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# VOICES FOR CHILDREN CASA OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA



Issue No. 13

January 2012

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**Lift up**  
a child's voice.  
A child's life.



[Click this link to watch "I Am for the Child" Campaign Video](#)



Donate securely through Click and Pledge

November Activity

## Message from the Executive Director

### Overmedication of Foster Care Children

The results of a two-year investigation by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) into the prescription of psychotropic drugs to foster care and non-foster care children were released in early December, just ahead of a congressional hearing. The 2008 data was drawn from 100,000 children in five states (Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Oregon, and Texas) and the findings were shocking. Children in foster care were found to be prescribed psychotropic drugs at a rate of 2.7 to 4.5 times greater than non-foster care children. The children were also receiving higher doses and sometimes multiple medications. Some children were prescribed five or more medications. Many of these medications were not approved for use with children, especially young children. Little was known about their side effects, and the doses were found to be higher than maximum levels cited in guidelines. Some children under the age of one had been prescribed psychotropic medications. [\(To educate yourself on this issue, click here to read more.\)](#)

*Jane Francis*

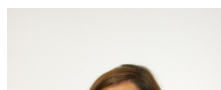
### CASA Volunteer Holiday Luncheon



Twenty-five CASA Volunteers

and staff came together on December 7th for our annual volunteer holiday luncheon. The luncheon was held at Bentley Commons which provided a beautiful facility, as well as great food. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to come together with fellow CASA colleagues and celebrate the holiday season. This was always a wonderful opportunity for CASA of Central Virginia to express our appreciation to our dedicated volunteers.

### Volunteer Spotlight Renee Matteucci



*10 volunteers  
Assigned  
179 Children  
Served by Program  
13 New Children  
18 Closed Children*

Read the Starfish Story  
and Buy a Beautiful  
Starfish Necklace from  
CASA of Central VA for  
\$20



Order Starfish  
Necklaces On-Line



Thanks to the youth  
group and members of  
Unity in the Seven Hills  
for packing twelve goody  
boxes for children ages  
5 - 14. These boxes  
were distributed by  
Jennifer Martin to  
families in Amherst and  
Nelson counties.

#### Helpful Links

[CASA of Central Virginia](#)

[National CASA  
Association](#)

[Virginia's Judicial System](#)

[Virginia Department of  
Social Services](#)

[Voices for Virginia's  
Children](#)



CASA of Central  
Virginia  
P.O. Box 11373  
Lynchburg, VA  
24506  
434-528-2552, phone



**Advocate Manager:** Jennifer Martin  
**Court served:** Lynchburg  
**Occupation:** Retired High School Health and Physical  
Education teacher from Southwestern Pennsylvania  
**Length of time as a CASA volunteer:** 1 1/2 years

**Most Memorable CASA Moment:** Any time my CASA  
children are laughing and having fun....they didn't have much  
time like that before coming into foster care. And also, the fact that my own daughter  
has just been inducted as a CASA in Sussex County Delaware and has been assigned  
her first case.

**One example of how your advocacy made a difference on a case:** I'm still  
on my first case, but I'm hoping the outcome of this case will prove to be life changing  
not only for my CASA children, but for all parties involved. Time will tell.

**What means the most to you about being a CASA volunteer?** Seeing the  
children enjoying the loving, nurturing life that they deserve.

### Advocate Manager Guidance and Support Corner

#### Tips on meeting with families

1. Explain about CASA and what your role is.
2. Families new to this cannot be expected to know the court system or terminology,  
so be careful to provide further explanation if needed.
3. Invite questions.
4. Many families are wary of strangers in their home. Meet in a setting determined  
by the parents the first time.
5. Many families fear being judged for their home, dress, or skills.
6. Help families to understand how highly their role is valued.
7. Help the family understand their role in communication with you.
8. Be sensitive to the family's emotional state.
9. Expect some families to say that everything is fine; acknowledge this and build  
trust into the relationship so that the parent is able later to be more open.
10. Honor the knowledge of the families - and use it whenever possible.
11. Ask how families perceive their child and the child's future. Different cultures  
have different expectations.
12. Ask if there is anything you should know about the child or his or her culture that  
would help you do a better job with their child.
13. Ask open-ended questions to encourage conversation.
14. Take the time needed to work on the relationship so that parents are comfortable  
with you.
15. Try to start and end any meeting as scheduled.
16. Encourage families to call with questions or concerns and give them contact  
information.
17. Thank families for their participation.

