

You're receiving this email because of your relationship with CASA of Central VA. Please [confirm](#) your continued interest in receiving email from us. To ensure that you continue to receive emails from us, add lorna@cvcasa.org to your address book today.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



CASA OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA



Issue No. 10

October 2011

In This Issue

- August Activity
- Numbers for 2010-2011
- Volunteer Spotlight
- CASA Volunteer Summer Picnics
- Advocate Manager Corner
- CASA Volunteer Training
- The CASA Library
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Upcoming Events

[Find us on Facebook](#)



Donate securely through
Click and Pledge

August Activity

- 66 Volunteers Assigned
- 167 Children Served by Program
- 23 New Children
- 22 Closed Children

Buy a Beautiful Starfish

Message from the Executive Director

Increases in the Incidence of Child Abuse and Child Poverty Not Coincidental

The numbers of children who have been abused and neglected in Central Virginia and who have been assigned to Court Appointed Special Advocates in the 24th Judicial District have risen steadily over the past two years. During 2008-2009, Judges appointed CASA volunteers to the cases of 330 children. During 2009-2010 this total had jumped to 429 - 99 more children or a 30% increase in one year. Instead of leveling off during 2010-2011, which ended June 30, 2011, the total of children to whose cases CASA volunteers were appointed took another leap to 528 - 99 more children than in 2009-2010, a 23% increase in one year and a 60% increase in just two years.

When asked to identify the cause of the increase, it had seemed obvious that the increased numbers of children being abused and neglected (the majority of whom are under the age of five) were connected to the economic problems in the areas. This connection has been strengthened by the release of figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the results of a recent research study. [To read more, click here](#)

Jane Francis

The Numbers are in for 2010-2011!

Necklace from CASA of Central VA for \$20



Order Starfish Necklaces On-line

Read the Starfish Story and View Additional Necklaces



THE CONNECTION MAGAZINE

News and Information from the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association
Cover Story: Working with Impoverished Families

[Click to Read](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT



Congratulations to Sue Follett, CASA Volunteer, on the birth of her grandson Easton Trey Follett born 7/28/11, 7 lbs 11 ozs

(July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2010)

Number of active CASA volunteers: **101**
 Number of children to whose cases CASA volunteers were appointed: **528 children**
 Number of Hours Contributed by CASA volunteers: **9,442 hours**
 Virginia Average Hourly Value of Volunteer Time in 2010: \$22.03
(as annualized by the Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information Services Division)
 Total value of volunteer time contributed: **\$208,007**

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS!

Thanks to the dedicated volunteers who provided service above and beyond the call of duty!
 Thanks to the dedicated CASA advocate managers who supported them and helped to guide them through the judicial processes.

Thanks to the Judges, Guardians *ad litem*, and staff from Departments of Social Services and other service agencies who also worked with these children's cases.
 Because of YOU, children in Central Virginia Will have a better present and a brighter future.



Volunteer Spotlight
Connie Mason

Advocate Manager: Jennifer Martin
Court served: Lynchburg
Occupation: Self employed, Commercial Property Management
Length of time as a CASA volunteer: 2 years

Most Memorable CASA Moment: I would have to say fully realizing the challenges and limitations families and individuals, both children and adults, can face when maneuvering through day to day life-actions, decisions and abilities many of us have begun to take for granted because we have lived a different reality.

One example of how your advocacy made a difference in a case?
 I feel my involvement with one particular case and the consequent court report helped shed light on extenuating circumstances that were impacting not only the mother's ability to adequately fulfill her obligations to DSS, but also provide adequate case decision-making information to DSS staff. More time was given the case which enabled the parent, and all those involved, to have more opportunity to evaluate the case and better determine that termination of parental rights was, indeed, in the best interest of the child.

