

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SARPY COUNTY, NEBRASKA

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SARPY COUNTY COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA)  
COORDINATOR TO SUBMIT THE BELLEVUE POLICE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-104(6) (Reissue 2007), the County has the power to do all acts in relation to the concerns of the County necessary to the exercise of its corporate powers; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-103 (Reissue 2007), the powers of the County as a body are exercised by the County Board; and,

WHEREAS, The Bellevue Police Community Foundation has a grant available to Sarpy County through the Sarpy County Safe Policy Corporation and,

WHEREAS, The Sarpy County CASA Department and Sarpy County Grant Coordinator received permission to write a grant for a new scanner/copier/fax machine on March 8, 2011; and;

WHEREAS, The Sarpy County CASA Department would like to submit the grant application for a new copier/scanner/fax machine to the Bellevue Police Community Foundation; and,

WHEREAS, Sarpy County is committed to and supports a grant application for a scanner/copier/fax machine for the Sarpy County CASA Department; and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners, that the Sarpy County CASA Coordinator is hereby authorized to submit the Bellevue Police Community Foundation Grant for a copier/scanner/fax machine for the Sarpy County CASA Department.

DATED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011.

MOVED by Rusty Hike, seconded by Jim Thompson, that the above Resolution be adopted. Carried.

YEAS:

[Signature]

NAYS:

none

ABSENT:

Jim Warren

ABSTAIN:

none

Attest:

SEAL

[Signature]  
County Clerk



**BUDGET SUMMARY**  
**Bellevue Police Community Foundation**  
**CASA Department Copier/Scanner/Fax**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Match Share</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>
A. Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0
B. Consultants/Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0
C. Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
D. Supplies/ Operating Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
E. Equipment	\$900	\$0	\$900
F. Other Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL AMOUNT	\$900	\$0	\$900
% Contribution	100%	0%	100%



505 Cornhusker Road

Suite 105 PO Box 259

Bellevue, Ne 68005

CASA  
Sarpy County Juvenile Court  
Sarpy County Courthouse Hall of Justice  
1210 Golden Gate Drive  
Papillion, Nebraska 68046.

Dear CASA of Sarpy County,

We have received a letter from you requesting a donation. We invite you to apply for a grant from the Bellevue Community Foundation. The grant paperwork is included in this letter.

The Bellevue Police Community Foundation is instrumental for providing funding for grassroots nonprofits and programs in Bellevue that focus on crime prevention, public safety, and youth and community policing. The assets of the Bellevue Police Community Foundation are released back to the community of Bellevue in the form of grants approved in accordance with our grant-making policies. These grants will not be used to pay salaries of permanent employees but should be used to fund other expenses associated with these programs.

We also strengthen the Bellevue community by providing grants and management assistance to nonprofits, by bringing community leaders together to address the local needs, and by offering personalized charitable giving services to their donors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Stamp".

Margaret Stamp  
Vice President



## Bellevue Police Community Foundation Application Form

### Purpose

The Bellevue Police Community Foundation is a Nebraska not-for-profit corporation chartered in November 2005.

Maintaining a safe community is a top priority of the Bellevue Police Community Foundation.

The purposes for which the corporation was formed are to solicit and receive contributions, gifts, grants, devises or bequests of real or personal property, or both, from private corporations and to maintain, use and apply the whole or any part of the income therefore and the principal thereof, exclusively organizes and shall be operated and shall include all benevolent, cultural and public purposes legally regarded as charitable in the general sense, but expressly excluding any purpose which is not exclusively charitable, within the meaning of sections 501 C(3) of the United States Internal Revenue code.

- ⇒ **The Foundation** is accepting applications for projects pertaining to the safety of Bellevue Citizens.
- ⇒ **A member of the organization requesting the funds must initiate all funding requests.**
- ⇒ **Applications** may be submitted for new projects or continuation of an existing project, for full or partial funding (maximum \$1,500).
- ⇒ **Preference** will be given to innovative ventures with the greatest impact for the money expended and with the greatest likelihood of continuation following initial Foundation support. (Funds are subject to availability).
- ⇒ **PLEASE NOTE:** The Foundation's Board is interested in your program's impact on the community. To measure this impact, the Board expects reasonable implementation, budget, and evaluation processes, which will indicate whether your program accomplished its goals.

