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CASA OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA



Issue No. 6

June 2011

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April Activity

*76 Volunteers
 Assigned
 14 New Volunteers
 Inducted
 213 Children Served by
 Program
 17 New Children
 22 Closed Children*

Message from the Executive Director

Volunteering: A Work of Heart

Although National Volunteer Week was scheduled April 10 - 16, CASA of Central VA held our Volunteer Recognition Dinner on May 19 at Lynchburg College. We are grateful to The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust for sponsoring the event and for Lynchburg College for donating the use of the East Room.

We had the privilege of recognizing 23 dedicated volunteers who during 2010 had contributed the prerequisite hours to merit Presidential Service Awards. We also honored six volunteers by inducting them into the Honorable Dale H. Harris Volunteer Hall of Fame. (See the list of honorees below.)

Words can not express our gratitude to all of our volunteers and board members for their compassion, their dedication, their commitment. We feel inspired by our volunteers who give so generously. As Anne Morrow Lindbergh wrote, "to give without any reward or any notice has a special quality of its own."

V - valuable for all you are and all you do.
O - open to trying new things
L - loyal and reliable day after day
U - untiring in your willingness to help
N - nice to be around
T - thoughtful in so many caring ways
E - eager to share your talents and skills
E - energetic in every task you take on
R - ready with a smile to brighten another's day
S - special. That's what volunteers are!

Jane Francis

Buy a Beautiful
Starfish Necklace from
CASA of Central VA for
\$20



[Order Starfish Necklaces On-line](#)

[Read the Starfish Story and View Additional Necklaces](#)

CASA IN THE NEWS

Sign Up to Receive the Child Advocacy Matters e-newsletter. [Sign-Up](#)

May's issue features a tribute to mothers, a moving editorial from a foster youth, an inspirational message from National CASA CEO Michael Piraino, and features a documentary From Place to Place that follows two youth who age out of foster care and then set out to change the system that raised them.

[Child Advocacy Matters - May 2011 issue](#)

Helpful Links

[CASA of Central Virginia](#)

[National CASA Association](#)

Congratulations to the following volunteers:

Bronze Awards

- (100-249 hours)
- Anne Wojcikowski
- Beth Doan
- Bill Nevill
- Carole Saunders
- Dorothy Kiser
- Howard Rowson-Hall
- Julie Yeatts
- Kathleen Moon
- Octavia Starbuck
- Pamela Ferrell
- Paula Johnson
- Sheila Middleton
- Sue Mathes
- Susan Follett
- Susan Gregory
- Terry Edwards
- Vicki Barrett
- Vicki Bertrand

Silver Awards

- (250-499 hours)
- Alex Huddleston
- Cynthia Mitchell
- Kennie Dickson
- Marjo Hennessey
- Sandy Morrissett

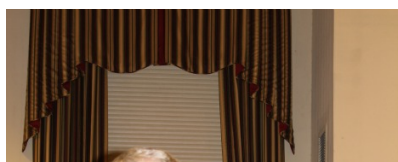
2011 Inductions into The Honorable Dale H. Harris Volunteer Hall of Fame

- Beth Doan
- Kennie Dickson
- Cindy Mitchell
- Leslie Phillips
- Vernice Watts
- Jo Woods

CASA of Central Virginia Volunteer Recognition Dinner



Presidential Service Award Recipients



Musical Performance by Students of VYBE - Lynchburg Music Center

Association

Virginia's Judicial System

Virginia Department of Social Services

Voices for Virginia's Children



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA of Central Virginia
P.O. Box 11373
Lynchburg, VA 24506

434-528-2552, phone
434-528-2551, fax
www.cvcasa.org



Robert Day, Executive Director of Patrick Henry Boys and Girls Plantation

Mr. Day provided the keynote address, sharing his personal story of abuse and neglect as a child. He felt there were three elements that led to his ability to overcome and be successful in life. They included having some healthy adult relationships, community resources, and knowing someone cared about him.

Thanks to all our volunteers for their commitment and service to CASA of Central Virginia and the abused and neglected children in our communities!

Thanks to The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust for sponsoring this event.

CASA STAFF

- Executive Director
Jane Francis,
- Associate Director
Lorna Rexrode,
- Advocate Managers
Jennifer Martin
Angela Mayfield
Connie Shannon
- Recruiting Coordinator
Anne Wojcikowski
- Bookkeeper
Julie Chipman

CASA of Central VA Board of Directors

- Kris Shabestar, President
- Cindy Forren - Vice President
- Barbara Hudson, CPA - Treasurer
- Captain Ryan Zuidema - Secretary

- David Brown
- The Honorable Lawrence Janow, Retired



Volunteer Spotlight
Beth Doan

Advocate Manager: Connie Shannon
Court served: Campbell County and Lynchburg
Length of time as a CASA volunteer: 3 years
Education: Virginia Tech, Chemical Engineering
Liberty Universtiy, Masters in Religion

Most Memorable CASA Moment: One of Beth's most memorable cases involved a gentleman who swore that his daughter had laced his marijuana with crack and that his son had also slipped into his house and laced his food with crack so that he would fail the drug tests. In that case the father ended up drug-free for over a year, obtained his business license and his children were returned to him.

