

## **CASA**

### **Court Appointed Special Advocate**

#### **New CASA training begins**

**March 11, 2019**

**CASA** is a national program that trains and supports court appointed advocates to act in the best interest of children whose parents have allegations of abuse or neglect of children. **Court Appointed Special Advocates** advocate for the best interests of the children to assist the Court in determining the best placement for the children.

**CASA** training takes place Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00 to 7:30 for 5 weeks beginning March 11, 2019.

If you couldn't attend our spring training session, don't worry— We have plans to hold another training this Fall! Training is set to begin on Monday, Sept. 16th, running through Wednesday, Oct. 2nd. Volunteers will be sworn in on Tues., Oct 8th.

If you or someone you know would like to become a **CASA**, please call our office at 922-4827 to schedule a pre-training interview. We're always here to address any questions or concerns you may have!

Your involvement will make a direct impact on a child's life, perhaps for generations to come.

**Jennifer Weber, Program Manager**  
922-4828, [jweber@grandtraverse.org](mailto:jweber@grandtraverse.org)  
**Meghan Schuur, Volunteer Coordinator**  
922-4597, [mschuur@grandtraverse.org](mailto:mschuur@grandtraverse.org)  
**Laura Shumate, Learning Partners**  
922-4419, [lshumate@grandtraverse.org](mailto:lshumate@grandtraverse.org)  
**Kathy Nixon, Office Specialist**  
922-4827, [knixon@grandtraverse.org](mailto:knixon@grandtraverse.org)  
[pcv@grandtraverse.org](mailto:pcv@grandtraverse.org)



Do you have a heart for helping others? In 2019, there are over 100 children under court jurisdiction as a result of neglect and abuse allegations.



# Jump Into a New Volunteering Opportunity!

There are a variety of volunteering opportunities currently available for you to choose from. Check out the list below to see what ways you can put your skills and interest to use! If you're interested and able, you can take on multiple opportunities simultaneously. Contact us for more information!

**Transportation:** Volunteers drive youth to various Michigan detention facilities using county transport vehicles. These volunteers are called on any day of the week and at any time of the day. We love having male/female teams, as we need to have a female transporter present during the transport of any female youth. Our transport teams relieve the sheriff's department of the responsibility of filling those roles by saving both manpower and time. **Female transporters are highly needed!**

**Guardianship Reviews for Adults and Minors:** Visit facilities or private homes to review the guardianships of minors and adults. These state-mandated reviews focus on whether the conditions that existed requiring guardianship are still present. Volunteers fill out a report of their findings and it is then submitted to Probate Court.

**Guardians and Conservators:** Appointed volunteers work with incapacitated adults, and developmentally disabled adults to manage their personal and financial matters, and to ensure that they receive the services they need. When there are no relatives or close relationships to the protected person, our volunteers serve as guardians and conservators for people in nursing homes, assisted living, or Adult Foster Care homes.

**Learning partners:** Volunteers get matched as a tutor/mentor to a child who is deemed to be "at risk". Children may be behind in school or demonstrating a "lack of fit" with peers, or have problems with authority figures. Kids get involved with positive programs such as hikes and picnics to help enrich their experiences. Contact Laura Schumate to get more information!

**CASA:** Our program is in current need of already-trained volunteers to take on new cases! We're ready with a number of referrals for you to dive into. Please consider taking on a new case and helping to advocate for one of the many children in need. Your experiences and ability to be the voice for children will **ALWAYS** be needed!



## Learning Partners

Grand Traverse County  
Probate & Family Court  
Volunteer Services



Thank you to Centre Ice for providing us with rentals and ice time, and thank you to Allie Schumate for her help throughout the day!

After what seems to be a record number of missed winter weather school days, Learning Partner Students enjoyed an afternoon of ice skating with their families and their Learning Partner Volunteers on February 18th. We had a helper on the ice, in addition to Dads and Moms -- all enthusiastically encouraging the fledgling skaters to keep up the great progress.

One student, after first resisting trying to skate, ended-up racing other skaters. The smile on his face as he beamed, "Did you see me crash?!" Confidence, perseverance and fun were all on full display!

We have a few new Volunteers joining our ranks this month, and we're looking forward to more help. We also still have some folks waiting to work at specific schools. If you are interested in Volunteering, or know a Student in need of mentoring support, please let us know!





## Parking Lot Partners

Thank you First Baptist Church, and Pastor Mary Beth, for the wonderful luncheon they held for GT Co. staff. On behalf of all staff here, we must note our appreciation for their continued efforts to make life, and parking, a bit easier around here! We're very thankful for such thoughtful neighbors.



**HOPE** for Life  
Mental Health Education & Events

### A BIG THANK YOU TO DIANA KENDROS!

Diana shared her story at our February CASA meeting. She is a Compassionate Communication Expert, highly acclaimed author, and advocate for mental health awareness and anti-bullying efforts.

Diana formed "Hope For Life," a foundation aimed towards advocating for mental health and communication efforts. Diana is the author of "Ready, Aim, Thrive" which is based off of her many unique, first-hand experiences with trauma.



March's CASA meeting will focus on self-care methods. As a CASA, you will experience many different emotions towards your case— It's important to take care of yourself during every one of those important moments so that you can help your child to the best of your ability. Join us to discuss some great tips on how to have a helping heart for yourself, when helping others!

**The March Meeting will be held on Tues., the 19th at 4pm.**

**April's Meeting: Tues., the 16th, at 9am**



#### March

Wanda Anstine  
Stephen Drosdeck  
Heide McNichols  
Mark Mueller  
Christine O'Keefe  
June Pate  
Pamela Petajan  
Bev Saur  
Darcy Schlitt

#### April

Kathy Ann Blunck  
Aileen Hubbell  
Carolyn Klender  
Susan Kraus  
Fran Martin  
Sue Nanasi  
Art Nickerson  
Lisa Niergarth  
Matt Torres



**VOLUNTEERS IN  
PREVENTION/PROBATION**

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE

280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684

231-922-4827

Or Current Resident

### **Learning Partners**

1st Tuesday-4:00-5:00 pm

**Tuesday March 12, 2019**

**Tuesday April 2, 2019**



### **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)**

**Tuesday March 19, 2019 4-6 p.m.**

**Tuesday April 16, 2019 9-11a.m.**



**\*All meetings are held at the Volunteer Services office unless  
otherwise mentioned.**