

CASA of Park and Sweet Grass Counties is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting child victims of abuse and neglect. 100% of abuse and neglect cases in the Sixth Judicial Court are appointed a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate.

**P.O. Box 1827  
Livingston, MT 59047  
www.casajd6.org**

This past year has seen some major changes for our program. In August of 2015, we moved our office into the U.S. Postal Service Building located in historic downtown Livingston, MT. It's a beautiful space. Plus, from our second floor office suites we enjoy a perfect view of the infamous 4th of July parade! We now have our first ever full time employee, Ashley Peterson. Ashley came from the Livingston Healthcare Foundation and she has a Masters Degree in Public Administration, specializing in nonprofits. Ashley is our Development and Volunteer Director and funded her position with a successful grant application through the Montana Board of Crime Control. Ashley, welcome to our CASA family!

Similar to other cities and towns across Montana and the nation, we are experiencing a surge in methamphetamine related cases. This past year our case load has doubled, which in turn, puts pressure on us to be able to serve these children. Recruitment and training of new volunteers has been paramount, as well as retention of our active volunteers. Our volunteers spend hours researching and training, plus individual attention to their CASA kids, and this community is

extremely grateful for it. I can't give these individuals enough praise and credit for their dedication and diligence.

We continue to be very fortunate that we live in generous and giving communities. Each and every one of them has had a significant impact in ensuring that CASA continues to serve every abused and neglected child in our district. As an old poem says "Make new friends but keep the old, one is silver and the others gold."

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to work with my staff, board, and advocates. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges presented to us next year and we will continue to protect and serve our community children.



Ann Schilling  
Program Director





**Above:** Advocate David Stanley with CASA recipient Billy West at his eight grade graduation.

**What it means to be a Volunteer:** Emily Yost

“Volunteering with CASA has been an eye-opening opportunity for me to learn about my community, larger societal issues, and myself. It has been a privilege to be involved in the lives of the people affected by my case and I am continually impressed by the resources needed to support a child when individuals do not. I am learning what my abstract values mean in practice. I have experienced the program serving its purpose and know my contribution as a CASA has benefited a child.”

**Volunteer Advocates**

- William Campbell
- Maryanne Vollers Campbell
- Mary Cavalier
- Chelsey Clark
- Mary Ellen Cremer
- Kathi Foote
- Judith Forseth
- Carrie Gebhart
- Jane Jarrett
- George Kelly
- Marcus Lilley
- Marie Michelson
- Susie Osborn
- Linnea Pritchard
- Melanie Roe
- Sarah Sandberg
- David Stanley
- Rebecca Swandal
- Emily Yost

**Board of Directors**

- Mary Ellen Cremer
- Julia Hill
- Ashley Kayser
- Debra Lamm
- Marcus Lilley
- Lesa Maher
- Peggy O’Neil
- Alex H. Rate
- Hon. Nels Swandal

**Mission**

Our mission is to advocate for abused and neglected children within the Judicial System.

**Vision**

To give a voice to every abused and neglected in Park and Sweet Grass County.

## Annual Bugle for Kids Sake

Every year West Boulder Ranch and 12 Springs Ranch make it possible for local children to experience a once in a lifetime hunt.

The winners are selected through a raffle ticket drawing, must be under 18, have a valid Montana Hunting License, and must be a resident of Park or Sweet Grass County. The children are allowed to shoot a bull and an accompanying adult is allowed to shoot one cow.

Kailie Bautre, Sweet Grass County winner said, "I was so excited that I was shaking all over. It was all such a great morning. One of the best I've ever had!"



**Left:** Kailie Bautre of Sweet Grass County



**Left:** Lucas Ridgeway of Park County

The My Stuff Bags Foundation provides child services agencies across the country with items that every child should have, but many children in distress do not have. Each CASA child receives a "My Stuff Bag" that is filled with age appropriate toys that comfort the child and encourage learning.

A Sample "My Stuff Bag" includes:

Fleece blanket, coloring book, reading materials, crayons, wooden car, 3 dinosaur figurines, stuffed animal.



"Our program and our volunteer advocates really appreciate the My Stuff Bags. It is a perfect ice-breaker for our CASA Advocate when they go for their first visit with their child. The most important staple in the bag is the blanket! It provides a soft, cuddly, soothing safety net for every single child, no matter what the age. Every single child has been thrilled." - Ann Schilling, Program Director

Advocates logged in 1,430 volunteer hours on their cases during this fiscal year. This is the equivalent of \$85,800 in billable legal hours. In addition, our advocates spent a combined 183 hours of continuing education in fiscal year 2016.

# Thank you.

*With the generous support of patrons like you, we can continue to protect and advocate on behalf of our community children.*

12 Springs Ranch  
Ace Roofing  
Patti and Tom Agnew  
American Bank  
Ron and Kayl Arthun  
Leslie and Chris Arthun  
Joanne and Billy Berghold  
Big Sky Plaza/True Value  
Big Timber Ace Hardware  
Sandra Bourque  
Brokaw Family Foundation  
Citizen's Bank and Trust  
Barbara Van Cleve  
Mimi Cremer  
Tom and Nancy Danaher  
David Rust Carpet Center  
Dortha Lambert Estate  
Paige Dringman  
Eagle Ridge  
Elk Ridge Outfitters  
Elks Club  
John and Stoney Esp  
Hank and Emily Fabich  
Fire Mountain Forge  
Don Gimbel  
The Grand Hotel  
Jack and Patti Grundhofer

Tracy Gubler  
In memory of Gertrude Haidle  
Ann Hollowell  
Joe and Joan Hansen  
Brandi and James Harper  
Heart K Ranch and Livestock  
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Sarah Hostetler  
Jane Jarrett  
Charles and Felicia Kesting  
Julie Killorn  
Doug and Jo Kissack  
Karl Knuchel  
Livingston Landlady  
Dean Langton  
Jim and Toni Lusk  
Ernie and Nancy MacCracken  
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Montana Board of Crime  
Control  
Mountain Valley Forge  
Mark Norem  
The Old P.O. Liquor Store  
Marcia Olson  
Park County Community  
Foundation

Pokey Pines  
Raich Enterprises  
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Dan Rodwell and Yvonne  
Brutger  
John and Carina Russell  
Sage Trail Veterinary Clinic  
Ed and Ann Schilling  
Stuart and Victoria Schilling  
Barbara Sell  
Shields Valley Real Estate  
Jennifer Simmons  
Sarah Skofield - State Farm  
David Stanley and Jean Keffler  
Jerry and Erica Strickland  
Nels Swandal  
Swandal, Paoli, Brown,  
Knuchel  
Huppert, Swindlehurst, and  
Woodruff  
Tech Electric  
The Fort  
Sox Ullman  
Tom and Toni Vincent  
Wilsall General Store