



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF PEORIA COUNTY

July 2016

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CASA Voice

The Official Newsletter of CASA of Peoria County

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From the desk of the Executive Director

Hard to believe that summer is fading away. The end of summer and the start of a new school year is an exciting time for most children. But for some, the beginning of school could reveal a dark secret when signs of abuse and neglect these children have suffered over the summer are noticed by teachers, staff and other parents.

Because children are subject to less adult supervision over the summer, it's not uncommon for reports of suspected abuse and neglect to spike at the start of the school year.

Many of the children who are confirmed as victims are removed from their homes and placed into foster care—often far from their friends, families and schools. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) volunteers are specially screened and trained to speak up for abused and neglected children who, through no fault of their own, end up in the foster care system.

Being uprooted from their homes and families is scary for these children. We at CASA want to make sure that they do not get lost in the overburdened foster care system. For that reason, we need more people in our community to speak up and make sure these children's voices are heard. We want to help ensure that their stay in foster care is as short as possible and that they are placed in safe, loving homes quickly so they can begin to heal.

We need more dedicated CASA volunteers to walk with children every step of the way and ensure that they are placed into safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible.

This school year, become a CASA volunteer and help children in need find safe, permanent homes. For more information, call our office (309)669-2939. The next training session is October.

Fondly,
Pamela Perrilles

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April Volunteer Class



From left to right: Wanda Lane, Rhonda Morris, Rebecca Christensen (Jan '16 class), Jessica Fay, Judge Kirk Schoenbein, Susan Weidman, Sarah Luthy (Jan '16 class), Nealy Babbitt, Wesley Brown-Hall

Ninth Annual “Hands Around The Courthouse” Marks Child Abuse Prevention Month

Courthouse Plaza, April 15— With the weather cooperating on a beautiful spring day, the **Youth Services Network Panel (YSNP)** staged the 9th annual *Hands Around the Courthouse*. Our very own Pam **Perrilles** opened the event by explaining the YSNP mission in bringing together the area’s diverse organizations that in their various capacities serve the needs of our local children. Speakers included **Stephanie Johnson** from the Pediatric Resource Center, State’s Attorney **Jerry Brady**, and both Juvenile Court Judges as well as other luminaries. **Kitty Yanko**, of PCAPS closed out the event.



Pictured at left: Pam Perrilles and Judge Timothy Cusack

Entertainment by children from Crittenton Center.



Illinois CASA State Conference

Par-a-Dice Convention Center, April 1- CASA staff along with a few volunteers were honored to attend the Illinois CASA State Conference this year, which was conveniently held in East Peoria. The conference offered a number of sessions that appealed to everyone in attendance. Topics ranged from *Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Children to Neglect and Abuse Law and Practice in Illinois*.

One popular session was *The Cost of Caring: Secondary Traumatic Stress, Vicarious Trauma and Compassion Fatigue*. This session was presented by **Tara Thomason**, pictured at right. While working with abused and neglected children it is very easy for one to be personally effected by the trauma they are seeing. This session provided participants with keys to finding and providing approaches to managing secondary trauma while working with children and families in need. If you feel you are experiencing any of the issues listed above, please contact your advocate supervisor.



Pictured above: Tara Thomason, JD, LCSW, presenting on secondary traumatic stress, vicarious trauma, and compassion fatigue.

CASATime Refresher Training

Peoria Police Headquarters, March 23- The first of two mandatory re-trainings was offered in March. The agenda included the topics of child contact, child meetings, court reports, time sheets, assessment of student progress forms, updating your supervisor and an update on future CASATimes.

We ask that all volunteers attend one of the re-trainings so we can be sure we are all on the same page as far as providing the best advocacy for our CASA kids. For those who were unable to attend this

re-training, the training will be repeated 9/28/16.

Upcoming CASATime Schedule:

July 27-Legal Implications of Bullying & Sexting @Peoria Police Department

August 24-Easter Seals @ Easter Seals

September 28-Mandatory Re-training @ Peoria Police Department

CASA Welcomes New Associate Director

Pamela Perrilles, Executive Director of CASA of Peoria County, is pleased to announce the appointment of Lynette (Woelfle) Steger as Associate Director. Steger will be primarily responsible for development, marketing, communications, and supervisory tasks. Previously, Steger served as Managing Editor for *50 Plus News & Views* magazine and will continue to represent the Peoria area on the State of Illinois AARP Executive Council. Steger has served as President of the Friends Board of the Tazewell County Children’s Advocacy Center, President of the Pekin Public Library Board, the first chair of the Pekin Human Rights Committee, and the Pekin Hospital Community Advisory Board. Steger is a current member of the Peoria Sculpture Walk committee and is a licensed Illinois Secondary Education history teacher, with endorsements in Political Science, Sociology, and Anthropology. Ms. Steger resides in Pekin, Illinois with her husband, two sons, and rescue dog.



