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NEWSLETTER SUMMER/FALL 2021

ON THE CALENDAR

17 GIVEFORGOOD
 24 HOUR ONLINE
 GIVING DAY
 www.casarr.org
 SEP

30 CASA
 PRE-SERVICE
 TRAINING BEGINS
 lydia@casarr.org
 SEP

29 CASABLANCA:
 A NEW EVENT AT THE
 MERCURY
 BALLROOM
 casarr.org/events
 OCT

18 VOLUNTEER
 APPRECIATION DINNER
 SAWYER HAYES
 COMMUNITY CENTER
 NOV

03 HOLIDAY
 GIFT DRIVE
 DONATION
 DROP-OFF
 megani@casarr.org
 DEC

1ST CASA101
3RD {VIRTUAL}
 INFO SESSION
 casarr.org/casa101
 WEDNESDAY

IN HIS OWN WORDS: JUDGE DERWIN WEBB

DIVERSIFYING CASA'S VOLUNTEER BASE

When I played college basketball, I would train year round with the hopes of winning a national championship. I sacrificed family time and friendships with the goal of being the best. It was a goal that we all wanted: being number one.

I see abused children of all races and colors. Unfortunately, I see an increase in the number of children of color that need help. This heartbreaking reality illuminates the need for more people to step up to the plate and make time for children that look like them.



The only way I can make an informed decision on what is in that child's best interest is to have individuals on the frontline taking an active role in the lives of these young people. We need more volunteers of color to help them become the best representations of themselves. More importantly,

As much as one may want to be known for being the best, there are certain places where number one is not an enviable position. That place is in the area of child abuse. Poverty, substance abuse and mental health problems continue to be key contributing factors in Kentucky's number one ranking in child abuse for the third year in a row. This is a position that no one ever strives to become.

they need to see someone who looks like them that cares.

So if you are a person of color wanting to make a difference in a child's life, look no further than CASA. It will be the best decision of your life. And you will be a solution to a problem that has plagued the Commonwealth for too long.

To learn more, join us for a virtual information session, www.casarr.org/casa101.

IN REMEMBRANCE



BARBARA GROSSO
1958-2021

Barbara was personally touched by the work of CASA through her family. She joined CASA of the River Region's Board in 2001 and later served as Board Chair. She was a passionate advocate for children and her presence lit up a room. She later served on the board for the Kentucky CASA Network.



ROBERTA "BOBBI" WALDMAN
1940-2021

For 10 years, Bobbi was a tireless voice for children and made a difference in their lives. She spent many hours attending to her cases & was passionate, kind and a true champion for the most vulnerable. She was tough in the courtroom and a tenacious advocate to ensure her children got what was needed.



JOAN & MEL PEDIGO
1936-2019 (Joan)
1932-2018 (Mel)

Joan was a caring person who had six children of her own and loved kids. She worked on several cases and was a very dedicated volunteer for 10 years. She and her husband Mel were often first to volunteer to stuff envelopes. They were diligent, kind and told everyone about CASA!

“Only a moment you stayed, but what an imprint your footprints have left on our hearts.”

DOROTHY FERGUSON

LEAVING A LEGACY

THE BARBARA GROSS LEGACY FUND

We believe that investing in children makes our community better. CASA makes it easy for everyone to make an impact on the lives of children through different giving opportunities.

Traditional ways of giving including individual gifts, corporate donations, gifts of stock, participation in retail percentage nights, and donating in honor/memory of a loved one.

CASA has established its legacy fund in memory of former Board member

Barbara Grosso. Through her commitment and passion for serving the most vulnerable children in our

community, we dedicate our Legacy Fund in her memory. If you are deeply committed to children, we encourage you to include CASA of the River Region in your estate plans.

STAY TUNED
FOR NEWS ON
CASA'S LEGACY
GET - TOGETHER

To learn more, please contact Amabelle Camba, Director of Development at amabelle@casarr.org.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



STEVEN BLEVINS, PNC BANK

Steven is a Fiduciary Advisor, Vice President at PNC Bank Wealth Management. PNC Bank has supported CASA and the children it serves through different grants over the years. Steven received his Juris Doctorate from University of Kentucky College of Law.



MITCHELL PAYNE

Mitchell spent 43 years in higher education and government services on state and federal levels.

