuse and permanency. In the Iowa Child Advocacy Board's 2012 Annual Report a primary focus was working to keep the level of volunteer service high despite budget cuts."



Judge Magee states that current efforts include " assuring that CASA is active in every county in Iowa. The Iowa Child Advocacy Board has started a process of steering committees to look at certain issues including recruitment and the Iowa Child Advocacy Board has received a grant to assist with recruiting."

There is a current initiative for every child in the juvenile system to have CASA representation. Judge Magee says, "This is a long term goal. Recruitment is key. The national grant will help with this. Ideally any efforts will include and require local involvement—I believe the best recruiters are current CASA's."

Judge Magee emphasizes the value of CASA's, "They represent/advocate only for the children; They have opportunities to observe families and collect information that sometimes are not available to others. In my opinion CASA's have been crucial in moving cases along to resolution and/or permanency."

# A CASA for EVERY Child

This may seem an ambitious goal but doesn't **every** child deserve someone in their corner? Someone who's sole objective is to ensure their best interests are advocated for?

That is the mission of National CASA:

## Mission Statement

The mission of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, together with its state and local members, is to support and promote court-appointed volunteer advocacy so that **every** abused or neglected child can be safe, establish permanence and have the opportunity to thrive. ([www.casaforchildren.org](http://www.casaforchildren.org))

As Senior Judge Magee stated, "This is a long term goal" but "recruitment is key" and "the best recruiters are current CASAs."

State wide, committees have been formed to work on recruitment campaigns but the CASA program's greatest assets are our volunteers.

As volunteers, you know and understand the role, what costs and rewards come with committing yourself as a CASA and why it is important to you. Chances are, you may know others like yourself.

Not only do we strive to work towards a CASA for **every** child, but we are in need of CASAs to help ensure all children referred to our office receive a CASA. We are currently in need of CASAs in Floyd County, having no active volunteers within Floyd County and many children who have been identified that could benefit from a CASA. We are also always looking to improve our representation and diversity in all counties.

How can you help?

- Consider your connections. Do you know others who are passionate about children and may be a good fit?
- Be an active voice about the rewards of being a CASA.
- Make referrals! Referrals can be made to Suzan. Information may also be obtained from our website [www.northiowacasa.com](http://www.northiowacasa.com).



## Watermelon Salsa

- 1 1/2 tsp lime zest
- 1/4 c. fresh lime juice
- 1 tbsp sugar
- Freshly ground pepper
- 3 c seeded & chopped watermelon
- 1 cucumber, peeled, seeded & diced
- 1 mango, peeled & diced
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded & minced
- 1 small red onion, finely chopped
- 8 fresh basil leaves, finely chopped
- 1/2 tsp garlic salt
- Tortilla chips for serving

Stir together the lime zest, lime juice, sugar & pepper. Add the watermelon, cucumber, mango, jalapeno, onion, & basil and toss gently. Chill until ready to serve. Add the garlic salt just prior to serving. Enjoy!

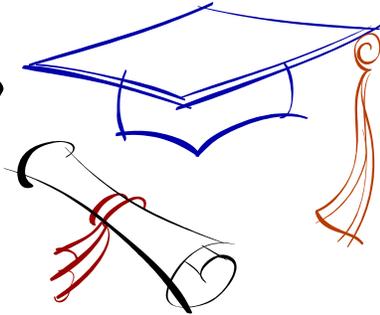


We want to thank our volunteers for all of your efforts. You are what makes the CASA program a success by advocating for "a better life for **every** child."

# CASA FAMILY HAPPENINGS

High School

## Grads

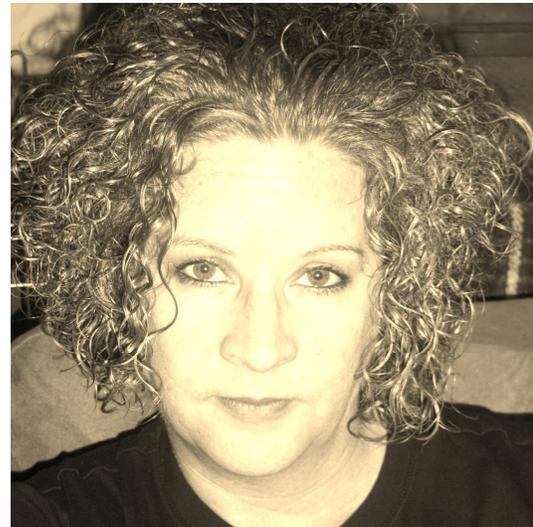


Jennifer Lombard's daughter, Breanne graduated from Northwood-Kensett High School and will attend Kansas State University!



College

# Grad



Katy Thoreson's Daughter, Tori Rae graduated from MCHS.



Katy Thoreson has completed her studies at Buena Vista University earning her baccalaureate degree in Psychology & Human Services.