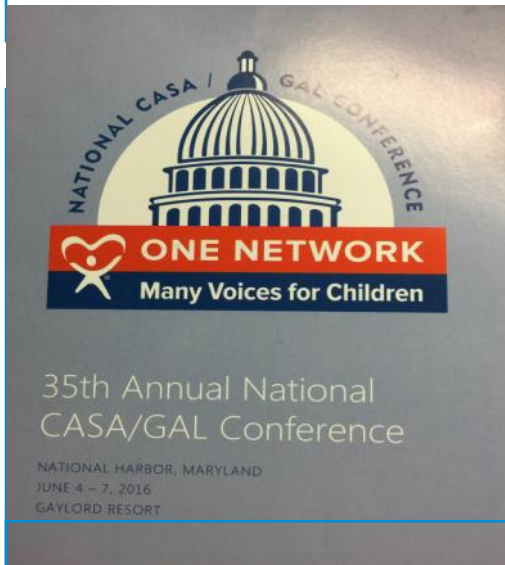
Run Charlotte, Run!!

The Steamboat Classic has been Central Illinois’ premier running event for 43 years. Held on June 18, 2016 this community event features a 4 mile, 15K, and 2 mile road run. Sporting our CASA logo and information, Advocate Supervisor (and Superhero) Charlotte Sizer not only competed in her second Steamboat, but kept our mission in the minds of runners and supporters throughout the day.

CASA of Peoria County would love to showcase your talents and catch our volunteers, stakeholders, etc. sharing the CASA mission with others while out and about in the Peoria area. Send us your photos to lsteiger@peoriacounty.org and you might end up in the next edition of CASA Voice Newsletter or on our Facebook!



National CASA/GAL Conference



Pictured above: Starting left: Becky Weber, Lynette Steger, Charlotte Sizer, Kathleen Monge, Pamela Perrilles, Kelli Carlyle, Sherry Daly, Thomas Bridgman

Gaylord Resort, June 4-7– This year's National CASA/GAL Conference was held at the Gaylord Resort in National Harbor, Maryland. This beautiful resort is just a few miles from the nation's capital, Washington D.C. Hundreds of CASA/GAL directors, advocate supervisors, volunteers and supporters of CASA from across the country attended the conference this year. Attendees were able to choose from more than 75 workshops. These workshops were conveniently identified by 7 difference categories, highlighting whom they would be most beneficial too. CASA of Peoria County was happy to have two of our volunteers attend, **Becky Weber** and **Thomas Bridgman**. Thomas received a scholarship from National CASA to attend the conference.

Attendees were treated to inspiring speeches from several keynote speakers. Speakers included **John Quinones** of ABC News, New York Times best selling authors **Wes Moore** and **Ashley Rhodes-Courter**, former CASA Youth **Justice LaRue** and the **Honorable Robert L. Listenbee**. Each speaker shared their inspiring stories of the struggles they have faced and how they overcame adversity to become successful individuals. **Ashley** and **Justice** are former foster care and CASA youth, so their stories really hit close to home for the attendees.

The conference concluded with *CASA Meets Congress*. This day provided the opportunity for CASA/GAL supporters to make their voice heard on Capitol Hill and share the importance of the CASA mission with members of congress. Participants scheduled personal meetings with Congressional offices to spread the word about all of the great things CASA does and the needs of the program.



IL CASA team for "CASA Meets Congress" on Tuesday, June 7th, 2016.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



Pictured above: Claire Hawks and Pam Perrilles: Pictured right: Board VP Bob McCullum

Par-a-Dice, April 27– The April CASAtime was reserved to celebrate our outstanding volunteers. Volunteers and friends of CASA were treated to dinner and an awards ceremony. **Board Vice President Bob McCullum** started the night off by welcoming attendees and acknowledging board members that were in attendance. After dinner, **Pam Perrilles** recognized **Claire Hawks** for her \$3200.05 contribution to CASA that was raised by a talent show that this 7th grader put on, with all proceeds benefiting our program.

Advocate supervisors presented their volunteers with individual awards and recognized each volunteer individually by announcing their current years of service. Two of our volunteers, **Mary Arnold** and **Sue Kingery**, were presented special awards recognizing 10 years of service.





