

CASA of DuPage County, Inc.
505 North County Farm Road, 3rd Floor, Suite C, Wheaton Illinois 630-221-0889

The CASA Link

October 2006

Message from the Executive Director



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It recently was pointed out to me that it had been quite some time since I had written to all of you via The Link, when it seems to me that it was only yesterday! OK, I looked in my file and it has been more than a few days. ☺

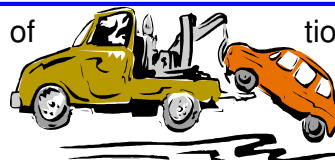
As Executive Director, I find the bulk of my time is spent at the computer writing grants and researching new opportunities for funding to be used for general operating expenses, instead of being out in the community talking about CASA and “what we do”. But when I am out and about, I share with others what you do as Advocates with pride and admiration. Lately, I was reminded of an article printed in the National CASA Association newsletter Update, entitled “A Saint in a Booth”. The article told about information booths being utilized by CASA/GAL programs at various group gatherings to promote public awareness, recruitment, education and training. The “booth-in-a-box” had a continuous video running and offered candy as a hook. However, the candy was not **free**. If someone put their hand in the candy jar, he/she had to hear the CASA story. That worked pretty well.

I am not asking you to man an information booth, but I am asking that you tell the CASA story for free. When you attend a company, school or neighborhood gathering, become a CASA ambassador; tell our story and share our mission. Not everyone will be able to volunteer as an advocate; there are other ways of helping. You can provide an opportunity or contact information for a Speakers Bureau presentation, make a dollar donation or give goods and/or in-kind services, become a friend or board member, just to name a few.

Community awareness means everything these days, because without community awareness and support CASA will not grow; we will not be able to provide the one-on-one advocacy services the children of DuPage County deserve. Thanks to each and every one of you. You have my utmost respect for taking the opportunity to give back to your community and to the children who need you.

Kay Hedeem

Donate a Car for CASA



Do you know anyone who is thinking of selling or trading in an old car, boat or RV? If they donate it instead, they can get a tax deduction and CASA can benefit. For information, see the easy-to-use web site at www.donateacar.com. There, one can complete a simple online donation form and select **CASA of DuPage County** as their charity. Interested parties can also speak with a representative at 1-800-237-5714 to start a no-hassle car dona-

tion process. America's Car Donation Charities Center will make arrangements to conveniently and quickly pick-up the vehicle donation at no cost to the donor. They handle the title transfer requirements and provide a tax deductible donation receipt at the time of pick-up. And CASA receives the proceeds when the car is sold!

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In-Service Opportunities

Friday, October 13, 2006
Linden Oaks Hospital

Title: Bipolar Disorder
Where: Edward Hospital Education Center
801 S. Washington St., Naperville
Time: 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM registration. Program is from 9:00 AM to noon.
Cost: \$25 Registration fee plus \$15 for CEU's.
Checks payable to Linden Oaks Hospital
Registration: Call 630-369-6363 to register.

Tuesday, October 17, 2006
DCFS Northern Region Education Network

Title: Childhood Trauma and the Implications for Education
Where: Aurora Regional Office,
3rd floor conference room #302
8 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora
Time: 9:30 AM - Noon
Cost: Free
Registration: Contact the DCFS Education Office at 815-967-3832.

Saturday, October 21, 2006
CASA Lake County

Title: Bridges Out of Poverty
This seminar gives both the social service provider and the community member key lessons in dealing with individuals from poverty. Topics include increasing awareness of the differences in economic cultures and how those differences affect opportunities for success.
Presenter: Jodi Pfarr, Consultant and National CASA Conference Speaker
Time: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM (lunch provided)
Where: Hewitt Associates
Lincolnshire, Illinois
Cost: Free
Registration: Advanced Registration is required.
Email bwilliams@casalakecounty.com, or call 847-808-9154.
Registration forms are also available from Sandy, at 630-221-0889 x 306.

Thursday, October 26, 2006
Exchange Club of Naperville

Title: Keeping Your Kids Safe
"It's not about 'stranger danger' anymore!" Learn how to talk with your kids about the real threats to their safety. A Free Program for Parents (Adults only please; no reservation required)
Presented by: Sgt. Elizabeth Smith
Naperville Police Department
Where: Naperville Municipal Center
Council Chambers
400 S. Eagle Street
Naperville, IL 60540
Time: 7:00 PM
Cost: Free
For more information call Sherry Weinstein at Rep. Joe Dunn's office (630) 355-4113.
Distribution of this information and materials does not imply District 203 or 204 endorsements.

