



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF YAVAPAI COUNTY

Change a Child's Story

Yavapai County CASA Program Newsletter

JANUARY 2025

This Issue...



- Coordinator's Corner 2
- Calendars 3-5
- Birthdays/
Anniversaries 6
- Kudos 7
- Ask the Coordinator 8
- Dependency 101 9-10
- ADHD 11
- Extraordinary
Grandparents 12
- Alateen 13
- Nature Ninos 14
- Matforce 15
- Peer Support 16
- Book Club 17
- Free Virtual Tutoring 18
- Wrapped in Love 19
- Teens Closet 20
- FaceBook / Numbers 21
- Contact Us 22-23

Happy New Year

Did you know you put in nearly 10,000 volunteer hours last year and drove almost 100,000 miles?

Yavapai County CASAs are SO AMAZING!

We welcomed 23 new CASAs, but had to say goodbye to a few of our most experienced. We will miss you, D'Ambra, Chanel, Carmen, and Tami!



Be on the lookout for an email with the 2024 survey. We are, of course, shooting for 100% participation again.

100

We hope this new year brings you joy and fulfillment. The time you spend working as a CASA often brings frustration, but your efforts for the neglected and abused children of Yavapai County are not wasted. We appreciate everything you

do!



Coordinators' Corner

2025

**The New
CASA
Calendars are
in! Stop by
the office and
pick up yours
before we run
out!**



We appreciate our Security Guards at the JJC! They keep us safe!! The security team has suggested a couple of things to us to make their job a little easier and help us get through the security line quickly:

1. Please only bring what is necessary into the courthouse.
2. Please do not bring glass.
3. Remember that if you have metal in your shoes or belt, they will have to be removed prior to proceeding through the scanner.

Don't forget to send in your CASA hat pictures!

Did you renew your auto insurance recently? Please send the office an updated copy. Thank you!



The CASA office now has Harkins Theatre tickets! Call the office for more info.

CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS

To receive information about an upcoming CFT with:
CFSS: please email: dawnr@cfssinc.com
Polara Health: please email: whenthecft@polarahealth.com
Spectrum: please email: rachaell@spectrumhg.org
Please give the clinics 48 hours to reply to your email

Prescott

January 2025

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI



6

7
FTC 2:00

8
9:00
CASA
Connecting

9
FCRB

10
FCRB

13

14
Hearings

15

16
Dependency
101

17



21
FTC 2:00
Hearings

22

23

24

27

28
Hearings

29

30
Tele-CASA
9:00

31

Prescott February 2025



MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

3

4
FTC 2:00

5

6

FCRB

7

FCRB

10

11
Hearings

12
9:00
CASA
Connecting

13

14

17



18
FTC 2:00
Hearings

19

20

21

24

25
Hearings

26

27
Tele-CASA
9:00

28

Verde

January 2025

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

1 **HAPPY**
new
YEAR

2

3

6

7 **FTC 2:00**

8

Hearings

9 9:15 CASA
Connecting
Cottonwood Library
DedeEwald Room
FCRB

10

13

14

15

16

17

20 *Closed*

MLK DAY

21

FTC 2:00

22

Hearings

23

24

27

28

29

30 **Tele-CASA**
9:00

31

Happy Birthday



Cindy Toews 1/1

Earl Moss 1/2

Janet McDonald 1/3

Lyn Herrington-Ekiss 1/10

Lilly McBee 1/12

Janice Mauz 1/15

Frank Foster 1/16

Janice Lisboa 1/17

Anniversary

Patricia Bradford

6 years

Shelly Miali

6 years

Bob Marks 3 years

Gena Bunim 1 year

Ken Frankel 1 year

Lisa Pracchia 1 year

Candice Rodeman 1 year

Laura Ashbrook 1 year



CASA Kudos

Kudos to Ana B. for seeing her case through to reunification!

Kudos to Roberta H. for making an important recommendation in court.

Kudos to Deanna H. for seeing her case through to adoption.