Volunteer Court Calendar August 1 - October 31

AUGUST

8-2 2:00 Stacy M.
 8-2 2:15 Phil M.
 8-4 1:00 Kyleen M.
 8-4 1:30 Mary H.
 8-9 1:00 Clair K.
 8-9 2:00 Diane P.
 8-11 1:15 Chris M.
 8-11 1:45 Summer S.
 8-16 1:45 Katherine S-S.
 8-18 1:45 Sharon W.
 8-22 9:30 Kara G.
 8-24 1:15 Scott W.
 8-25 2:00 Barbara W.
 8-29 9:00 Ruth A.
 8-31 9:00 Chidu S.
 8-31 1:30 Elizabeth S.

SEPTEMBER

9-1 1:30 Elizabeth S.
 9-6 1:30 Paul G.
 9-6 3:45 Ruth A.
 9-8 1:15 Randall R.
 9-8 2:00 Emily W.
 9-13 1:45 Cathy D.
 9-15 1:30 Sue M.
 9-22 1:30 Ed K.
 9-22 3:00 Phillip C.

OCTOBER

10-4 1:15 Tricey M.
 10-5 3:00 Donna S.
 10-6 1:30 Beckie C.
 10-6 1:30 Jeff K.
 10-6 1:45 Sherry D.
 10-12 1:15 Georgeanne C.
 10-12 1:30 Nick M.
 10-12 1:30 Deb D.
 10-13 1:15 Haley P.
 10-13 1:45 James D.
 10-14 1:15 Patrice P.
 10-19 9:00 Deb D.
 10-21 9:30 Rodney L.
 10-21 1:15 Karla W.

iBi State of Volunteerism Forum

Peoria Civic Center, May 3- Peoria Magazine, in conjunction with the iBi's Community Impact issue, hosted the very first **State of Volunteerism Forum** in the Civic Center Theater. Local nonprofit, business and community leaders shared ideas related to volunteerism, corporate responsibility and community engagement. Twelve speakers presented on the above listed topics in TED Talk-style. Speakers included Mayor Jim Ardis, Assistant Principal of Quest Academy Marcus Belin, Campaign Manager of Heart of Illinois United Way Dominic Vallosio and CASA's own Executive Director Pam Perrilles (pictured right).



CASA selected for the 2016 Best of Peoria Awards for Charity Organizations

The Peoria Award Program names CASA of Peoria County as the best charity organization of 2016. Each year, in and around the Peoria area, the Peoria Award Program chooses only the best local businesses. They focus on companies that have demonstrated their ability to use various marketing methods to grow their business in spite of difficult economic times. The companies chosen exemplify the best of small business; often leading through customer service and community involvement. For more information visit

www.peoria.matchlin.org.

Leave a Loving Legacy

Planned Giving through your will: You can create a legacy of hope for vulnerable children through a planned gift to CASA of Peoria County.

Bequests Through Your Will

A bequest to CASA of Peoria County is one of the most effective and simplest ways to make a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable children. You may specify a specific amount or a percentage you wish to give. If you would like to make such a gift to CASA of Peoria County, you may include language similar to the following:

"I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to CASA of Peoria County a nonprofit public benefit corporation having its principal office at 324 Main Street, Room 215, Peoria, IL 61602, [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] to be used for the furtherance of its charitable purposes in the discretion and at the direction of its Board of Directors for its unrestricted use and purpose."

If you are considering making a gift by bequest, please meet with your attorney to discuss the ramifications and, if appropriate, to update your will. Please let us know if you have included CASA of Peoria County in your estate planning.

CASA of Peoria County
324 Main St. Room 215
Peoria, IL
61602
(309)669-2939

We're on the Web!
www.casapeoria.org
www.casaforchildren.org
<https://www.facebook.com/CASAPeoriaCounty>
<https://twitter.com/CASAPeoria>

CASA of Peoria County gives Special Thanks to:



Illinois Attorney General
Violent Crime Victim
Assistance Grant



A Member of the National
CASA Association



Bring A Voice to a Child

Yes, I would like to support a CASA Child for one year @ \$100 per month.
 I would like to make a one-time gift:
 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

- I am interested in learning more about CASA.
- I would like to give of my time. Please contact me about being involved:
 - Board Member
 - CASA volunteer
 - Other volunteer
 - Help with Special Events
 - Other: _____

Name: _____

Phone # (____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____, IL

Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

The best time to reach me is during ____ day or ____ evening.

Method of Payment: Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Check # _____

Account Number: _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Sec. code: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

Make checks payable to: CASA of Peoria County
Return to: 324 Main Street, Room 215, Peoria, Illinois 61602

THANK YOU.

