

# PROGRAM PARTNERS COLLABORATE TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

*By Carol Tullio, CASA of Laramie County  
Alli Anderson, Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming  
Lynn Huylar, Safe Harbor, a children's justice center*

United Way  
of Laramie County



Children are one of our society's most vulnerable groups. According to the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, adverse childhood experiences including verbal, physical, or sexual abuse, as well as family dysfunction (e.g., an incarcerated, mentally ill, or substance-abusing family member; domestic violence; or absence of a parent because of divorce or separation), have been linked to a range of adverse health outcomes in adulthood, including substance abuse, depression, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and premature mortality.

United Way of Laramie County recognizes that adverse childhood experiences lead to lifelong consequences. United Way of Laramie County supports three distinct, yet like, organizations whose missions are to support children and families who are at risk of adverse childhood experiences. These programs include: Safe Harbor, a children's justice center and its supervised visitation and safe exchange program; CASA of Laramie County, who work directly with children who have experienced some type of trauma and who have been removed from their home; and Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming, who's focus is to coordinate prevention efforts to build strong families and communities through education and awareness before adverse experiences even occur.



Safe Harbor visitation house

Collaboration is key for these three programs whose missions, while unique, all aim to address the same outcome – a healthy childhood for all children in Laramie County. Collaboration among providers is the most effective way to improve outcomes. Organizations can achieve more working together than they can alone. In 2014, Safe Harbor and Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming

collaborated on providing education and resources to parent, children and

community members on the dynamics of healthy relationships and sexual abuse prevention. This message was delivered to over 50 single fathers, teen parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, youth and community members at large. During the

current State Legislative Session, CASA of Laramie County and Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming raised awareness of child maltreatment with our State Legislators.

April is Child Abuse Awareness month. This time of year all three programs actively engage in activities that support the education and awareness of the devastating effects abuse has on childhood. ....



State Legislator awareness package

- Pinwheel Garden Project – During the Month of April, display your garden of 24 pinwheels from PCAWY in your yard, home, or place of business to show your support for Child Abuse Prevention Month. A special award will be given for the largest pinwheel garden. Pinwheels are the national symbol for preventing child abuse.
- April 11<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Stuff the Bus, stop by Walmart to donate supplies that are needed for Safe Harbor visitation house.
- April 21<sup>st</sup> Safe Harbor will have a presentation for parents on Children and Technology at the Laramie County Library.
- April 25<sup>th</sup> 5K Run/Kids Dash put on by PCAWY at Lions Park.
- April – June Various local businesses are involved in “Hands of Hope” that supports CASA of Laramie County. This project supports recruiting, training and supporting community volunteer advocates to become the voice for the child in the court system.

United Way of Laramie County’s support of these programs has been vital to their continued success. All three programs operate small agencies with one to two staff members. Collaboration is one way to maximize our efforts while making the greatest positive community impact.

If you would like to learn more about these agencies go to [unitedwayoflaramiecounty.org](http://unitedwayoflaramiecounty.org) or [www.safeharborkids.org](http://www.safeharborkids.org), [www.casalc.org](http://www.casalc.org) and [www.pcawy.org](http://www.pcawy.org).



CASA Swearing In 3/15/15

Front row (l-r): Judge Campbell, Jeff Hernandez, Sarah Moyer, Suzanne Wilkens, Abby Roswell  
Back row (l-r): Laurie Box, Sue Hickman, Loretta Lucero, Melanie Mofield, Colleen Boughton