**Deadlines:** The 1st business day of each quarter (Jan, April, July, October)  
Please send **three copies** of your application to the Foundation at the address below:

NAME OF APPLICANT: Georgie Scurfield

ORGANIZATION: Sarpy County CASA Program

ADDRESS: 1210 Golden Gate Drive, Papillion, NE 68046

TELEPHONE: 402 593 2259 FAX: 402 593 2158

PROJECT TITLE: Sarpy County CASA Improved Communications Project.

Georgina Scurfield  
Signature of Applicant

Date: 3.15.11

BELLEVUE POLICE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
505 Cornhusker Road, Suite #105 • Box 259 • Bellevue, Nebraska 68005

TOTAL GRANT REQUEST: \$ 900.00

PERCENTAGE or NUMBER OF BELLEVUE RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY YOUR PROGRAM: All Bellevue children, volunteers and families served by CASA.

*In addition, Bellevue Schools, Bellevue Police Department and Foster Parents will also be served/impacted.*

## **Bellevue Police Community Foundation Grant**

### **Sarpy County CASA Improved Communications Project**

#### **What is your Goal or Vision, and how do you propose to accomplish it?**

The Sarpy County Safe Policy Corporation requests \$900 to purchase a laser copier/scanner/fax machine for the Sarpy County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Department. The Sarpy County CASA Program was established in 1986, with a full-time CASA Coordinator and five volunteers entirely funded by the County. An innovative Juvenile Court recognized that the population of this suburban county was growing very fast and that services were struggling to keep up. Sarpy County is the fastest growing County in Nebraska in terms of population, and has changed quickly from a rural county to a suburban and increasingly urban community. The population has become more diverse and there are now two Juvenile Judges who are both very active in working for improved services and supportive of the CASA Program.

CASA's overall goal is to support and promote court-appointed volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children so they can thrive in safe, permanent homes. The objective of the Sarpy County CASA program is to offer services to the children and families of Sarpy County, ultimately reducing the time a child stays in foster care. Sarpy County CASA volunteers also help to decrease the anxiety of parents and help them engage more productively in the Juvenile Court process. According to the Bureau of Justice, the use of volunteer youth mentors and advocates has shown to be an effective tool in assisting youth to lead successful lives.

The Sarpy County CASA Coordinator is a social worker who also does mediation and meeting facilitation for the Juvenile Court. Additionally, the CASA Coordinator has immediate access to information about all new abuse and neglect cases. This allows the Court to appoint a CASA volunteer very early providing the CASA Coordinator with an excellent opportunity to match volunteers to cases.

Due to the rapid growth of Sarpy County and the city of Bellevue, the Sarpy County CASA Department has seen an increase in cases and volunteers. As a result of this increase and advances in technology, the use of email for correspondence has also increased. In 1996, there were 24 volunteers, 3 of which used email. Currently, Sarpy County CASA has 61 volunteers with 58 of them relying on email for most of their correspondence.

The Sarpy County CASA Department currently works with a copier which is shared with another department. The current copier does not have the ability to scan and email documents. New more efficient copiers are available with an output of 30 pages or more per minute and scanning/emailing abilities. The current fax machine was purchased from County Surplus, and is old and antiquated. Additionally, schools, police departments, other county departments, attorneys and judges rely on scanned documents sent via email as an efficient way to receive valuable and life saving information on the children and families they serve.

With the addition of a laser copier/scanner/fax machine in the CASA Department, Juvenile Court Judges, Juvenile Attorneys, CASA volunteers, and School Administrators will receive information on cases and children via email, saving time and costs associated with copying and delivering documents by hand or mail. Sarpy County Juvenile Judges, Juvenile Attorney's and CASA volunteers have access to email and receive email updates from the CASA Department. Having the ability to scan and email documents will ensure all pertinent parties have access to current, valuable information on the children in Sarpy County ultimately shortening the response time it takes for CASA volunteers to meet with a child or family. Additionally, the CASA Department periodically receives last minute information on a case. Scanning and emailing this data will help to keep children safe as the information can be sent immediately to those individuals that serve them.