Former Senior Associate VP for Strategy and Operational Development at University of Louisville, Mitchell has always aimed to work for the best interests of youth. Mitchell is a native of Shelbyville and a graduate of Western Kentucky University and received his Juris Doctorate from University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law.

BRYAN SISTO, FROST BROWN TODD

Bryan is an attorney at Frost Brown Todd, LLC. "Children are vulnerable and wholly dependent on the adults around them for all of their needs. When those adults fail them or worse, it can cause a lifetime of pain and trauma. Having a trusted adult advocate for them is crucial to a child's success in these difficult situations."



NEW STAFF MEMBERS



LYDIA DEEGAN

TRAINING MANAGER

Lydia joined CASA April 2021 to provide pre-service training to potential volunteer advocates. Lydia has 14 years of professional experience in nonprofit and hospitality industries. She has been a CASA volunteer advocate since DATE 2019 in Shelby County. "I do this work for my two daughters in hopes they may live in a world with less hatred and more kindness."



KAYLA LONG

ADVOCACY SUPERVISOR

Kayla joined CASA in February 2021 as an Advocacy Supervisor. She works directly with volunteers and the children they serve. Kayla was a Family Court Case Specialist and has been working with children since 2014. She attends Family Court to ensure abused kids have get paired with a CASA. "I was drawn to CASA because I have always loved helping others and working with kids. I knew that a job doing both would be something that I would not only love but could also make a real difference doing."



LEAH NORD

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Leah joined CASA in June 2021 to raise awareness in the community and build partnerships with businesses, civic groups, faith communities and universities. Her goal is to recruit new volunteers to serve vulnerable kids. Leah has 10 years of community engagement experience. "I can't think of a better, more worthwhile mission than investing in our young people."

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

I want people to remember that we're trying to do what's best for the children in these cases with the information and resources we're given. It's not easy being in these situations sometimes, but it's necessary work to keep the children safe.

KAYLA LONG, ADVOCACY SUPERVISOR

We can all make a difference. It's one thing to acknowledge areas of our community that are suffering and need lifting. It's easy to speculate and make judgment of flaws or cultural norms that exist and contribute to such adversity. It's another thing entirely to make yourself available, vulnerable, and open to learning new ways of thinking. It is here where we find the best use of our gifts and talents, and here where we learn how to do the heavy lifting.

LEAH NORD, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER



Much like how a teacher is someone whom you can confide in and talk to, as a CASA, I am here to do the same. You can lean on me and trust that I'll be there for you, and that I won't let you down if you need someone. I will also do my very best to be sure you live in a safe and loving home.

LYDIA DEEGAN, TRAINING MANAGER

My hope for the children CASA serves is that they realize things can be better. That life can be good and kind and that they are supported.

MEGAN MOSTELLER, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

As CASAs we are ordinary people who agree to commit to walking alongside a child & his family for the duration of their experience in the family court system because every family deserves a chance at being better.

**VONNA OHLMANN,
ADVOCACY SUPERVISOR**



GIVE FOR GOOD LOUISVILLE™

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF LOUISVILLE

JOIN US | 9.17.21
GiveForGoodLouisville.org

CASA of the River Region will be participating in the Community Foundation of Louisville's annual Give for Good event. This 24-hour online giving day is an opportunity to invite your entire network to give a financial gift through CASA's fundraising page.

WHY GIVE ON THIS DAY?

The Community Foundation of Louisville (CFL) and its sponsors are giving monetary bonuses and incentive prizes. Examples include prizes for having the most unique donors, for raising the most funds, for having the first donation at midnight, etc. Specific prizes will be announced closer to giving day.

ARE YOU A CFL FUNDHOLDER?

If you have a fund or account at CFL, you can submit your requested donation amount **BEFORE** giving day. This option removes any credit card fees associated with online giving.

CAN I SET UP MY PERSONAL PAGE?

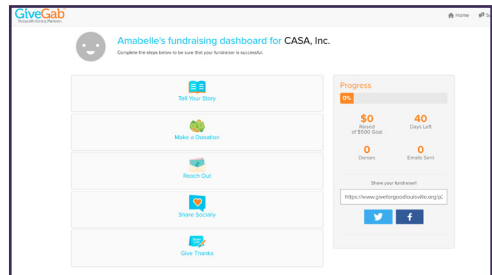
You can create a personal fundraising page to share with your network. Add your reasons for supporting CASA and invite friends to donate directly to your website.

