



CASA of Shawnee County staff invite you to celebrate the
Season of Giving
by sharing lunch with you
as a small token of our appreciation for all that you do for our
agency, the children and their families!

Please join us for lunch
December 10th:
Drop by anytime between 11:30-1,
CASA Office, Large Conference Room.

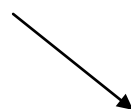
RSVP to Linda Coffman Linda.coffman@shawneecocasa.org
or (785) 215-8282
by Wednesday, December 8th.

If you are unable to join us, please know that we appreciate you for all
of your gifts and talents that you share with us daily!

We wish you a Happy Holiday Season
and a GREAT 2011!!!!



(CASA's e-News for December follows below)





CASA E-News

CASA of Shawnee County,

December 2010



Opportunities to Help our Community this Holiday Season

United Way Christmas Bureau

Anyone interested in helping a local family during the upcoming holiday season can obtain an adoption form by clicking on the following link:
<http://www.unitedwaytopeka.org/volunteer/christmas-bureau>

Topeka Rescue Mission

Volunteers are needed to help set up, coordinate, and distribute gifts on and before Christmas Day. There is also a list of Christmas gift items most needed at <http://trmonline.org/?p=778>.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army Gift Wrap Booth is a fundraiser for The Salvation Army's programs in Topeka. Volunteers wrap gifts for shoppers at West Ridge Mall. This project starts the day after Thanksgiving and is available through Christmas Eve Day. Volunteers are also needed to ring bells for The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign.
http://www.usc.salvationarmy.org/usc/www_usc_kan.nsf

Sheltered Living, Inc.: Festival of Trees

Come as a volunteer or as a customer! The creativity of 70 plus decorated trees in Festival Park while listening to live entertainment provided by various musicians; visit a craft area for children; Christmas shop in Mistletoe Market where local artisans have their items for sale. Volunteer opportunities abound in all these areas plus greeters to Welcome the community.
<http://fot.shelteredliving.org/>

*Thank you to all who volunteered,
donated, or purchased items in order to
support CASA's
Homes for the Holidays Tour
on November 20 and 21, 2010.
It was a great success!*

Upcoming: CASA Lunch Bunch

January 14, 2011: **Mindi Higgins Kessler** is a local Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family therapy counselor, specializing in trauma, attachment and anxiety in children.

February 11, 2011: Amy Burns and Nancy Crego from **Family Service and Guidance Center**. FSGC will present on the services available through the agency.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

REMINDER: CASA and CRB volunteers need four hours of in-service credit each year to remain certified.

Share the Experience!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MEET OUR ONE-YEAR GOAL
OF 100 NEW VOLUNTEERS!**

Please call Kaitee Purdon, our new Volunteer Recruiter/Trainer, to schedule her to come speak at your business, club or church! **All** types volunteers are needed; however, we are looking to recruit male volunteers to be the advocates and role models for young men. Please contact Kaitee at 215-8279 or kaitee.purdon@shawneecocasa.org. Thank you!!!

☺ **RECRUIT! RECRUIT! RECRUIT!** ☺

In-Service Training

Looking for a flexible opportunity during the busy holiday season? Check out the options below for on-line trainings, which you complete on your own!

Children's Alliance of Kansas

Universal Precautions Online Training

This class was developed as a self paced online course to assist you in understanding exposure to bloodborne pathogens in your work. The class is divided into 11 sections. You will be asked to take a pre and post test, watch a video and answer discussion questions. You must score 80% on the post-test and answer the discussion questions to successfully complete the course.
http://www.childally.org/topeka/offering_detail.php?oid=5240&c=FPT Free to Kansas residents.

Kansas Children's Service League

Home Visitor Safety Training for Workers

This course discusses the various safety measures one must take to ensure personal safety when conducting home visits. Section include home visitor preparation including checklists and sign-in/sign-out procedures, boundaries, building trust with families, aggressive clients, and incident reporting practices. This course is a self-paced course with no instructor. Course length is approximately 1 hour. Cost: \$10.

Critical Issues of Methamphetamines

This self-paced course will provide participants with information about methamphetamine and the related child endangerment issues. General information including signs someone is using meth, meth lab indicators, effects on children living in a meth environment, and safety for workers and home visitors will be covered. This course is a self-paced course with no instructor. Course length: about 2 hours. Cost: \$10.

