



Court Appointed Special Advocates of the River Region

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

CASA news

From Place to Place- Interview with Documentary Producer Matt Anderson (part one)



May 2011 Issue

CASA STATS*

- 184 children served in Jefferson County
- 61 children served in Henry/Oldham/Trimble Counties
- 62 children served in Shelby/Spencer Counties

* Since January 1, 2011

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every child deserves someone to trust.

The feature documentary *From Place to Place* follows two youth who age out of foster care and then set out to change the system that raised them. (The trailer can be seen on the film's [website](#).) *From Place to Place* began as a 12-minute short film, released in 2009. National CASA spoke to the producer, Matt Anderson. This is the first part of a two-part interview.

National CASA: Tell me about how this project began.

Anderson: The back-story of this film starts over three years ago, when I was an MSW student at the University of Montana and running an independent living program in Missoula. I was working at the time with seven youth who were all about to age out of foster care. We were their final stop before they emancipated. It was my job to help them learn

how to live independently—housing, employment, education, that sort of thing.

As I reflect back on that position now, the biggest thing we forgot for these kids was the supportive relationship and the supportive network they were going to need post-foster care. We were providing all these services and learning opportunities, but we weren't providing them with the permanent relationships that they would need to be successful as an independent adult.

One day, I was talking to one former foster youth, Codie. He was 18, trying to graduate from high school, working full time and living on his own. We're sitting on his couch and he's reflecting on his experience in foster care—he was removed from his family on his 11th birthday. So he went from his 11th to his 18th birthdays in foster care, and he had 17 placements. He was recounting all of this to me and telling me about just moving from place to place. Then he gets serious and he says to me: "My life is important. My story matters. People need to know what happens in foster care. I want to tell my story." And then he says, "I don't want just anybody to see the film. I want the people who are in a position to make a difference for the next generation of kids in foster care to see it." So that's how it started.

National CASA: Did you have any filmmaking experience?

Anderson: Not at all. I wasn't a filmmaker. I was coming at this purely as a social worker. But someone needed to tell these stories, and it ended up being me.

So we started talking more about the film and what it would look like. We came in contact with Paige Williams [founder of Porch Productions], who actually was a filmmaker in Montana. We pitched her the idea, and we started working together to make a film about Codie. The film then grew to include five other kids who I had worked with. That short film was released in January 2009.

National CASA: What kind of impact did the short film have?

Anderson: The film was picked up by a Montana state representative, Trudi Schmidt. She shared the film with the political leadership in Montana, and she told all of them, "You need to see what's happening with this population." And because of her advocacy, two important things happened. State workers were trained to use the Family Finding model so that foster children could be more easily reunited with family members. The second change was that the state made it possible for social workers to call relatives when children are placed *(continued on next page)*



FYI - Substance Abuse

Substance Abuse, whether in the form of alcohol or drug abuse, is present in roughly 80% of Family Court cases. A CASA volunteer will likely be working with one or both parents who may have history of substance abuse. The chart below lists drugs that are commonly abused and estimates how long those drugs can stay in the body to result in a positive drug screen. *Please note, CASA is having an in-service at The Healing Place on June 20th at 8:30 am.* This is another excellent opportunity to become more educated about substance abuse and its prevalence in CASA cases.

SUBSTANCE	BLOOD	SALIVA	URINE	HAIR
Alcohol	12 hrs	4-12 hrs	6-24 hrs (5 days w/ EtG)	n/a
Amphetamine	12 hrs	3 days	1-4 days	up to 90 days
Barbiturates	unknown	unknown	2-10 days	up to 90 days
Benzodiazepines	unknown	6-48 hrs	1-42 days	up to 90 days
Cannabis (single use)	2-3 days	12-24 hrs	2-3 days	up to 90 days
Cannibus (habitual use)	2 weeks	12-24 hrs	15-30 days	up to 90 days
Cocaine	unknown	1 day	1-3 days	up to 90 days
Opioids	unknown	1-36 hrs	2-4 days	up to 90 days up to 90 days
Heroin	unknown	1-36 hrs	2-4 days	up to 90 days
Methamphetamine	1-3 days	1-48 hrs	3-5 days	up to 90 days
PCP	1-3 days	3 days	3-7 days	up to 90 days
Beprenorphine	unkown	6-12 hrs	1-6 days	unknown
Methadone	unknown	6-12 hrs	6-12 days	unknown

Chart adapted from a variety of sources, compiled by the Department for Community Based Services

From Place to Place continued...

in foster care without worrying about privacy restrictions. Because she listened to their stories, the system has really changed for kids in care in Montana.

