



CASA COMMUNICATOR

At CASA for KIDS, we believe in the power of volunteers to change children's lives.

Autumn 2008

Volume I, Issue 2

Highlights:

- [Ohio CASA Conference](#)
- [Friends of CASA for KIDS](#)
- [Welcome to our new
CASA supervisor](#)
- [NAMI Geauga Chapter](#)
- [National and Ohio CASA](#)
- [Ohio Family Violence
Prevention Project](#)
- [Additions to the CASA
Library](#)
- [Upcoming Training](#)



Ohio CASA Conference

Sixteen CASA volunteers and the staff of CASA for KIDS recently attended the Ohio CASA Celebrate Kids! Conference held in Columbus.

Each year the Ohio CASA/GAL Association hosts more than 350 CASA/GAL volunteers, staff and others serving abused and neglected children at this conference. Attendees hear nationally recognized speakers and attend valuable workshops. This year's conference theme was *Changing the lives of children one child at a time*. The conference focused on the many aspects of the law and the work of the CASA/GAL.

 CASA's that travel more than a 20 mile radius on your required monthly child visitations will be periodically receiving a gas card. This is a special gifting program Friends of CASA has established in appreciation of your extended travel. Please check with your supervisor to see if you qualify. There is a limited supply of these gift cards.



Friends of CASA for KIDS

2008 Kids Safety Day was held September 13 at Fellowship Bible Church in Bainbridge. The day was organized by Friends of CASA for KIDS and sponsored by University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center and University Hospitals Medical Practices.

This free event was designed to keep our children safe and to raise critically needed resources for abused and neglected children of Geauga County.

Kids Safety Day was jam packed with engaging activities encouraging child and family safety. From fire engines, helicopters and state patrol motorcycles to bike safety, drug awareness, and child car safety... there was something for everyone.

Over two hundred attended this very valuable community service event.

FYI - Friends of CASA for KIDS funded over \$7,000.00 in 2008, in summer enrichment programming for children involved with the CASA program.



Happy Birthday to the following CASA Volunteers.

Oct. Birthdays

Sister Judith Sabau
10/5

Janet Rice 10/7

Nanci Meier 10/8

Sandra Thompson
10/17

Dorothy Cheeks 10/19

Mary Kay Hartory
10/23

Gina Palmer 10/24

Nov. Birthdays

Katie Burnett 11/8

Ann Willoughby 11/28

Dec. Birthdays

Ilona Daw-Krizman

12/3

Phylliss Gedeon 12/5

Linda Wiggins 12/16

“You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful.”

Marie Curie

Ohio CASA website:

www.ohiocasa.org

National CASA website:

www.nationalcasa.org

Welcome to our new CASA supervisor.

CASA for KIDS would like you to join us in welcoming Rhonda Cartwright as our new CASA Supervisor. She will share supervisory duties with Chris Steigerwald and Ada Gillespie.

Rhonda has a BA in Rehabilitation / Mental Health and Psychology and a Masters degree in Liberal Studies. She has nine years of experience in the Child Protection / Family Case Management field. Rhonda’s references praised her for her professionalism, respect, compassion, heart for children, team approach and communication skills.

With Rhonda’s arrival, Chris Steigerwald CASA Director and Supervisor, has cut her hours in the office to twenty-four hours each week.

NAMI Geauga Chapter

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is an organization that provides education, support and advocacy for families who have relatives with serious mental illness. The speaker series is free and the public is welcome to attend. Please call 285-3945 for further information or to register for a program.

November 20, 2008

Joseph Bergant, Superintendent of Chardon Schools will discuss Mental Health and Our Schools.

January 25, 2009

Dr. David Kemp, K-12 research Scholar with Mood Disorders Program at University Hospitals Case Medical Center, will discuss his research.

National and Ohio CASA News



2007 National CASA survey

954 CASA/Gal program offices served 1,780 counties (57% of the 3,141 American counties).

47% of CASA served a primarily rural area; 42% served a suburban or mixed area and 11% served an urban area.

The average CASA/Gal program has been serving children for 13.2 years.

The three greatest sources of government funding for local programs are the courts, states and counties; Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and the National CASA grants program provide the greatest amount of federal funding. The greatest sources of private funding are foundations, individuals, United Way and special events.

Visit the National CASA website for additional statistics from the 2007 National CASA survey.

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An updated
CASA Policy and
Procedures
manual was
recently e-mailed
to you.

Save either a
paper or
electronic copy
for your files.

Please be sure
to send your
signed
acknowledgment
form back to the
CASA office.

You will receive
a *bonus* one
hour of on-going
training for
doing so.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Treatment Philosophies for Teen Sexual Offenders

Presented by George Purgert, LISW-S

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Womensafe Community Room

12041 Ravenna Road, Chardon

Space is limited, please contact the CASA office at 440.279.1699 to register.

CASA Refresher Course

Saturday, Nov. 15, 9 am-12pm

Geauga County Library Administration Center

12701 Ravenwood Drive, Chardon

This is a mandatory training for all CASA's if you are unable to attend we will offer other sessions.

Best Practices in Adoption

Presented by the Northeast Ohio Adoption services staff.

Lunch will be served. Tuesday, December 2, 10am-1pm

Geauga County Public Library Administration Center

12701 Ravenwood Drive, Chardon.

Please contact the CASA office at 440.279.1699 to register

*Please remember that you can obtain training in many ways.

In addition to the presentations we sponsor or notify you about, you may also read books (2 hours credit for novels, 4 hours for text books) or do internet research. We have a lending library of books in the office and training DVDs and video tapes that you can come to watch. Public TV periodically has presentations and programs that are relevant.

We are also interested in knowing about hours you accrue over the required 12. They will be counted as part of the CASA volunteer hours tracked for reporting purposes at the end of the year. Four of the training hours may be carried over into the new year.

Please obtain an Independent Training form to document your training and forward to Karolyn Squire the Volunteer Liaison in the CASA office.