

PRESS RELEASE

FROM: Cass County CASA Program
Cass County Courthouse
346 North Main Street
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

CONTACT: Angie Neumiller
Telephone: 402-296-9521
director@casscasa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cass County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program's Fourth Annual "Kids Day Out" event

The Cass County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program provided a fun packed "Kids Day Out" event, August 5, 2017, for school aged children within our CASA program. Children from ages 6-17 years old and 7 adults took part in this event. This event was made possible by a \$3000 grant from PayPal Gives, a corporate advised fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Amy Kerans, a friend of our CASA program and a PayPal employee from the Omaha Give Team recommended our program to receive the funds for our Kids Day Out event. Other funds that made this day possible were donations from various retailers, events and employees at Shadow Lake mall, KENO and fundraising funds. Several children were unable to attend this specific event due to various reasons, however each child still received \$150 gift card, back pack and school supplies.

Each CASA child received \$150 gift card from our CASA program to spend on their school clothing. The day began with our CASA children arriving at Shadow Lake shopping center in Papillion. The children were elated as they spied their perfect clothing, trying it on and beaming as they showed the clothing off to their CASA advocate whom was their shopping chaperone. After spending a couple hours shopping, our children were treated to complimentary frozen yogurt from Orange Leaf and complimentary meals from Texas Road House and Red Robin. After the children's bellies were full, we headed off to our next activity at Leopard Lanes in Bellevue. Our bowling adventure began. For many of the children this was their first time bowling. As they threw their bowling balls down the lane, their bodies wiggled to the pattern of their bowling ball. We saw many strikes, spares and gutter balls, however that didn't matter as this day was filled with joyous giggles while getting to spend time with their CASA advocates and other children in the same situation. They were allowed to be "just a kid" without any worries or problems. It brought so much joy and touched the hearts of all who took part in our event, seeing the kids' broad smiles and hearing their infectious laughter to know they were part of this day that helped create some positive memories as the kids were one step closer to going back to school. Our CASA program also filled the children's backpacks with all their specific school supplies.

Angie Neumiller, the Executive Director for CASA, extends a heartfelt thanks "to all the advocates who once again made this event a huge success". The following CASA advocates

were Dan Andreas, Debbie Green, Coli Hunter, Ed James, Lee Jameson, Karen Muhvic and Russel Orr.

Our program will continue “Kids Day Out” as an annual event as it allows the kids to have fun and be with other kids in their situation while decreasing the financial burden on parents and foster parents.

Currently, 23 children are being served by 14 CASA advocates or staff members. The CASA children are under the jurisdiction of the court because of abuse and/or neglect. Many of the children live unsettled lives waiting for their parents to solve the problems that brought the children to the attention of the authorities, and under the court’s jurisdiction.

A huge thank you to Amy Houston, Shadow Lake Marketing Director for coordinating with merchants on various cash donations and complimentary items for our children. We would also like to thank the following Shadow Lake merchant’s for their generosity. JCPenney for backpacks; Texas Road House for a cash donation and complimentary meals; Red Robin for complimentary meals; Old Chicago Pizza cash donation and Orange Leaf for complimentary yogurt. Old Navy had a Back to School Fashion Show on Friday, August 4th. Several of the volunteers and staff’s children and grandchildren participated. Our children had a great time showing off their stylish clothes while some of them twirled around and posed. Our program will receive a \$250 grant from Old Navy. Thanks to the following children who participated in the fashion show. Rey and Xavien Franklin; Megan and Piper Gutierrez; Lara and Jolie Hunter, McKenna Jensen, Isabella Montoya, Elizabeth Sanchez and Ellie Sachs.

If you would like more information on how you can become a CASA advocate, a board member or help our CASA program, please view our website at www.casscasa.org; or e-mail, Angie Neumiller, Executive Director, director@casscasa.org or call 402-296-9521. Like us on Facebook: **Cass County (NE) CASA Program**.

More information can be found at www.nebraskacasa.org or www.casaforchildren.org.



Front row L to R: Rey Franklin, Xavien Franklin; Megan Gutierrez, unknown, Elizabeth Sanchez, Piper Gutierrez; Isabella Montoya and Lara Hunter.
Back row - 3rd left to right; Ellie Sachs, McKenna Jensen and Jolie Hunter.