Thursday, October 26, 2006
YWCA Clinical Training Institute

Title: Violence Against People with Disabilities
Where: YMCA Metropolitan Chicago
360 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 800, Graettinger Conference Room, Chicago
Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Cost: \$40 (Includes CEUs)
Registration: Online at www.ywcachicago.org, or request a registration form from sandy@dupagecasa.org.

Friday, October 27, 2006
YWCA Clinical Training Institute

Title: Gay Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse
Where: YMCA Metropolitan Chicago
360 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 800, Graettinger Conference Room, Chicago
Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Cost: \$40 (Includes CEUs)
Registration: Online at www.ywcachicago.org, or request a registration form from sandy@dupagecasa.org.

In-Service Opportunities (continued)

Friday, October 27, 2006

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Suicide Prevention Services
Illinois Suicide Prevention Coalition

Title: Suicide Prevention: Towards the Light
Where: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Celebration Campus, 919 S. Washington Street, Naperville
Time: 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Cost: Free. Fee for CEUs.
Registration: Go to <http://www.namidupage.org/documents/SuicidePreventionWorkshopFlyer.pdf>

October 17 – October 30
CASA of DuPage

Title: New Advocate Training
Speaker(s): To Be Determined
Dates: See below
Time: 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM except Saturday, October 28 from 9 a.m. to Noon
Location: Carol Stream Police Department
500 N. Gary Ave., Carol Stream
Credits: 3 (one session is OY applicable)
Cost: Free
Register: Call Sandy at 221-0889 x306 or email her at sandy@dupagecasa.org

Tuesday, October 17

Topics: Children's Needs; Attachment and Loss

Wednesday, October 18

Topic: Impact of Factors (substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health issues, poverty, stress) on Families and Children

Monday, October 23

Topics: Impact of Culture, Values and Biases on a Case; Pertinent Laws; Juvenile Court Process and Courtroom Professionalism

Tuesday, October 24

Topics: Working with Court Professionals; Permanency Terms, Issues and Goals

Wednesday, October 25

Topics: Practicing Safety; Beginning and Working a Case (1st and follow-up interviews, questions to

ask, observation, and taking notes)

Saturday, October 28

Topics: Long-Term Casework Practices; Foster Parent & Natural Parent Insights

Monday, October 30

Topics: Working with Older Youth; Educational Advocacy; Introduction to Report Writing (2 OY credits and 1 regular credit)

Friday, November 10, 2006

Linden Oaks Hospital

Title: PTSD/Trauma

Where: Edward Hospital Education Center
801 S. Washington St., Naperville

Time: 8:30-9 AM registration. Program is from 9 AM to Noon.

Cost: \$25 Registration fee plus additional \$15 for CEU's. Checks payable to Linden Oaks Hospital
Registration: Call 630-369-6363 to register.

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Kane County CASA

Title: The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children

Where: Kane County Government
Center Auditorium
Route 31, Geneva

Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Cost: Free

Registration: RSVP to Deb McQuaid at 630-444-3110 or debm@casakanecounty.org

More details to come.



Reminder:

The office will be closed on
October 9
Columbus Day

Report on the CASA State Conference

Several CASA Staff members, as well as advocate, Denise Niesman, traveled to Springfield for the CASA State Conference held September 15 and 16, 2006. We attended three very informative sessions presented by engaging DCFS representatives and college professors. There was also a panel discussion with judges, DCFS personnel and CASAs. Finally, it was a great opportunity to meet other CASA staff members and advocates, and make connections with our counterparts in other sections of the state.

Of great interest to our Older Youth Program was Kim Peck's presentation entitled "The Path to Emancipation". Ms. Peck is employed with the DCFS Division of Service Intervention out of Springfield and is responsible for overseeing the various educational and vocational programs and assistance available to foster youth to support them as they prepare for emancipation from DCFS care. There are many programs available, whether the youth is college bound or needs assistance with employment and housing. Often these programs are underutilized simply because the worker is not aware of their existence or applicability to a particular youth. So if we can educate ourselves in this regard, we can better advocate for and serve our older youth as they prepare for emancipation.

