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Words from the Director



Pamela Perrilles

Vietnamese Proverb: When eating a fruit, think of the person who planted the tree.

On behalf of CASA of Peoria County, I extend a grateful "Thanksgiving" to all our supporters! The recent economic time forced CASA of Peoria County to reach out to our friends, family and community supporters for assistance in carrying out our mission. In such times, it is truly heart warming to see the support generated by so many who evaluated a priority around what we all value most - the children in our community! As we continue to advocate for the most vulnerable children in our backyard we are constantly reminded of our generous supporters who make our work possible.

Thanks to those who became a CASA Hero this past quarter!

Powerless Children Need Powerful Friends!

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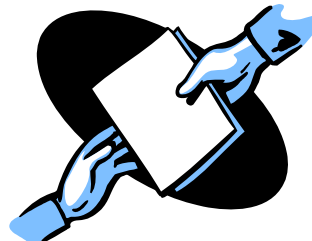
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3rd Quarter 2009 Contributors

Bruce & Patricia Alkire * John & Sharon Amdall * Ameren UE * Anonymous * Craig Barley * Bob Lindsay Honda * Travis & Dawn Bonnett * Jonathan Borden * Scott Borden * Rickard & Brenda Boundy * Bradley Browning * Brian & Susan Butler * Peter Clausen * Christy Collier * Mike & Diann Crompton * David Davis * Alan & Mary Ellen Debord * Stacey DeVecchio * James Dillon * Family Medical * Jay Fox * James & Barbara Fox * James Frawley * David Garcia * John & Paula German * Kendra Haag * Andy & Roberta Russell Harris * Jim & Kathy Hetherwick * Dr. James & Hon. Katherine Gorman Hubler * John Bearce Motorsports * Britta Jost * Sue Jost * Kappa Alpha Theta Alum - Peoria Chapter * Kevin & Bernett Karcher * Jay & Lisa Kulavic * Max & Diane Lathrop * Brian & Leslie Lewallen * Lindy's Red Fox Food Mart, Inc * Stan & Mary Lynall * Paul Mason * Dearl & Paula Morris * Lisa Mullins * Richard Trueblood & Marion Mullins * Leroy & Tanya Neilson * Gregory & Mary Pat Patterson * Peoria County's Lawyers Auxiliary * William Prather * Robert & Jennifer Morris Pugh * John & Patricia Pusey * Shayne & Stefanie Reaktenwalt * John Rhee * Thomas Rickey * William & Patricia Rinehart * Royal Publishing Inc. * Cathy Rupert * Jeffrey Ruppel * Christy Staude * H.Wayne & Janice Tessier * kenneth & Tamara Thompson, Jr * Carol Trumpe * Dave Vandehei * Pat VandenAvond * John & Lauri VanDerVoorn * Helen Wade * Pam Waldschmidt * Gerry & Mary Jane Wappelhorst * Wayne E. Baum Family Foundation *



Volunteer Spotlight: Lisa Beaupre



I am CASA Volunteer, Lisa Beaupre. My husband and I own Geier Florist; I do some floral designing and almost all of the deliveries. It's a fun job - I get to be out and about, and people are always happy to see someone bringing flowers!

I have been a CASA since October 2006 and have been assigned to the same child since then. She's been in the foster care system for over seven years, yet my CASA child remains bright, funny and resilient - I feel lucky to be her advocate.

Volunteer Advocacy

Why did you decide to become an advocate? I decided to become an advocate because I've had a great life and have always tried to show my gratitude by giving back. I saw a billboard for CASA and I thought that helping someone defenseless, a child, would be a good thing to do, and it has been. It has been tough a few times, but always worthwhile.

Do you have any advice for other Volunteers? Keep careful records! Good notes make it easier to write reports for hearings, and you don't have to try to rely on your memory.

What has been one of your most memorable moments as a CASA Volunteer? I received a letter from my CASA child a while ago telling me how much I mean to her - it was very touching and made me realize that I really have made a difference in her life, that I've made her feel a little less alone.

