

HEARTLAND CASA NEWSLETTER



HAPPY
Holidays!



As we enter the holiday season, I find myself reflecting on both the challenges and the triumphs our organization has experienced this year. The work we do is not easy—supporting children who have experienced trauma never is—but it is meaningful, necessary, and deeply impactful. I am especially grateful for those whose passion continues to shine through despite the hard days. Our volunteers, staff, partners, and supporters show time and time again what it means to stand up for children who need a stable, committed voice in their corner. Your dedication is seen, it is felt, and it is changing lives.

But our work is far from finished. With so many children still awaiting an advocate, I'm calling on our community to step forward in the ways you can:

Advocate. Donate. Participate.

Whether you lend your voice, your resources, or your time, you help us move closer to a world where every child in care finds safety, stability, and hope.

Thank you for walking alongside us—this season and all year long.

Warmly,

Blaine Smith

Executive Director, Heartland CASA



"THE MAGIC OF THE HOLIDAYS ISN'T IN THE GIFTS—IT'S IN THE HEARTS THAT GIVE."



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Home for the Holidays Gala! It was a wonderful evening celebrating community, generosity, and our shared commitment to children in care.

A special thank-you to our sponsors—Jerger Pediatric Dentistry, Melanie and Al Schelling State Farm Insurance, and our incredible hosts at Osbern Acres. Your support makes our mission possible and helps ensure every child we serve has a strong, steady voice in their corner.

We are grateful for all who attended, donated, and uplifted our work this season.



DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

28

29 Oivia's Birthday

30

24 CASA Office Closed Christmas Eve

25 CASA Office Closed Christmas

26

27

31 New Year's Eve - CASA office closes at 1230pm



JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1 CASA Office Closed Happy New Year!

19 MLK Day Office Closed

Happy New Year

How to COFFEE CRAWL



The CASA Coffee Crawl is a fun, community-wide event where participants visit local coffee shops over two days—February 27th and 28th—to enjoy special drinks, treats, and fun created just for the Crawl. With your Coffee Crawl pass, you can stop at as many participating locations as you'd like, collect stamps, and enter for prizes while supporting local businesses.

But the best part? Every cup of coffee helps a child in care.

Proceeds from the Crawl directly support Heartland CASA's recruitment, training, and support of volunteer advocates—dedicated community members who stand up for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect. By joining the Crawl, you're not just tasting great coffee; you're helping ensure more children have a consistent, caring adult in their corner.

Sip, support, and make a difference—one cup at a time.

Thank you to CASA Volunteer Advocate, Mark Avery



This month, we are proud to recognize Mark Avery for his dedication and commitment to the children he serves as a CASA advocate. Mark consistently goes above and beyond to support a child's academic success and overall well-being.

In addition to completing regular home visits, Mark takes an active role in supporting one child at school by providing tutoring and encouragement.

His involvement helps ensure that the child has both the academic support and the stability needed to succeed. Mark's presence across settings allows him to gain a well-rounded understanding of the child's needs and advocate effectively in court and with the child's team.

Mark approaches his advocacy with reliability, compassion, and genuine care. His willingness to invest extra time and effort makes a meaningful difference in the child's life and reflects the true spirit of CASA's mission.

We are grateful for Mark's continued commitment and for the positive impact he makes through his advocacy. Thank you, Mark, for being a strong and consistent voice for children!



Use your voice to lift theirs.
Become a CASA.

