

The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association

2008 Annual Report



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

THE NATIONAL COURT APPOINTED
SPECIAL ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION

Letter from the CEO and the President of National CASA



*How is my life different
now? I live a normal life.
I live a life that I am
happy with.*

—Matt, 17 years old

In this annual report, you'll meet Matt and eight other children whose lives were changed by a CASA or guardian ad litem volunteer. And you'll hear how those remarkable volunteers did it: by being the "glue" in a disjointed child welfare system; by uncovering information that others missed; and, most of all, by listening to the children.

For Matt—and nearly 250,000 other children in 2008—a CASA volunteer was the one consistent person who stood by him until he found a permanent home and had what every child wants and needs: the opportunity to have a normal, happy life. Child welfare workers' caseloads shift and foster home placements change. But when CASA volunteers take a case, they agree to stay with it until the child has a safe, permanent home. This is why judges, attorneys, child welfare workers and parents overwhelmingly report that CASA volunteers make a lifelong difference for the children they serve.

The impact of a CASA volunteer can be witnessed in the lives of children like Matt. It can also be measured. Children with a CASA volunteer are half as likely to spend time in long-term foster care. The impact is both human and financial. If the median length of stay in care were shortened by just one month, it would realize a national savings to taxpayers of approximately \$2.75 billion.

A highlight of the past year was the launch of National CASA's *Forgotten Children* campaign, designed to raise awareness of the 783,000 children who quietly pass through the child welfare system each year. During one week in May, National CASA and its supporters placed 4,250 life-size figures of foster children next to the Washington Monument in the nation's capital. The display represented the number of children who enter care each week. Like the children you'll meet in this report, the child displays held messages from former foster children. Through media coverage and public visits, the event shined a powerful spotlight on the lives of foster children whose needs are too easily and too often forgotten.

Raising awareness, building hope and enabling children to live normal, happy lives. These accomplishments would not be possible without your support and contributions. Your continued partnership and trust help us ensure that the children's needs are never forgotten or ignored.

Michael A. Piraino

Michael Piraino, CEO
National CASA Association

Ernestine A. Gray

Hon. Ernestine Gray, President
National CASA Association



Rosa Hernandez

Substitute teacher, junior high and high school
CASA volunteer since 1999

Malaya, 3 years old

CASA of Central Texas, San Marcos and
New Braunfels, TX

Rosa Hernandez goes the extra mile to help children.

As a CASA volunteer in rural Lockhart, TX, it is not unusual for Rosa to drive 300 miles to visit a family or talk with a teen. As a teacher and a parent, she regularly sees children make bad choices based on what they perceive are their limited options. What keeps Rosa on the road is her desire to ensure that children are in safe situations where they can make positive choices.

Rosa was serving as a CASA volunteer on a case involving seven children who had been removed from their home in Lockhart. When one of the girls became pregnant, Rosa was assigned to the case of the unborn child. Rosa attended the birth of the child, Malaya, in 2005, and subsequently worked with the teen mother and her boyfriend in an effort to keep the young family together. She also contacted relatives to investigate alternate placements should that become necessary.

Whatever I can do—that baby needs a good home.

One of the relatives she spoke with was Malaya's aunt, Lucy Armstrong, who was living in Washington, DC, at the time. When Lucy learned that Malaya had been placed in foster care, she immediately stepped forward and offered to adopt her. Rosa worked with child protective services providers in Texas and DC as they conducted interviews, home assessments and background checks. Rosa could see Lucy's strength and commitment to giving Malaya a good home.

When the time came for Lucy to take temporary custody of Malaya in May 2007, Rosa flew to Washington, DC, with the baby and her caseworker so that Malaya would be with someone familiar.

Malaya is one of the truly lucky, blessed ones.

Last year, Lucy and Malaya returned to Texas to facilitate the adoption, which was finalized in December. "I'm doing everything in my power," Lucy said, "to give my baby the best life possible. She's in good hands now."



The National CASA Association, together with its state and local members, supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children so that they can thrive in safe, permanent homes.

Each year, more than 780,000 children are in the foster care system. Unable to live safely at home due to some form of parental abuse or neglect, these children are dependent on overburdened child welfare and legal systems in which their best interests and basic needs could be easily overlooked.

This is where the CASA or guardian ad litem (GAL) volunteer comes in. Appointed by the court, CASA and GAL volunteers work diligently to first determine what is in the best interest of the child and then ensure that positive outcomes are achieved. The volunteer stays with each case until the child is placed in a safe, permanent home.

It is estimated that children who suffer abuse and neglect are 38% more likely to become violent criminals as adults. A major factor in avoiding bad outcomes for an abused child is the presence of a concerned adult in that child's life. In 2008, more than 68,800 CASA volunteers served as caring adults in the lives of 240,894 children.

The National CASA Association is an organization of 1,018 local and state member program offices in 49 states. Though known by many different names, including Guardian ad Litem (GAL), Child Advocates and Voices for Children, all programs share the mission of placing caring adult advocates in the lives of abused and neglected children.

National CASA, headquartered in Seattle, WA, functions as a resource to support and increase the capacities of local programs. We provide programs with training and assistance in areas including program development; volunteer recruitment and training; program best practices; quality assurance; and resource development. National CASA also engages in public policy and makes grants that foster program quality and growth, enabling state and local programs to better meet the needs of

abused children. Low administrative and fundraising costs enabled National CASA to direct 87.6% of funding to program services in 2008.

National CASA Network Services

The following numbers help to quantify the services provided by National CASA to our member programs nationwide in 2008.

Local programs' requests for technical assistance completed by phone/email	39,419
Technical assistance publications/ documents distributed	7,191
In-person technical assistance or on-site consultations (in addition to trainings)	74
Number of grants awarded to local and state CASA programs	344
Dollar amount of grants disbursed to local and state CASA programs	\$8,045,646
Training sessions sponsored or presented	149
Persons trained	5,736
Number of visitor sessions on casanet.org and nationalcasa.org websites	2,431,110

Children's photographs in National CASA publications are normally not from actual dependency cases. The stories and photos in this report are published with the permission of the children and their families.



Dee Horn

**Flight attendant
CASA volunteer since 2000**

Sanchez, 8 years old

Fulton County CASA, Atlanta, GA

In the Fulton County foster care system, everybody knows “CASA volunteer Dee.” Since learning about the program from a colleague, Dee has been a constant presence both at the courthouse and in the lives of the children he represents.

When there is an issue with one of my kids, I react.

