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# CASA CHRONICLES

FALL/WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

## THE VALUE OF CASA IN MY COURTROOM

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is an integral partner in the judiciary's efforts to improve the lives of children, keep them with their parents if it is safe, reunite families when appropriate, and ultimately establish permanency for the children.

Family Court judges need and regularly rely upon the information provided by CASA volunteers because it is generally not readily available from or provided by other sources. This information is essential when the Court is tasked with making significant decisions that affect the children and their family.

CASA volunteers often meet and talk with teachers, school counselors, daycare providers and therapists. The volunteers provide information regarding doctor visits and dental

care, and whether the children are up to date with appointments and therapy.

The CASA volunteers also talk with parents, relatives, foster parents and other people who have important relationships with the children.

Most importantly, the volunteers serve as an additional voice for children who often feel scared, worried, uninformed and displaced. Many are children of trauma who feel their wishes and desires go unheard in the court system.

In each case, judges need as many eyes and as much information on the family as possible to ensure that appropriate decisions are made and that their decisions are always in the best interest of children.



Judge Gina Kay Calvert  
Jefferson Family Court, Division 9

The necessary and important role CASA plays in assisting the Family Court, children, and families cannot be over emphasized. The CASA volunteers are very special people and our community should give them our thanks.

- Judge Gina Calvert

SAVE THE DATE	<b>SUPERHERO 5K WALK/RUN</b> Be on the lookout for up-to-date info on our Superhero Walk/Run 5K. <b>FALL TBD</b>	<b>HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE</b> Collect new toys, clothes, books & other gifts to ensure kids have a great holiday. <b>NOV 1-30</b>	<b>EMBRACE A CHILD BREAKFAST</b> Save the date for CASA's annual impact breakfast at The Olmsted. <b>APR 9</b>	<b>BOURBON BY THE BRIDGE</b> Save the date for CASA's annual bourbon tasting event. <b>JUN 2020</b>
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IMPACT



YOU CAN  
CHANGE  
THEIR  
STORY

CEO/PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Unfortunately, we now have the ignominious recognition of being #1 in the country for child abuse. We have almost 34,000 children each year in Kentucky who are abused and neglected—a number which I have sadly seen rise by 35% since I began at CASA in 2013. Despite what seem like insurmountable odds, you have committed to making a difference in changing a child's story.



Thank you for being part of this movement. We need to keep up attention on child abuse so we can stop it from spreading. To do this, we need to continue to encourage community organizations, news outlets, and individuals to have conversations on how they can prevent child abuse.

We also need you to encourage people to become CASA volunteers so all children will have a voice. We are grateful for the vigor helping us stem the tide of abuse in our Commonwealth, and we need the momentum to continue. Margaret Mead reminds us that “A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” Thank you for being part of this movement and please help us to keep it going.

Sincerely,

William Myers, JD, MBA

## 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ruth Reid, Board Chair

Heather Metts, Finance Chair

Ashlyn Ackerman, Secretary

Drew Brown

Amy Caudill

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Philip Hawkins

Carl Heck

Barbara LaMaster

Carol Lomicka

Jessica Mazzonetto

Leon Mooneyhan

Ambrose O'Bryan

Susan Ochs

Kellie Sheryak

Jessica Wissing

“My parents had many problems with drugs, so my sister Sally and I had been living with our aunt and uncle for more than 6 years now. We love them a lot, but our home still had a lot of problems. My aunt and uncle were pulled over on the highway and the police found drugs in the car. After that, we met our CASA. She listened to us a lot. Asked us how we felt and what we wanted. Finally, Sally told our CASA about how we both wanted to live with our older sister. It was a lot of work, but our CASA could tell we really wanted to live with older sister. She knew it would be a better home for us. Thanks to our CASA, we now live in a stable home together, and Sally has even gotten a job.”

Sally (18) and Jen (13)

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

# BECOME A CASA INVESTOR

CASA fundraises 100% of its budget through grants (63%), special events (13%), and individual/organizational donations (24%).

Last year, CASA served 627 vulnerable children (the most in the agency’s 35 year history). Despite this, there were 150 children waiting for a CASA. It costs an average of \$1,000 to recruit, train and pair a volunteer with one case for one year.

CASA invites companies, foundations and individuals to consider becoming a CASA Investor through its Impact Giving Program. The program allows donors to give a specific yearly donation that would support both programming and special events, thus increasing CASA’s awareness and impact in the community.

Contact Amabelle at [amabelle@casarr.org](mailto:amabelle@casarr.org) for more information.

## HOLIDAY

The holiday gift drive starts November 1. Collect new toys, books and clothes for all ages, including teens. INFO : [shari@casarr.org](mailto:shari@casarr.org)



## EMBRACE A CHILD BREAKFAST

Save Thursday, April 9, 2020 for the annual Embrace a Child Breakfast. [www.casarr.org/events](http://www.casarr.org/events)

CASA will be hosting an information table at the following community events. Stop by and say hello!

