

13th Circuit Court: Family Division & Probate Court Volunteers

280 Washington St., STE B150

Traverse City Mi 49684

November / December 2019

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Welcome, CASA's!



Three new CASA volunteers were sworn in by Judge Stanton on October 15th. CASA training consists of 30 + hours of in-class training as well as several hours of homework spread over four weeks. This group was incredibly committed to learning the role of the CASA volunteer, and better understanding how their recommendations to the court can impact the life of a child.

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 County.

In 2019, a total of 11 new CASA volunteers completed training and were sworn in. What a successful year! We look forward to sharing more volunteering opportunities in 2020!

Learning Partners Meetings:

November 19th, 3-5pm

December 3rd, 4-5 pm

At our Volunteer Services Division Offices.

All interested Volunteers are Invited to Attend.



Grand Traverse County
Probate & Family Court
Volunteer Services

- During our October Learning Partner Meeting, Volunteer Mike Kanitz shared some insights on communication with youth. We discussed ways to approach conversations to encourage your student to be comfortable expressing themselves and help with avoiding the dreaded one-word answers or interrogating your student. We practiced ways to praise effort, not talent. We will address "How We Learn" and "What We Learn" at a future in-service meeting. Thank you, Mike!
- Please note that November 5th is a "no-school day" for TCAPS, as many schools are polling places -- and remember to vote!
- We have several new Volunteers that have joined us in the past few months, and look forward to working to support even more area students.
- There is always much more need than we could ever meet -- consider supporting a child for one hour a week, if you are able, and help spread-the-word among your friends!

The Power of ONE State CASA Conference

Friday, November 8, 2019 | Saturday, November 9, 2019

Suburban Collection Showplace

46080 Grand River Ave Novi, MI 48374



- Opening Friday: **Michigan Department of Education's Kathleen Hoehne**, speaking about challenges our foster children face in education. She provided a 75 minute break out session to get our educational questions answered.
- Opening on Saturday: **Children's Assessment Center's Dr. Mark Sloane** to speak about trauma. Dr. Sloane works closely with Dr. Jim Henry.
- **DHHS Deputy Director Stacie Bladen** gave us an in depth look at the Families First Preservation Services Act. Also featured: breakouts about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Autism, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and much more!

Every year, each Michigan CASA program is tasked with putting together a donation basket to be auctioned off at the State Conference. Profits from these donations are put toward funding the next year's conference and keynote speakers. Thank you to all the volunteers who donated to our *Northern Michigan* themed basket, featuring local jams, wines, and other goodies that make Northern Michigan special. Keep an eye out for the January/February newsletter for updates on our donation, and other news from the conference!

Thank You For Another Great Year of Volunteering!



22 COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES were appointed to 22 neglect and abuse cases, advocating for 43 children. These CASA Volunteers donated more than 920 hours and traveled more than 9,660 miles **advocating for the children of Grand Traverse County!**

TRANSPORTERS: 18 transporters made 45 trips, with 2 transporters each trip. They transported 53 youth 13,443 miles and totaled 1,014.5 hours.

ADULT GUARDIANSHIP REVIEWS: 14 volunteers reviewed guardianships for 70 incapacitated adults. Spending 241 hours and driving 2,025.4 miles.



MINOR GUARDIANSHIP REVIEWS: 10 volunteers reviewed the guardianships of 21 children 6 years old and younger. They spent 78 hours on these reviews and drove 760 miles.

LEARNING PARTNERS: 12 Learning Partner volunteers tutored/mentored 15 youth 282.5 hours and driving 1,260.5 miles.

NEW VISION ACADEMY: 2 volunteers donated 187 hours to develop curriculum and run the summer program. 23 community members donated their time to educate and enlighten the 6 youth participating.

SCHOOL MONITOR: 2 volunteers devoted 320 hours to monitoring a youth on probation at school, per Judge Stanton's orders.

On behalf of 13th Circuit Court ~ Family Division & Grand Traverse Co. Probate Court, thank you all for a great 2019! We look forward to another great year of service to the community in 2020!



November

Carla Bloom
Jennifer Derthick
Art Gibson
Rob Gray
Kathy Tahtinen



December

Jane Becker
Mary Meernik
Thad Saur
Sue Schmidt
Bill Vallaincourt
Pat Parker-Metzler
Kathy Wiejaczka



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

Tuesday, November 19th, 3-5pm

Tuesday, December 3rd, 4-5 pm



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

Tuesday, November 19th, 3-5pm

NO DECEMBER MEETING



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