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CASA OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA



Issue No. 8

August 2011

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July Activity

66 Volunteers
Assigned
180 Children Served by
Program
17 New Children
36 Closed Children

Year 2010-2011 Activity

101 Volunteers
Assigned
36 New Volunteers
Trained
528 Children Served by
Program
330 New Children
361 Closed Children

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



Message from the Executive Director

Women in Prison: An Alarming Increase

I read an article in the Charlottesville [Daily Progress](#), which highlighted a phenomenon that I had not previously encountered: the shocking increase in the number of women incarcerated in the United States. "The FBI published statistics for 2009 that show that 2.25 million women were arrested in that year alone...Currently 1.3 million women in the United States are under the supervision of the criminal justice system with as many dependent children affected. The Center for Effective Public Policy published a report in 2010 indicating that the biggest increase in the incarceration of women took place between 1986 and 1999 with an 888 percent increase for drug-related offenses." [Read More...](#)

Jane Francis

Volunteer Spotlight

Marjo Hennessey

Advocate Manager: Connie Shannon

Court served: Campbell

Occupation: Farmer, Therapeutic Riding Instructor, CASA Volunteer, Evington United Methodist Church Cinematographer

Length of time as a CASA volunteer: 2+ years



Most Memorable CASA Moment: Being sworn in by the Honorable A. Ellen White, Campbell County J&DR Court. Although my CASA career has been brief, there have been some very touching and touchy (!) moments with cases I've handled. All things considered, taking the Advocate's Oath was life changing, ergo the most memorable to-date.

One example of how your advocacy made a difference in a case:

a) In my most recent case, DSS found no abuse or neglect and dropped the case before the second hearing. At that hearing, all of the recommendations in my report were unilaterally agreed upon by the Judge and all attorneys (Guardian ad litem, the mom's attorney, and the dad's attorney). High praise, indeed! In the same case, the mom was trying to see her husband while he was in rehab. His counselor called me to insure his organization would be in compliance with Court



Order Starfish Necklaces On-line

Read the Starfish Story and View Additional Necklaces

CASA Volunteer Anniversaries August 2011

Julie Yeatts, 8 years
Sharon Dodson, 1 year
Renee Matteucci, 1 year
Katie Bawell, 1 year
Diane Davis, 1 year
Karima Sefiane, 1 year
Amy Panzer, 1 year

2nd Annual National Crime Victims Night Out Held in Bedford

National Night Out is a campaign against crime and drug violence which brings together residents, law-enforcement agencies, businesses and neighborhood organizations in over 15,000 communities across the country. CASA of Central Virginia was one of many local agencies that participated in this year's Bedford event, which drew over 300 people. Thank you Angela J. Mayfield, Bedford CASA Advocate Manager, for covering the event.



Orders. I referred him to the dad's probation officer because, even though I had heard the judge say, "no contact between husband and wife," it was not in the Court Order I had in my records. The counselor called me back and informed me that a "no contact" order was in place in another Court Order. He thanked me for keeping his organization out of trouble with the Court and for cooperating. By the way, I had a release signed by the Dad giving me permission to disclose information to this counselor; otherwise, my hands would have been tied along with my proverbial tongue!!!

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

First and foremost, the most meaningful thing about being a CASA (to me) is being instrumental in providing a safe environment for the child/children. The safety, health, and welfare in a loving home in a timely manner for each child is my mission. B. By the time we (CASA volunteers) are engaged in a case, there is a great deal of turmoil and emotional distress. Gaining the trust and respect of the adults involved in the case is penultimate to developing a relationship with the child or children assigned by the Judge. C. Yet another important aspect of this position is utilizing our resources. I've found in all three of my cases that the Guardian *ad litem* has been extremely helpful. They are busy people, so I don't wait for them to call me...I call them. D. Lastly, (at least for this article) when I was sworn in as a CASA, I became a Mandated Reporter. Whether I am assigned a case or am temporarily inactive, I still have this responsibility. I am charged with reporting child abuse and abusers who are not only strangers, but may very well be acquaintances, friends and relatives.

Advocate Manager Guidance and Support Corner

Decision Inventory

As you know, advocating for children is serious business and the task can seem overwhelming, at times. National CASA

Association's website [www.casaforchildren.org] has developed *A Question of Balance* to provide tools to help address that concern.