Kudos to Patti S. for seeing her very long case through to reunification, more than 2 years!!

Kudos to Pat S. and Jeni O. for their continuous dedication, commitment, and consistency for making the trip to Maricopa County to see their two CASA children in their respective placements 😊

Kudos to Dawn B. for her continued advocacy to ensuring her CASA children's educational needs are being met!

Kudos to Laura P. and Lyn H.E. for volunteering to help out at the Yavapai CASA for Kids Foundation Christmas Holiday Toy Drive 😊

Kudos to Laura P. and Diane J. for their great ideas for marketing and outreach in the Verde. Kudos to Laura P. for helping to make the transition a little easier for her CASA youth to a new placement 😊

Kudos to Terri Z. for always making each visit with her CASA child full of active, engaging, and fun activities!

Kudos to Sue F. for being appointed to her first case!

Kudos to Brittney F. for completing her first court report and attending her first R&R!

What is going on with that room in the hallway at the JJC that used to be the “Mediation Room?”



The transition is complete! Earlier this year Yavapai County Juvenile Court received a grant from Prevent Child Abuse to remodel the “old mediation room” at the JJC. The purpose of the grant was to improve a space in the courthouse to make it more inviting and family friendly, and our former mediation room was the perfect space for this project. It is now a beautiful, calm space that can be used for a variety of purposes .



Greg Adamson painted the gorgeous mural (at no cost) and Quinci furnished it with comfortable contemporary furniture, a full table and chairs, and books and toys for little ones. This room is available to DCS workers, attorneys, dependency families and CASAs to name a few. Please call the CASA office for more information or to reserve a time.

DEPENDENCY 101 CLASS FOR KINSHIP & FOSTER PLACEMENTS

PLEASE JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
YOUR ROLE IN THE DEPENDENCY PROCESS

JANUARY 16, 2025

5:15PM-6:45PM

JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

1100 PRESCOTT LAKES PARKWAY

CHILDCARE WILL BE
PROVIDED BY DCS.
IF NEEDED, PLEASE
INDICATE THE NUMBER
OF CHILDREN WHEN
YOU RSVP.

RSVP TO JEN BAHR
AT 928-554-8903 OR
JBAHR@COURTS.AZ.GOV
BY JANUARY 10, 2025.
TRAINING CERTIFICATES
PROVIDED FOR THOSE
WHO ATTEND.



DEPENDENCY 101 CLASS

FOR KINSHIP AND FOSTER PLACEMENTS



Yavapai County Juvenile Court is excited to announce our next Dependency 101 Class for Kinship and Foster Placements.

The Dependency 101 Class will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2025 from 5:15pm-6:45pm at the Juvenile Justice Center in Prescott. Kinship and foster placements will have the opportunity to observe how the court proceeds through a dependency hearing, as well as the roles of each person attending a dependency hearing. Presenters include: Judge Young, an Assistant Attorney General, DCS case manager, child's attorney, child's Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), parent's attorney, a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), behavioral health, and a kinship or foster placement.

Leah Webb and Beni Garcia with Polara Health will be presenting on Child & Family Team Meetings (CFTs).

After the presentation, kinship and foster placements will have the chance to ask questions about their role as a kinship or foster placement in the dependency process and in CFTs.

Please RSVP to Jen Bahr at 928-554-8903 or jbahr@courts.az.gov no later than January 10, 2025.

Wait!



Can Be A Really Good Thing? Free Parenting Workshop

Presented by Beth Dunn M.S., L.P.C

Saturday January 25th, 2025

10am - 12pm

HUSD District Office

6901 E Panther Path Rm 106

Prescott Valley, AZ

Park under solar panels and enter in the auditorium doors

Although ADHD comes with many challenges, it also presents with some incredible skills and abilities.

This workshop will explore the benefits ADHD can bring to a student's world.

Attendees will get an overview of the ADHD "Big 4 Symptoms" and parents/caregivers/teachers will learn interventions to channel ADHD's impulsivity, energy, creativity, and fun-seeking into successful life skills for school and beyond.