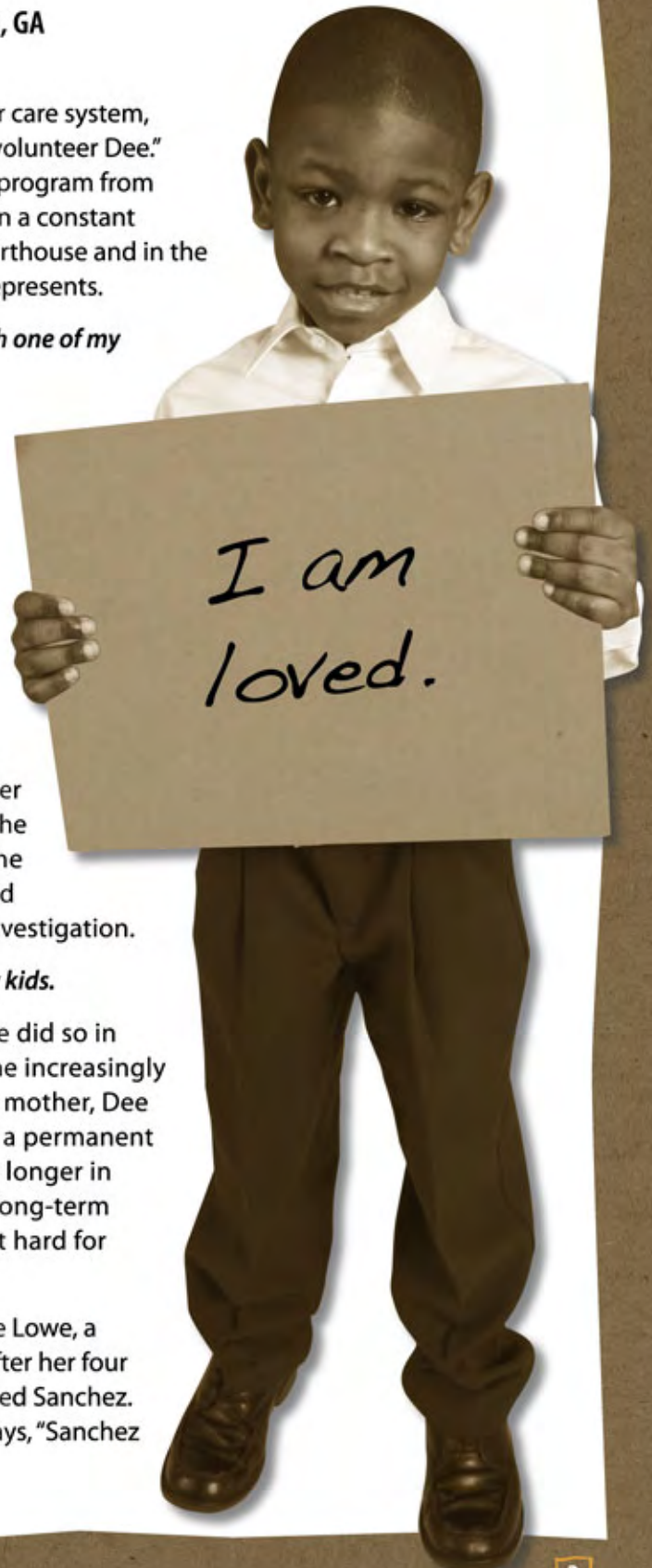
Dee was introduced to Sanchez by a phone call from the hospital. It was Sanchez’s mother, calling to tell Dee that she had just given birth. “She told me that I could not come see the baby—which of course fell on deaf ears, because there was no way that I wasn’t going to see how that child was doing.”

Dee was the CASA volunteer for the mother’s first three children. As an advocate for the best interests of her older children, Dee had earned her trust. But with his visit to the hospital, he alerted the staff that this new mother was the subject of an open dependency case. The newborn could not be released into his mother’s care without further investigation.

People know that I am going to fight as hard as I can for my kids.

When it came time for Sanchez to leave the hospital, he did so in the care of one foster family. Then another. As it became increasingly apparent that Sanchez would never be placed with his mother, Dee worked diligently with his volunteer supervisor to find a permanent family. Knowing that children of color tend to languish longer in foster care and worrying that the baby could develop long-term attachment issues with continued changes, Dee fought hard for Sanchez’s adoption.

Before his first birthday, Sanchez was placed with Azalene Lowe, a foster mother who opened her home to foster children after her four biological children were grown. One year later, she adopted Sanchez. Of the baby born to an uncertain future, Azalene today says, “Sanchez knows love. He returns it, because he receives it.”



National CASA Staff Strengthen and Support CASA/GAL Programs

The National CASA Program Services team responds to local program needs by providing trainings, guidance and expertise on building a strong CASA program.

In 2008, National CASA staff members responded to more than 39,400 requests for support from state organizations and local programs on a wide range of subjects, including volunteer and program management; board development and capacity building; inclusion and cultural awareness; and resource development.

Program Officers Provide In-Person Expertise

Six regional program officers stationed throughout the country provide personal consultation to the CASA/GAL programs in their regions. In 2008, National CASA staff members visited state and local program staff across the country and conducted in-person trainings in 44 states. In all, National CASA staff conducted nearly 200 on-site trainings and consultations, including 16 grant-monitoring visits.

National CASA Reaches Greater Audience Through New Online Trainings

To increase our ability to reach a diverse membership spread across six time zones, National CASA developed an array of online training tools in 2008.

- A new electronic curriculum, *Aging Out: Supporting Youth Transitions into Adulthood*, provides targeted information.
- *Everyone Ready*, an online volunteer management training program created by Energize, Inc., provides training to member programs 24 hours a day.
- *Moving Forward for Children* online training modules help programs build internal capacity necessary to serve more children.
- A new "webinar" series helps staff build skills in areas including fundraising and board development.
- Weekly podcasts provide in-depth and timely information from National CASA staff and other child welfare experts.

National Conference and New Curricula Build Volunteers' Skills, Improve Service to Children

- At National CASA's annual national training conference in Washington, DC, more than 1,400 program staff, volunteers, judges and other members of the child welfare community increased their ability to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children.

- Seven *Knowing Who You Are* cultural identity trainings enabled participants to better understand their own culture and heritage in order to better serve children.
- A new *Continuing Education Cookbook* offers local trainers adaptable lesson plan "courses" (appetizer, salad, entrée, dessert) that increase their volunteers' knowledge and competency.
- Meetings for representatives of rural and tribal CASA program directors facilitated information sharing among programs advocating for non-majority and special-needs populations.

Ongoing Efforts and Special Initiatives Address Disparate Outcomes Affecting Children of Color

Children of color are overrepresented in child welfare and foster care systems around the country and often experience disparate outcomes. African-American children remain in the child welfare system for longer periods of time, are less likely to be adopted and are at higher risk of suffering the effects of long-term foster care: poorer educational outcomes, juvenile delinquency and dependence on the welfare system as adults.

National CASA continues its efforts to improve outcomes for children of color and to recruit, train and activate volunteers of color in numbers proportionate to the numbers of children served. In 2008, we provided significant support to five urban CASA programs, including on-site consultation in the areas of community development and outreach, expertise in increasing public awareness and a total of \$200,000 in grant funding for their outreach efforts.



Through National CASA's Volunteer Diversity Strategy and the *Knowing Who You Are* training, our program increased the number of African-American Volunteers new to our program from 32% in 2007 to 52% in 2008.

—Lanetta Haynes
executive director
CASA of Cook County, IL

Quality Assurance System Improves Services to Children

National CASA measures state and local programs' compliance with national standards to enhance the quality of services delivered to volunteers and children.