The Sarpy County CASA Department relies on the Health and Human Services Department and private contractors to send reports and plans on abuse and neglect cases. Health and Human Services currently sends these documents in hard copy form. These reports are received only two days prior to a court hearing. The Sarpy County CASA Department must quickly copy these documents and in most cases, hand delivers them to the CASA Volunteer so they will have time to review the documents before the court hearing. The CASA Coordinator drives the documents around town delivering them to the appropriate individual. Having the ability to scan these documents and email them will save the CASA Coordinator time and will ensure CASA Volunteers are well prepared for their case.

**Explain how your project pertains to the safety of Bellevue citizens?**

Nationally, research shows that children who receive an attorney re-enter the child welfare system more than 16% of the time ([www.casa.gov](http://www.casa.gov)). If a child receives a CASA volunteer, less than 9% of them re-enter the child welfare system. Helping to keep children safe, will in turn, keep the community safe as these children grow up to be productive members of society rather than continuing the cycle of abuse. Research continues to show that children who are victims of violent crimes or witness violence in their homes are more likely to become involved in the juvenile/criminal justice system at some point in their lives. Studies have shown that once a CASA volunteer is assigned to an abused or neglected child, that child is much more likely to receive vital services such as health care, education and therapy. CASA volunteers help create healthier families and communities thus changing the course of a child's life.

According to an audit conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice, children with a CASA Volunteer are substantially less likely to spend time in long-term foster care, defined as more than 3 years in care: 13.3% for CASA cases versus 27.0% of all children in foster care. Additionally, when a CASA Volunteer was involved, both children and their parents were ordered by the courts to receive more services. The audit concluded that this was an indication that "CASA is effective in identifying the needs of children and parents" ([www.casa.gov](http://www.casa.gov)).

Below is a summary of conclusive results from a 2004 study conducted by Caliber Associates on the effect CASA Volunteers and CASA Departments have on children, families, and the community ([www.casa.gov](http://www.casa.gov)):

- CASA volunteers are far more likely than paid attorneys to file written reports.
- CASA volunteers are highly effective in getting their recommendations accepted in court. In four out of five cases, all or almost all CASA volunteer recommendations are accepted.
- When a CASA volunteer is assigned, a higher number of services are ordered for children and families.
- A child with a CASA volunteer is more likely to be adopted.
- A child with a CASA volunteer is as likely to be reunified with their birth parent as a child without a CASA volunteer.
- A child with a CASA volunteer is less likely to reenter the child welfare system. The proportion of reentries is consistently reduced by half.

Bellevue is the largest city in Sarpy County with a population of over 50,000. Sarpy County CASA serves the children and families of Bellevue working diligently to keep families together and assisting children by finding safe living environments ultimately strengthening the community. The Sarpy County CASA Department currently has 18 CASA Volunteers from Bellevue and is serving 37 Bellevue children. One of the future goals of the Sarpy County CASA Program is to have a satellite office in Bellevue due to the number of Bellevue children that are served by Sarpy County CASA.

Working on Best Practice ideas learned from the 2009 National CASA Conference, the Sarpy County CASA Program signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bellevue School District allowing more open communication with counselors and school social workers as well as an annual CASA volunteer recruitment drive aimed at Bellevue educators. With the addition of a new copier/scanner/fax machine, the Sarpy County CASA Department will have the ability to rapidly correspond and communicate with Bellevue School District administrators, counselors and social workers keeping Bellevue children and families safe and the community strong.

### **What change do you want to see in the target population as a result of the project?**

CASA Volunteers work to help abused and neglected children find safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible. We know that children who are in secure loving homes are less likely to break the law and more likely to graduate from high school. Our hope is that every CASA volunteer will positively impact the children they serve, helping to reduce crime, improve graduation rates and support loving families who build safer communities.

