

May/June 2019
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Congratulations, CASA's!

Eight new CASA volunteers were sworn in by Judge Stanton on April 8th! One volunteer had the honor of being sworn in by both Judge Stanton and Leelanau County's Judge Kromkowski. Leelanau County's Court Administrator, Joe Povolo, also joined in the celebration. CASA training consists of 30 + hours of in-class training as well as several hours of homework spread over five weeks. This group was incredibly committed to the task and passed with flying colors! Thank you to everyone who took part in the process of training this fantastic group of volunteers. We look forward to working with each of our new CASA's, who advocate for children of neglect/abuse cases in Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties.



Jump Into a New Volunteering Opportunity!

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! Training for Guardians, Conservators, Transporters and Guardianship Reviews will take place **this summer! Contact Volunteer Services to find out more information on getting involved!**

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, as well as to determine if the person's needs are being met. 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.

Accounting Assistance for Conservators: Inventory of the individual under guardianship's accounts, income, and expenses is completed annually by the guardian and reported to the court—assistance on this annual account is often needed. This task would be great for someone with a financial background!

Learning partners: Volunteers are matched as a tutor/mentor to a school-aged child who is deemed to be at risk of future court involvement. Children may be behind in school or demonstrating a "lack of fit" with peers, or may be dealing with issues beyond their control. Students get involved with positive programs such as hikes and picnics to help enrich their experiences. Contact Laura Shumate 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!

News From Learning Partners:

- * End -of- Year surveys will be sent to teachers, families and volunteers in May. Laura Shumate will share the results as they become available.
- * Swim & Water Safety Lessons will take place on Friday evenings at the Civic Center. Thank you to certified lifeguard, Allie Shumate, for volunteering to teach the classes! Be on the lookout for more information on this soon!
- * More summer activities will be announced.
- * As usual, there will be **No In-Office Learning**

Partner Volunteer Meetings during the months of June, July, or August, as we plan to meet informally during our summer activities and events. We will plan to celebrate Back-to-School with our final meeting of the summer in late August.

- * We look forward to being back together this fall for another fantastic school year!



Grand Traverse County
Probate & Family Court
Volunteer Services

Welcome, Rich and Mary!

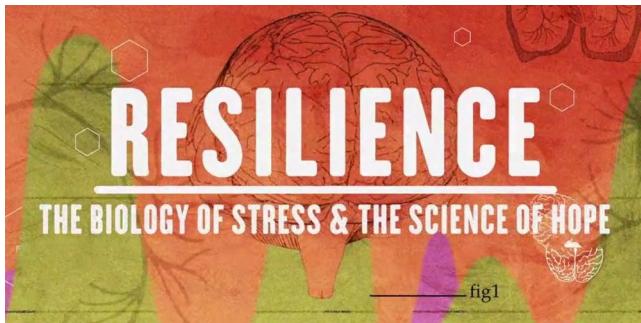


Volunteer Services would like to introduce our Summer Interns for 2019, Rich Seigneurie and Mary Dorman. They're currently attending Ferris State University through classes at NMC.

Rich is a social work major, hoping to become a clinical social worker. He enjoys an active lifestyle and has even hiked the Appalachian Trail!

Mary is also a social work major, hoping to work more with children and families as she begins her career. She's currently a nail technician at a local salon!

As interns, Rich and Mary will be responsible for facilitating **New Vision Academy**, a program which is designed to for youth who are juvenile offenders an opportunity for personal growth and development throughout the summer months. Rich and Mary are currently working together to organize two, three-week sessions of New Vision Academy, which begins in July and runs through August. Topics include cooking, art, sewing, safety, and life skills. They'll also have the opportunity for field trips, such as horseback riding at Reigning Liberty Ranch! We look forward to working with Rich and Mary, and watching them learn more about their intended career paths.



May's CASA meeting will feature a facilitated viewing of "Resilience" by James Redford. Resilience is a documentary which unfolds the concept of Adverse Childhood Experiences, known as ACEs, which explains how the body remembers childhood trauma as it grows and develops into adulthood. This film is not available on any personal viewing platform, so be sure to join us for this highly-acclaimed educational experience!

The May meeting will be held on Tuesday the 21st, starting at 3pm. This meeting will run until 6pm due to the film's run time, and discussion afterward, which will be facilitated by Mary Gruman of Birchbark Counseling, Michigan ACEs Initiative Master Trainer.



May

Maureen Anthony
Donna Hasenauer
Julie Howe
Lee Storch

June

Lisa Haworth
Joy Byington
Kristen Rivard
Deborah Aldridge

Volunteer Appreciation:

April was volunteer appreciation month, and we had a chance to celebrate YOU! Thank you to those who were able to stop by and enjoy some cake and conversation with Judge Stanton, Volunteer Services, Family Division and Probate Court Staff. It was a great opportunity for us to get to know our volunteers better, while celebrating everything they've accomplished! We're all so very thankful for such a wonderful group of volunteers.



Be sure to stop by the office for a special Volunteer Appreciation Gift Pack if you haven't already!



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 May 7, 2019



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

Tuesday May 21, 2019 3-6pm

Tuesday June 18, 2019 9-11a.m.



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