



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF PEORIA COUNTY

November 2011

Volume 3, Issue 1

CASA Voice

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Words from the Director

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." **John Fitzgerald Kennedy**

CASA of Peoria County is so THANKFUL for the great year that has unfolded.

-THANKFUL for the wonderful Volunteers who provide their time and resources to be the voice of the children we serve!

-THANKFUL for our Donors who make it possible for us to provide advocacy services to the many abused and neglected children we are appointed!

-THANKFUL for the National CASA grant that allowed us to expand our services to more abused and neglected children in need of an advocate!

-THANKFUL for a committed staff and committed volunteer staff to carryout the mission of CASA of Peoria County!

-THANKFUL for the CASA Board of Directors who provide their time, support and passion for our mission!

-THANKFUL for being accepted as a new member agency with the Heart of Illinois United Way!

-THANKFUL for the opportunity to make a difference in our community!

May each of you find much to be grateful for as you embark on a Great & Glorious Holiday Season!

Pam Perrilles

CASA 2011 Volunteers Off and Running!

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Pictured Below is the Fall 2011 Class
From left to right: Colin Kenny, Judge Mark E. Gilles, Scott Williams, Kara Grove, Karen Kenny, Ryan Kenny, Renee Kenny, John Donnolly, Pat Davis, Kim Moline

Pictured Above is the Spring 2011 Class.
From left to right:: Judge Mark E. Gilles, Annette Marie-Kemper, Laurie Weaver, Maureen Schlicksup, Renee Glisson, Michael Zerneck, Joe Howe, David Baker, Nancy Overcash, Judge



Volunteer Spotlight: Nicole Painter



My name is Nicole Painter. I am a stay at home mom/student/coordinator for EF Foundation for foreign study. I have been a volunteer with CASA for nearly 2 years now. During my work as a CASA volunteer I have been assigned to 3 cases thus far. This has given me the opportunity to advocate for 8 children during my time of service.

Volunteer Advocacy

Why did you decide to become an advocate? I decided to become an advocate because I had had the unique experience of my own children having a CASA volunteer in their lives. My husband and I have adopted 5 children from the foster care system. 3 of those 5 came to us with a CASA volunteer. I always admired the work they did, and how well they related to my children. It also touched my heart and made me eternally grateful that my kids had a steady person with them when everything around them was chaos. Before coming home to us, they all had multiple placements and multiple caseworkers. The only constant they experienced was that volunteer. Once my husband and I decided our family was complete, I decided I wanted to look into volunteering so that I could give back to a system that gave us so very much.

Do you have any advice for other Volunteers? My advice to other volunteers is make sure they make time to care for themselves a bit too. Sometimes we get so busy caring for others that we let ourselves get worn down. That's when its easy to become cynical and start looking at everything in a negative light. Therefore I strongly believe its important for everyone, especially individuals who work in the high emotion situations most volunteers do, that priority is given to decompressing. Otherwise you become no good to anyone eventually.

What has been one of your most memorable moments as a CASA Volunteer? (good or bad) I have to honestly say the most memorable moment I have had as a CASA Volunteer is the feeling of accomplishment I felt when I saw my first case close. I got the opportunity to see a complete family reunited who had been separated for quite awhile. I still think of them every time I step in the courtroom.

What keeps you motivated on your case? I have 5 reasons everyday to continue on. Those reasons being Samantha, Mark, Freddy, Megan, and Julianna. They had to rely so long on the motivation of another CASA or case-worker that it gives me the drive to attempt to be the same thing for other kids. I am so thankful for those people in their lives who could be there while they were waiting for us to find each other.

What are your challenges as a CASA? My biggest challenge as a CASA has to be when I feel things are at a stand still. I like to be productive and I like to see things progressing. Sometimes things don't progress as fast as I think they should, so it becomes challenging to continue month after month. I begin to think "what's the point?". However that's when I try to draw from my 5 inspirations as I mentioned before. It doesn't always seem that you have made a difference or that your presence matters, but I can assure you it does matter way more than you will ever know.