What keeps you motivated on your case? I am the only constant in my CASA child's life. The people who take care of her come and go with alarming frequency, but she knows that I am committed to being her advocate until she no longer needs me to be. I tell her that I will be around to dance at her wedding, which always makes her laugh.

What are your challenges as a CASA? My CASA child lives in the Chicago area and so I only get up to see her once a month, but we talk on the phone at least once a week, usually more often than that, as she likes to 'check in' frequently.

Is there anything else you would like to share? Being an advocate can at times be time consuming and even discouraging, but is always worth the effort. I'm very glad I took the steps required to be a CASA - it's very gratifying to know that I really have made a difference in a child's life. Henry Ford said, "To do more for the world than the world does for you - that is success." In that case, I think we CASA's are pretty successful.



Board Member Spotlight: Lisa Mullins



Lisa Mullins, Vice President of Commercial Lending at Central Illinois Bank in Peoria.

I've been a member of the Board since 2006. Since joining the Board, I've played an active role in planning the annual Fall Fundraiser, CASAblanca, and serving on the Finance Committee. I have recently become President of the Board of Directors.

What led you to become involved with CASA?

I originally became aware of CASA when I was living in Santa Barbara, California. A mentor of mine served as the Treasurer of the Santa Barbara chapter of CASA, and I was drawn to the need that the organization serves. After I moved to Peoria, I sought out the local CASA chapter to find out more information. After hearing how great the need for our services is here in Peoria County, I was compelled to get involved and try to make a difference.

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

I enjoy being involved with an organization with a mission that is so heartfelt and so important to me. When I put my two little ones to bed at night, I can't help but think about all our local children that do not have the stable, loving home that my children have. Being involved with this organization, I have met so many wonderful, professional people from such varied backgrounds, all drawn together and working together on a common goal, to serve our children.

What are your future goals for CASA of Peoria County from your view?

My goal is to help CASA of Peoria County achieve stable funding, increase community awareness, and increase staffing so that we can serve more children.

What are your challenges as a CASA board member?

Though there are many challenges associated with playing a leadership role in a fairly new organization, it also provides many opportunities. Serving on this organization's Board is a lot different than serving on the Board of a more established organization's Board because there is, in fact, so much to do and so many ways that you can provide benefit and guidance. You don't feel like you can just sit back and attend a meeting once a month and be done with it.

How has CASA grown since you've been a part of the board?

The organization continually seeks to improve, making each step, each event, better than the last. In an environment that is constantly changing, the staff and the Board have had to continually change as well, seeking new ways to fund our organization and new ways to increase awareness.

What other committees have you've served on?

I have served on CASA's Finance Committee, Nomination Committee, and CASAblanca Event Committee.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

I would encourage anyone that is motivated by our mission and wants to explore new ways to help make a difference to consider either serving on our Board of Directors or becoming involved with our fundraising efforts.

Quarterly Court Calendar October

Oct. 13- 2:00pm
Kirsten V.
Oct. 14-9:00am
Britta Jost
Oct. 16- 1:30pm
Shari W.
Oct. 19- 2:30pm
Sherry D.
Oct. 20- 2:00pm
Stacy B.
Oct 29- 1:00pm
Shayla F.

Quarterly Court Calendar November

Nov. 2- 9:00am
Irene P.
Nov. 2- 1:15pm
Alyssa & Veronica
Nov. 2- 2:30pm
Stephanie M.
Nov. 10- 1:15pm
Nate K.
Nov. 18- 1:15pm-
Shavon J.
Nov. 16-1:30pm
S. Ecroyd
Nov. 19- 1:15pm
Irene P.
Nov. 23- 1:15pm
Anthony W.

Quarterly Court Calendar December

Dec. 4- 1:15pm
Staff
Dec. 14- 1:30pm
Staff.
Dec. 15- 2:15pm
Lori U.
Dec. 15- 3:00pm
Susan O.
Dec. 16- 1:15pm
Lisa B.
Dec. 17- 1:30pm
R. Graves
Dec. 22- 9:30 am
Carmen H.

