

“All kids need is a little help, a little hope,
and someone who believes in them”

MAGIC JOHNSON





CASA is a voice for abused and neglected kids



COURT APPOINTED

- Judicial Support



VOLUNTEER DRIVEN

- Recruit
- Train
- Support



FAMILY & COMMUNITY FOCUSED

- 70% of Financial Support comes from Our Community

CASA is a court-appointed voice for abused and neglected kids. We're powered by volunteers, who have been recruited, trained and are given ongoing support from the CASA staff. We are family- and community-focused with approximately 70% of our financial support coming from the donations of the community we serve.



Sioux Empire United Way
SiouxEmpireUnitedWay.org

CASA is a Sioux Empire
United Way Funded
Agency



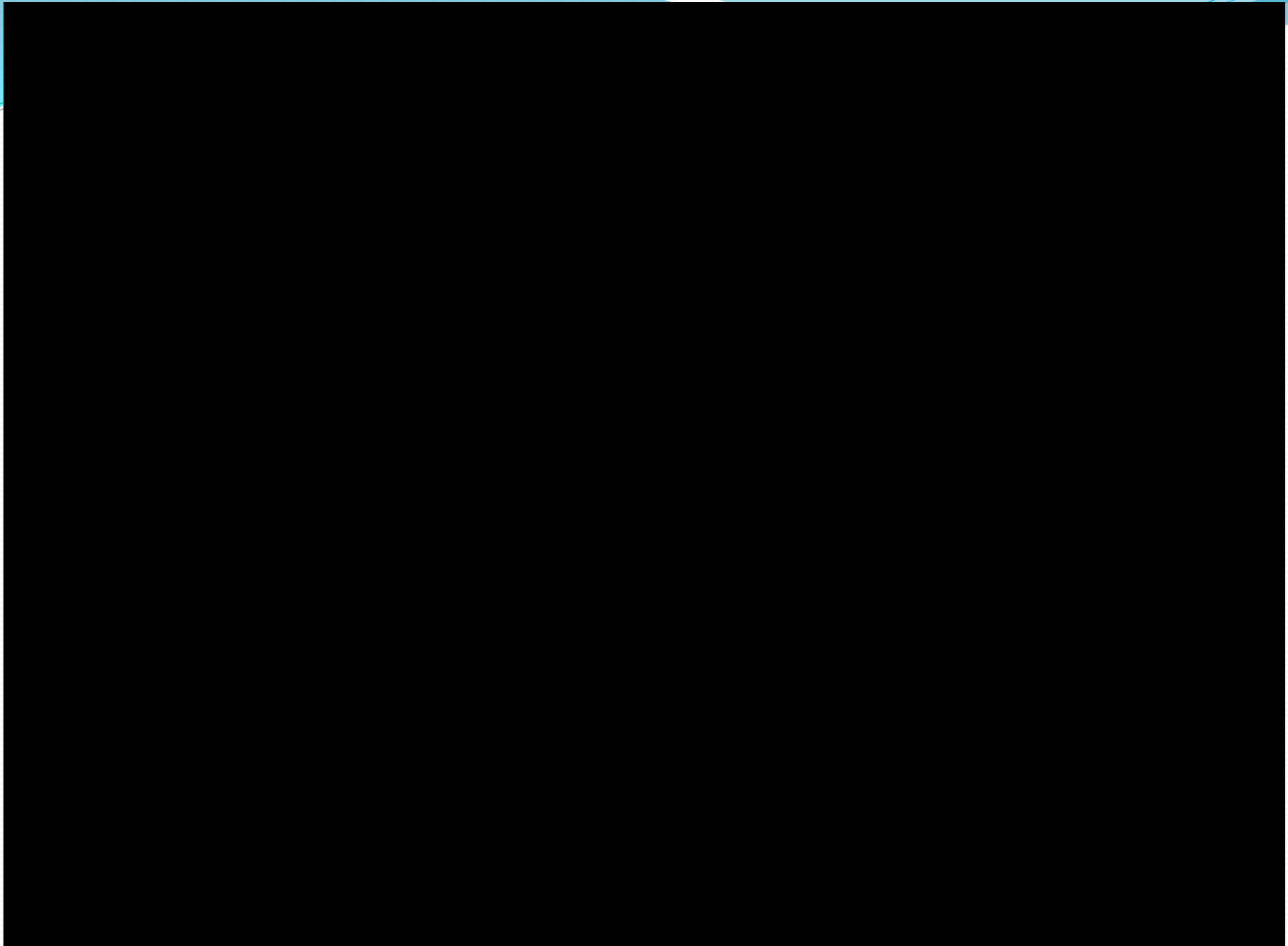
CASA HISTORY

- CASA was started in Seattle in 1977 by Judge David Soukop
- CASA = Court Appointed Special Advocates. We train volunteers who become the eyes and ears of the Judge to recommend what is in the best interest of each child.
- Sioux Falls Area CASA Program was started in 1995 by the Junior League after a recommendation from Judge Jean Paul Keen.
- Today there are almost 1,000 CASA programs nationwide
- There are 6 CASA programs in South Dakota (Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Brookings, Yankton, Rapid City and Spearfish)
- Our program serves Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties



How Does CASA Become Involved/Appointed to a Case?

- Report made
- Investigated
- Children removed from home and placed with relatives or in foster care
- Temporary Custody Hearing in Abuse/Neglect Courtroom
- Judge decides if enough evidence to proceed with case
- Judge sends over a petition requesting a CASA volunteer be placed on the case
- CASA volunteers are “Officers of the Court”, giving them access to records of the children on their case.





Sioux Falls Area CASA Program 2017 Statistics:

- Served 520 abused and neglected children total (434 children in 2016)
 - Average age of a child on a case in our program is 6
- Had a 65% increase in the number of cases:
 - Nearly 90% of our cases now have drug involvement; i.e. parents/guardians addicted to meth or heroin
 - What are we seeing?
 - Deplorable living conditions when children are removed
 - Children with more behavioral and medical challenges
 - One or both parents are incarcerated
 - Families with multiple fathers and children on cases
 - Children who are getting into trouble and experimenting with drugs earlier, and not attending school on a regular basis



Sioux Falls Area CASA Program 2017 Statistics:

- What does this mean for CASA?
 - Intensity of cases
 - Cases lasting longer
 - Volunteer burnout
 - 235-250 children on our waiting list on average
 - Challenging to find volunteers willing to commit to a case lasting almost 2 years
 - Need to hire additional Case Managers to keep up with the number of cases, but don't have the funds currently
 - Stressed out staff!



Sioux Falls Area CASA Program 2017 Statistics:

- Served a total of 121 new cases
- Had 99 active volunteers
- 63% of our CASA volunteers work full-time
- Trained 37 new volunteers.
- We had a 78% retention rate of volunteers (national average is 50%)
- Volunteers typically stay with our CASA program for 3 years



National CASA 2017 Statistics:

- Served 280,316 children
- There were 86,995 active CASA volunteers
- There are 432,677 children still waiting for a CASA volunteer across the country
- A child with a CASA is:
 - more likely to be adopted
 - Half as likely to re-enter foster care
 - Given opportunities for more services (therapy, etc.)
 - Spends less time in foster care
 - Is not bounced around from foster care home to foster care home
 - Does better in school



How to Become a CASA Volunteer:

- Apply on our website: www.siouxfallscasa.org
- Interview at our office
- Attend 30 hours of training
- Background check
- Attend Swearing in Ceremony by Judge
- Invest your time and talents in the children on your case; approximately 10-15 hours per month.
- Super Hero status achieved! 😊

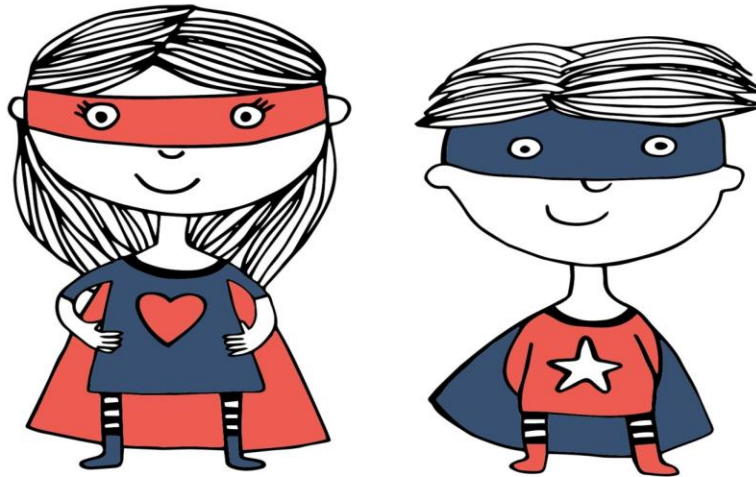


<https://youtu.be/nUykHHtLIHo>

- Questions?
- Thank you for inviting CASA to your conference!
- For more information, please check out our website:

www.siouxfallscasa.org

Every kid needs a
HERO!



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