Call or Email Lisa Krietenstein to reserve your spot today!
lisa.krietenstein@humboldtunified.com or FRC@humboldtunified.com
928-759-5104



ATTENTION FOSTER
PARENTS!! WE HAVE A
SPECIAL PROGRAM
MONTHLY FOR FOSTER
KIDS AGES 4 TO 10!
FIRST EVENT IS
JANUARY 18!



Our Mission:
Connecting Grand-hearts with Grand-needs



Our Vision:

Providing the Grand-space and Grand-place for Grand-nurturing kids in need of Grand-parents*.

*Connecting volunteers who are of grandparenting age, with foster kids in a planned monthly program/event focused on unconditional caring, kindness and fun in all we provide each time in a safe environment. Volunteer Grand-parent(s) guide unique experiences, crafts, games, and more spending time with the kids sharing talents and experiences at different stations of activities. We connect intergenerational hearts and minds with acceptance, care and consistency in showing up for each who participates! We are the Grand-parents for the Grand-hearts with Grand-needs every 3rd Saturday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. **Register today** by calling 928-899-8372, or email us at –

League-of@grandparentchamps.org or Find us at -
www.grandparentchamps.org on the web!!

Painting, puppetry, games, crafts, and more!!!



Alateen

HELP AND HOPE FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF ALCOHOLICS



**Are you bothered by someone's drinking?
Join us for shared experience, strength, and hope**

Prescott

Launch Pad Teen Center
424 6th Street (behind WinSupply and Captain Crossfit)
Wednesdays 5pm

Prescott Valley

PV United Methodist Church Room 6
8944 E. Sommer Drive
Thursdays 5:30 pm

Chino Valley

COMING SOON!





2024-2025 Schedule

10:00am - 12:00pm
One Saturday every month

Park Rangers and community partners will lead child-centered play events at a different family friendly park and trail each month. At every Nature Niños event there will be take-home items, a healthy snack, creative nature activities, story time, and little fun lessons on Appreciate AZ Leave No Trace and Healthy Choices. Nature Niños events are led by Park Rangers and community partner staff with a strong understanding of child development and experience leading child-centered outdoor programs.

October 5th

Fair Park

2200 North 7th Street
Prescott Valley, AZ 86614

November 2nd

Acker Park

421 S. Virginia Street
Prescott, AZ 86303

December 7th

**Santa Fe Station
Park**

6751 E Santa Fe Loop
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

January 4th

Vista Park

1701 Sarafina Drive
Prescott, AZ 86301

February 1st

Watson Lake

Upper Ramada
3101 Watson Lake Drive
Prescott, AZ 86301

March 1st

Pioneer Park

Brownlow Area
1195 Commerce Drive
Prescott, AZ 86305

April 6th

**Community
Nature Center**

1980 Williamson Valley Rd
Prescott, AZ 86305

May 3rd

Goldwater Lake

Upper
2900 S. Goldwater Lake Road
Prescott, AZ 86303

June 7th

Granite Creek Park

554 6th Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

July 5th

Antelope Park

6933 N. Cattletrack Road
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

August 2nd

West Granite Creek

Splash Pad
350 N. Montezuma Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

September 6th

Thumb Butte

Prescott National Forest
2285 W. Thumb Butte Road
Prescott, AZ 86305



These organizations are equal opportunity providers



**Thursday,
January 23, 2025**

**Understanding Substance Abuse:
Stages of Progression and Key Indicators**

**Presented by
Doug Dolan**

Doug provides a comprehensive overview of substance abuse, exploring its stages of progression and the critical signs to watch for at each phase.

Attendees will gain valuable insights into how substance use develops over time, the impact it can have on individuals and communities, and how to recognize early warning signs.