How to Enroll in a KCSL Course :

<http://www.elearningkcs.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=603> Questions: elearning@kcs.org

Facebook for Beginners

Interested in understanding more about how teens spend time on-line? Sign up for a Facebook account and learn the basics of this popular social networking site. Bring your email address and password. To register e-mail class@tscpl.org or call 580-4606. Location: TSCPL's Computer Training Center.

Fri Dec 17 9:30–11:00 am; Tue Dec 28 1:00–2:30 pm
Mon Jan 10 7:00–8:30 pm; Fri Jan 14 9:30–11:00 am
Thu Jan 27 1:00–2:30 pm

Community Spotlight!

SEE TO LEARN[®]

Good vision is critical to learning, because more than 80 percent of learning is done visually. Yet studies indicate that more than 20 percent of kindergarten children have vision problems, and this number climbs to between 30 and 40 percent by the time these children reach high school graduation.

Vision problems may keep many children from graduating from high school, as more than 70 percent of juvenile delinquents and 60 percent of adults in literacy programs have vision problems. SEE TO LEARN[®] was developed to reduce these statistics, and optometrists from across the country are working together to make sure all children can see to learn.

What is SEE TO LEARN[®]?

SEE TO LEARN[®] is an innovative, three-step preventive health program designed to ensure that kindergarten children entering school can see to learn and to educate parents and teachers about the warning signs of vision problems in all school-age children.

- **Step 1:** Ongoing education to alert parents and educators about the signs of vision problems in children of any age.
- **Step 2:** A free vision assessment for your three-year-old by a participating Eye Care Council optometrist. This is designed to detect vision conditions that require correction at an early age. Although vision problems among the very young are generally uncommon, some serious conditions like amblyopia (lazy eye) and strabismus (turned eye), require care before age 5 to avoid permanent loss of vision.
- **Step 3:** A professional vision examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist paid for by you, the parent, before or during your child's first year of school. This is an important investment that will help ensure that vision problems do not affect your child's ability to learn and do well in school.

Topeka doctors who do these screenings include:

- Dr. Charles Beier (785) 266-3285
- Dr. Terry Carney (785) 266-1100
- Dr. Diana Carriger (785) 234-3937
- Dr. William Carriger, Jr. (785) 234-3937
- Dr. Chris Deutscher (785) 235-2374
- Dr. Chris Deutscher (785) 271-8181
- Dr. Breck Dilly (785) 272-0707
- Dr. Kyle Dotson (785) 266-3240
- Dr. Jonas Goering (785) 272-5904
- Dr. Mike Goering (785) 272-5904

- Dr. Larry Harris (785) 235-8801
- Dr. William Hefner (785) 235-2374
- Dr. William Hefner (785) 271-8181
- Dr. Brian Horsch (785) 272-0707
- Dr. Michael Keller (785) 272-0707
- Dr. Michael Keller (785) 246-3937
- Dr. Cecil Kohake (785) 235-2374
- Dr. Cecil Kohake (785) 271-8181
- Dr. Mike Malone (785) 266-1010
- Dr. David Nelson (785) 273-6717
- Dr. Bridgette Ostmeyer (785) 249-3937
- Dr. Charles Schaible (785) 272-4583
- Dr. Richard Schroeder (785) 272-0707
- Dr. Angela Truelove (785) 272-0707

Child/CASA Activities

Below is a list of reasonably-priced activities you could enjoy with your CASA kids. For more ideas visit the Topeka Calendar of Events at:

http://www.visittopeka.us/quicklinks/events_calendar.php

or the TPSCCL at:

http://www.tscpl.org/kids/section/kids_programs

or City of Topeka

<http://www.topeka.org>



Winter Wonderland

Date: now - 12/31/2010

Time: 6-10 p.m.

Location: Lake Shawnee-Tinman Circle
3435 SE East Edge Road
Lake Shawnee Campground

Cost: \$7 per vehicle

View Holiday lights of one million and dazzling displays while winding through a two-mile scenic drive at Lake Shawnee. Benefits TARC.

Crane Observatory Open House

Date: 12/2/2010

Time: 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Location: Stoffer Science Hall

17th & Mulvane @ WU

Cost: Free

Crane Observatory Open House are conducted if the weather permits. Observe the sky, stars and planets at night.

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Date: now - 1/16/2011

Time: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tuesday; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesday - Friday; 1 -4 p.m. Saturday & Sunday

Location: Mulvane Art Museum
17th & Jewell Sts

Cost: Free

This is a national juried exhibition that features contemporary printmaking. The exhibit is co-hosted with the Sabatini Gallery, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. There are 87 works by 50 artists of which 19 are from Kansas.