On the sad side, Beth had a case in which the oldest child, who was 8 years old, chewed up food for her baby sister because no one had bought baby food. The

Muriel Mickles, Ed.D.
 Cindy Mitchell
 Barbara Nash
 Maria Nathan, PhD.
 Shep Nowlin, III
 Bruce Pearson
 Erskine Profitt
 Anita Satterlee, EdD.
 Inez St. John-Crews
 Richard J. Sterne, Jr.
 Ken Towler
 Phyllis Webb
 Consuella Woods

6 year old mowed the lawn and none of these children knew how to take a shower and wash their hair. During one visitation a little girl was so ignored by her parents that she began to spank her doll baby and put it in the dark bathroom for punishment. In another case, an 11 year old boy was taped to a chair because he was "so hyper" and the parents were worried about the safety of the younger children in the house.

What means the most to you about being a CASA volunteer?

Beth became a CASA volunteer to help children who may have difficulty navigating the social services and legal processes. She also wanted to make sure they do not become a simple case number but are always recognized as the point of the whole process.

THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Thanks to Bedford Community Health Foundation for providing a grant to CASA of Central VA to support in-service trainings during the coming year.



United Way Day of Caring



Thanks to the Target employees below who volunteered at our administrative office for Day of Caring on May 19th! volunteers made over 100 starfish necklaces and also helped with filing closed cases and cleaning the

Advocate Manager Guidance and Support Feature

Writing Effective Court Reports

Remember to be:

1. Prepared
2. Professional
3. Organized
4. Honest
5. Concise
6. An advocate for your CASA child

When writing about DSS:

- What are the issues that need to be resolved?
- What factors led to the child's placement from the agency perspective?
- What efforts have been made to place the child with extended family?
- How often does the caseworker see the child? The parents?
- What is the plan for the child?
- What services have been provided or what services are needed?
- How has the family demonstrated their use of the provided services?
- What are the current visitation arrangements?
- Is there a concurrent plan? Is so, what is it? If not, is one needed?

When writing about Parents:

- Name, birth date
- How does each parent describe the child?
- What is the parents' understanding of why the child is in foster care or why there is a protective order or CHINS petition?
- What do the parents want to see happen?
- What are the current visitation arrangements?
- What services have been provided to the parents?
- What other services do they need?
- What is the parents' understanding of the DSS case plan?
- What do the parents want to see happen?
- Describe family and other relationships. What support systems are available?
- Is there anyone else who is important to the child?
- Describe the current living arrangements and source of income.
- Have the parents had past/present court involvement?

When writing about the Child:

cases and cleaning the office of old equipment.

Leslie Lancaster
Steve Logwood
Gloria Andrews
Amy Williams
Brooke Farlow
Emily Cook
Pat Musee
Anna Boring
Dale Munsee

- Name, Birth Date, Age
- Describe history of caretakers.
- What is the child's understanding of DSS or Court involvement?
- What does the child think needs to happen in the family?
- Who are the significant people in the child's life?
- How does the child feel about the situation and what does he/she want to happen?
- How does everyone get along from the child's perspective?
- Is there anything the child is particularly concerned about?
- What does the child want you to tell the Judge?
- How does the child feel about the current visitation arrangements?
- Describe the child's interests, friends, school situation, health, demeanor, etc.



United Way
of Central Virginia
Partner Agency

Volunteer Corner

Special Opportunities for CASA Outings

If you are planning an outing with your CASA child over the next few weeks, consider the following opportunities:

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Lynchburg Baseball Corporation has provided CASA with General Admission Flex Tickets which can be presented for admission to any Hillcats home game this season, through September 6, 2011. To obtain these tickets, please contact Jane Francis at jane@cvcasa.org or (434) 528-2552. She will either mail you the tickets or you can pick them up at the Admin. Office in the Fort Early Building.

Amazement Square (27 Ninth Street in Lynchburg)

Jane has ten tickets which must be used before June 30, so contact her if you would like some of these tickets. Amazement Square also will admit at any time at no charge CASA children who are accompanied by their CASA volunteer. The CASA volunteers will have to purchase admission for themselves, show their badge and sign the museum Sponsored Admission guest book.