In 2008, more than 200 local programs participated in a rigorous self-assessment process that measured their compliance with National CASA standards. Local programs and state organizations are required to complete the self-assessment—which is read, evaluated and scored by an independent reviewer—once every four years.

In the training world, electronic training tools are the great equalizer. Webinars, e-learning modules and podcasts enable us to bridge the miles and time zones and share rich and timely information with a greater number of CASA program staff.

*—Brian Washburn
National CASA training director*



National CASA Works with Congress on Passage of Landmark Foster Care Reform



Pictured left to right: National CASA CEO Michael Piraino, Rep. Dennis Cardoza, Rep. Jim McDermott and Freddie Mac Foundation CEO Ralph Boyd.

US Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA) was a major House sponsor of the Fostering Connections to Success legislation. In making his case, he explained: "No parent I know abandons their children at age 18, and yet that is what our federal policy for foster care does."

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act will improve outcomes for foster children.

When the Fostering Connections to Success Act was signed into law in October 2008, members of the CASA network cheered for the generations of children who will benefit—and celebrated their success in contributing to the passage of this sweeping legislation.

Passed by both houses of Congress with unanimous, bipartisan support, the act will provide a series of building blocks to help hundreds of thousands of children and youth in foster care each year. National CASA played a significant role in educating members of Congress about the legislation and about the importance of supporting youth in care up to age 21 so that they can pursue education and training opportunities that are the foundation of future success.

CASA Meets Congress Participants Push Congress to Support Older Youth in Care

In June 2008, nearly 600 CASA program staff and volunteers from around the country participated in *CASA Meets Congress*, a day on Capitol Hill organized by National CASA. The child advocates visited 400 congressional offices, educating members of Congress and Capitol Hill staffers about the needs of youth who leave foster care at age 18. Just two weeks later, the House of Representatives passed a bill that included the option for states to receive federal

support if they elect to extend foster care to age 21. The provision was retained in the final bill that cleared Congress.

Fostering Connections Act Targets Previously Overlooked Needs and Underserved Populations

The effects of the legislation include the following:

- **Older youth in foster care will receive greater support.** Federal financial support will be available to youth who choose to remain in care beyond the age of 18, provided that the youth is involved in school or vocational training or is employed at least 80 hours per month. Research demonstrates that outcomes for youth who remain in care to age 21 are significantly improved over those of youth who leave the system at age 18.
- **More permanent, loving homes with family members will be available for foster children.** Grandparents and other relatives who are willing to become legal guardians for their relative children may be eligible to receive federal assistance, at a rate similar to that provided for foster parents.
- **Foster children will stand a better chance of remaining connected to their siblings.** States will be mandated to make reasonable efforts to maintain sibling and family connections if it is in the child's best interest. A new Family Connection grants program will provide funding for programs that offer resources that keep families together, such as intensive family-finding efforts and family substance abuse programs.

- **The number of children being adopted will increase.** Incentive payments to states exceeding 2007 baseline adoption numbers will increase the number of adoptions of waiting children.
- **American Indian/Alaska Native foster children will receive better support.** For the first time, children in the care of federally recognized tribes will benefit from federal funding. Federal foster care assistance has not been available to support foster care services for children on tribal lands unless the tribe had a special agreement with the state.
- **Child welfare staff and volunteers will become better advocates for children through increased training opportunities.** Federal funding will be extended to states to support training of court personnel, attorneys, guardians ad litem and court appointed special advocates.
- **Foster children will have educational stability and receive more coordinated medical services.** Child welfare agencies will be mandated to ensure that a child remains in the same school at the time of her placement in foster care if it is in the child's best interest. States must also develop a plan for ongoing oversight and coordination of health care services for every child in foster care in collaboration with pediatricians and other experts.



Kentucky CASA constituents raised awareness of children's needs during *CASA Meets Congress*. Pictured left to right: Dawn Lee, Sandy Wagner, Lancaster Gordon, Congressman John Yarmuth, Ambrose O'Bryan, Duncan Pitchford.

As a supporter of the National CASA Association, you had a role in the passage of this historic legislation and in improving the lives of foster children today and for generations to come.



Awareness of CASA Cause Hits Record Levels in 2008

Securing Dr. Phil and Robin McGraw as celebrity spokespeople for National CASA and the launch of the *Forgotten Children* campaign raised interest in CASA volunteer advocacy to a record level in 2008.

In 2008, more than 40 million people were introduced to the CASA cause through on-air support by the *Dr. Phil* show, national coverage of the *Forgotten Children* event in Washington, DC, and other media opportunities. As a result, more than one million potential CASA volunteers and donors visited our national website. Volunteer inquiries through the site tripled, from just over 10,000 online inquiries in 2007 to over 31,000 inquiries in 2008.

Partnership with Dr. Phil and Robin McGraw Raises Awareness of CASA Cause, Generates Record Number of Volunteer Inquiries



Psychologist Dr. Phil McGraw, the host of the successful syndicated daytime talk show *Dr. Phil*, and his wife Robin McGraw, bestselling author and frequent contributor to *Dr. Phil*, were named the official spokespersons for the *Forgotten Children* campaign in 2008.

The publicity generated by National CASA's partnership with Dr. Phil and Robin generated a record number of volunteer inquiries through the National CASA website. In three episodes of his show, Dr. Phil challenged his audience of eight million viewers to stand up for America's foster children. His call to action struck a nerve. In the 24 hours following a show featuring National CASA CEO Michael Piraino, more than 12,000 viewers visited the National CASA website home page, and over 1,100 inquired about CASA volunteer opportunities.

Broader awareness, more volunteers and additional financial support are needed to expand this vital advocacy for all children in need. We greatly appreciate Dr. Phil and Robin's support of our cause and our dream to provide a CASA or GAL volunteer for every child who needs one.

—Michael Piraino, CEO

National *Forgotten Children* Event Held in Washington, DC; Local Events Staged Throughout the Country

On the morning of Monday, May 19, 850 life-sized displays of children, representing the number of children who enter America's foster care system each day, appeared in the shadow of the Washington Monument. An additional 850 children appeared at the monument on each of the next four days until the total reached 4,250 children on Friday, May 23. The messages featured on the signs held by the display's symbolic foster children were quotes heard in focus group sessions conducted with foster youth in 2007.

The media noticed. By the end of the week, the event was covered by the media 184 times—in television, radio, print and online formats—and reached a total audience of over 4.8 million adults. As a result of this coverage, volunteer and donor inquiries to the National CASA website increased 58% during the five-day event.

National CASA thanks the generous donations of our event sponsors who made this dramatic statement possible. These include the Dr. Phil Foundation, Freddie Mac Foundation, Casey Family Programs and Hewitt Associates.

In the fall, versions of the *Forgotten Children* event were staged by six CASA programs: Dallas CASA, Santa Barbara CASA, Tennessee CASA, South Carolina GAL, East Texas CASA and East Central Indiana CASA. All of the events were successful in increasing awareness of the need for more advocates for foster children.