Here's their **Assessment of Gains and Losses for Termination of Parental Rights Hearings:**

1. How old is the child and at what age did he/she first come into care?
2. Can the child's placement history be reconstructed from the case record? Make a time line indicating each placement, and its duration, including any returns to the home. Note reasons for moves.
3. Describe the current parent-child relationship. How does it differ from the time at which the child was removed? Has favoritism been observed? Has role reversal been observed?
4. In what way(s) does the child grieve the loss of the parent(s), i.e. acting out, withdrawn behavior, sadness, verbal cues, etc.?
5. What is the child's desire regarding placement at this time?
6. Is there any ambivalence about returning home, i.e., fear of previously existing conditions?
7. Is there any ambivalence about leaving the current caretaker?
8. If the child is unable to return home, what level of involvement would the current caretakers have in his or her future?
9. If the current caretakers are not an option, what exploration has been done of other possibilities, i.e., relatives, previous caretakers, others known to the child?
10. Has a professional evaluation of this child's attachment to parent figures been done? With what results?

Thanks For Your Support

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to all those volunteers, board members (and board members' husbands) and staff who volunteered for Friday Cheers on July 29:

Congratulations to Stacey Reighard, CASA Volunteer, and her husband Kurtis on the birth of a baby boy on August 21, 2011. Britton Karl Reighard 8 lb 11oz and 21" long



Top row: Jennifer Martin, Connie Shannon, Cindy Forren, Dawn Hall, Barbara Hudson, and David Brown
 Front row: Jane Francis, Lorna Rexrode, Cindy Mitchell, Shelly Tyree, and Larry Hudson
 Not pictured: Ken Towler, Barb Nash, Mike Forren, and Ryan Zuidema

Congratulations to Jane Francis on the birth of a granddaughter, Nora Mackenzie Francis, on August 2nd. The family lives in Short Pump.

We would also like to thank Lynch's Landing and the community for coming out and supporting the event and CASA of Central Virginia.

Welcome to four new board members:

David Mass
 Joey Fronheiser, Ph.D.
 Scott Hudson
 Pamela Smith-Johnson



CASA Volunteer Training

Helpful Links

[CASA of Central Virginia](#)

[National CASA Association](#)

[Virginia's Judicial System](#)

[Virginia Department of Social Services](#)

[Voices for Virginia's Children](#)

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. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 5:30-8:30 with the location to be determined. If you know anyone that may be interested, please spread the word and direct them our way.

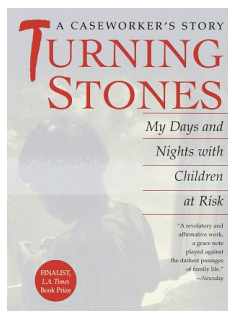


Training funded by The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust

[CASA Volunteer Application](#)



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 Lynchburg, VA 24506
 434-528-2552, phone
 434-528-2551, fax
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The CASA Library

This Month's Featured Resource

[Turning Stones: My Days and Nights with Children at Risk by Marc Parent](#)

They hit the headlines only when they make a horrendous mistake, but, away from the media spotlight, caseworkers who strive to protect the nation's children do heroic work. A heroic small-

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**United Way
 of Central Virginia
 Partner Agency**

MARK PARENT WITH A FOREWORD BY ANNA QUINDLEN
 nation's children do heroic work. A Duke University child and a degree from the University of Wisconsin did little to prepare Parent for late-shift duty at New York City's Children's Emergency Services unit, a 17-employee office responsible for all 5 boroughs' children from 4 p.m. until 8 a.m. weekdays and all day on weekends and holidays. Parent powerfully recounts the stories of some of the frightened kids and overwhelmed families he tried to help and traces the gnarled complexities of their problems. In four years as a field worker, Parent dealt with new problems every night. Examining his own behavior (and the reasons he failed one dying infant), Parent reminds us that--important as it is to study and address the root causes of child abuse--it is essential to intervene in time to save individual children's lives.
Mary Carroll - Booklist

Library Resources funded by

**Upcoming Events**

Bedford Volunteer Picnic - Thursday, September 14th from 5:30-7:30 at Liberty Lake Park. To RSVP, contact Angela Mayfield at 540-586-4932 or Angela@cvcasa.org

Volunteers are needed to assist with activities at CASA's booth at the 2011

Day in the Park, sponsored by the Junior League of Lynchburg. The Day in the Park will be held on Saturday, September 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Miller Park in Lynchburg, rain or shine. The theme for 2011 is *The Wonderful World of Disney*. Activities will be bubble blowing, bean bag toss, and the reading of story books (preferably Disney stories). Please contact Jane at 528-2552 or jane@cvcasa.org by September 6th if you are able to donate any time to help with the Day in the Park. If we do not get adequate coverage with volunteers, we will have to cancel our booth. Sign up for whatever time you can donate - from one to six hours! If you have any Disney related toys, books, costumes or items which you could donate, please also let us know.

Coming in October

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

CASA In-Service Training - Disagreeing without being Disagreeable

Eric Mosley will provide practical skill building on creating harmony amidst disagreement. Date and location coming soon. Contact Angela Mayfield for more information at 540-586-4932 or Angela@cvcasa.org

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

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.

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