## Make a **connection** with your **CASA** child.

### Local Summer & Fall Events for Families & Children:

#### Area Fireworks Celebrations:

July 3rd ~ Mason City High School

July 3rd ~ Rockwell (Linn Grove Park)

July 4th ~ Clear Lake (over the Lake)

July 4th ~ Charles City (downtown)

#### Other Local Events:

July 6th ~Cruise, Blues & BBQ Car Show ~ Charles City Central Park 3-7PM

July 6th ~ The Amazing Bed Race ~ Charles City (Jackson Street) 6PM

July 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th & 21st ~ Municipal Band Concert ~ Clear Lake City Park ~ Saturday 7 Pm & Sunday 3 PM

July 7th ~ Dragon Boat Races at lake Cornelia ~ Clarion

July 7th ~ Municipal Band Concert ~ East Park Band Shell ~ 7:30 PM

July 10th - 14th ~ North Iowa Fair

July 11th - 14th ~ Founders Day ~ Algona

July 11th - 14th ~ The Sound of Music ~ NIACC ~ \$20 Adults, \$10 under 18, 6 and under FREE (424-2852 for info)

July 12th ~ Concert at Roller City featuring Family Force 5, Children 18:3 and PlayDough ~ 6 PM ~ for ticket info please call 423-2000

July 12th, 26th & Aug 9th ~ Party in the Park ~ Charles City Central Park

July 12th - 13th ~ Duesey Days ~ Garner

July 12th, 13th & 14th ~ Bicycle, Blues, & BBQ Festival~ Clear Lake City Park ~ for info [www.bicyclebluesbbq.com](http://www.bicyclebluesbbq.com)

July 13th ~ Miniature Bull Riding ~ North Iowa Events Center ~ 7 PM

July 13th ~ Color Your World Art Show ~ Garner Public Library

July 14th ~ Ice Cream Social ~ Kinney Pioneer Museum ~ 1PM to 5PM ~ \$3 Adults & \$1 Children under 12

July 18th ~ Party in the Park ~ Carnegie Lawn Library Area ~ Algona 5 PM

July 18th - 22nd ~ Puckerbrush Days ~ Forest City

July 20th ~ Antique & Classic Wooden Boat Show ~ Clear Lake Seawall ~ 9 AM to 4 PM

July 27th & 28th ~ Sports card Show ~ Southbridge Mall ~ Saturday 10 AM to 7 PM & Sunday Noon to 6 PM

July 27th & 28th ~ Lakeside Dixie Fest ~ Jazz Festival ~ Clear Lake City Park ~ Saturday 6-9 PM, Sunday 12-8 PM

July 27th ~ Art Sail ~ Clear Lake City Park ~ 9AM to 4 PM

July 27th ~ Iowa Storytelling Festival ~ Clear Lake City Park ~ 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Aug 2nd & 3rd ~ Classic Car Show ~ Clear Lake City Park

Aug 6th ~ National Night Out ~ East Park 5:30 PM



#### Watermelon

#### Limeade

1 seedless

watermelon, diced

3/4 c. lime juice +

lime slices for

garnish

2 to 4 tbsp sugar

Mint sprigs for

garnish

using a blender, puree the watermelon with the lime juice. Pour into large pitcher, add sugar & stir until dissolved. You may add water to dilute to your taste preference. Serve over ice & garnish with lime slices and mint sprigs. Enjoy!



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[www.childadvocacy.iowa.gov](http://www.childadvocacy.iowa.gov)

### **Local Events Continued:**

**Aug 9th, 10th & 11th ~ Pirate Festival ~ Clear Lake PM Park ~  
Fri 8 to 11PM, Sat 12 to 7PM & Sun 11AM to 6PM**

**\*\*children's pirate party 7/10 1 - 2:30 PM dockside Lady of the Lake**

**Aug 15th ~ Party in the Park ~ Carnegie Lawn Library Area~  
Algona ~ 5 PM**

**Aug 18th ~ Kid's Day ~ Kinney Pioneer Museum ~ Adults \$3  
Children \$1 ~ 1 to 5 PM**

**Aug 24th ~ Pepperoni Festival ~ Algona**

**Aug 31st ~ Beach Fest ~ Clear Lake City Beach ~ Family Activities 1-6PM, Concert 6-8PM, Free  
Movie in City Park at 8PM**

**Sep 6th, 7th & 8th ~ Civil War Reenactment ~ East Park**

**Sep 7th & 8th ~ Sports Card Show ~ Southbridge Mall ~ Sat 10AM to 7 PM & Sunday Noon to 6 PM**

**Sep 14th ~ Fall Festival ~ Lime Creek Nature Center ~ Mason City ~ call 423-5309 for more info**

**Sep 14th—15th ~ Heritage Park Steam Threshing Festival ~ Forest City**

**Sep 20th & 21st ~ Great River City Festival ~ Central Park ~ Mason City ~ Multi-ethnic lunch ~  
Dillinger bank robbery reenactment, music, market and art ~ Friday 11AM til Saturday 8PM**

**Sep 29th ~ Homemade Apple Cider & Donut Day ~ Kinney Pioneer Museum ~ Adults \$3 Children \$1 ~  
1 to 5 PM**

North Iowa CASA/ICAB

Cerro Gordo County Courthouse

220 North Washington Avenue

Mason City, IA 50401