Foster Youth Share Feelings of Hope, Resilience and Need in National Focus Group Study

In 2008, National CASA released the results of a national focus group of foster youth. During the previous winter, we worked with a professional research agency to



conduct a series of discussion groups among youth in foster care. Fifty teens in five US cities participated, providing a unique, honest and personal look into the experiences of youth in foster care. You can find a link to the full results under "Featured News and Items of Interest" on the home page of casanet.org.

Some of the key conclusions include:

- Many youth feel stigmatized or "labeled," but they don't want to be perceived as victims.
- They are desperate to avoid repeating the "cycle": reliving their parents' mistakes.
- Many feel like they are living on a knife's edge, where they can either succeed or fail.
- The support of a CASA volunteer or another significant adult is vital to push them in a positive direction.



Danny Pino of *Cold Case* and Judge Glenda Hatchett helped National CASA raise awareness of the needs of foster children during the *Forgotten Children* event in Washington, DC.



Resource Development Initiatives Expand Reach of CASA Programs

Donors respond to National CASA's goal of providing a CASA volunteer for every child who needs one.

In 2008, individuals, foundations and corporations supported our fundraising efforts through financial gifts and contributions of goods and services.

Jewelers for Children Contribution Tops \$5 Million

Jewelers for Children (JFC)—the industry organization of jewelry retailers, manufacturers, watch companies and trade associations—was the leading private supporter of National CASA in 2008. The majority of JFC's \$1 million gift funded supervision and training of volunteers who provide direct advocacy services to more than 1,000 children through 70 CASA programs.

Since 2003, JFC has contributed \$5.3 million to National CASA through its Champions for Abused Children Initiative, changing the lives of thousands of abused and neglected children throughout the country.



At the 2008 Jewelers for Children Facets of Hope awards event, former foster youth Kiaya Combs (pictured with her CASA volunteer, Jane Hegstrom) eloquently expressed her personal thanks to JFC: "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak for kids all over the country whose lives are better because of your support. I really got the feeling that Jewelers for Children understands the work of CASA volunteers, and it's so great that they support the work they do."

Corporate Partnerships Raise Funds and Increase Awareness of the CASA Cause

Fred Meyer/Littman Jewelers' support of National CASA continued in 2008. For the past three years, the company has marketed a limited-edition CASA pendant, donating a portion of the sales to National CASA and featuring the CASA icon in 15 million promotional pieces. By raising funds for and awareness of the CASA cause, Fred Meyer/Littman Jewelers is helping National CASA meet its goal of providing a CASA volunteer for every child who needs one.

Other National CASA corporate partners include All-State Legal, Organic Bouquet and Skinit, Inc., a new partner in 2008. Skinit was referred to National CASA by Ohio's Franklin County CASA Program, which will receive a portion of all unrestricted revenue received from the company for the duration of the partnership. On the local level, continued support from the Office Depot Foundation, Outback Steakhouse and Target benefited CASA programs' efforts to provide advocacy services to children. For more information about any of our partners, visit casaforchildren.org and click on "Partners."

Kappa Alpha Theta Investment Strengthens CASA Network

As representatives of goodwill in this country and outstanding spokespeople for the CASA cause, the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation and Fraternity provide financial and volunteer support while helping to spread awareness of the CASA mission. We look forward to celebrating with the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation and Fraternity in 2009, a year that will mark two decades of a partnership that remains vital in strengthening CASA advocacy for abused and neglected children.

Legacy Partners Fuel Success of National CASA Annual Conference

The success of the 27th Annual National CASA Conference would not have been possible without the generous financial support of our sponsors—Newmont Mining, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Wendy's International and Casey Family Programs. Thanks to their support, more than 1,400 CASA volunteers and staff—along with other members of the child welfare community—gained skills that will improve their work on behalf of abused and neglected children.

National CASA Supports Programs' Fundraising Efforts

CASA volunteers often drive great distances to meet with the children they serve and other significant individuals involved in the children's lives. This past summer, in response to rising gas prices, National CASA helped keep volunteers on the road and in the lives of children through the creation of the Extra-Mile Club. This publicity and fundraising package gave programs the tools necessary to alert their communities to the problem and request financial and in-kind support. It included customizable templates for direct-response pieces targeting corporate partners and major donors, a press release and a news article. The Extra-Mile Club is part of National CASA's efforts to support the CASA/GAL network's fundraising needs.



Jo-Anne Vanin

Dean of students and associate vice chancellor for student affairs
University of Massachusetts Amherst
CASA volunteer since 2004

Lydia, 10 years old, and Job, 8 years old

Friends of Children, Northampton, MA

Jo-Anne Vanin says her role as a CASA volunteer is to be the “glue” that connects the pieces in a complicated child welfare system.

Lydia and Job say she’s an angel.

When Jo-Anne saw a call for CASA volunteers in her local paper, her third child was heading off to college. She thought being a CASA volunteer might offer a way to make a difference in the lives of children in her community. A call to the director of her local program confirmed it, and Jo-Anne was sworn in as a CASA volunteer in May 2004.

Jo-Anne was assigned to Lydia and Job’s case six months later. Then 5 and 3 years old, the children were living with a mother whose ability to care for them was in question. Continued reports of concern from the children’s school and questions about safety in their home compelled a judge to assign a CASA volunteer to investigate what was in Lydia and Job’s best interest.

I always start by meeting the children.

Jo-Anne got to know the children and their mother. She met with the children’s teachers, with their caseworker, with the attorneys involved and with the maternal grandmother, who had a part-time caregiving role. Seven months later, Jo-Anne was at the table when the mother decided that though she loved her children, she did not have the capacity to care for them.

Never underestimate the resilience of children.

Job and Lydia found a permanent home with a familiar face: their mother’s family support worker, Lynda Champagne, and her husband, Paul. The couple first became the children’s foster parents and then assumed the role of legal guardians in March 2007. Today, the children, who had never done homework before coming to the Champagnes’ home, now beat their two siblings to the books after school each day and go to sleep each night knowing they are safe.

To hear more from Jo-Anne about her work with Lydia and Job and her role as a CASA volunteer, go to casaforchildren.org.



Donors and Supporters

The National CASA Association is grateful to the following individuals, corporations and foundations whose contributions from January 1 through December 31, 2008, made our work possible.