The second presentation attended was entitled "Attachment Problems in Maltreated Children: What CASAs Should Know and How They Can Help," given by Jeanne Howard with the Illinois State University, School of Social Work. Ms. Howard gave a very enlightening presentation about what happens to children when they are removed from their parents and every time their foster placement is changed. She reminded us that even when children are removed from their parents' care to keep them safe, harm is done to the child in terms of that attachment to the parents. Also, child welfare personnel can be part of the problem in terms of more broken attachments every time a change is made and that person leaves the child's life. Ms. Howard stressed the need to be sensitive to these attachments and for personnel in child welfare to create, maintain and

support attachments to the child's original family and the child's alternate family. She explained how broken or problematic attachments can result in behaviors that are often misdiagnosed as ADD and ADHD, or that the child is just "bad." Ms. Howard provided practical suggestions as to what we as CASAs can do to help support positive attachments, and ultimately the child's physical and emotional health. One great suggestion was helping to create a Lifebook for the child, containing pictures of biological and foster families, cards, and general information about their life.

The third topic "Thinking Outside the Box: Identity, Race, Kinship and Foster Care" was presented by Gina Samuels of the University of Chicago. Ms. Samuels reiterated that we don't choose our race and that while multiracial people are often stereotyped by society as more attractive, they are often misunderstood, confused and conflicted because they do not "fit" into any one race. She stressed that it is important to give a child access to cultural immersion opportunities so that they can understand and identify with their race. In this regard, racial heritage information could be part of a child's Lifebook.

The conference wrapped up with the panel discussion, entitled "Creating the Best Path: Being the Best Child Advocate You Can Be." The panel included a judge, representatives from DCFS, GALs and CASAs and the discussion resulted in many useful tips for advocates. For example, the judge suggested that information contained in reports be verified as much as possible. Other panel comments were that confidentiality is extremely important, and that the older the child, the more frequently the CASA should visit. Also, CASA reports should, by numbers, stress the children's ages and how many years they have been in the system, and CASAs should consider including pictures of the children with their reports. CASAs should know the parents' service plan tasks and how they are progressing, and CASA reports should reflect the parents' progress or lack of progress with the tasks.

(Please see State on page 8)

All in the Family

Judie Elenbaas grew up in Grand Haven, MI, graduated from Wheaton College with a major in Chemistry. She earned a Masters in Education degree from National Lewis University. She married her childhood sweetheart, Ron, and together, over the past 43 years they have raised four marvelous children (employed as a computer specialist, a teacher, a social worker, and a lawyer). Living in Wheaton, they enjoy their home, gardens and especially their eight incredible grandchildren!

Judie says she is a composite of all the experiences and people who have shaped her life. (A composite is a combination of two or more visibly distinct materials that are mixed or bonded together to form a unique, identifiable material.) Teaching is what she does, and being a teacher is part of who she is. She has been teaching for the American Red Cross the past 48 years (swimming, life guarding, canoeing, first aid, CPR), and leading and teaching Girl Scouts and Girl Scout leaders since 1962. She has been active in her children's schools, working with camping programs, involved at church, teaching Sunday School, going on mission trips with her children (ever cook for 25 people over a campfire, for a week, using a cold mountain stream for a refrigerator?), and leading Awana and Pioneer Club programs and activities. She has taught science and math to children in Wheaton, Winfield, and Naperville and retired in 2005 after 21 years teaching physics at Naperville North High School. Even now, since retiring, teaching is a large part of her life - teaching physics in a home-schooling program, the ACT test program for Excel Edge, science and technology through a program developed by Northwestern, and training adults in CPR and First Aid.

She told a friend the other day that she was now a child advocate. Her reply was "Well, Judie, I think you have been a child advocate all of your life!" All of the children and adults she has worked with through the years have made her who she is—made a difference in her life. She is especially excited to be part of the CASA program. CASA has already made a difference in her life. Judie says, "Thank you CASA for being a viable presence in my life and in the lives of so many area children."

Events

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

A National Violence Against Women Survey found that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 14 men have been physically or sexually assaulted by an intimate partner. According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an intimate partner physically or sexually assaults approximately 1.5 million women and 834,700 men in the United States each year. The World Health Organization also found that "one of the most common forms of violence against women is that performed by a husband or male partner." In addition, a 1985 survey of more than 6,000 American families found that 50 percent of men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children. (From SAMHSA—National Mental Health Information Center Web site) <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/highlights/october2004/Domestic/default.asp>

Take Back the Night—DuPage

On October 7, 2006, DuPage will host its annual rally to bring to the public knowledge and awareness about sexual and domestic violence. The rally will be held in Naperville's Central Park, 413 E. 11th Avenue, from 4:00 PM to 8:15 PM, culminating in a march through downtown Naperville. The keynote speaker will be Susan Frauer, author of Just Keep Dancing. She will speak at 5:45 PM. Please consider joining in on this memorable event.