During the making of the short film, Mandy and Raif were also invited to Washington, DC, to speak to the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth. That really gave us an opportunity to tell a different story: the short film was about six young adults aging out of foster care, but now we had a chance to really talk about the country's foster care system and what changes needed to be made. And that's how the idea for the feature documentary began.

Reprinted from the *National CASA Blog*
National CASA Association (CASAforChildren.org)

Volunteer Support Meetings.

The first Monday at noon and the third Thursday at 5:30 of each month are reserved for volunteer support meetings. These meetings allow volunteers to meet one another, discuss cases and problems or successes, and hear about any news concerning the organization. *Volunteers from all counties are encouraged to attend.* Please let your supervisor know at least one day before the meeting if you will attend. The next volunteer support meeting is May 19th in the Education Center at Baptist Hospital East (conference room 2J). Contact your supervisor for directions.

Please Contact Your Supervisor.

Please remember to contact your supervisor at least every other week and give them an update on your case. We need to be as up to date on your case as you are and look forward to hearing from you.

Upcoming In-Services.

May 16th. For all volunteers who RSVP'd to attend the in-service at Home of the Innocents, remember that the tour will begin at noon. *See you on May 16th.*

June 1st. The Henry, Oldham and Trimble program will hold an in-service titled *The Fine Line of Child Abuse* at KY State Police Post #5. It will be taught by Tennille Stockdale of the Cabinet. Time: 12:00 to 2:00 pm. Address: 160 Citation Lane | Campbellsburg, KY 40011. *Please bring a brown bag lunch.*

June 20th. Join us at The Healing Place (located at 16th and Broadway in Louisville) from 8:30 to 11:00 am. Please call your supervisor for a reservation to this popular program dealing with substance abuse.

Welcome New Volunteers.

Jefferson: *Stan Bowling, Susan Aiple*

Henry/Oldham/Trimble: *Ann Marple*

Happy Birthday.

The following volunteers are celebrating birthdays this month...

JoAnn Potts, Caton Brader, Carolyn Wilding, Denise Rowling, Caroline Cox, and Charlotte Dawson

Volunteer Spotlight.

Theresa Hardin

Theresa Hardin began volunteering in Shelby County before there was even a program in the county. In December 2007 she took her first case. When she arrived at the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) office, they had no idea what to do. But that didn't deter Theresa. She hit the ground running and hasn't stopped since.

Her most recent case has been very difficult. The child is terminally ill and only 17 months old. She checks on him daily and tries every week to communicate to the mother the need for her to be involved with her young son. Picture a little baby lying in a hospital ICU with no mother there to hold and comfort him.

Her strength and endurance during this hardest of times is amazing. Her love of children and the need to be their voice transcends any definition of the words "child advocate."

Thank you Theresa for being this child's voice and thank you for being a CASA.

*Want to share your CASA story or CASA related event?
Email lauren@casarr.org.*



Court Appointed Special Advocates of the River Region

Jefferson County Office

Shari Christoff, Program Director | 502-595-4911 or shari@casarr.org
514 W. Liberty St, Ste. 139 | Louisville, KY 40202

Upcoming Events.

Saturday, May 14th, Time: 9:00 am

1st Annual CASA Walk: A Walk for Kids in Need

CASA of the River Region is proud to announce the 1st Annual CASA Walk: *A Walk for Kids in Need* in La Grange. The CASA Walk is a family-friendly community event to support the CASA mission. Please spread the word and join us on May 14th at Seven Counties Services in La Grange (located at 2141 Spencer Court, off Commerce Parkway). You can pre-register by visiting www.casarr.org/walk. You may complete registration online or download and mail the application (see FORMS). Event-day registration begins at 8:15 am.

We're still accepting cash and in-kind donations for this event. If you know a business or organization that would like to setup as a vendor, please forward the information. For more info, contact Lauren at 595-4911 or lauren@casarr.org.

Wednesday, May 18th

Kickoff of the Annual Car Raffle*

CASA's annual car raffle is back! This year, CASA is raffling a 2011 Land Rover. The raffle kickoff will be held at the home of author Sue Grafton. Raffle tickets are on sale right now! Please tell your colleagues, neighbors, friends and loved ones to visit www.CASARAFFLE.com to purchase their tickets today. Tickets can be purchased online through check or credit card. You can also post the raffle website on Facebook and Twitter. Just visit the raffle site to share and tweet. A live drawing will be held on October 4. Until then, let's make this year's raffle a big success!

** invitation only event*

Henry, Oldham and Trimble Counties Office

Sherri Caldwell, Program Manager | 502-225-4424 or sherri@casarr.org
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:
514 W. Liberty St, Ste. 139
Louisville, KY 40202



Give online:
casarr.org



Call our office:
502-595-4911



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appreciated stock