Make A Difference!

Our Mission

The mission of CASA of Peoria County is to advocate for abused and neglected children in Peoria County through the services of specially trained community volunteers.

Thanks to our Volunteer Training
Meal Sponsors ...



... and to the excellent classroom facility
at Advanced Medical Transport



**Advanced
Medical Transport**
of Central Illinois

Save Lives. It's what we do.

Nine Hole, Par 3 Challenge & \$1 Million Hole-in-One Shootout

October 4, 2016

Registration: 2:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Shotgun Start: 3:30 p.m.

\$1 Million Shootout: Approximately 6:30 p.m.



Country Club of Peoria
4700 Grandview Drive, Peoria Heights

Support a great cause, enjoy a day of golf—and earn the opportunity to win \$1 million!



Putting Sponsor

Details & Prizes

NINE HOLE, PAR 3 CHALLENGE

- Country Club of Peoria is converting the entire course to Par 3 play
- Field limited to first 25 teams comprised of four golfers per team. Parent-child teams welcome!
- \$250 per golfer

HOLE-IN-ONE SHOOTOUT

- Top 5 teams with lowest scores from front nine and back nine (10 teams total) will select one individual from their team to compete in the shootout
- \$1 million grand prize awarded to the first finalist who sinks a hole-in-one

EXTRAS!

- Free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar at the club house (Plus, invite guests to join you at the hole-in-one party for only \$30/person)
- Putting contest as you come off the course
- Raffle and other prizes awarded at the event

For more information or to become a sponsor, contact: Jeff Doeden at 309-453-3633 or JeffDoed@hotmail.com

www.casapeoria.org



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

A fundraiser to benefit CASA of Peoria County

CASA CABALLOS

Hosted by Travis Weaver and Chris Jackson

*August 20, 2016
Weaver Angus Farm*

GATES OPEN

12:00 PM

POLO MATCH STARTS

4:30 PM

TAILGATE SIZE

12 x 20ft

\$200

per tailgate spot

CONTESTS

ULTIMATE TAILGATE

ULTIMATE POLO SHOT

TAILGATE BEST

APPETIZER

DESSERT

OVERALL SPREAD

SPONSORS

Central Illinois
Dermatology



REGISTER

Benefit for CASA of Peoria County
FirstGiving.com/89101/casa-caballos

Only one vehicle per tailgate spot. No outside parking available.

Designed by Keenan Dailey
kdailey2@illinois.edu



CASA Human Foosball Tournament September 10, 2016 Eastside Centre East Peoria

Gather your team and join the
fun while supporting a great
cause!

A great team-building
experience for businesses and
organizations.

For more information Visit:

www.casapeoria.org

Register in Advance
\$150/Team

(6 Players Per Team)

The Team Captain must submit
the registration form, payment
and waiver for each player by
September 2nd.

To register go to:

[https://www.firstgiving.com/8910
1/casa-human-foosball-
tournament](https://www.firstgiving.com/89101/casa-human-foosball-tournament)

Play times will be emailed to
team captains.

1st Place will receive a
team trophy and
bragging rights!



CASA

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FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF PEORIA COUNTY

SAVE THE DATE FOR

CASAblanca

An evening of Dancing with the Local Stars

A fundraiser to benefit CASA of Peoria County

Saturday, November 5th, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
at the Par-A-Dice Hotel Ballroom

21 Blackjack Boulevard, East Peoria

**This is your opportunity to make a difference in
the life of an abused or neglected child.**

For more information, please call the CASA office
at (309) 669-2939.

Or visit our website at www.casapeoria.org.



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF PEORIA COUNTY

I am for the child[®]



Photography by Jill to Help CASA of Peoria County

Photography by Jill is excited to help CASA of Peoria County reach their fundraising goals at *CASA Caballos* Ultimate Tailgate Event on August 20, 2016 at Weaver Farm.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1577715652529137/>

For a \$99 donation to CASA of Peoria County, you will receive a \$400 certificate to use towards a Family portrait session and wall portrait order. The \$400 certificate is valid towards any type of family portrait session (indoor, outdoor, on-location, or re-united) and valid towards any portrait order of the same session. This certificate cannot be combined with any other certificates, specials, coupons, and is non-transferable. One certificate per family. If booked within 30 days of purchase, booking bonuses may be available.

*Help us sponsor the advocacy needs of a child for an entire year.
For every 12 of these certificates sold, we can reach our goal!*

**OFFER ONLY AVAILABLE from August 18 - 27
Call the CASA of Peoria County office at (309) 669-2939**