October 2—National Child Health Day

National Child Health Day, the first Monday in October, is an occasion for all of us to focus on the health and development of our nation's children. But it's not just *physical* health and development that are important. *Mental* health is crucial to the development of children and must be as closely nurtured, year-round, as other aspects of their health. Approximately one in every five young people in the United States has a mental health challenge. Early detection of mental health difficulties is key to reducing the pain caused to children—and the costs sustained by their families and communities. (From SAMHSA—National Mental Health Information Center Web site) <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/Ca-0044/default.asp>

Powerless Children Need Powerful Friends!

Our Gratitude to Powerful Friends and Advocates

Case Assignments

We'd like to thank the following people for accepting new case assignments during September: **Juanita Collins, Joyce Miller, Renee Pollock, Connie Puchalski and Helen Spetly.**



Thank You for Contributions

Thank you to the **5th District Junior Organization** for \$340.00.

A BIG thanks to businesses and organizations around the area who donated items that were raffled off in a "Northeast Region Basket" at the Illinois State Conference. Over \$1,300 was raised for Illinois State CASA. Please show your support by shopping, booking a room, or attending an event at the following establishments:

- Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum**
- Chicago Bears**
- Chicago Hilton Hotel & Towers**
- Borders Books**
- Cabernet and Company (434 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn—fine wines)**
- Caribou Coffee**
- Hugo's Frog Bar & Fish House (55 S. Main Street, Naperville)**
- Kiva Salon & Spa (Chicago)**
- The Olive Mill (315 James Street, Geneva—fine vinegars & olive oils)**
- The Rialto Square Theater (Joliet)**
- The Second City Theater (Chicago)**
- Starbucks Coffee**

Also, thanks so much to former Board Member, **Cynthia Da Rosa**, for her donation of 3 bottles of wine, coasters and napkins to the raffle basket.

You May Soon Hear from Our Friends

Friends of CASA will be sending out a questionnaire to solicit interests of those who have partici-

pated in events in the past. Please take the time to thoughtfully respond if you are contacted.

Peanut Days

Peanut Days was a success as our Chairpersons **Gayle Parker** and **Nancy Battaglia** worked hard to partner with the Kiwanis Clubs in the area. We want to thank the Naperville group who worked several store fronts on the 23rd and 24th in two-hour shifts from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The volunteers that made this possible were: **Marlen Matthes, Sue McFarlane, Pam Curtin, Gayle Parker, Kelly Burling, Connie Puchalski, Bryan Austin, Renae Riley, Denise** and **Diane Niesman**. We will not know what our proceeds will be from this Kiwanis Club since this must be generated through a grant.

In Darien on the 24th, several volunteers manned the corner at 75th and Cass in Willowbrook from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and a store front as well. During the three hours that the volunteers worked, we collected almost \$1,300 and CASA received 40% which totaled \$505.60. The volunteers who helped were: **Alicia Badocha, Rosemary Grant, Rich Hanke, Jeri Hoag, Liz Hubbell, Sandy Kupensky, Joan Ranz, Alicia** and **Ed Snyder, Judy Tig-gelaar** and **Nancy Battaglia**.

We look forward to partnering with Kiwanis again next year. With this kind of opportunity, we can continue to build the community presence of CASA of DuPage County, Inc. and increase our fundraising efforts with service organizations.



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|--------------------|------------------|
| Carol Russell | Margaret Forster |
| Paul Barrett | Jenifer McKenzie |
| Dorothy Sonntag | Juanita Collins |
| Ruth Trousil | Deanna Golden |
| Sandy Krummenacher | Brian Mazzoni |
| Ramona Robert | Cathy DeThorne |
| Betsy Bruns | Steven Sweetser |
| Lisa Westergaard | |

News You Can Use

Foster Youth and Higher Education

It is estimated that only 20 percent of the foster youth who manage to graduate from high school are participating in post secondary education. This rate is considerably lower than youth who haven't been in foster care. No doubt, finances have a lot to do with it. Several organizations are trying to help:

- The Chafee Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) program provides youth up to \$5,000 per year to attend higher education institutions or accredited post secondary training programs. For more information, see www.statevoucher.org
- The Casey Family Scholars Program, which is administered by the Orphan Foundation of America (www.orphan.org), provides up to \$10,000 to young people under age 25 who spent at least 12 months in foster care and were not subsequently adopted.
- MI FERN (www.foster-education.org) is a student run organization that assists current and former foster youth in pursuit of post-secondary education. Their website offers an *Annual Student Guide* with detailed advice for planning for college.
- The National Foster Parent Association (www.nfpainc.org) strives to support foster parents and be a strong voice on behalf of children.

