

CASA Chronicles

Spring 2011



CASA

CASA's NEW HOME SET FOR SUMMER OPENING

Teams of workers are applying the finishing touches to a new home for CASA of the River Region on the historic Kosair Charities campus on Eastern Parkway. Project Manager Carol Lomicka intends to have the CASA staff moved into the new space by July, and have it fully functioning by the end of Summer.

Kosair Charities has leased the 5,000 sq. foot space to CASA at no charge until 2030, and has played a key role in refurbishing the building. Donations from major corporations; foundations; local government; and individual CASA supporters have paid for the nearly \$700,000 in improvements.

Laura Dausman, CASA's Board Chair, is excited about the opportunities for expanded service the new building will provide, noting that "This new space means CASA will be able to train even more advocates to represent abused and neglected children. It gets us closer to our goal of providing a CASA for every one of the 3,600 children in this community who needed our help last year."



Watch for information about our Grand Opening this fall!

The Kosair Charities campus, the home of Kosair Crippled Children's Hospital from 1926 until 1981, is a well-known landmark in Louisville. In 2010, Kosair Charities provided \$22.2 million dollars for children and families in Kentuckiana.

CASA of the River Region is delighted to be joining Kosair Charities; the Orthopedic and Prosthetic Center; Bellewood Mentoring Services; the Epilepsy Foundation; Cerebral Palsy Kids Center; the Huntington's Disease Society; Spina Bifida Association of Kentucky; and the UofL Autism Center at the Kosair Charities Centre.

SPRING ISSUE

So far this quarter, CASA has...

Kids
317
Served

Volunteer
122
Advocates

Kids
315
Waiting

Volunteers
22
In Training

Also in this issue... St. James Preview Party | Hats Off! New Staff Member | 2011 Car Raffle | Which One?

CASA's ART SHOW PREVIEW PARTY SET FOR SEPTEMBER 29

The party Louisville has loved for years is back, bigger and better than ever! The date is set for CASA's annual art show celebration, Thursday, September 29, 2011 at the Henry Clay. This exciting evening of art, music, fine food and drink and fun to benefit CASA is a great way to begin the beloved art show weekend held in historic Old Louisville.

Nearly 40 handpicked artists will have their works for sale, giving guests a chance to shop for fine art in a relaxed, comfortable environment. Tickets will go on sale soon; visit CASARiverRegion.com or like us on Facebook for more information.



The Henry Clay

HATS OFF! To *Nanz & Craft* and *Pinotti Florists* for the beautiful flowers at CASA events... *Quattrra 4*, female metalsmiths who donated money from their jewelry show at the Louisville Boat Club... *Axxis, Inc.* for A/V services at the Embrace A Child breakfast... *Miller Print Group* and *CBS Outdoor* for our car raffle billboard... *Louisville Executive Aviation* for inviting CASA to the Jet Show at Bowman Field... *Ashton Advertising* for our beautiful raffle graphics... the *REACH Adult Program* for folding 5,000 donor envelopes... *Louisville Metro Family Services Fund* for a generous grant that supports one of our Directors of Advocacy.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Our CASA Advocacy Supervisor Is Well Traveled



Josette Gocella, whose career of service took her from a small town in Pennsylvania to Chicago, Memphis, France and most recently to the Coroner's Office in Louisville, has joined the staff of CASA of the River Region as Advocacy Supervisor. In her new job, she will be working with volunteers who represent the interests of abused and neglected children in court hearings.

Sr. Gocella, a member of the religious congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, spent nearly two years with the Jefferson County Coroner's office providing grief outreach to the families of those who died as a result of homicide, suicide or accident. She also spent 16 years with Louisville's Church of the Epiphany as pastoral associate.

Originally from Bradford, Pennsylvania ("the home of Zippo lighters"), Sr. Gocella entered the Sisters of St. Joseph after high school. She later worked as a high school teacher and administrator, continued her education at the University of Chicago, and spent three years in the small French town of Le Puy-en-Velay where the Sisters of St. Joseph was founded in 1650. There, she helped open an International Center for Sisters and Associate Members. She is excited about joining the CASA team, and says she was attracted to the CASA mission because of the chance to, **"Help just one child and make a difference."**

2011 CAR RAFFLE FEATURES LAND ROVER LUXURY SUV

Why get a car when you can own a Land Rover?