Extra Mile Club

We are grateful for the dedication of CASA volunteers in serving their children. With the on-going hikes in gas prices, we are concerned that volunteers will need to cut back on their activity, which could have a direct impact on the children they serve. We are also concerned that volunteers will be unable to be assigned to cases, if the travel is extensive.

To assist CASA volunteers with handling the expense of gas, CASA of Central Virginia established "The Extra-Mile Club" in July 2008. We have a limited number of gift cards from gas stations for \$10.00. The cards are to help with CASA volunteers' travel expenses if their driving is a hindrance to their volunteering, and they need some help. In order to receive the gift card, CASA volunteers may submit a mileage form to jane@cvcasa.org or fax it to (434) 528-2551, and the gift card is mailed out to them. They may also contact their advocate manager and receive a card from her. For more information on the Extra Mile Club, call Jane at (434) 528-2552 or your advocate manager.

[Stipend Request Form](#)

CASA Volunteer Training

CASA Volunteer Pre-Service Training

Applications are being accepted for our upcoming Volunteer training. Classes begin August 11, 2011 and run through October 20, 2011. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 5:30-8:30 at the Pearson Regional Cancer Center in Lynchburg.

If you know anyone that may be interested, please spread the word and direct them our way.



Training funded by The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust

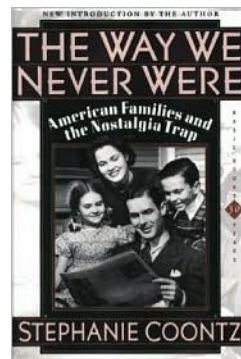
[CASA Volunteer Training Flyer](#)

[CASA Volunteer Application](#)



The CASA Library

This Month's Featured Resource



The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap by Stephanie Coontz.

Kirkus Review states, "Placing the American family in its historical, cultural, economic, and philosophic context, Coontz identifies the myths and their sources, functions, and fallacies that Americans generate around family life, as well as the terrible burden these illusions create. Violence, abuse, poverty, ignorance, alcoholism, dependence on government support in brief, all the social ills attributed to the breakdown of the family have in fact been a part of American social life since Colonial times, Coontz says. She further argues that our ideal of family life is primarily an invention of the 50's, projected in TV sitcoms such as Leave It to Beaver, and is an ideal as pernicious as are the social problems it supposedly prevents.

Today, the survival of the family depends on realistically assessing its diversity and what it can and can't do; on its overcoming the fantasies of what it is supposed to be and how it is supposed to function; and on its recovering its civic commitments.

Many additional books, DVD's, manuals, and additional resources available for check-out in the downtown CASA office. CASA Volunteers can utilize library resources as an additional option for completing their yearly requirement of 12 hours of in-service training.

Library Resources funded by



Upcoming Events

Healing Field - June 24-26 at E.C. Glass High School Grounds

The Exchange Club of Lynchburg is planning a very meaningful event to increase awareness about the prevention of child abuse. On June 24 - 26, they will create a healing field on the grounds of E.C. Glass High School, at the intersection of Langhorne and Memorial avenues. White "Prevent Child Abuse" flags will be displayed to memorialize every child who died as a result of injuries attributable to child abuse or neglect in the state of Virginia during the past year. In addition we will display the coroplast children's cut-outs in recognition of children in Central Virginia who are affected by child abuse and neglect. American flags will also be placed to represent the children affected by abuse and neglect throughout the country.

Area agencies that offer programs which deal with at-risk children and help to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect will be invited to participate in this event by setting up educational displays throughout the weekend. CASA will have a display, and we invite you to join us during the weekend and help staff the display and talk to people about CASA.

The event will be open to the public during the following times:

- Friday, June 24 - 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The opening ceremony will be held at 6:00 p.m. The Honorable Dale H. Harris will deliver the keynote address.
- Saturday, June 25 - 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 26 - 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please let Jane at 528-2552 or jane@cvcasa.org or your advocate manager know if you are able to be a part of the Healing Field and help staff our display at any time over the weekend.



Volunteers Needed for Friday Cheers on July 29

Friday Cheers - Lynchburg's Party with a Purpose - returns to the Riverfront Park this season. CASA of Central VA will be the host charity for Friday Cheers on July 29. The Craig Woodard Band will play classic beach music, so it should be fun. We will need 15 volunteers from 5:00 to 9:15 p.m. If you are able to volunteer, contact Jane at 528-2552 or jane@cvcasa.org. CASA will receive a portion of the proceeds.

Funding for this newsletter is provided by a grant
from

Retail Merchants Foundation, Inc.



Thank you for your interest and support of CASA of Central Virginia.

[Forward email](#)



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