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CASA CHRONICLES

SPRING/SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING A CASA FOR 25 YEARS

Peggy Buechler has been a CASA volunteer for 25 years. In her 1994 application, Peggy says she wanted to be a CASA volunteer “to help children who have less than perfect lives have an opportunity for some happiness and normality.”

After raising four children, acquiring a Masters in Counseling Psychology at 47, and working with vulnerable populations--terminally ill, homeless and substance abusers, Peggy wanted to give back to the children in her community.

Peggy learned about CASA through an article in the Courier-Journal. Her first case was with a family of three living in terrible conditions and trusting no one. Peggy said, “What was tough is that I can’t make their lives better. I can’t fix it. I have to

work within boundaries. I can’t give them all happiness, but I can be content knowing they are safe.”



Peggy Buechler, CASA Volunteer

In over two decades, Peggy has impacted many children and their families. “It has been an amazing experience. I grew up in a loving home with two parents and one sister--no violence, no abuse, and an excellent academic journey.

WOW, were my eyes opened when I joined the CASA family. I saw the awful conditions that so many children lived in every day. It broke my heart, and I wanted so much to help them. I was the only steady presence for many of them--a person that they could count on (even at 2 a.m.). I loved them all.”

Peggy dedicated 25 years to changing the stories of the most vulnerable children. We are honored that she chose CASA to devote so much of her time, away from her family, to give children that one consistent person who believes in them.

Celebrate her service at our Embrace a Child Breakfast, THURSDAY, APRIL 9

RSVP: www.casarr.org

SAVE THE DATE	EMBRACE A CHILD BREAKFAST Save the date for CASA's annual impact breakfast at The Olmsted. APR 9	BOURBON BY THE BRIDGE Save the date for CASA's annual bourbon tasting event. JUN 2020	BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE Help us get our kids school ready during our back to school drive. JUL 1-30	CASAblanca Save the date for CASA's NEW event to be held at the Mercury Ballroom. OCT 29
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IMPACT



YOU
CAN CHANGE
THEIR
STORY

CEO/PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Supporters:

2019 was a groundbreaking year for CASA of the River Region. 239 dedicated volunteers served 619 children—the most volunteers in our history.



We are committed to continuing our growth in 2020 so we can serve as many children as possible. This includes allocating resources for innovative new educational awareness campaigns and increasing staff levels to better support volunteers. Again, the work continues to be necessary.

Kentucky is in its second year as the worst state in the nation for child abuse and neglect. CASA volunteers are at the frontlines of this fight and, with your support, so are you.

You are changing children’s stories by supporting our work. We hope you will continue to tell others about CASA, encourage friends to volunteer, and gift us with financial resources. With your help we will continue to grow and fight the scourge that is child abuse.

Sincerely,

William Myers

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A couple of years ago, my mom couldn't take care of me & my sisters anymore because of drugs. We were really young. I was the oldest and remember this lady coming to see us a lot. She was our CASA. We were lucky cause we got to stick together. We've been living with our foster parents for so long that they're really the only parents my little sisters know. Our real dad tried to get better, but our foster parents and CASA weren't sure if it we would be safe. We can tell he loves us, but we're really happy here and I hate thinking about leaving. Hopefully our CASA can help us stay with our parents.

Mandy (9), Kasey (6), Layla (4)



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
CASA OF THE RIVER REGION

Embrace a Child BREAKFAST

THURSDAY | 8-9 AM PROGRAM
APRIL 9, 2020
RSVP: WWW.CASARR.ORG

CASA will be at different community events and will hold FUNdraisers at local spots. Join us or just stop by and say hello.

LAW DAY IN THE PARK

Jefferson Square Park, 301 S 6th St. 40202
May 5, 2020, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

CASA NIGHT @ MAIN EVENT

108 Old Veechdale Road, 40067
MAY 7, 2020, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

MIGHTY KINDNESS HOOT

5720 Taylorsville Rd, 40023
MAY 17, 2020, 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering and helping us table, contact Amber at amber@casarr.org. Different shifts available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOURBON BY THE BRIDGE

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 20, 2020 (5-8 p.m.)
for the annual Bourbon by the Bridge
under the 2nd Street Bridge
in Downtown Louisville.