[Register Here](#)



Peer Support



2 AWESOME WAYS TO CONNECT!

CASAs Connecting (in person)

1/8/25

9 - 11



Tele-CASA (on-line)

1/30/25

9 am

Please consider attending CASAs Connecting Peer support group to help you be successful on your case. Because the work of a CASA is confidential, it is important to have a safe place to talk about your case. New CASAs are highly encouraged to attend a CASA support group. This support group provides lively and informative discussions. The attendees include a mix of veteran and new CASAs and CASA staff. These discussions can help you understand system issues, procedures, identify needs and solve unanswered questions.

BOOK CLUB

February 19

9:30 am

Revised and Updated Edition

"Fascinating and upbeat...Dr. Perry is both a world-class creative scientist and a compassionate therapist."—Mary Pipher, PhD

THE BOY WHO WAS RAISED AS A DOG

And Other Stories from a Child Psychiatrist's Notebook

What Traumatized Children Can Teach Us About Loss, Love, and Healing

BRUCE D. PERRY, MD, PhD,
and MAIA SZALAVITZ



"The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog" is a book by child psychiatrist Bruce Perry. The book describes a series of child abuse and neglect cases to illustrate how trauma impacts the developing brain and explain how he and his colleagues established an effective therapy model for traumatized children.. One of the cases described in the book is that of Justin, a six-year old boy who had spent five years, from age one to age six, in a kennel."

Books Available

IN THE CASA OFFICE

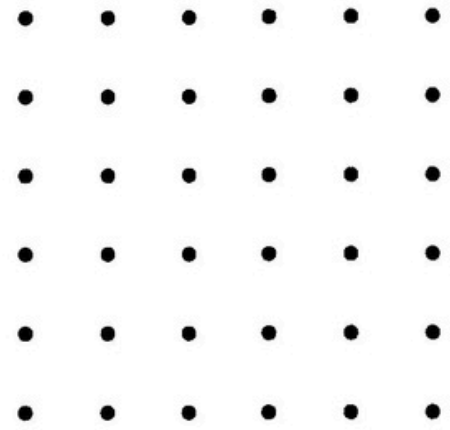
Pick up yours now!

OR YOU CAN PICK UP AN AMAZON GIFT CARD TO COVER THE COST OF A PAPERBACK COPY, DIGITAL COPY, OR AUDIBLE COPY OF THE BOOK

Great Discussions!
Training Hours!



Free Virtual Tutoring and Homework Help



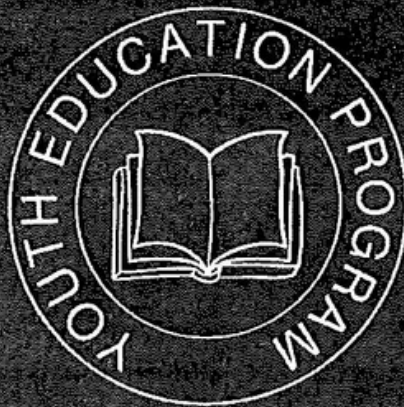
- ASU students are offering free virtual tutoring and homework help for youth.
- Our tutors can help with math, science, English, and many other subjects.
- Sessions are completely free.
- Tutors offer one-on-one sessions.
- We provide a judgment-free space to learn and get extra help.
- All tutors are background-checked.

Start now!



bit.ly/asu_tutor

**Sessions
offered daily
via  zoom**



A Youth Justice Lab Program

ASU

**School of
Criminology and
Criminal Justice**

**Arizona State
University**

WRAPPED IN LOVE



The Wrapped in Love (WiL) Diaper Bank provides diapers and supplies to struggling families across Yavapai County. Diapers are given to families through their affiliation with a service agency in the community. WiL promotes health and wellness by providing Yavapai County participants with diapers, wipes and referrals to local services. The overarching goal of WiL is to alleviate the cost of diapering and strengthen access to resources for struggling families in Yavapai County. The staff and volunteers at WiL coordinate with community agencies and family programs to ensure that needy families have access to the resources available to assist them in raising healthy children.

Yavapai County CASA Volunteers can request diapers for their foster or kinship families who are struggling to buy diapers.

