

Investing in our Neighbors Improving Lives Strengthening Communities



Winter 2024

To learn more about Job Skills, CASA and other Family Outreach programs contact
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“SENCA is a Wonderful Community Resource.” Crystal’s Job Skills Story

After twenty years of working in health care as a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) and Certified Medication Aide (CMA), Crystal’s dream of becoming a Registered Nurse (RN) is stronger now than ever before and closer to becoming a reality. This is a result of Crystal’s hard work, determination, and use of local resources such as SENCA.

In an effort to gain the medical skills required to increase her salary and move one step closer to her goal, Crystal contacted SENCA’s Otoe County Outreach office and asked if the SENCA Job Skills Program would be able to assist her with costs to enroll in an 8 week Phlebotomy Class. The class, offered through Southeast Community College, (SCC) provides participants with the skill required to perform blood draws in a medical setting.

Crystal completed the Job Skills application, met the program guidelines and was approved for the program. Her next step included applying for the Phlebotomy Class offered at the SCC campus in Lincoln. Upon successful completion of the class Crystal became a certified Phlebotomist.

“I currently work full-time as a CNA/CMA at a local care facility in Otoe County. Becoming a certified Phlebotomist has tremendously increased my income,” shares Crystal. In addition to Crystal’s full-time job, she also works part-time providing Home Health to shut-ins and is working on attaining her LPN.

“In July 2023 I enrolled in the LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) program with Metro Community College (MCC) in Bellevue. Once I complete LPN classes in December 2024, I can bridge into MCC’s RN program.”

Want to Volunteer as an Advocate for Abused or Neglected Children? Give SENCA CASA a Call!

The SENCA Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program provides advocacy for youth who are introduced into the child welfare system through no fault of their own. Trained CASA volunteers, appointed by the judge, provide a voice for the youth in the courtroom. Children with an appointed CASA volunteer spend an average of four fewer months in the foster system than children without a CASA volunteer, saving tax dollars.

If interested in becoming a volunteer, and helping make a difference in the life of a child, contact Debbie Green, SENCA CASA Coordinator, at 402-209-0446.

Since Crystal was already certified as a CNA, CMA and Phlebotomist, it reduces the number of classes she has to take, shortening the amount of time it requires to reach her goal. “After becoming certified as an RN my goal is to work as a Detox Nurse helping people overcome addiction.”

When asked about her experience with SENCA’s job skill program Crystal replied, “I would highly recommend the program for single parents, or anyone wanting to further their skills and education, especially those in need of increasing their income.” Crystal was 16 years old when she started working in healthcare. As a single parent she worked full-time while raising her two daughters. “My youngest daughter, Lily, is a high school senior and is working with SENCA Job Skills in hope of becoming a CNA.”



Crystal shares “As a single parent raising two daughters we lived on a tight budget. Our family utilized other SENCA programs, such as the holiday program, which was a great help to us.” “There is so much SENCA has to offer. SENCA is a wonderful community resource,” concludes a grateful Crystal.

Are you in need of tuition reimbursement to help further your education and start a new career? SENCA has a solution for that, just scan the QR Code →



**Change
A Child’s
Story**



CASA Outcomes for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

- A total of 88 children, due to no fault of their own, were in the Juvenile Court System in Otoe, Nemaha, Johnson, Pawnee and Richardson counties.
- 14 Volunteer Advocates, and Debbie Green, SENCA CASA Coordinator, served 45 of those children by obtaining case information, writing reports to the Court Judge and speaking on behalf of the children in court. The cases of the remaining 43 children were monitored by the CASA Coordinator.
- Of the 88 children, 7 (8%) have been reunified with their parent (s); 19 (22%) adopted; 3 (3%) entered into a guardianship; 5 (6%) transferred to Lancaster County and 54 (61%) remained in foster homes.
- The programs estimated return on investment is 15:1.