Abraham Lincoln:

A Man of His Time, A Man for All Times

Date: now - 12/8/2010

Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: Brown v. Board of Education
1515 SE Monroe Street

Cost: Free

A traveling exhibit that invites visitors to look beyond the myth. We are presenting Lincoln's own words through his writings, speeches, letters and proclamations and the accomplishments and legacy he has left behind.

Breakfast with Santa

Time: 9 - 11 a.m.

Cost: \$6 per person

Date: 12/4/2010

Location: Velma K. Parris Community Center
6715 SW Westview Rd. (Topeka)

Date: 12/11/10

Location: Auburn Community Center
121 W. 11th St. (Auburn)

Let's send Santa off right, with a full stomach! Join us for a festive morning of good company, good food, and a visit from the big man himself! Pictures will be provided.

FREE Events at the Topeka Public Library:

4-H in the Library [ages 6–11]

Shawnee County 4-H members entertain you with a variety of exciting crafts and projects.

■ Story Zone

Tue Dec 7 4:00–5:00 pm

Tue Jan 4 4:00–5:00 pm

Tue Jan 18 4:00–5:00 pm

Crazy Extreme Science [ages 9–11]

Plan a spa day at home. Make some soap, bath oils and bath fizzes while learning about the chemistry behind these products. Registration required by Thursday, December 16. Call 785-580-4565.

■ Marvin Auditorium 101A

Mon Dec 20 6:00–7:00 pm

A Visit from Wayside Waifs [grades 1–5]

This month Amazing Animals hosts a special visitor from Wayside Waifs, Kansas City's largest no-kill animal shelter. Through their program, Paws, Claws, Feathers, and Fins, we will learn the responsibilities of owning different types of pets as we follow a young girl and her family through the process of adopting a dog.

■ Lingo Story Room 121

Mon Jan 10 4:30–5:30 pm

Living Kansas Symbols [grades 1–5]

Amazing Animals commemorates Kansas' 150th birthday through a hands-on encounter with living Kansas symbols. Enjoy guest appearances by our state reptile and our state amphibian. Amaze us with your knowledge of Kansas trivia and decorate a birthday cupcake.

■ Lingo Story Room 121

Tue Jan 18 4:30–5:30 pm

Crazy Extreme Science [ages 9–11]

Mad Science of Kansas City joins us with an exciting program on movie special effects! Discover the science behind the art of movie making. Registration required. Call 785-580-4565.

■ Marvin Auditorium 101A

Mon Jan 24 6:00–7:00 pm

Easy Star Gazing [all ages]

Learn how to use your eyes and binoculars to view the night sky from your backyard. Handouts will be useful for watching the Kansas sky over the next three months.

■ Lingo Story Room 121

Fri Dec 10 7:00–8:00 pm

Young Adult Job Bank [15–20 years]

Get help with online job applications as experts from the Topeka Youth Project teach you how to navigate through the common pitfalls. Learn how to make your application stand out from the competition. Registration required. Call 785-580-4606.

■ Computer Training Center

Wed Dec 8 3:00–5:00 pm

Wed Jan 5 3:00–5:00 pm

No Couch Potatoes Needed [11–18 years]

Learn stress-relieving aerobics, martial arts or meditative exercises. Discover healthy alternatives to those sweet after-school snacks. Program is presented by Natalie Sykes, Rebound Physical Therapy.

■ The Edge

Thu Dec 9 3:30–4:30 pm

Thu Jan 13, 27 3:30–4:30 pm

Anime Bento Making [11 years–adult]

This is the time to play with your food! Experience Japanese culture by making your own delicious bento box meal. Bento are Japanese lunch boxes with colorful food prepared to look like cartoon characters, animals and other Japanese icons.

■ Marvin Auditorium 101BC

Tue Dec 14 5:00–6:00 pm

Animentals Anime Club [11 years–adult]

Watch an anime movie, learn about Japanese culture, and hang out with other people who love anime as much as you do! For more information, go to http://www.tscpl.org/teens/section/anime_club.

■ Marvin Auditorium 101BC

Tue Jan 11 5:00–6:00 pm

Recycled Crafts Workshop

See the potential beauty in objects we discard every day. This hands-on workshop allows you to explore your creative side and recycle at the same time. Materials provided. Registration required. Call 785-580-4515.

■ Marvin Auditorium 101A

Sat Dec 4 1:00–3:00 pm



CASA OF SHAWNEE COUNTY

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