Board Member Spotlight: Nancy Sherman



My name is Nancy Sherman and I am a Professor at Bradley University. I teach in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Master's degree program and this is my 19th year at Bradley and in Peoria. I am married to Pat Hayes who is Assistant Director of Career Services at Illinois State University and we have a son, Evan, who is a sophomore at Richwoods High School. I have been on the CASA Board for one year and have served on the Finance and Fundraising Committee and the Nominating Committee. At Bradley, I am the Faculty Advisor for the Beta Phi Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, Professional Counseling Honor Society and this group has worked on the Everyday Heroes Writing/Drawing Contest for CASA. I have also enjoyed helping a little with training of new CASA volunteers.

What led you to become involved with CASA? I became involved in CASA through the Dean of the College of Education and Health Sciences who had received a request for nominations for the Board and she suggested I might be a good fit. As I learned about CASA and its mission, I felt that this was an organization I would like to commit to in terms of my volunteer time.

What do you enjoy about your involvement with CASA and what are the rewards of being a board member?

I really enjoy the variety of people I have met through my involvement with CASA, both volunteers with CASA and the people in the community who support our mission. The rewards are definitely feeling good about making a positive difference in children's lives!

What are your future goals for CASA of Peoria County from your view? I share the goal of helping CASA develop to the point of being a financially sustaining organization. Though the organization is only five years old, I believe we are definitely on the way.

What are your challenges as a CASA board member? One challenge is certainly time management. Being a member of Board of a non-profit organization such as CASA is a big (and worthwhile!) commitment of time and energy, one that forces me to manage my time better so I can attend to all the priorities in my life.

How has CASA grown since you've been apart of the board? One of the most outstanding ways has been the success of this year's Dancing With the Local Stars, our primary fundraiser. I was so proud to have had a small part in its success and had a great time at the event.



CASAblanca 2011!

Thank you to our generous sponsors for making this evening a success!



P.A. Atherton Construction, Inc.



CASA Announces Winners of CASAblanca-Dancing with Local Stars!

CASAblanca 2011 was a fun-filled evening of entertainment to raise awareness to our organization and is our primary fundraiser for the year. The evening featured local 'Celebrities' dancing with Dance Specialist from Body Fitness and the Peoria Latin Vibe. Local "Celebrity" judges rated a score and the audience vote determined the winner.

CASAblanca 2011 Local Star Dance Contest Winners:

First Place Winner: Dr. Jennifer Robin from Bradley University

People's Choice Award (on-line voting) Bob Woolsey from Jones Brothers Jewelry

Runners up:

Dr. Al Torres from the Children's Hospital of Illinois
Patti Smith from Citizen Support for America's Military
Nicole Buso from K'talyst Interiors
Phil Lockwood from IPICO Sports

Congratulations to all our Dancers on a great performance!

We extend special appreciation to co-chairs Stacy Robins from Essential Wellness and Becky Wood from Service Station Advertising for their time and leadership. Special thanks to Decoration Chair - Rosalinda Sazone, Auction Chair - Lisa Zell and her committee, and the 2011 Casablanca Judges: Glen Barton, Christine Zak-Edmonds, Mary Pille and Chuck Weaver. Thanks to all dancers who participated.

To view the pictures captured that evening click on to: <http://www.anointedphotography.com>.

More Great Fundraisers From This Season!

2011 has been a year full of fun and great support. Everything from tennis tournaments, to golf outings, to a night out with the Heartland Festival Orchestra! We finish the year off with our annual Gingerbread House Contest.

Bradley University Fellows present the fifth annual

GINGERBREAD HOUSE BUILDING CONTEST

Benefits the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Peoria County

**Monday, December 5th
On Olin Quad
1:30-4:00pm**

Come tour the finished houses!
\$1.00
to vote on your favorite house
****YOU COULD WIN A FREE STEAK DINNER!!!****



For More Information contact Kelsi Johnson at kjohnson@mail.bradley.edu OR (309) 677-3692

To enter:

\$25.00
per house

*Upon registration, your group will be supplied with basic gingerbread house supplies!!!!

THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

Where do I register?
The Lewis J. Burger Center in the basement of Harper/Wyckoff

FREE HOT CHOCOLATE!!

CONTENTS THAT OF SPONSOR APPROVED FOR POSTING UNTIL

12/6/11

STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE

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

October 6, 2011
Registration: 3 to 3:45 p.m.
Shotgun Start: 4 p.m.
\$1 Million Shootout: Approximately 6:30 p.m.

