

2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District CASA Spring 2014 News Letter



**Many Thanks go out to all of our  
Volunteers**

**We appreciate all of your hard  
work!**

**Upcoming Events**

**~April 21, 2014~**

**5:00 pm** in the Nez Perce County Court House  
*Swearing In Ceremony*

RSVP to CASA staff  
by April 18<sup>th</sup> if you  
will be in attendance

**~April 24, 2014~**

**11:30 – 2:00 pm** in the CASA Conference Room  
*Stewards of Light training*

RSVP to CASA staff  
by April 21st if you  
will be in attendance

Lunch  
provided

(recognizing, preventing and reacting responsibly to child sexual abuse)

**~May 7, 2014~**

**5:30 – 7:00 pm** in the CASA Conference Room  
*“In Her Shoes”*

Dinner  
provided

RSVP to CASA staff  
by May 5th if you will  
be in attendance

(Interactive YWCA training about domestic abuse)

## A TRIBUTE TO THE PALOUSE PATCHERS



The Second Judicial CASA Agency of Lewiston, Idaho wants to dedicate this newsletter to the Palouse Patchers for providing the children of our agency with the gift of warmth, security, and individuality. The handmade blankets are made in various colors, designs, and sizes with personal patches so that children can write their names on them but the biggest detail is seen in the amount of care that goes into donating such a cherished item.

The dictionary defines a comfort object, transitional object, or security blanket as an item used to provide psychological comfort at bedtime but is especially important in unique or unusual circumstances, which certainly describes what children in the foster care system are going through. Comfort objects such as blankets have therapeutic benefits but are referred to as transitional objects in human child development because it can substitute for the mother-child bond that is missing. Comfort/transitional objects also take the form of teddy bears, dolls, and favorite toys.

Because staff members and volunteers are not allowed to purchase Christmas gifts for children who are part of the CASA program the blankets provided by the Palouse Patchers make excellent holiday/birthday gifts for children

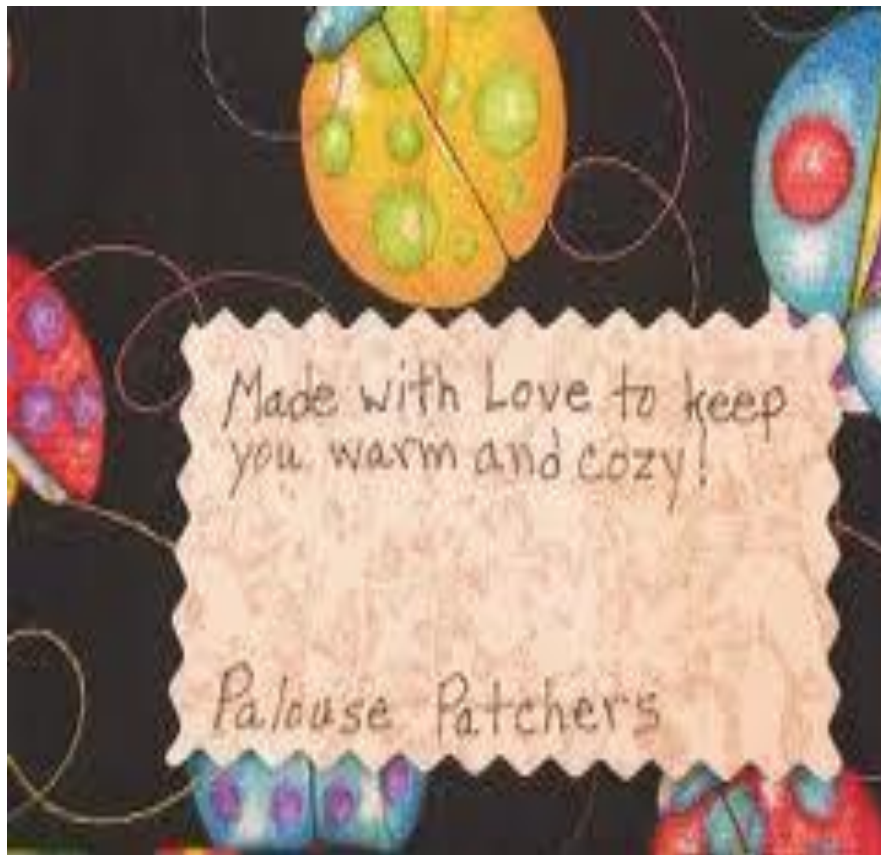
to recognize how important they are. This past December three separate children were given their own personalized blankets. The youngest child, who is only five, opened his gift, wrapped his blanket around his shoulders like a cape, and fell asleep in the middle of the floor. He was safe, he was comfortable, and he was warm! Later that evening the grandfather of the little guy contacted the case volunteer and expressed to her how much that blanket meant to his grandson. After the child woke up from his nap he told his grandfather, “Pappy I love you so if you want I’ll share my blanket with you, you can’t have it but I’ll share it.” The grandpa was very appreciative to the people who had made that blanket!

Another CASA child, who is an 11 year old girl, expressed to her foster mom how much that blanket meant to her because she had never received anything that someone had actually made by hand, when the case volunteer asked the girl if the blanket was the right colors for her she quickly answered, “It’s all the colors I like but I never use it, I have it put away, so it never gets messed up, I look at it when I miss home, and it makes me feel better.” The blanket has numerous cats on it and her pet cats are something that she misses about living with her parents.

Blankets provide safety and security for people of all ages, young and old, and the third example is a CASA child who is a twelve year old boy that became so excited when he opened his new blanket during a supervised visit (which was taking place at a bowling alley) that he actually unrolled it in front of one of the bowling lanes and tried it out in front of everyone! Later that evening the foster mom contacted the case volunteer and wanted to thank the people who had made that special gift. The boy had returned home and his new blanket was the first thing that he wanted to show his foster parents. The foster home promotes sharing amongst its residents but the boy asked for special permission to not share his

blanket, he will show the others what are his favorite characters are on the blanket, but otherwise it's hand off!!

Transitioning from your primary residence to temporary housing solutions would be difficult for anyone, but when you consider the trauma that a child experiences because many of them have not developed productive coping mechanisms, the Palouse Patchers have provided an essential strategy for children to embrace moments of solitude, **THANK YOU** to the people who have provided such a valuable service to promote healthier outcomes for our children, **YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**



*Thank You to Shellie Munoz for putting this Newsletter together! You are the best*