\$100,000+

Connie and Steven Ballmer
The Hearst Foundations
Jewelers for Children

\$50,000 – \$99,999

Freddie Mac Foundation
Kappa Alpha Theta
Foundation

\$25,000 – \$49,999

American Legion Child
Welfare Foundation
Casey Family Programs
Hewitt Associates

\$10,000 – \$24,999

All-State Legal
Britt Banks
Monica Burmeister
Dave Thomas Foundation
for Adoption
The Estate of Charles Epstein
I Do Foundation
Newmont Mining
Corporation
Michael and Carin Piraino

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Anonymous (2)
Denise Conway
Fred Meyer/Littman Jewelers
OneFamily Foundation
Philadelphia Insurance
Company
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
Wendy's International
Foundation
The Richard & Lois M.
Worthington Foundation
Alice Tobin Zaff and Alan Zaff

\$2,500 – \$4,999

Carraig Deforest Family
Mimi Feller
Froley Family Foundation
International Society of
Barristers
Silver Crest Farms, Inc.
University of Cincinnati

\$1,000 – \$2,499

Anonymous (1)
Renne and Bruce Bilson
Will and Doris Constable
Nancy Dame Anderson and
Carl R. Anderson
Heather DeAngelis
Beth and Larry Dessem

Sally Erny
Erwin Fischer
Gilker-Shoupe Family
Charitable Trust
Judge Ernestine Gray
Bradley Hanson
Irwin Union Bank
Kappa Alpha Theta, Beta Iota
Chapter, Boulder, CO
Kearns Saldinger Charitable
Foundation
Leo Kropywiansky
Susan and Arthur Leeds
Elizabeth and Matthew
Luckett
Melinda Martinet and
Carl Short
Patricia and John McCarthy
The McWilliams/Piraino
Family Foundation
Julio and Elizabeth Mercado
Donna Mongiardo
Neal Myerson
Mariann Nolan
Marianne Ortiz
Perkins Coie
Lee F. Sachnoff, Esq. and
Linda Yale
Sage Hospitality Resources
Zoe Shapiro
Tom Shepard
Thomas and Anne Shepherd
Davida and Neil Stockton
Amanda Swaim
Shane R. Swindle, Esq. and
Carol Swindle

\$500 – \$999

Anonymous (1)
Bank of America Foundation
Terene Bennett
Louis and Nancy Berlin
Candace Carroll and
Len Simon
Lorene Chang
Jim Clune
Barbara Cooper-Ravenna
Tom Dunn and Beth Wagner
Kirsti Elliot
W. Durand Eppler and
Jean Scandlyn
Allan and Barbara Ferrin
Michelle Finet
Victor and Linda Gallo
Ernest J. Getto, Esq.
Kris Gonzales
Goodman LLP
Jay S. Jester, Esq.

Kevin and Dorothy Judiscak
JustGive.org
Doris Karr
David Katz
Leendert and Else Krol
Shelley Landgraf
A. Ross LeFevre
Wayne and Grace Lin
Lionfish, LLC
Laura Maines
Michael and Anita Malina
G.H. Martin
Robert McAllister
Joanne Mulloy
Organic Bouquet, Inc.
Elizabeth Rector
Adriana and Mitchell Rubin
Angela Scholzen
Dianne and Patrick Schultheis
Diane Sheehan
Andrew and Linda Spingler
Leann St. Germain
Judi Strause
Evie Swan
John Towriss
Carmela Welte
RJ Wider Family Charitable
Fund
Winner Foundation
Kevin Wurster

\$250 – \$499

Anonymous (1)
Daniel Adelstein
Asantewa Antobam
Denise Ashcraft
Steve Berlin
Judith and Lance Boyd
Michael Bruemmer
Kymberlee Byrd
Ron Cambre
Theresa Carleton
Jeremy Chapman
Shelley Collins
Kenneth Cruse
Joann D'Antuono
Bob Danzig
Mark Demanes
Erwin and Molly Diller
Natasha Dolginsky
Michael S. Giannotto, Esq.
and Eileen Ross
Deborah and David Gordon
Rebecca Grossman
Jay Gruner
Hale Lane Attorneys at Law
Bruce Hicks

Jennifer Holtzman
Joyce and Ron Honeyman
Jack Kreman
Nicole LeChevalier
Holly Lemons
Ellen Levin
Denise McMillan
Christine Miller
Jack and Dianne Morris
Silas Mountsier
Michael O'Leary
Rich Parsons
Tammy Peter
Denise Phillips
Marshall Porter
Carol Raulston
Sally Reilly
Heidi Sachs
Alison Saunders
Cynthia Seely
Kathrin Segal
John Solters
Stinson Morrison Hecker
Pamela and Brian Tingley
Kirsten Valley and
Randy Kesten
Don and Eunice Waggoner
Mark and Jennifer Wagner
James and Kathryn Wegher
Dr. Stanley J. Wilcox
Foundation
Wyman Consulting

\$100 – \$249

Anonymous (10)
Abby Abinanti
Leamon and Emina Abrams
Norva Achenbaugh and
Lawrence Bracher
Maxwell Anderson
Dorothy Antosca
Melissa Ashley
Julia Atalla
Patricia Aylward
Bruce Bagley
Neil Baron
Paige Beard
Mindy Beck
Alan and Barbara Bellanca
Terene Bennett
Geoffrey Berry
Marilyn and Phillip Best
Annette Biggin
Susan Blatt
Susan Bondie
Natalia Bonella
Krista and Butch Bouchard

Charles Brindle
Brophy Mother's Guild
Ethel and Jimm Brown
Phyllis Bruno
Steve Bryant and
Michael Greer
Page Burkholder
Maryann and Larry Calvin
Jeffrey Casad
Jacqueline Cheney
Richard Ciamacca
Gretchen and Aaron Clark
Deborah Click
Claudia Clifford
Hannah and Michael Coan
Patricia Collier
Jim Conley
Eric Cox and Gina Richard
Norvel Crawford
Department of OTO-HNS
Paul and Janis DiCorleto
Ann Dolin
Barbara Donner
Margaret Doubek
Heather Dworak and
Igor Vulin
Caren and Mike Easterling
Susan Edelheit
Michael Edwards
Sandy Elfers
E.N.D. Corporation
Muge Ercan
Kristin Ethier
Executive Women
International Portland,
OR Chapter
Reva Ezell
Marjorie Feldman
Jose Fernandez
Sean and Victoria Fitzgerald
Sharon Flanagan and
Patrick Galvin
Judy and Glenn Frye
Robert Gallese
Kevin Gardner
Paula Gates
Max Gellert
Pamela Gerden
Jennifer Gerich
Kathy Gilbert
John Gleason
Louis Gordon
Michael Granoff
Chapman Greeley
Jennifer Groff and
Brendt Geiger

Thank you to Microsoft for a software donation valued at \$540,000 that will improve CASA/GAL programs' efficiency and enhance National CASA's ability to serve our member programs.