Country Club of Peoria
4700 Grandview Drive
Peoria Heights, IL 61616



Presenting Sponsor

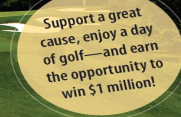
Details & Prizes

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
• \$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



FIRST INAUGURAL St. Therese Tennis Tourney

Sign Up At: www.StThereseTennisTourney.com

AUGUST 27 9:00AM WOMEN
1:00PM MEN

\$50 ROUND ROBIN ENTRY FEE, \$5 FOR SPECTATORS, CHILDREN FREE TO BE HELD AT RACQUET CLUB SOUTH THE CLUBS AT RIVER CITY, 1700 W ALTORFER DRIVE PEORIA, ILLINOIS

7:00PM BANQUET & SILENT AUCTION

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND DOOR PRIZES!
\$25 PER PLATE, TO BE HELD AT ST. SHARBEL BANQUET HALL, 2914 W SCENIC DR PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Proceeds to benefit Crittenton Centers, CASA and Catholic Charities.

Illinois Council of Orchestras Professional Orchestra of the Year, Professional Conductor of the Year

heartland festival orchestra
David Commanday

Romantic Heroes



GUEST SOLOIST Adam Neiman
Mozart Overture to Don Giovanni
Liszt Piano Concerto No. 2 in A Major with Adam Neiman Piano Soloist
Schubert Symphony No. 8 (Unfinished)
Prokofiev Classical Symphony
concert benefits
CASA of Peoria County

tickets: \$30 adults / \$8 students
tickets available online at www.heartlandfestivalorchestra.org, by phone call 309-444-8222, in person at Five Points Washington or at Kidder Music in Peoria
Free bus rides, courtesy of Heartland Bank. Buses leave from 2Chez at 6:15 pm and Junction City at 6:30 pm. Call 309-339-3943 to reserve your spot on the bus. Pre-concert dinners available in Peoria at 2Chez and Bachelor Block, and in Washington at Denhart Baking Company and Monie's Tea Room

Saturday August 27th - 7:30 PM
Five Points Washington

www.heartlandfestivalorchestra.org • 309-339-3943

**Court Calendar
December**

12/6 Greg & Tony
 12/6 Joe H.
 12/13 Melkecia W.
 12/20 Nicole & Wendy
 12/22 Sherry G.
 12/29 Julie E.

**Court Calendar
January**

1/11 Annie &
 Renee

 1/12 Nancy P.

 1/24 Karen K.

**Court Calendar
February**

2/7 Kara G.

 2/9 Jeff S. & Cheryl

 2/16 Susie C.

 2/16 Sue K. & Mary

In-Service Opportunities

November 30, 2011 CASA Time 5:30 at Kouri's: 4307 N Sterling Ave.
December 21, 2011 CASA Time 5:30 at Donnolly's Shamrock 4908 N. Renwood
January 18, 2012 CASA Time 5:30 at TBA
February 29, 2012 CASA Time 5:30 at TBA

Stay up to date on the latest issues facing children in care. Visit the National CASA website @<http://podcast.casaforchildren.org/> and tune in to National CASA's wonderful archives of podcasts. Listen to CASA volunteers from around the country as they share their experiences, knowledge, and advice. Brief your Advocate Supervisor and earn in-service time.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING: WINTER 2012

Due to a high volume of case appointments, we have bumped our spring training sessions up to winter. Our trainings will be held again at the Detweiller Center, 809 Detweiller Drive. We will meet on the following dates:

Sat. 01/28 9:00am-5:00pm

Mon. 01/30 5:30pm-8:30pm

Tue. 02/01 5:30pm-8:30pm

Wed. 02/02 5:30pm-8:30pm

Thur. 02/03 5:30pm-8:30pm

Sat. 02/04 9:00am-5:00pm

Mon. 02/06 5:30pm-8:30pm

For more information contact Kim khubbsmoline@peoriacounty.org or Colin ckenny@peoriacounty.org (309) 669-2939

Leaving 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 the 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 the 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 Trustees 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.

Contact CASA of Peoria County

324 Main St, Rm 215
Peoria, IL 61602

Phone: 309-669-2939
Fax: 309-672-6957

We're on the Web!
www.casaforchildren.org
www.casapeoria.org

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: _____

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

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.