From the summer 2006 edition of *The Connection*, the National CASA magazine.

How Does Your Engine Run?

An 8-week program provides a way for parents and children to learn about self-regulation. The program is designed for children who are diagnosed as having ADD/ADHD, either medicated or not medicated. The next session runs October 3rd through November 28 (but not October 31) from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Valley Community Bank (lower level), 75 S. Randall Road, North Aurora. To reserve a slot or find out more, call Annette Bush at (630) 337-9773.

Cell Link

The Cell Link program provides donated cell phones to senior citizens and disabled persons who may otherwise not have the need or funds to purchase one. The phones are programmed to dial 911, but cannot make or receive any other outside calls. All cellular 911 calls made within DuPage County are received at the DuPage County Sheriff's Office.

Phones in overall good working condition, with a battery and charger, can be dropped off 24 hours a day at:

DuPage County Sheriff's Office
Radio Room window, 2nd floor
501 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187



Applicants for the donated phones must be age 62 or older OR younger than 62 but with physical or mental disabilities AND not own a cellular phone. To apply for membership in the Cell Link program, fill out the form at www.co.dupage.il.us/sheriff/Cell%20Link.htm.

Thanks to advocate **Marsha Nathan** for alerting us to this program.

Good Read

A recent edition of *The Connection*, National CASA magazine, reviewed **A Love Like No Other, Stories From Adoptive Parents**, edited by Pamela Kruger and Jill Smolowe. The book features 20 leading writers, all adoptive parents, discussing their personal experiences. The stories are sometimes humorous, sometimes painful. They show the realities of adopting and raising children. Reading this book should expand our understanding of adoption. You can order this book online for about \$16 or borrow it from a local library. It is available from the College of DuPage library. The call number is HV874.8.L68 2005.

Miscellany

The Holidays are Coming

Consider some of this CASA Merchandise, available at the office:

CASA Heart Pins.....	\$3
Magnets	\$3
Bottle Stopper.....	\$5
CASA Kids Pins.....	\$5
Cookbooks.....	\$5
(3 for \$10)	

Golf Stuff

Balls/Sleeve.....	\$5
Balls/Dozen.....	\$15
Socks (Men & Women).....	\$5
Marker/Divot Tool.....	\$8
Towels.....	\$10

Speaker's Bureau Update

Our Speaker's Bureau Chairperson, **Pam Curtin** has had her running shoes on during the past month. On August 30, she participated in a United Way Exhibit at Nicor for their employees. Various UW organizations had booths to help educate employees about non-profit missions and organizations in the county. Pam also spoke to Nicor employees in Glen Ellyn on September 15 and September 25. She will also have a table at the Take Back the Night event on October 7, and has a Halloween engagement with the Elmhurst Kiwanis.

A big thank you goes out to **Nancy Battaglia**, a CASA Friend and member of the Speaker's Bureau. Nancy attended the United Way Ambassador Training in August. She gave a brief talk about CASA and also learned about the work of several other United Way organizations in DuPage County.

A special thanks to a CASA Friend, **Susan Casey**, who is assisting the Speaker's Bureau by contacting all service organizations in DuPage to set up future speaking engagements. We are most grateful to Susan, a former teacher, for volunteering to do this special project.

Class Assistants Needed for New Advocate Training

Training for our next Advocate class will run from October through November and be held at the Carol Stream Police Department. Class dates are October 16-18, 23-25, 28, 30, and November 1st and November 28th. Weekday classes run from 6:30-9:30 p.m. (except for the first night when registration begins at 6 p.m.) The Saturday class is from 9 a.m. to noon. Assistants need to arrive no later than ½ hour prior to class to help with room set up and greeting new trainees. Four hours of in-service credit will be awarded. Contact Sandy if you can help at 221-0889 x306 or sandy@dupagecasa.org

College of DuPage (COD) Concert

Holly Near, whose powerful anthems have captured the mood of many social change movements, will be performing a concert to benefit Family Shelter Service on October 28, 2006.



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the concert will celebrate Family Shelter's 30th anniversary of providing help to victims of domestic abuse. Holly will perform at 8:00 PM at the COD Student Resource Center, Room 2800, 425 Falwell Boulevard. Tickets are \$25.

(State, continued from page 4)

CASAs should also encourage parents to do what they need to do. Another suggestion was that any information that differs from the case-worker's assessment should be shared in an informative, not confrontational, way.

In summary, the conference was a great learning experience for CASA staff members and provided us with great ideas and suggestions. We are excited to incorporate the information and materials obtained from the conference into our training program and in-service opportunities to help you better advocate for your child.