

2013-2014 NSBA Leadership Academy Class Life Book Project

We each have a collection of memories from our childhood. We take comfort in them. We learn from them. And we try to teach our children what we learned. But what if we had no context for our memories? What if we had no record of the people or important events from when we were young? No pictures. No names. No one who shared the memory. And no one who could tell us the basic facts that make up our history.

Unfortunately, this situation is common for foster children in Nebraska. Foster children often are placed in multiple homes and schools as they grow up. They may lose touch with friends and foster family members as they grow up and have no record that these relationships even existed.

The Nebraska Court Appointed Special Advocates (“CASA”) Association serves these children by providing foster children with “Life Books.” A Life Book is a scrapbook-like binder that records a child’s life history -- how the child entered foster care, the child’s experiences with different families, and the child’s feelings (both good and bad) along the way. The Life Book may include photographs, school certificates, awards, high-scoring exams, ticket stubs, the child’s artwork, journal entries, and other items. A CASA volunteer, the foster child’s voice, advocate, and friend, assists in gathering the materials and developing the Life Book with the child.

CASA needs our help! Nearly 1,000 children currently in foster care are assigned a CASA. These dedicated volunteers need materials and funding to create Life Books for each child. Meeting this need is the goal of the 2013-2014 Nebraska State Bar Association Leadership Academy.

The Leadership Academy is a group of 25 attorneys committed to strengthening Nebraska communities by raising awareness on a broad range of issues facing the legal profes-

sion, enhancing diversity within the profession and the greater community, and most importantly, engaging in focused, meaningful service projects to help the underprivileged in our state.

It is our goal to provide the basic materials to create a Life Book to each one of the nearly 1,000 children currently in foster care in Nebraska who are assigned a CASA.

The creation of a Life Book starts with a new two-inch three-ring binder. Additionally, CASA needs funds to cover the cost of other materials to allow the child to complete the Life Book with the CASA volunteer -- card stock, stickers, photograph holders, and other scrapbooking-type materials. Thus, *we are asking for donations of two-inch three-ring binders with a clear plastic sleeve on the front and funds to fill the binders for each child.*

For every \$10 you give, a foster child can receive a basic, ready-to-be-filled-in Life Book.

We are hoping to raise \$10,000 to meet our goal.

Please consider donating binders or funds to this worthwhile cause. Each binder you graciously donate will be the cornerstone for a foster child’s Life Book. Your donation will help provide a foster child with a tangible, meaningful record of the child’s strength and ability to overcome whatever challenges life may bring. *Your donation is a fully deductible 501(c) donation for which a letter of thanks with your deduction information will be provided by Nebraska CASA Association.*

We ask that you make your donation by **September 1, 2014**, as follows:

1. If you are donating two-inch binders with clear plastic covers to arrange for pick-up of your donation please contact:

Luke Klinker (402) 978-5248 (Omaha area);

Brian Miles (402) 393-8300, Ext. 6253 (Omaha area);

Bren Chambers (402) 437-1671 (Lincoln area);



NSBA NEWS

Christine Vanderford (402) 421-4646 (Lincoln Area);

Katrine Herrboldt (Sarpy County & coordination for western Nebraska locations) (402) 502-4434.

Alternatively, you may drop off your binders at the following locations:

Omaha

Koenig Dunne Law Firm
1266 South 13th Street
Omaha, NE 68108

Lincoln

The Roman L. Hruska Law Center
635 South 14th Street #200
Lincoln, NE 68508

2. If you are making a monetary donation, please make your check payable to the order of "Nebraska CASA Association Life Book Project" and mail the donation to:

Brian R. Miles
8401 W. Dodge Road #256
Omaha, NE 68114
Phone: (402) 393-8300, Ext. 6253

You can read more about the Nebraska CASA Association here: <http://www.nebraskacasa.org/>.

You can read more about the Nebraska State Bar Association Leadership Academy here: <http://nebar.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=86>.

If you would like more information or have questions about this community service project, please contact Katrine Herrboldt at (402) 502-4434. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours in service,

*2013-2014 Nebraska State Bar Association
Leadership Academy*

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