Submitted by Jennifer Martin

### Star Saleswomen

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to Laura Bailey and  
Beth Doan for their spectacular sales of starfish  
ornaments at the Mistletoe Market on Saturday,  
December 10th. Laura and Beth braved the cold and  
sold fifty-five starfish ornaments, totally \$550 for the  
program.

Thank you so very much for representing CASA of  
Central VA in the community and also for your  
essential advocacy for abused and neglected children



Thanks also to board member Maria Nathan for displaying and selling the starfish  
ornaments at the Jefferson Choral Society Holiday Bazaar on December 17!

### CASA Legislative Day - January 18, 2012



CASA programs from around the state will be  
converging on the General Assembly on January 18.  
CASA programs receive state funding from the

434-528-2551, fax  
[www.cvcasa.org](http://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

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 Phyllis Webb



Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). The initial message about the state budget is that CASA programs will receive level funding (but no increases) in 2012. The Legislative Day is intended as a time to meet with elected representatives, thank them for their support, and educate them about the benefits of supporting the CASA program.

Even if you are not able to go to Richmond on January 18, there are things you can do as a CASA volunteer to help promote the CASA cause:

1. It has been suggested that we take drawings done by CASA children and give these to the legislators. If you could get your CASA child to create a piece of artwork, we would love to hand deliver it to Richmond! We would like to receive the artwork by Monday, January 16; and you can get it to any CASA office.
2. Know who your legislators are.
3. Communicate by mail, e-mail, or phone with your elected representative or his/her legislative aide, expressing your support of CASA.

[Click here for legislators representing the 24th Judicial District:](#)

## 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.



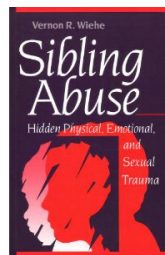
If you know anyone that may be interested, please spread the word and direct them our way.

*Training funded by The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust*

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



United Way  
 of Central Virginia  
 Partner Agency



## The CASA Library This Month's Featured Resource

[\*Sibling Abuse - Hidden Physical, Emotional and Sexual Trauma\* by Vernon R. Wiehe](#)

Often excused by parents as 'kids will be kids' behavior, sibling abuse remains largely unrecognized. Symptoms of such abuse and its devastating effects on victims go undetected, victims do not receive appropriate therapeutic intervention, and transgressors do not come to the attention

of the courts.

The author of this book brings this neglected area 'out of the shadows' with personal accounts of adult survivors, insights into why sibling abuse occurs, suggestions for prevention and implications for treatment.  
 Library Resources funded by



## Upcoming Events

**CASA In-Service Training - Understanding the Role of Bedford Youth and Family Services:** FAPT (Family Assessment and Planning Team, CSA(Comprehensive Services Act), the role of the Therapist and Truancy. Presented by Ms. Krystal Hullette, CSA Coordinator/Youth & Family Services Manager. January 24th, 2012 from 11:00am-1:00pm at the Bedford County Administration Building, Ground Floor Conference Room, 122 E. Main St., Bedford, VA. RSVP to [angela@cvcasa.org](mailto:angela@cvcasa.org) or 540-586-4932 ext 3202

[Training Flyer](#)

## SAVE THE DATE

*The 13th Annual Heart and Sole Shoe Market will be held on Saturday, April 14, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Sunday, April 15, from 1:00 to 4:00 in the Lynchburg Armory. We will again have the Preview Party on Friday, April 13, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. and the ticket price is \$25.00. The Preview Party allows ticket holders to get to shop early for the best selection of shoes, win great door prizes and enjoy light refreshments. Vendors and crafters are welcome to come and sell their wares at the Heart and Sole Boutique. Please spread the word about this amazing event that not only helps women equip their closets, but also helps to increase awareness of child abuse and neglect.*

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