If you would like to order diapers for your CASA baby's family, please contact your coordinator.



TEENS' CLOSET

Teens' Closet provides free, quality clothing to Prescott quad-city area teens (13-19) in financial need. We are thrilled that Teens' Closet is now a program of North Star Youth Partnership!

TO SHOP AT TEENS' CLOSET:

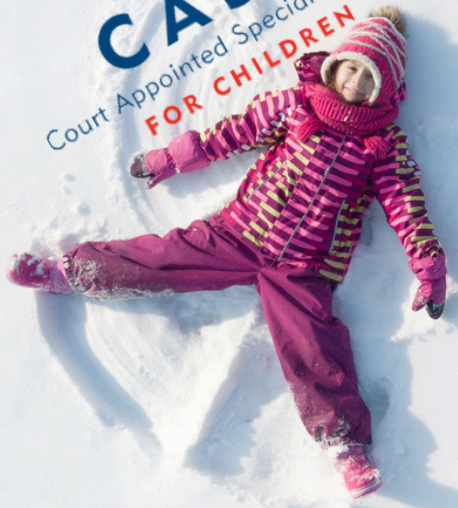
- You must make an appointment. Please call 928-379-1667 and leave a message.
- All minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Proof of financial need is required.
- Arrive at your designated date and time at our **NEW LOCATION**, on the campus of Taylor Hicks' Elementary School, 1845 Campbell Avenue, Building 100, Room 101. **Look for the Teens' Closet sign on the building next to the parking lot.**

EACH APPOINTMENT INCLUDES:

- A private shopping experience in a boutique-type atmosphere with trendy clothing selections.
- Consultation and assistance finding job openings.
- Assistance with resume and interviewing techniques.
- Assistance with bi-annual goal setting.

Teens' Closet is also seeking monetary donations, VISA gift cards or gift cards to local clothing stores to purchase new clothing. We are also seeking volunteers willing to offer compassion, empathy and guidance to youth in our community. Please email northstaryouth@cc-az.org for more information.

A special thanks to our partner, Prescott Unified School District!



 **CASA**
OF YAVAPAI COUNTY



LIKE US!
FOLLOW US!

f
acebook

December in Yavapai County

7 New Cases filed

9 Children taken into DCS custody

251 Total number of children in DCS Care

84 Number of CASAs

115 Children with a CASA

Kids who still need a
CASA

136



Contact Information

www.casaofyavapaicounty.org

Prescott Office

(928) 771-3165

Amber Martin, Dependency Court Manager

email: amartin@courts.az.gov

Jessica Hines, Program Coordinator II

email: jhines@courts.az.gov

Julie Daly, Program Coordinator II

email: jdaly@courts.az.gov

Brie Gallegos, Program Coordinator II

email: bgallegos@courts.az.gov

Kathy McCormick, Mediator

email: kmccormi@courts.az.gov

Evelyn Hurtado, Admin Assistant I

email: ehurtado@courts.az.gov

Robin Fernandez Ames, Support Staff

email: rfernanzesames@courts.az.gov

Kristi Newman (928) 771-3398

Family Treatment Court Coordinator

email: knewman@courts.az.gov

Camp Verde Office

(928) 554-8900

Jen Bahr, Dependency Program Manager II

email: jbahr@courts.az.gov

Laura Gray, Admin Assistant I

email: lagray@courts.az.gov



www.YavapaiCASAforKids.org

g

P.O. Box 28070

Prescott Valley, AZ 86312

(928)445-0800



Board Members:

Lisa Watts, President

Gretchen Dumas, Vice President

Vacant, Secretary

Luke Lewis, Treasurer

Cheryl Micholofki

Missy Sikora

Greg Byrum

Barbara Fox-Thomas

Eileen Bond, Emeritus Member

Jayne Schwantes

Yvonne Bartlett, Executive Director

Mona Stephens, Development

Jayne Zoboski, Grants for Kids

Program

Questions about YC4KF?

email:

info@yavapaicasaforkids.org