Haddon, Morgan, Mueller,
Jordan, Mackey &
Foreman PC
Jennifer Haddon
Laura Hageman
Karen and Bruce Harris
Judy Harrison and
JoLynne McGee
Jenelle Hartmann
Roy Hebert
Andrew Hecker
Sharon Heiber
Timothy Henderson
Hill County Middle School
Rose Holdren
Barbara Howard
Annie Hsieh
Martha Hughes
Norma Hummer-Miner
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hutson
Lisa and John Irby
D'Nika Jackson
Elisa Jeffay
Michael and Alexis Jenio
Barbara and Stephen
Johnsen
Laurie Johnson
Pat Johnson
Patricia Jordan
Beth Keith
Robert and Lora Kight
Win and Marilyn Kloosterman
Janet Koval and Paul Franklin
Lorraine Kubacki
Robert Lamb
James Lansbury
Mary LaRosa
Kathleen Leis
Peter and Margaret Lemoine
Scott Lessing
Lori Levine
Ana Lewis
Judge Lewis-Lohman and
Larry Lohman
Lisa Lindvall
Herbert Lipman
Jim Lyon
Helen Ma
Jennifer Macaroni
Patricia Macias
Terri Magaram
Martin Maher
James Mancini

Barbara Marcum
Marsh Fischmann &
Breyfogle LLP
Denise Mathes
Susan and Rick Mayo
McAuley Woods and
Associates
Joseph McElroy
Julia McGraw
James and Gayle McKenna
Edward and Charlotte Meade
Wayne Meekins
Michael and Mark Mendelow
Barbara Mesquita
Irene Miano
Bruce Miller
Lisa Miller
The Moise and Carol Ann
Emquies Trust
Veronica Montaño-Pilch
Wayne and Jane Muchmore
Sherry Muller
Lisa Nern
Erin O'Brien
Oluwa Busola Olatilu
Marvin and Nancy Olkowski
Christine Oneto
Catherine Pabich
Rose Paljug
Sarah Palmer
Charles and Lynn Palmer
Gloria Pattillo
Margaret Pax
Brooke Pearl and
Michael Rabinowitz
Shannon Petersen
Gretchen and Jamie Peterson
Cory and Darren Pinion
Ethel and John Piper
Lynn and Rick Pittenger
Kerry Plain
Kenneth and Susan Pollock
Bill and Clara Poole
Vicki Porter
Matthew Power
Jim and Joan Prentice
Prestige Home Care Services
Hal and Jill Quinn
Reid Saleeby Strategic
Consulting Inc.
Reverend Rudolph P.F. and
Virginia Ressemeyer
Barbara Richardson

Joan Richardson
Diane Robinson and
Wayne Oudekerk
Dana and Jim Robinson
Jean Rothstein
Arnold Rowe
Bill and Hulda Rumble
Robert and Carolyn Salter
Wendy Schaenen and
Anand Jagannath
Edward Schmitt
Matthild Schneider
Anne Schneider
Michele Schuster
Sidney and Shirley Schwartz
Meghan Scott
Sea Star Line LLC

Richard and Guynell Sears
Michael Shimada
Elizabeth Siegel
Lauren Sinrod
Jeffrey Sisk
Gary Smallwood
John Soelling
Tawny Solorzano
Janet Solot
Robert Sorrells
Mark and Lucinda Spears
Elaine and Joseph Stanek
Terry Steele
Sandra Stickel
Cherise Strozier
Greg and Mary Helen Stults
Elise Taber
Anne Marie and
Michael Tamalonis
Joan Tashbar
Colleen Thor
Sharon and
Bradlee Townsend

Pam Van Zandt
Jean Veldwyk
Sydney Vincent
Lilya and John Wagner
Cindy Wallace
Ted Walter
Geoffrey and Marjorie
Wardwell
Brian Washburn
Lucille Webb
Deborah Webster
Carol Weisheit
Tim Westerman
Moe and Betsy Whitaker
David Wille
Victoria and Charles Williams
Brad Williamson
Chantal Wilson
Joan Wilson
Kathleen Worthington
Lois Worthington
Clarise Wyatt



An enthusiastic group of LexisNexis employees were among the volunteers who helped bring messages from foster children to Washington, DC, during National CASA's *Forgotten Children* event.

Matching and Workplace Giving Companies

National CASA gratefully acknowledges the companies that inspire employee giving through workplace campaigns and matching gift programs.

- America's Charities
- American Express Foundation Employee Giving Campaign
- AT&T United Way Employee Giving Campaign
- Boeing Employee Community Fund
- Children's Charities of America
- Fortress Investment Group, LLC
- General Electric Fund
- Give with Liberty
- Global Impact
- H & R Block Workplace Giving Program
- Hewlett-Packard
- HP Employee Charitable Giving Program
- Independent Charities of America
- Institutional Investor News
- Microsoft Giving Campaign
- Prudential Foundation Matching Gift Program
- SPX Foundation
- Sun Microsystems, Inc.
- United Airlines Philanthropy
- United Way of New York City
- United Way of Stanislaus County
- Washington Mutual Employee Giving Program



JEWELERS FOR CHILDREN
A GIFT OF LOVE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

*2008 marks the fifth year of National CASA's partnership with **Jewelers for Children (JFC)**. JFC's unwavering commitment and support of the work we do has profoundly changed the lives of thousands of abused and neglected children in the foster care system. Since 2003, National CASA has received \$5.3 million from JFC.*





Jo Gramling Lopez

Retired attorney
CASA volunteer since 2006

Brittany, 18 years old

Spartanburg County GAL Program, Spartanburg, SC

Jo Lopez had worked as an attorney on Wall Street for 32 years when the World Trade Center was attacked in September 2001. After seeing the plane hit the first tower and watching both buildings collapse, Jo was compelled to refocus and pursue a different path in her life. Shortly after returning to her home state of South Carolina, Jo met a foster mother who said, "You would be really good at being a guardian ad litem volunteer." Jo looked into her local

program and was assigned her first case in 2006.

When Jo met Brittany, she was 15 years old and entering state custody for the third time. Her mother was in prison and her father was not able to provide a safe home for her. To Brittany, Jo was just another person asking a lot of questions, and Brittany was tired of talking to strangers who pretended to care. But she soon learned that Jo was different.

Jo was there the most, compared to anyone.

Jo did not pressure Brittany to talk . . . and she kept coming back, sometimes three or four days in a week. As a teenager preparing to age out of the system, Brittany needed guidance and support to make a successful transition to independent living. Jo met with her teachers and guidance counselors, guided her in finding a job and talked her through all her life options: college, vocational training, law and graduate school. She praised Brittany's talent as a singer, helping her to perform at public gatherings and encouraging her to pursue her dream of landing an audition for *American Idol*.

When Brittany encountered difficulties in her group home and ran away, Jo intervened and helped pave the way for her to return. When Jo heard how important it was for Brittany to visit her mother in prison, she stood up in court and successfully argued to have monthly transportation to the prison provided. And when Brittany said that she was going to drop out of school, Jo said, "No way." Brittany listened. She remains in school and is on track to graduate on schedule.

I know that Brittany has a bright future, and she just needs some help to get there.

Deep down, Brittany knows this too. "Knowing Jo has completely changed my attitude about life," she says. "Without her, I would be on a different path. She's a motivator, and she's motivated me to strive for what I want in life."