### LUCKY’S MARKET

200 N Hurstbourne Pkwy, 40222  
Aug. 30th 4:00pm-7:00pm  
Sept 7th 11:00-2:00pm

### SIMPSONVILLE FALL FESTIVAL

108 Old Veechdale Road, 40067  
Sept. 14th 10:00am-6:00pm

### ELK CREEK COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

5720 Taylorsville Rd, 40023  
Sept. 21st 9:00am-4:00pm

If you are interested in volunteering and helping us table, contact Amber at [amber@casarr.org](mailto:amber@casarr.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## BOURBON BY THE BRIDGE

Stay tuned for more details on 2020’s Bourbon by the Bridge. [www.casarr.org/events](http://www.casarr.org/events)



## CASA 101

A 1-hour session on volunteering, the application process, training & case support. [www.casarr.org/casa101](http://www.casarr.org/casa101)

“Last year, my dad told me that we would both be moving to Florida before school started, so I stopped attending the school I always went to. I didn’t know this at the time, but I suffer from a disorder that makes me have seizures and I wasn’t taking the right medication. It took a month and a half of missing school that the court got involved. It’s the same time I met my CASA. My CASA encouraged me to go to school more. She helped my dad with keeping me up on my medication. The medication helps prevent me from getting seizures, and I’ve been attending school regularly. Even though I missed around 50 days of school this year, I just passed my grade thanks to my CASA.”

Kelly (15)

If **WE** own the  
**WE** STORY,  
can  
**CHANGE**  
the **ENDING.**



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

# EMBRACE A CHILD TABLE CAPTAINS

APR 9, 2020

Our annual Embrace A Child Breakfast connects current supporters of CASA with other individuals in the community who are unaware of the work we do or would like to learn more about getting involved.

There will be 30 tables of 10 guests per table. CASA is in need of Table Captains! Table Captains are ambassadors of CASA who will invite new people to learn about CASA, its mission and the children we serve.

We will NOT ask you to request a donation from your friends. We hope they will come and listen and if, by choice, they would like to donate, our board chair will give them an opportunity at the end of the breakfast.

Interested? Contact Amabelle at [amabelle@casarr.org](mailto:amabelle@casarr.org) by November 1.

## TABLE CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. **INVITE:** People you think might want to know more how to help vulnerable kids.
2. **ENCOURAGE CONNECTIONS:** Invite guests to attend a courtroom tour to get an insider’s perspective on what goes on during a child’s case.
3. **REMIND:** Personally call or talk with each guest to encourage attendance.
4. **GREET:** Arrive early, locate your table and welcome your guests.
5. **THANK:** Be sure to thank guests for coming at least two days after the breakfast.





# PROGRAM UPDATE

STATISTICS FOR JAN-AUG 2019

192 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

# VOLUNTEER HOURS  
24,576

NEW CHILDREN SERVED  
231

23 VOLUNTEERS COMPLETED TRAINING + TOOK A CASE

14,400 MILES DRIVEN BY VOLUNTEERS

525 CHILDREN SERVED

133 #CASA Children who received backpacks

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**CARL HEICK**, PRIVATE WEALTH ADVISOR,  
CARDINAL POINTE FINANCIAL GROUP

Carl joined the Board in 2018. His wife, Mimi, has been a CASA since 2015 and Carl supported her by promoting CASA to his friends and work clients.



**DREW BROWN**, BRANCH MANAGER,  
CHASE BANK

“Ensuring that young people have every opportunity to enjoy their childhood has always been important to me. The mission of CASA aligns perfectly with that.”



Jessica learned about CASA through former Board Chair, Tim Nall. She wanted to become more involved and joined the Board because she cares about children's issues.

**JESSICA MAZZONETTO**, GLOBAL ASSOCIATE  
BRAND MANAGER (JACK DANIELS),  
BROWN-FORMAN

**PEG BRENNAN PETERSON**, TRAINING MANAGER  
Peg became a CASA volunteer in October, 2018 and joined CASA staff as the Training Director in February 2019.



**AMBER WEIAND**, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER  
Amber served on the CASA Development Committee for 2 years before joining our team as Community Engagement Manager in July 2019.

## NEW STAFF MEMBERS

# CASA PHOTO ALBUM

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

## BOURBON BY THE BRIDGE

UNDER 2ND ST. BRIDGE | JUNE 8, 2019

Over 250 guests took their chances with the weather and were rewarded with a cool, breezy evening at this year's Bourbon by the Bridge.

Held under the 2nd Street bridge for the first time, CASA hosted 18 distilleries that provided straight pours and cocktails to showcase their variety of spirits; enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres by Ladyfingers Catering. The Craig Twedell Trio provided live music.

The event was sponsored by Kosair Charities, HelloSpoke, Adam Jilil Maamry Memorial Fund and Carol & Bill Lomicka.



# KOSAIR CHARITIES PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 19, 2019



# MONNIK NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR AUGUST 3, 2019



# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER APRIL 2019





982 Eastern Parkway, Box 9  
Louisville, KY 40217

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Website: [CASARiverRegion.org](http://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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