In-Service Opportunities

October 9th - 10th, 2009 Illinois CASA State Conference @Hamburger University -Oak Brook, IL register @ www.illinoiscasa.org

October 15th, 6:00-7:00pm Topic: **Child Support!** Speaker: Dan Smith of Prairie State Legal Services @ Riverplex Recreation Center. For more information contact Michael Winters (Fatherhood Action Committee Coalition) @ 309-589-4866.

Nov. 5th, 5:00-6:00 pm-CASA Time! Peoria County Courthouse

Dec. 3rd, 12:00-1:00pm-CASA Time! Peoria County Courthouse



2009 Illinois CASA
State Conference
October 9th - 10th, 2009
Hamburger University
Oak Brook, IL
For Conference Registration
and
Online Payment Information
go to
www.illinoiscasa.org



Melkecia Welch

*A Powerful Voice
in a Child's Life!*

As CASA's we know that we represent the voice of the children in the courtroom. Being privileged to be a part of CASA of Peoria County for the past two years, I have read and heard many of the children's voices. The poem I've written below is my account of what some of our children have voiced and require of CASA.

Speak Up For Me!

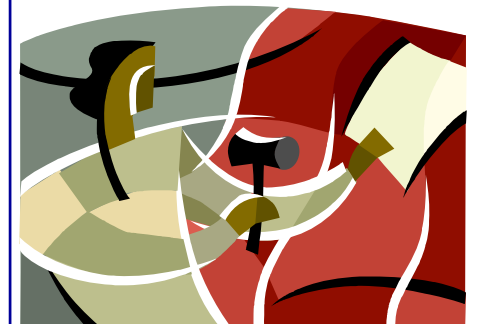
I hope you are listening
and learning me,
because you've been chosen
and appointed to speak up for me.

I have my own way of thinking.
Please don't lump me
with all the rest.
I may change my mind often,
saying one thing today and
the total opposite the next.

But, it's my voice
and my choice
how much I share.
Your consistent advocacy
shows me how much you care.

I may not tell you,
but I am glad you are here.
Your phone calls, visits, expressions
of concern are all so sincere.

Although, my wishes may sound
far-fetched to many
or unlikely come to be.
My best interests do keep in mind,
as you speak up for me!



CASA of Peoria County Upcoming Fundraising Events

DRAKEphoto
not just any photo

2nd Annual Halloween Charity Event



DRAKEphoto is teaming up with CASA again this Halloween! Come have your little ones photographed in costume, while supporting a great local organization that offers hope and assistance to children who are victims of child abuse. A set of wallets will be given with each session booked as well as a chance to win a wall portrait from DRAKEphoto. All proceeds will benefit CASA of Peoria. Space is limited, call now!

www.DRAKEphotoOnline.com
309.839.1978

FOURTH ANNUAL

Casablanca

Dancing with the (Local) Stars

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 2009

8:00 pm at the Country Club of Peoria

Heavy Hors d'oeuvres

Open Bar

Silent Auction

Live Music

by the Bill Henderly Band

\$125 per person, Black Tie (optional)

RSVP by October 21

Introducing

CASablanca dancers 2009

Dr. Sheena Gordon

Gina Morse

Dr. Martin Williamson-Field

Pat Sullivan

Kyle Ham

Jeff Robins

For more information, call 309-669-2939

To benefit CASA of Peoria County



Bradley University Fellows and CASA of Peoria County invite you to participate in our

4th annual

CASA GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

Ways to get Involved:

- > Build Your Own House
- > Become a Sponsor
- > Come View the Houses and Vote

***Event is located in Bradley's Student Center Ballroom on December 7th, 2009.

\$2 at the door to vote on houses.

Cost is \$25 to enter a house.

For entry form and more info on sponsorship please contact:

kmueller@mail.bradley.edu***

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.

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!

