

CASA FOR KIDS

FLATHEAD
COUNTY

LIFT UP A CHILD'S VOICE. A CHILD'S LIFE.



A **NEWSLETTER** ADVOCATING FOR ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA FOR KIDS FLATHEAD COUNTY

OCTOBER 2017

YOU *are* transforming LIVES!

SUPERHEROES ARE REAL

Given the newest movie craze, Wonder Woman, and the fact that CASA is committed to celebrating every day superheroes, it seems only appropriate to dive into a conversation about superheroes.

The stories shared in our comic books are stories that some of us have lived, stories children have lived. Comic book superheroes aren't perfect; fortunately being a hero doesn't require perfection. We possess the same ability each superhero—or for that matter, villain—does: we have the ability to choose.

We can celebrate all the heroes who have chosen to be there for the children and families of our community. They may not wear a cape or have the ability to fly, but they do have the power to change. This one power can create a ripple effect that may create the next Batman or Spider Man. Each hero in our comics had someone they knew they could rely on and trust. Batman had Alfred, Superman had the Kent's, and Spider Man had his Aunt and Uncle. Those



connections helped shape who those heroes would become.

CASA superheroes can also help transform lives. Consider Lisa's story. Abandoned by her mother, Lisa was left to be raised by relatives who didn't want her. After years of abuse she was placed in foster care. She moved through a series of foster homes before landing with a lady who agreed to adopt her, but she didn't love her and Lisa knew it. Fortunately, Lisa's superhero CASA, Carl, knew Lisa deserved more than a roof over her head. Lisa needed a family who loved her. It wasn't easy,

but thanks to Carl's persistence, a new adoptive home was found where Lisa could thrive. Carl's hard work helped change a hopeless situation into one where dreams would come true. Today, Lisa knows she is supported and loved.

You can be a CASA superhero! Many of our greatest superheroes have never personally met any of our children. Instead, they help us change lives by putting their financial resources to work. Their donations help us train and support advocates like Carl, so they can serve the hundreds of children in Flathead County who need someone in their corner. Every child needs a hero, but abused and neglected children need a superhero. You can be that superhero by supporting CASA for Kids with a financial donation, telling someone about CASA or becoming a CASA volunteer advocate.

You are part of the CASA movement when you don your cape and step out into a world that needs superheroes. **Join us!**

GIFT OF HOPE

Christmas Toy Drive

If you support CASA you are part of a stabilizing and healing force in our children's lives.

You don't have to become an advocate to make a difference for these children!

As we enter into the holiday season, please consider the following ideas to brighten a child's day:

- Grab a tag, buy a gift. (Our giving tree with tags will be at the Flathead Community College.)
- Adopt a CASA child or family group. Call 755-7208.
- Donate gift cards. Ross, Target, Walmart, Claires, and sports stores are always well received.
- Snow boots, snowsuits, warm coats, scarves, hats, and winter gloves are needed.
- Sleds
- Gift Cards to grocery stores to support families.



CONNECTED FOREVER

Supporting Life-Long Bonds Between Siblings

Your support made the second annual Camp Connect a great success! This unique camp provides an opportunity for foster siblings, residing in separate homes, to spend an entire weekend together. One of this year's highlights occurred when two sets of siblings who had never met were introduced for the first time. Family camp also creates an opportunity for the various parents to form relationships with one another. We hope this will lead to maintaining the sibling connections and offer opportunities for the families to support one another – essentially establishing something akin to an extended family network.

Here is a special shout-out to some of our key partners in this effort: Tribal Waves kicked off our camp with inspiration, music, dance and a pig roast. Easthaven Baptist Church and Childbridge, along with Aaron Scofield, Mandee Johnson, Karel Kearn, Jeffrey Skogen, Sue Chef, Daniel Verardo and Sean Carlin used their resources, time and talent to make this camp reality. **We appreciate all our donors, volunteers and each person who worked to make this camp a huge success. Thank you!**



Legacy of Hope



A bequest to CASA for Kids can be your personal legacy to ensure there are dedicated people to advocate for the rights of abused and neglected children.



A CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) can be the difference between a child's life that is full of broken dreams and a life that is lived to its fullest potential.

In 2014, *Legacy of Hope* was established with a gift from Lynn Henry. Joe and Flo Vacura built on that foundation in 2016 with the bequest of their home. Their investments are ensuring that every child has the hope of a loving family.

You can join this select group in leaving a legacy of hope. Our Legacy Planning Team has an established process to help you facilitate your planned legacy gift to help you meet your charitable goals. You may also be able to take advantage of a \$10,000 credit on your Montana State tax return.

IDEAS FOR GIVING:

- Gifting of Appreciative Stock and Properties
- Establishing Endowments
- Beneficiary Designations on Property, Retirement Accounts, and Investment Accounts
- Estate Bequeaths

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MEMBER AGENCY



CASA SUPERHERO FUN DAY



The "Dynamic Duo"

Super families!



The sweet taste of victory!

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Become an advocate: we have training every spring and fall
- Volunteer with special events or help in the office
- Become part of the Powerful Voice Society: donate \$1,200 to match a child with a CASA for a year
- Donate online: flatheadcasa.org
- Give Christmas gifts for foster children through our Christmas Gift Drive

Want to help? Call the office TODAY 755-7208!