INFO/TICKETS:
www.bourbonbythebridge.com



It's just me and my dad. He tries hard to take care of everything. He found a job in Florida, but didn't know when it was gonna start. I didn't think I had to go to school since I was moving, but it took longer than we thought. Plus, I didn't like going to school because I was scared of having a seizure. I have epilepsy. I ended up missing 50 days of school and my dad had to go to court because of it. I met my CASA after. With my CASA, he helped us figure out a way to keep me taking my meds and feeling good about going to school. We never moved. Luckily, my CASA was there and helped me stay in school and stay healthy. Our case was closed by the court cause I haven't missed school. I still see my CASA and he's happy that I passed all my classes!

Noah (16)

THANK YOU

25 YEARS

Peggy Buechler

15-24 YEARS

James Ashley
Karen Ashley
Diane Drescher
Lee Staudter

10-14 YEARS

Carolyn Garner
Tony Garner
Linda Ilnick
Kathie Lepping
Walter Reichert
Dorothy Shipley-Foster
Bobbi Waldman

5-9 YEARS

Susan Aiple
Norm Asher
Michael Bright
Marty Burke
Mike Carroll
Steve Dalton
Donna Dye
Sharon Finlinson
Annie Fitzgerald
LuAnn Galbraith
Liz Hubbard
John Kiesel
Julie Magnuson
Phyllis McKinney
Judy Metcalf
Scott Metsker
Douglas Michael
Paula Miller
Julianne Morris
Rita Ostwalt
Sharon Peariso
Carmen Riggs
Rosalind Scott
Robert Stenger
Ashley Stroud

Nick Temple
Joyce Voss
Dorothy Watts
Yvonne Woods

2-4 YEARS

Linda Aaron
Nancy Abell
David Anna
Melinda Arbough
Timothy Babcock
Hannah Barrineau
Malissia Bell
Suzette Bole
Lianne Bradshaw
Dustin Brown
Denise Clark
Carolyn Downey
Sarah Drake
Doug Dukes
Melissa Ensch
Diane Escobedo
Lisa Fleck
Paul Fries
Jennifer Fuller
Ray Garrett
Kimberly Gillespie
Chelsea Graham
Nancy Graham
John Hale
Patricia Hart
Mimi Heick
Justin Heidel
Laurie Hobbs
Chris Hock
Amy Howard
Jessica Hume
Kim Jarett
Cheryl Jones
Kyung Kang
Tara Kelly
Mariya Leyderman
Peggy Makowski

Mara Maldonado
Lynn March
Enid Mason
Holly McDevitt
Joe McWilliams
Patti Meyer
Doreen Miller
Judy Miller
Sonnice Moore
John Mullins
Kuntesh Naik
Terri Phelps
Thomas Pike
Jennifer Plyman
Susan Price
Dolores Radasch
Rita Roberts
Alicia Rowe
Michelle Schulten
Caroline Schulz
Joan Schumer
Kimberly Self
Karen Sensenbrenner
Sarah Smith
Brandia Todd
Christina Tucker
Nancy Underwood
Kay VanArsdale
Cheryl Via
Stephanie VonTrapp
Ruth Wagoner
Eric Weisbach
Diane Werner
Deborah Wesslund
James Whitaker
Ashley Withers
Ashlee Workman
Stephen Zaricki
1 YEAR OR LESS
Julie Ackley
Timothy Adams
Tim Allman

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS JAN 2019-MAR 2020

Mallory Alonso
Taylor Amerman
Suzanne Andrew
Jay Ankenbrand
Peggy Armeni
Lisa Arvin
Philip Aschbacher
Miriam Ballert
Alicia Barnett
Marc Beatty
Matt Beeson
Brittany Bennett
Thomas Beville
Patricia Bland
Mike Boblitt
Diane Bondehagen
Sandy Boomer
James Bornstein
Ashley Brown
Cassidy Brucker
Diane Campbell
Adam Caperton
Christy Cates
Rachel Caudill
Judith Chang
Joseph Coleman
David Cooper
Debora Dale
Amy Davenport
Katelyn Dennis
Cherell Diggs
Ruth Durbin
Sidney Ehrenborg
Jeffery Ellis
Shawn Eve
Sharron Faith
Paul Field
Debra Fulkerson
Louisa Gallup
James Geier
Mark George
Lisa Glenn
Anne Gordon