If you ever wanted to go on Safari but without the bugs and the heat, we have the car for you: a 2011 Land Rover LR2 from Louisville's Blue Grass Motorsport. And it could be yours for as little as \$100 if you have the winning ticket in CASA's 2011 Land Rover Raffle.

Until the end of summer, CASA will be selling just 2,000 tickets at \$100 each to win this stylish and classy SUV. Tickets are available online at CASARaffle.com, or you can call the CASA office at 502-595-4911. CASA ambassadors will sell tickets at various events around the community; check out our main website, CASARiverRegion.org, to see where.

Proceeds from the raffle will benefit CASA of the River Region. The winner will be announced live on "WAVE 3 Listens" on Tuesday, October 4.



WHICH ONE?

The following letter appeared in The Courier-Journal Letters to the Editor section on April 10, 2011.

Last year, 19,500 abused and neglected kids in Kentucky needed child protective services—over 50 children every day for an entire year.

You probably couldn't recognize one of them, riding a bike, or on the playground, or waiting at a bus stop, since this terrible crime cuts across all social, economic and ethnic boundaries.

Fortunately, Louisville has CASA of the River Region, Court Appointed Special Advocates. They are trained volunteers who protect the best interests of children who are the victims of abuse and neglect...*(continued on back page)*

Success Moments.

Three Happy Brothers

John is a CASA for three boys who were exposed to years of extensive domestic violence. Recently, John and his son invited the brothers to see the Riverbats play. The boys had never been to a baseball game. After a night of good seats, hotdogs and popcorn, and new baseball caps all around, the 12-year-old asked John, "When will we see you again?"

Reunited Siblings

10-year-old Billy was removed from his mother, placed with his father and later institutionalized. He hadn't seen his younger brothers in two years. All the children had witnessed domestic violence, inappropriate sexual behavior and neglect. Their CASA spent months working with officials and mental health professionals to reunite the children. When they finally met, the brothers hugged, cried and said, "Billy, we thought you were dead!"

A New Home

Laura was a victim of poverty, physical abuse, neglect and homelessness. Her birth was unplanned, and her mother had few nurturing skills. At age six, Laura's CASA helped place her in a foster home where she had a bed, dresser and clothes hanging in her closet. Laura's first words about her new room were, "You mean I get to have a door to my room?"

A Memorable Visit

Recently, a CASA went to visit Lucas, a teenage boy she had helped to place in a foster home. He introduced the CASA to his new foster sister saying, "This is my CASA. She looks out for me." His foster sister replied, "Will you look out for me too?"



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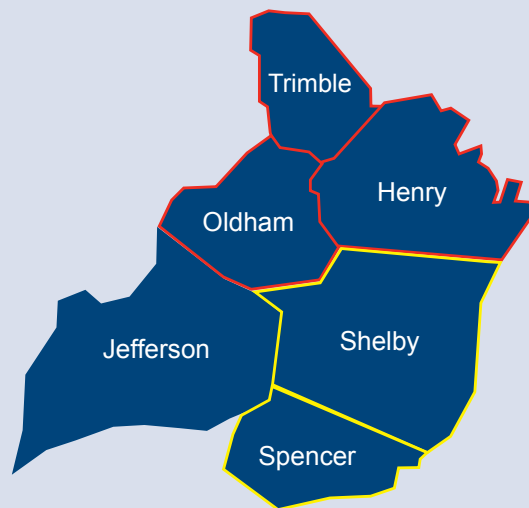
Which One? *continued...*

CASA advocates carry just one case at a time, unlike social workers burdened with dozens of cases.

During April, Child Abuse Awareness Month, CASA worked to educate the public about solutions to this growing problem. Be part of the solution by becoming a CASA volunteer. You'll receive training, guidance and support while representing a child in court. Or consider financial support, especially important since Kentucky is one of just a handful of states that provide no government funding for CASA.

When you go to work, visit church or are out shopping, note the children you see, and remember that by tomorrow, one of them could easily be the victim of abuse or neglect. *Which one?*

CASA of the River Region Service Area



“Every Child Deserves Someone to Trust.”