

# Heartland CASA Newsletter January/February 2021



Maureen Nickels

My professional career has centered on children and education. Children are our most vulnerable members of society. Much of my public service work in the past several years has been working to create equity and access to resources for ALL children. ALL means ALL. I support the mission of Heartland CASA in working to provide an adult advocate for a child who does not have a voice to speak for themself.

An advocate that will stay with a child until a safe and permanent home can be found. Research shows that when children feel safe in their environment and have built a relationship of trust and mutual respect with those that surround them they are healthier, they are happier, they do better in school with a greater chance of graduating and moving on to be a productive member of our society. Every child deserves this opportunity.

I've never forgotten my roots. I grew up on a farm outside Anselmo, Nebraska. Am a graduate of the University of Nebraska with both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. I recently retired after 17 years working as an Organizational Specialist for the Nebraska State Education Association. Prior to that I spent 26 years teaching upper elementary in the Grand Island Public School system in which I worked with many students who went through the Foster system. It tore at my heart to see many of these children move from one foster home to the next. Equity for these children was always an issue. While they had a pair of shoes like every other student in the classroom it did not necessarily mean their pair of shoes fit them like the rest of the student's pair of shoes did.

I reside on a small acreage outside Chapman where I enjoy the beauty of the great outdoors with my dogs, my gardening and photography work. I am in my second 4-year term on the State Board of Education for Nebraska representing District 6 and currently serve as President. Family is #1 to me. My greatest joy in life is being Mom to my daughter Chelsa.

February:

19th--Carol Schooley



We may be in a pandemic but we still want to be sure you all know how much we appreciate you. Be sure to stop by the office for a small token of our appreciation,  
Jan 8th 9am-11:30am  
Jan 11th through Jan 12th 9am-4pm



Heartland CASA office will be closed:

January 18th- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 15th- Presidents Day