Jessie Gordon
Joseph Grove
Brenda Hackett
Della Hardin
Meghan Hawthorne
Michelle Hayden
Stephen Heitz
David Hopkins
Ona Hull
Jamie Jarecki
Nia Jolly
Mary Kardols
Kathleen King
Kylie King
Kerri Kipp-Sutton
MaryKatherine Kirby
Caitlin Larger
Lisa Lesschafft
Cong Li
James Locke
Kelley Logsdon
Annie Mathew
Renae May
Michele McCallion
Cynthia McCarthy
Anna McCormick
Emily McDowell
Kathryn McFadden
Jennifer McLondon
James Melchior
Brittany Mencotti
Lynda Merz
Elizabeth Montgomery
Beth Mooneyhan
Martha Morrison
Lauren Mountz
Sean Muldoon
Susan Muldoon
Patricia Nelson
Ashley Newton
Karen O'Hara
Pamela Parson
Sally Pence

Emily Perkins
Lissi Petersen
Peg Peterson
Devin Phinney
Jay Pierce
Tracy Pope
Dan Pratte
Valecia Quinn
Rachel Rearden
Gottfried Reck
Miranda Reece
Kelly Roos
Alan Rosenberg
Caroline Russell
Rita Scanga
Jocelyn Schlegel
Kelli Schmidt
Elizabeth Sebastian
James Shaeffer
Tawnya Shepherd
Jason Smiley
Glenda Smith
Debra Steele
David Stermer
Denise Streich
Jamie Swyers
Lee Taylor
Matthew Taylor
Devan Trenkamp
Rebecca Turley
Helen Turner
Kelly Valenti
Gayle Vincent
Elizabeth Walton
Janet Walton
Maya Warrior
Katherine Weidmann
Brooks White
Martha Wick
Chantay Wickliffe
Nancy Willis
Matthew Winkler
Amanda Winters
Barbara Winters
Ann Young
Jennifer Zimmer



PROGRAM UPDATE

STATISTICS FOR JAN-DEC 2019

239 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER HOURS 49,504

619 65 VOLUNTEERS COMPLETED TRAINING + TOOK A CASE CHILDREN SERVED

IN THEIR WORDS

CASA volunteers provide a valuable service to the children whose families find themselves on the dependency, neglect, and abuse dockets.

Judges and attorneys depend on the observations and insights from the CASA workers who serve in their cases. CASA workers often have more opportunities to have contact with the children than any other person in the system.

The reality is that Cabinet workers carry a heavy caseload; the GAL juggles multiple DNA cases in several jurisdictions as well as attending to a private law practice; and children are sometimes located in residential facilities that are several hours away.

These realities often leave gaps in the service to our children. Having a CASA volunteer to fill that gap and help monitor the situation is invaluable.

CASAs get to know children on a personal level because they are observing many aspects of their existence. This allows CASAs to advocate more effectively for the child in Court. Conversely, CASAs' constant presence provides children with a sense of importance and consistency, which they may never have had before.

The work of CASA impacts the entire dependency, abuse, and neglect docket. Their service allows Judges and attorneys to obtain information they may not otherwise have had to make important decisions for families.

Most importantly, the work of CASAs impact the daily lives of the children they serve by conveying to them that they are seen and valued.

By Laura Stoess, Guardian Ad Litem

MATT WINKLER, CASA SINCE 2019

"Volunteering to be a CASA is work. It will, however, offer you the ability to improve your community at the ground level. The change you bring will impact hundreds of others for the greater good. Children desperately need you and you can make a difference with a small amount of your time"



ANNA GOODHART, CASA SINCE 2019

"I became a CASA because I wanted to be able to "give back" to my community in a meaningful way. I knew that I had the resources and energy to take something on.. when I first sat down at the info session I just felt a big "yes" click within me saying, "Hey whatever comes your way in this, as unpredictable as it may be, I bet you can actually make a positive impact on a child", and I am so thankful that I did."

JIM MELCHIOR, CASA SINCE 2019

"CASA volunteering will take you out of your comfort zone. You see and hear things that you might not have previously been exposed to or comfortable with. You quickly get past that. You will recognize that you can help take some of the worry away from your child and their family, and help them hopefully have a better future."



CASA PHOTO ALBUM

VIEW ALL EVENT PHOTOS:
[FACEBOOK.COM/CASARIVERREGION](https://www.facebook.com/CASARIVERREGION)

VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY PARTY

CONRAD-CALDWELL HOUSE | DECEMBER 12, 2019



THE HON. JOHN DAVID MYLES' HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 10, 2019



TORY BURCH SUPPORTS CASA NOVEMBER 22, 2019



COCKTAILS & CONVERSATIONS OCTOBER 2019





982 Eastern Parkway, Box 9
Louisville, KY 40217

Website: CASARiverRegion.org
Phone: (502) 595-4911

Ways to Give:

- 1 Mail Contribution
- 2 Give Online
- 3 Call Us
- 4 Donate Stock

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