Through this project, the Sarpy County CASA Department will facilitate increased communication between agencies and departments which will ultimately help children and families in Sarpy County and Bellevue receive assistance faster by keeping those that serve them

well informed and prepared for court. The measurable objective is to have all CASA Volunteers, school districts, and law enforcement receive information via email allowing for rapid response, communication and intervention on abuse and neglect cases throughout Bellevue and Sarpy County. Immediately, there will be a positive impact on the 37 Bellevue children being served and the 18 Bellevue CASA Volunteers. In a broader sense, the project will help Bellevue Public Schools, Bellevue Police Department, Juvenile Judges, therapists, service providers, and foster parents who are responsible for the safety and well-being of all Bellevue children.

**Based on the objective, what is the action plan to accomplish the goal?**

The objective of the Sarpy County CASA Department is to purchase an efficient laser copier/scanner/fax machine to save time and keep the school district and other parties informed with up to date documents and case information. Additionally, the Sarpy County CASA Department will have the enhanced capability to copy and scan a larger amount of information in a shorter time period with an increase in page per minute copying/scanning ability.

The action plan is to compare and contrast the qualities of different scanners/copiers/fax machines for the most efficient model saving time and money. Sarpy County CASA Department will follow the County's purchasing regulations. Upon the purchase of the equipment, the Sarpy County CASA department will begin utilizing the scanner/copier/fax machine to send updated and current case information to all parties involved, helping to keep the children and families of Sarpy County and Bellevue safe.

**How will you know if you have accomplished your objectives and achieved your goal?**

The objective will be accomplished and goal achieved when the Sarpy County CASA Department can successfully facilitate communication between all parties involved with Sarpy County CASA services. Juvenile Court is working very hard to minimize the use of paper by using email to work more efficiently. The Bellevue Police Department has recently agreed to email documentation rather than fax. Since they have the ability on their end, Sarpy County CASA should also have the ability to correspond in the same manner.

Sarpy County will know the objective has been achieved when documents and important case information can be scanned and sent via email to Juvenile Court, Sarpy County Attorneys, school counselors, social workers, law enforcement, and other pertinent parties to a case. Additionally, documents will be copied and collated at a faster rate saving the CASA Department valuable time and resources.

**Have any other funding sources been sought, explored, or secured?**

No other funding sources have been sought.

**Please Provide the Project Budget:**

Project Budget: Bellevue Police Community Foundation Grant funding

Office Supplies/Equipment: \$900 for Laser copier/scanner/fax machine.

**Are you willing to provide the Foundation with documentation on how Foundation funds were spent?**

The Sarpy County CASA Department will provide an invoice detailing all equipment purchased and any other information requested by the grantor.

# Sarpy County Board of Commissioners

1210 GOLDEN GATE DRIVE  
PAPILLION, NE 68046-2895  
593-4155

[www.sarpy.com](http://www.sarpy.com)

ADMINISTRATOR Mark Wayne

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR Scott Bovick

FISCAL ADMIN./PURCHASING AGT. Brian Hanson



## COMMISSIONERS

Rusty Hike District 1  
Jim Thompson District 2  
Tom Richards District 3  
Jim Nekuda District 4  
Jim Warren District 5

## MEMO

TO: Sarpy County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Lisa A. Haire

RE: Bellevue Police Community Foundation Grant

On March 15, 2011, the County Board will be asked to authorize Georgie Scurfield to submit the Bellevue Police Community Foundation Grant application to purchase a new copier/scanner/fax machine for the Sarpy County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Department. The grant is written under The Sarpy County Safe Policy Corporation's 501 (c) (3) tax exempt determination for non-profit organizations.

The Sarpy County CASA Department will request \$900 from the Bellevue Police Community Foundation. The CASA Department currently operates using a copier that does not have the ability to scan and email documents. Additionally, the CASA Department shares the copier with other departments. There is a need for CASA to have the ability to scan and email documents to CASA volunteers, County Attorneys and Juvenile Court Judges. The grant is due April 1, 2011.

There will be no County match required if the grant request is approved.

Please contact myself or Georgie Scurfield with any questions.

March 11, 2011

Lisa A. Haire

593-1565

cc: Mark Wayne  
Brian Hanson  
Scott Bovick  
Georgie Scurfield  
Deb Houghtaling