

"You can trust them."

By Stephanie Witt

Editorial Note: The article below begins a series of articles featuring the FSACF 2014 Grant Recipiants sharing their stories.

I found myself saying this over and over to one of my students last fall as she was caught in the middle of a difficult custody case. She needed to know, without a doubt, that CASA was in her corner. And despite the track record of adults around her, she needed the assurance that she was in capable and caring hands.

CASA, Court-Appointed Special Advocates, are adult volunteers trained to advocate for the best interests of children in cases of abuse and neglect in courtrooms and communities. CASA received a Community Foundation grant in order to train volunteers in continuing the good work of CASA. Over the course of six weeks, volunteers receive 18 hours of training in preparation to work with children.

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Linda Noll recently retired from her work at Mercy Hospital and was looking for volunteer opportunities. Her goals were to find something that would be a learning opportunity for her as well a way to contribute to a real need in the community. Her daughter had been a CASA volunteer in Kansas City for about four years. So, this year, Linda decided to begin her training. At a recent CASA event in KC, Linda heard from a 17 year old young woman who had been in the foster care system for 8 years. She was adopted by a family three years ago. Linda talked about how enthusiastic, optimistic and hopeful the young woman was and how much her life had been moved by the volunteers who had stood beside her all those years.



Thanks to volunteers like these and grants from the Community Foundation, children all over Bourbon County are able to have adults they can trust and count on even in the most difficult times. We support the good work of CASA in our community.

Notice Something Different?

We are excited to unveil our and logo newsletter new format. Exciting things are happening in the Fort Scott area and we would love for you to be a part of the Community Foundation's work. Check out our website, www.fsacf.com and be sure to sign up for the electronic version of our newsletter.

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www.fsacf.com

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2015 FSACF Grant Cycle Timeline

Saturday, August 1, 2015 Grant Release–Available in digital form at fsacf.com or hard copy at Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce.

Monday, August 31, 2015 Applications due, by email at plarochefsacf@gmail.com or by mail at 842 195th St. Fort Scott, KS 66701.

> **Tuesday, October 27, 2015** Acceptance/Declination letters mailed.

Thursday, November 12, 2015 - 8:00 a.m. Landmark National Bank Lobby 201 St. Main, grants awarded at Chamber Coffee

FSACF Funds as of May 2015

Endowment Fund: \$458,368 Operating Fund: \$2,094 Total Assets: \$2,553,355

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