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Support and Revenue			
Cooperative Agreements			
Department of Justice for Training and Technical Assistance	\$3,915,412		\$3,915,412
Grants Program	6,861,247		6,861,247
Grant - Department of Justice for Native American Tribal Courts	239,630		239,630
Conference fees	351,646		351,646
Membership dues	101,850		101,850
Promotional sales, net of cost of sales of \$109,796	86,784		86,784
Interest and investment income (loss)	(42,005)		(42,005)
In-kind contributions	538,262		538,262
Foundation contributions	142,732	1,329,951	1,472,683
Other contributions and income	422,006	108,000	530,006
Net assets released from restrictions	1,162,853	(1,162,853)	-
Total support and revenue	\$13,780,417	\$275,098	\$14,055,515
Expenses			
Training and technical assistance	\$2,903,423		\$2,903,423
Member and public outreach	2,097,347		2,097,347
Grant activities	7,264,490		7,264,490
Total program services	\$12,265,260		\$12,265,260
General and administrative	1,487,597		1,487,597
Fundraising	246,050		246,050
Total supporting services	\$1,733,647		\$1,733,647
Total expenses	\$13,998,907		\$13,998,907
Change in net assets	(\$218,490)	\$275,098	\$56,608
Net assets, beginning of year	\$1,601,652	\$584,497	\$2,186,149
Net assets, end of year	\$1,383,162	\$859,595	\$2,242,757



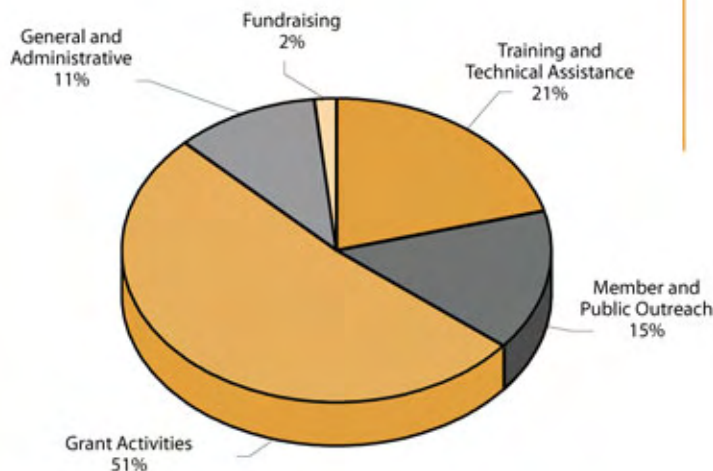
SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE
For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

Support and Revenue

OJJDP training and technical assistance	\$3,915,412
OJJDP grants program	6,861,247
OVC tribal grants	239,630
Conference fees	351,646
Sales, interest, dues, in-kind contributions	684,891
Foundations	1,472,683
Other contributions and income	530,006
Total	\$14,055,515

Expenses

Training and technical assistance	\$2,903,423
Member and public outreach	2,097,347
Grant activities	7,264,490
General and administrative	1,487,597
Fundraising	246,050
Total	\$13,998,907



NATIONAL CASA GRANT PROGRAM

The National CASA grants program is funded through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and private sources. Grants are awarded to increase the number of CASA organizations nationwide; strengthen and expand existing organizations; and increase the diversity of CASA volunteers to better reflect the children served.

Each year, approximately one-third of CASA/GAL programs receive grants from the National CASA Association through a competitive funding process. More than \$91 million in grants have been awarded since 1993.

Grant Awards

For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

Grant Types	Number Awarded	Amount Awarded
Capacity Building	9	\$157,000
Diversity Implementation	16	155,000
Jewelers for Children	75	848,000
New Program Development	22	790,489
Program Expansion	90	2,446,987
State Organization	47	2,504,526
Tribal	10	254,004
Urban High Needs	15	719,500
Other	60	170,140
Total	344	\$8,045,646

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2008 and 2007

ASSETS	2008	2007
Current Assets		
Cash	\$1,244,590	\$1,381,034
Investments	156,221	216,666
Receivable from Department of Justice	281,571	218,255
Contributions receivable	695,628	517,473
Other receivables	18,496	28,377
Inventory	68,895	75,418
Prepaid expenses	67,194	64,969
Total current assets	\$2,532,595	\$2,502,192
Furniture and Equipment		
Office furniture	\$20,040	\$27,016
Office equipment	84,560	86,796
Computer equipment	267,104	339,843
Total furniture and equipment	371,704	453,655
Less accumulated depreciation	(361,414)	(428,086)
Net furniture and equipment	\$10,290	\$25,569
Total assets	\$2,542,885	\$2,527,761
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$157,640	\$246,896
Accrued vacation payable	121,828	94,716
Deferred conference revenue	20,660	-
Total current liabilities	\$300,128	\$341,612
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$1,383,162	\$1,601,652
Temporarily restricted	859,595	584,497
Total net assets	\$2,242,757	\$2,186,149
Total liabilities and net assets	\$2,542,885	\$2,527,761





Joe Sternberg

Retired community college professor
CASA volunteer since 2007

Matt, 17 years old

CASA of McHenry County, Woodstock, IL

Joe Sternberg was not the first person to ask 15-year-old Matt questions about his life and family. But it did not take Matt long to realize that Joe was different from the others. He was someone who genuinely cared, didn't judge him and planned to stick around for the long haul.

Before signing on as a CASA volunteer, Joe had donated his time to many different causes. But he'd always felt that he was simply putting a Band-Aid on a larger problem. This time, he was looking for work that would enable him to make a lasting difference in the life of a child. When they met, Matt was living with his father and his mother, who was suffering from acute alcoholism. Matt was removed from his parents' home and temporarily placed in the care of his grandmother in a community 33 miles away, isolated from his friends. Three months later, his mother died.

Joe listened.

Joe met with Matt's teachers and principals. He met with child welfare workers. He got to know Matt's father, who was genuinely trying to make a life for himself and a place for Matt. Joe and Matt spent hours playing Othello and Uno, and talking. Joe heard Matt repeatedly express—and, in turn, helped the judge understand—that it was in Matt's best interest to be returned to his home, to be close to his friends and to live with his father. Matt's case was closed in January 2009, when his father gained permanent custody.

How is my life different now?

For Matt, life before and after meeting Joe are incomparable. "I live a normal life," he says. "I live a life that I am happy with. After spending time talking with Joe, it is easier to talk to other people. I figure, Joe turned out to be great; other people can't be all that bad. I used to be droopy, but Joe got me to open up and understand who I am. I am one of the charismatic people."

If Matt could say one thing to Joe, it would be: "Keep doing what you are doing. You helped make my life a whole lot better."

To hear more from Joe, including a description of his first meeting with Matt and his work as a CASA volunteer, go to casaforchildren.org.



Board of Trustees and Senior Management

OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Judge Ernestine Gray
Orleans Parish Juvenile Court
New Orleans, LA

Immediate Past President

Mimi Feller
Gannett Company, Inc. (Retired)
Washington, DC

Vice President

Renne Bilson
Community Volunteer
Studio City, CA

Secretary

Marshall Porter
Community Volunteer
Scottsdale, AZ

Treasurer

Monica Burmeister
Hewitt Associates
Lincolnshire, IL

Chair, Governance Committee

Wilford Constable
CASA of South Central Kentucky
Bowling Green, KY

EX-OFFICIO

President, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)

Judge Patricia A. Macias
388th Judicial District Court
El Paso, TX

This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement No. 2008-CH-FX-K001 from the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the US Department of Justice.