Helpful Links

- [CASA of Central Virginia](#)
- [National CASA 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

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

What means the most to you about being a CASA volunteer? While an inner part of me is deeply saddened by the circumstances and struggles these children and families face, my heart is warmed by the many wonderful individuals and services in place in our community that provide resources and support as a means of improving and stabilizing lives. What means the most to me as a CASA is being a part of these resources in hopes of becoming a positive impact in these children's and families' lives.

CASA Volunteer Summer Picnics

CASA of Central Virginia held three CASA Volunteer picnics during the months of August and September. The first was held on August 27th at Stonehouse Lake Park for our Amherst and Nelson volunteers. The second on August 31st at Peaksview Park for our Lynchburg and Campbell County volunteers and the third was on September 14th at Liberty Lake Park for our Bedford volunteers. It was so great to see so many volunteers and their families come out and enjoy the picnics. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together and enjoy good food and fellowship.

Amherst and Nelson Picnic at Stonehouse Lake



Lynchburg and Campbell Picnic at Peaksview Park



Bedford Picnic at Liberty Lake

Cindy Forren, President
 Captain Ryan Zuidema - Vice President
 Barbara Hudson, CPA - Treasurer
 Maria Nathan, Ph.D. - Secretary
 David Brown
 Joey Fronheiser, Ph.D.
 Scott Hudson
 David Mass
 Muriel Mickles, Ed.D
 Cindy Mitchell
 Barbara Nash
 Shep Nowlin, III
 Bruce Pearson
 Erskine Proffitt
 Anita Satterlee, Ed.D.
 Pamela Smith-Johnson
 Inez St. John-Crews
 Richard J. Sterne, Jr.
 Ken Towler
 Phyllis Webb



Advocate Manager Guidance and Support Corner

"Shhh!" Maintaining confidentiality on your case.

CASA volunteers are privy to an abundance of information from a variety of sources, including professional case files, service providers, family members, and children. As a result, each CASA volunteer harbors a wealth of facts and documents that can only be shared with a select group of people on each case. Below are some methods to maintaining confidentiality:

CASA volunteers can only share information on their case with:

- CASA staff
- Department of Social Services Social Worker
- Guardians Ad Litem
- Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges

Use these tips for maintaining confidentiality in each communication channel:

Verbal (e.g. in person discussions and phone calls)

- * If a service provider on a case requests information from you, refer him/her to the DSS Social Worker.
- * Participate in telephone calls in a private area away from coworkers, family, and/or friends.
- * Keep your voice low and be aware of who is around you during Courthouse discussions.

Written (e.g. case binders, notes, evaluations and assessments, progress reports, Court Orders, CASA reports, etc.)

- * Keep case files and case notes in a private location, such as a locked office, briefcase, or file cabinet.
- * Case binders/notes should not be stored in a vehicle.
- * Bring documents you do not need to the CASA office for shredding.
- * Credentials, Court Orders, and CASA Release of Information forms can be shared with service providers to gain access to information about CASA children and other family members, as they do not contain case information beyond names and case numbers.

Electronic (e.g. emails, faxes, text messages, etc.)



**United Way
 of Central Virginia
 Partner Agency**

- * Keep court reports in a computer file not accessible by others.
- * Password protect documents as necessary.
- * Erase phone text messages from the received and sent folders.
- * When receiving faxes, have them sent to the CASA office, faxed to a private fax machine, or faxed to a fax machine while you are standing by the machine to receive

CASA Volunteer Training

CASA Volunteer Pre-Service Training

Applications are being accepted for our Spring Volunteer training. Classes are scheduled to begin March 1, 2012 and run through May 10, 2012. They will be held on Thursday evenings from 5:30-8:30 in the Chapel at Presbyterian Homes and Family Services 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

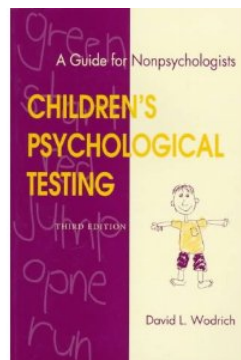
[CASA Volunteer Training Flyer](#)
[CASA Volunteer Application](#)



The CASA Library

This Month's Featured Resource

***Children's Psychological Testing, A Guide for Nonpsychologists* by David L. Wodrich**



This highly acclaimed resource explains in layman's terms the principles behind psychological testing, the definitions of key terminology, and how psychologists interpret test data. Practitioners and students will learn about the validity and reliability of numerous widely used measures of intelligence, special abilities, behavioral and emotional status, and academic achievement. Special attention is given to instruments used for developing IEP's and for identifying children for services under IDEA.

