



Court Appointed Special Advocates of the River Region

Serving Jefferson, Henry, Oldham, Trimble, Shelby and Spencer Counties

CASA NEWS

7 Ways to Enhance Your Experience as a Volunteer

by John L. Lipp, President/CEO
PAWS, San Francisco

In working with thousands of volunteers over the past 24 years, I've heard one comment repeated over and over again in various versions. It goes something like this: "Thank you; I got so much more out of it than I gave." Hearing this from so many volunteers—but not all—got me wondering why some people have a better experience than others and, more important, how much of that is due to their own initiative. So while most of my work is dedicated to what organizations can do to support and nurture their volunteer programs, this column is devoted to things volunteers can do to get the most out of their experiences.

1. Find the Right Fit.

Organizations spend a lot of time and resources screening volunteers to make sure they match the right person to the right job. Yet with all



July 2011 Issue

CASA STATS*

- 135** CASES
- 120** VOLUNTEERS
- 243** CHILDREN SERVED

* As of June 30, 2011

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every child deserves someone to trust.

of these screening tools, the only person who truly knows whether it's the right fit is you. If something isn't working for you, be honest with your supervisor and explore whether the job can be modified or there might be another opportunity in the organization. In extreme situations, another organization may be a better fit. There are thousands of great opportunities for volunteers out there; the volunteers who are happiest are the ones who take the time to find that right position.

2. Be Proactive.

Let your supervisor know what it is you want to achieve from your volunteer experience and periodically assess whether you are meeting your goals. Along the way, don't be afraid to speak up (in a nice way, of course!) and share your ideas for making things better. Even if your suggestions can't be implemented, making yourself heard is a powerful way to build a deeper relationship with the organization you care so deeply about.

3. Understand the Big Picture.

Make a commitment to learn about all aspects of the organization you work for so that you understand how your service as a volunteer fits into the big picture. You may discover other volunteer opportunities within the organization, and at the very least, you will have an increased appreciation for all the moving parts that go into delivering services.

4. Be an Advocate for the Organization.

As a volunteer, you have a lot of knowledge and understanding about important issues affecting the community. Whether you help recruit new volunteers, collect donations or just open up a few minds, embrace your inner advocate and share your passion and knowledge with others. At the end of the day, there is nothing more motivating than sharing your experience with another person and seeing your own passion reflected back to you.

5. Acknowledge Your Co-Workers.

Take time to get to know your co-workers (paid staff, other volunteers and your supervisor) and pay attention to what makes them unique and effective. When they least expect it, let them know how much you appreciate them. As Mark Twain said, "The happy phrasing of a compliment is one of the rarest of human gifts and the happy delivery of it another." *(continued on next page)*



Enhance Your Experience continued...

6. Find Balance.

As much as you love your volunteer work and the difference you are making, part of what makes you successful is your ability to find balance in your life, keep things in perspective and keep all the parts in harmony. Acknowledge your limitations—we can't be everything to everybody!—and know how much time you can realistically give as a volunteer. The happiest volunteers measure their success in the quality of the time they donate, not the quantity.

7. Know When to Leave.

Volunteering for an organization is a journey of discovery, and as with all journeys, there is an ending. Whether your volunteer tenure with an organization spans a couple of years or a couple of decades, there will come a time when that inner voice tells you you've given all you can give and it's time to start a new journey. When this happens, work closely with your organization to prepare an exit plan that ensures your important work will continue and other volunteers are in place, ready to fight the good fight. And, of course, just because you no longer volunteer for an organization doesn't mean you have to stop being an advocate (see #4 above!).

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National CASA Association (CASAforChildren.org)

Staff Addition

CASA of the River Region would like to formally welcome the newest member of our staff, *Liz Hubbard*. Liz came to us a little more than a year ago as an experienced volunteer from North Carolina. Liz was born in Australia but lived most of her life in North Carolina where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from North Carolina State. She worked as a probation officer and then as a project manager for Bank of America. Liz is married with two children. She has been a tremendous advocate and we are pleased to have her join our staff as a volunteer supervisor.

Welcome Liz!

Dennis Kute: 1942-2011

Dennis Kute was a dedicated volunteer for CASA of the River Region for nearly 10 years; he advocated for many children during his time with CASA. Dennis passed away on June 9, 2011. He was a class of 1963 Alumni of Trinity High School and a 1969 graduate of Bellarmine College. He was a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, having received the "Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal." We will remember him with fondness, laughter, and appreciation, and honor his memory by continuing the mission he took so much pride in helping us with.



Dennis will be missed. We will always remember his dedication to our program and his service to our community's victimized children.

Happy Birthday Volunteers

Jefferson County:

Talley Cockerel, July 2
Stephanie Caldwell, July 20
Lori Holland, July 20
Janet McAllister, July 24
Barbara Stallard, July 26
Mary Diamond, July 30

Henry, Oldham & Trimble Counties:

Barry Wilding, July 1
Kris Russell, July 8

Volunteer Spotlight

CASA congratulates *Janie McWilliams* on the recent completion of her Master's degree from the University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work. Janie has served as a volunteer and practicum student since September 2010. Congratulations on all your hard work Janie.

We would also like to recognize the efforts of another volunteer, *Lori Arnold*. Lori has been a volunteer since November 2010. Her first case is coming to a close and she has worked very hard to achieve permanency for the two children that she served. Her first case was very difficult (as are all of our cases) with many complicated issues that she worked very hard to help resolve. Her children will soon be in the care of a wonderful loving relative who will be able to provide them with a safe and stable home.