© 2009 National CASA Association
Phone: (206) 270-0072 or (800) 628-3233
Fax: (206) 270-0078
Email: staff@nationalcasa.org
Websites: casaforchildren.org and casanet.org

Design: © 2009 Gable Design Group

BOARD-ELECTED TRUSTEES

Judge Abby Abinanti

San Francisco Superior Court,
Unified Family Court
San Francisco, CA

Britt Banks

Newmont Mining Corporation
Denver, CO

Denise Conway

Austin Sonic
Austin, TX

Beth Dessem

Missouri CASA Association
Columbia, MO

Jerry Foxhoven

Drake University School of Law
Des Moines, IA

Robert J. McCarthy

Law Office of McCarthy & Schwartz
San Francisco, CA

Margaret L. Spearmon

University of Washington,
School of Social Work
Seattle, WA

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Michael S. Piraino

Chief Executive Officer

M. Carmela Welte

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

James Clune

Chief Communications Officer

Tom Dunn

Chief Financial Officer

Deborah Edison

Chief Development Officer

Sally Wilson Erny

Chief Program Officer

Jill Wiedenhoft

Human Resources Director

MEMBER-ELECTED TRUSTEES

Louis Berlin

Community Volunteer
Miami, FL

Stefanie L. Coe

MPW Industrial Services
Hebron, OH

Mary Collard

Baker County CASA, Inc.
Baker City, OR

Laura A. Maines

Reed Smith Law Firm
Pittsburgh, PA

Esther L. Thomas, Esq.

Summit County Juvenile Court
Akron, OH



PAPER INFORMATION

Printed on recycled paper that contains
30% post-consumer recycled content.

**Please pass this publication on or
recycle it again.**

Thank you.



Kristina Parks

**Volunteer coordinator
CASA volunteer from 2004 to 2007**

Peter, 10 years old; Marietta, 8 years old; Tzeitel, 5 years old

Maricopa County CASA, Phoenix, AZ

In her work as a CASA volunteer, Kristina Parks was part-time Perry Mason, part-time family counselor and full-time advocate for three children whose lives got off to a rocky start.

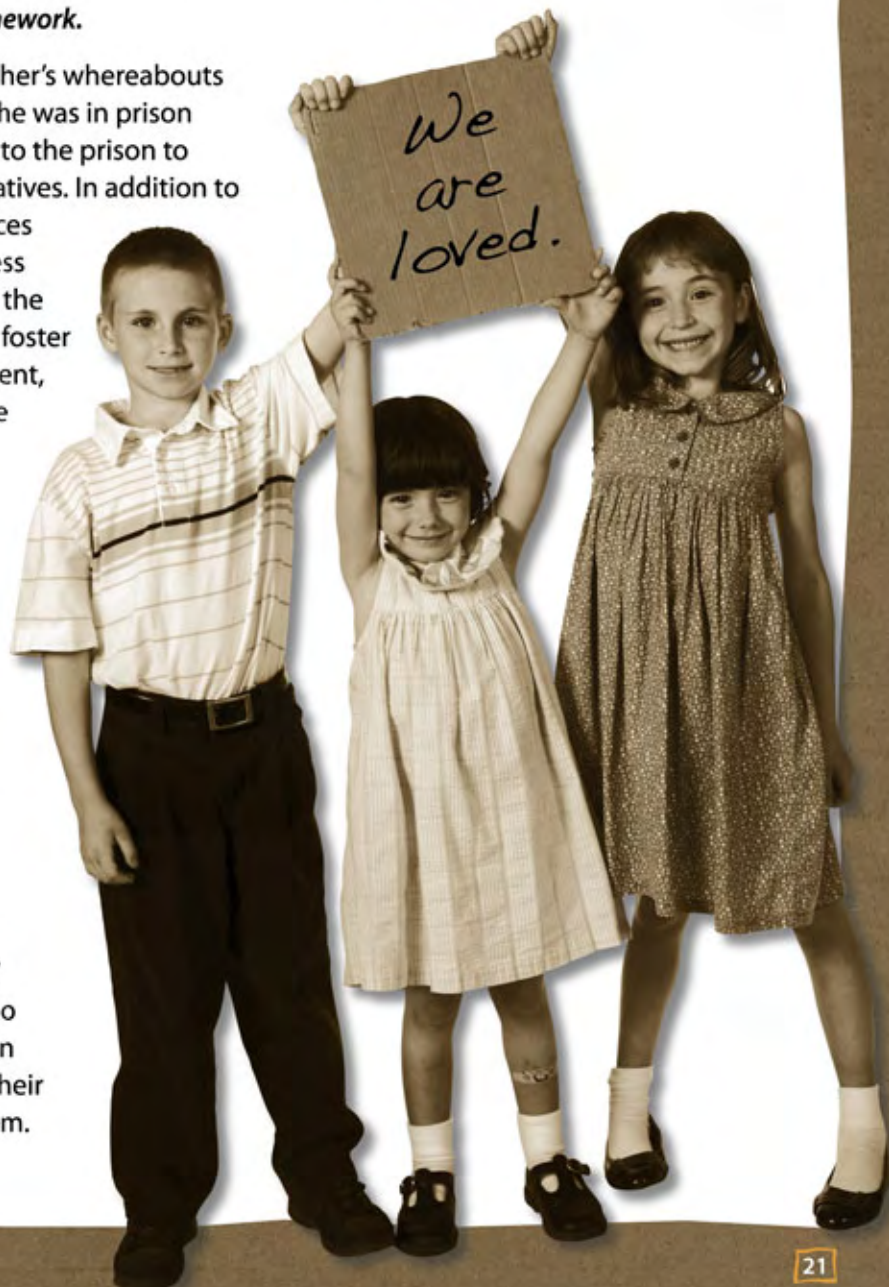
Peter, Marietta and Tzeitel entered care after their mother abandoned them at their disabled grandmother's house. When the police responded to a concerned neighbor's call, they found Marietta crawling out of a second-story window and Peter in the neighbor's car. The children were placed in foster care and Kristina, then an undergraduate at Arizona State University, was assigned to her second CASA case.

Kristina did her homework.

When Kristina met the children, their mother's whereabouts were unknown. Kristina discovered that she was in prison serving a long sentence. Kristina traveled to the prison to interview her and inquire about other relatives. In addition to attending hearings, recommending services and keeping track of the children's progress in school, Kristina facilitated visits among the siblings before they were reunited in one foster home. She advocated for a bond assessment, which demonstrated to the judge that the children should not be separated.

Growing up with their siblings makes children whole.

In 2006, the children became available for adoption and had a loving family waiting for all of them: their foster parents, Lorraine and J. C. Sherrin. Kristina helped the Sherrins navigate an involved and overwhelming process to finally gain custody of the children in an open adoption in June 2007. Today, Peter, Marietta and Tzeitel are thriving. They are establishing a relationship with their mother, known as "tummy mommy," as well as with an aunt. Three children who could have ended up on different coasts in separate homes are now surrounded by their siblings and a host of adults who love them.





National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association
100 West Harrison Street, North Tower, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98119-4123

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 1905