Library Resources funded by



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year marks the initiation of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline. In 1989 the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic violence is best understood as a pattern of abusive behaviors -- including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks as well as economic coercion -- used by one intimate partner against another (adult or adolescent) to gain, maintain, or regain power and control in the relationship. Batterers use of a range of tactics to frighten, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, often injure, and sometimes kill a current or former intimate partner.

If you, or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, there are services available in Lynchburg and the surrounding counties.

- YWCA Domestic Violence Prevention Center (serves Lynchburg, Amherst, and Campbell County) 434-528-1041
- Bedford Domestic Violence Services (Bedford City/County) 540-587-0970

[Domestic Violence Community Resource Guide](#)

Click on links below to find out more about events being held in the area to promote awareness or benefit area DV service providers:

[DV Candlelight Vigil Oct 25,](#)

[Purple Gala Oct 20](#)

[DV Benefit Softball](#)

[Game Oct 17](#)

[Taste of the YWCA Oct 5](#)

[Domestic Violence](#)

[Conference Nov 18](#)

Upcoming Events

CASA In-Service Training - Understanding IEP's (Individual Educational Plans) Tuesday, October 18th from 5-7 p.m. at New Vistas School. Training presented by Charlotte Morgan, Head of New Vistas School. RSVP to Lorna Rexrode at 434-455-5834 or Lorna@cvcasa.org [IEP Training Flyer](#)

CASA In-Service Training - Disagreeing without being Disagreeable Eric Mosley will provide practical skill building on creating harmony amidst disagreement. October 26, 2011, 5:30 - 8:00pm at the Bedford Health Department. Contact Angela Mayfield for more information at 540-586-4932 or Angela@cvcasa.org [Disagree Without Being Disagreeable Training Flyer](#)

The **Mayor's Youth Council** is planning on doing their **Lighten' Up Lynchburg** on October 22, 2011. The fund-raiser walk proceeds will go toward fighting

childhood obesity. They are looking for individuals and teams to participate. Those who bring \$35 in pledges will receive a free water bottle and those who bring \$60 in pledges will receive a T-shirt. Dana Wright is the contact for any questions by phone or email: 434-455-5795 or dana.wright@lynchburgva.gov

Coming in November

Bedford Brown Bag Lunch - Join us November 3rd from 11:30-1:00 at the Bedford Central Library. Guest Speaker from Bedford Social Services CPS Unit. RSVP to Angela Mayfield at 540-586-4932 or Angela@cvcasa.org
[Bedford Brown Bag Flyer](#)

From Place to Place Movie and Discussion- This movie/documentary follows three teens who have aged out of the foster care system. November 4, 2011 from 10:00 am -12:00 pm at the Farmington Club House Theater, 1053 Helmsdale Drive in Forest, VA. Contact Connie Shannon at 332-2200 or Connie@cvcasa.org

Bedford Domestic Violence Coalition Annual Conference - "I'm Okay, I'm Fine...the lies abused women tell themselves" and "The Assessment and Treatment of Domestic Violence Offenders" November 18, 2011 8:00-3:45 at Central Virginia Community College, Bedford Campus [DV Conference Registration Form](#)

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](#)



This email was sent to kate@gombos.com by lorna@cvcasa.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

CASA of Central VA | 11 Oakridge Blvd., Suite 200 | Lynchburg | VA | 24501