Moving Day is Finally Here



After a tremendous fundraising effort by everyone involved with the building project, and many in-kind donations, the big day is finally here. As of July 15th, our offices will no longer be tucked away in the corner of the Old Jail Building at 514 West Liberty.

The new CASA office will be located at the Kosair Charities Centre (982 Eastern Parkway). We would like give special thanks to Kosair Charities for inviting us to reside on their beautiful campus. Special thanks to Abel Construction for all of the hard work they have provided. And finally, we cannot say thank you enough to our building chair, Carol Lomicka. Without her hard work and passion for this project, this dream would never have become a reality. *Thank you Carol.*

CASA Car Raffle

CASA's Luxury Car Raffle is in full swing. We are raffling off a 2011 Land Rover LR2 courtesy of Bluegrass Motorsport. Kosair Charities is a participating sponsor. While we are sure the raffle will be a big success, thanks to the hard work of the CASA board and staff, we need all the help we can get. Please tell your friends about the raffle and the special website www.CASAraffle.com. We have posters for breakrooms, bulletin boards and any shops that will agree to post them. Send an email to Lauren at lauren@cassrr.org for the poster. She will send you a PDF to print or forward to friends. We have billboard on I-65 near the UofL campus. Also, watch for our TV commercial starring Terry Meiners on WAVE 3 and Insight Cable. You can see the commercial and hilarious outtakes from the shoot at CASARiverRegion.org. *Thanks for your help.*



Upcoming Events

Shelby and Spencer Counties Meeting

Thursday, July 7: Shelby and Spencer Counties will hold a volunteer support meeting at 5:30 pm at the Shelby County Public Library in the Hudson room. Volunteers will talk about issues they face and will be provided with refreshments and educational materials.

Also, be on the lookout for the September 5k and 10k run (date: TBA), which will be held in Shelbyville. September is Alcohol, Drug Abuse, & Child Abuse Prevention and Recovery month. CASA has partnered with Shelby Prevention for this event.

Henry, Oldham, and Trimble Counties Festivals

Saturday, July 16: Henry, Oldham, and Trimble Counties will be participating in Oldham County Day in LaGrange. They will setup a recruitment/raffle booth and drive the Land Rover in the parade.

Saturday, July 30: Henry, Oldham and Trimble Counties will also participate in the Henry County Harvest Festival. They will setup a recruitment/information booth in New Castle.

2011 St. James Court Art Show Preview Party Benefitting CASA

Thursday, September 29: The party Louisville has loved for years is back. The Preview Party is from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. This annual benefit for CASA features 40 notable artists from the St. James Court Art Show who will display and sale their work in a festive and comfortable environment. Party guests can browse the art while enjoying gourmet hors d'oeuvres, desserts, cocktails, wine, beer and beverages. This is the ninth annual edition of this important CASA fundraising event. Ticket sales are limited to 500 guests, and the event has typically soldout. Proceeds from sponsorships and the sale of \$100 tickets help CASA. For ticket information, visit CASARiverRegion.org or like us on Facebook.



Upcoming In-Services

Reminder...

Volunteer support meetings will continue to be held on the 1st Monday and 3rd Thursday of every month. The meetings will be held in the new building and volunteers are encouraged to attend to talk about issues they may be facing in their service.

Wednesday, July 13...

The in-service will held at 6:00 p.m. We will have a special guest speaker from Community Coordinated Child Care talking about early intervention and the first steps for developmentally delayed children. Location: TBA.

Tuesday, August 23...

The in-service will be held at the new building at 5:30 pm. We will have a special guest speaker from Hosparus talking about how children grieve.

Tuesday, September 13...

The in-service will be held at the new building at 5:30 pm. We will have a special guest speaker from Seven Counties talking about Kentucky IMPACT Plus, a behavioral health program for Medicaid-eligible children who have complex behavioral healthcare needs.

*The new CASA building is located at 982 Eastern Parkway, which is located behind main Kosair Centre building.
Option: From Eastern Parkway, turn onto E. Burnett Avenue to enter the driveway that intersects with the CASA parking area.
The new building will be to your right.

Recruitment Efforts

CASA recently presented our program to The Temple Congregation, Adath Israel Brith Sholom, on Lime Kiln Lane and The Forum at Brookside, a full service retirement community. We received several volunteer inquiries and one request for another presentation at the IUS campus to students working towards their Master's in Education.

Presentations like these are paramount to the success of CASA because they are opportunities to inform citizens about our organization and what they can do to help our cause.

If you have any ideas or leads for our recruitment department, or if you know about places where we might be able to present our program for recruitment purposes, please contact Ambrose O'Bryan...

Email: ambrose@casarr.org
Phone: 595-4911

Eight new volunteers completed training in the month of June and will soon take cases. Father Mike Gentry, Lauren Poole, Amy Sinkfield, Deborah Walton, Mark Johnson, Janet Mcallister, Clarissa Novak, and Mary Witherspoon are valuable members of the CASA team.

Welcome new volunteers.



Court Appointed Special Advocates of the River Region

Jefferson County Office

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Henry, Oldham and Trimble Counties Office

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PO Box 225 | La Grange, KY 40031

Shelby and Spencer Counties Office

Beverly Hilger, Program Manager | 502-647-2155 or bev@casarr.org
PO Box 1276 | Shelbyville, KY 40066

Give to CASA



Mail contribution:
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Louisville, KY 40202



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casarr.org



Call our office:
502-595-4911



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