HOW DO I SET UP MY PERSONAL PAGE?

1. Send a request to the Director of Development, Amabelle Camba, amabelle@casarr.org.
2. You will receive an email from GiveGab, the online giving platform that is hosting Give for Good Louisville.



3. Follow the instructions in the email to log into your account. Your GiveGab Dashboard will show the steps to set up your page.



For questions or concerns, contact Amabelle Camba, Director of Development at amabelle@casarr.org or 502-400-8040.



CASA IMPACT

Jimmy didn't trust adults. He didn't have a reason to after his mom left. The worst part was she left him with a monster. Jimmy's dad was an alcoholic and would take out his bad days on Jimmy. He didn't have a way to escape like his mom did.

When he was 12 years old, his teacher reported his bruises to the police. He was happy he didn't have to live with his dad anymore.

Living with his grandmother was okay. He wasn't scared of her beating him. But, she had the same problem. She drank a lot. One day she picked him up from school and he could smell the alcohol on her. She was drunk and was swerving on the road. He was back to being scared for his life.

He bounced around and the courts finally appointed him a CASA. It took some time for Jimmy to trust his CASA. To him, he was just another adult that would disappoint him.

But, his CASA checked in on him no matter what home he ended up in. After awhile, he knew his CASA could be someone he could trust.

Jimmy was placed in a family friend's home. They had known Jimmy for most of his life. His CASA assured Jimmy that they could be trusted too.

This past month, Jimmy was officially adopted. His CASA says he is doing great and is happy to have a family.

HOW CASA CHANGES A CHILD'S STORY

JANUARY - JUNE 2021



ONE CONSISTENT, TRUSTED ADULT

CASA received 73 applicants (54% of 2021 goal) and 33 new volunteers have completed training (50% of 2021 goal). As of June 30, CASA has paired 188 trained volunteers with abused/neglected children (96% of 2021 goal).

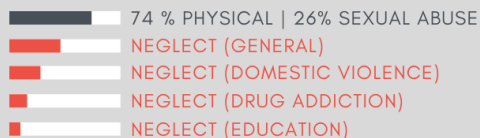


78% FEMALE | 22% MALE

67% WORK FT/PT
25% RETIRED
8% UNEMPLOYED

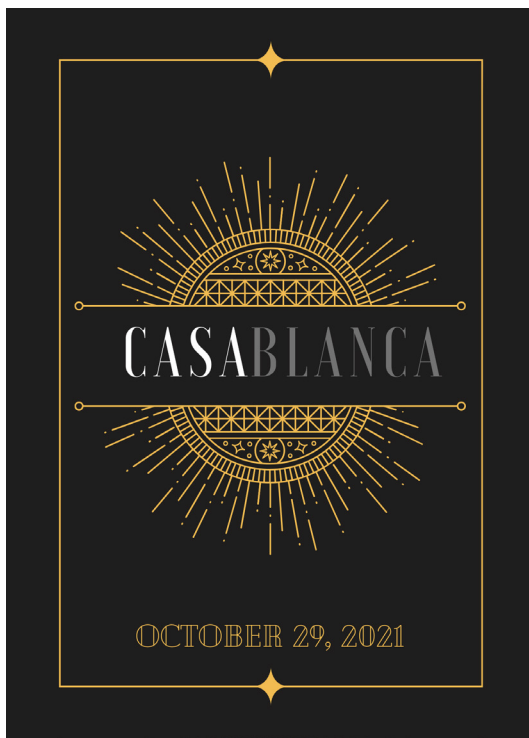
MOST VULNERABLE KIDS IN THE U.S.

As of June 30, CASA has paired 447 children with trained volunteers (80% of annual goal).



Learn how you can make an impact:

www.casarr.org/casa101



Join us for CASA's first in-person event on Friday, October 29, 6 p.m. at the Mercury Ballroom.

CASA will be hosting a fun casino night with blackjack, poker, roulette, a silent auction, palm/tarot reading, and a cocktail competition.

TICKETS:

\$65 - Early Bird (until Oct 1)

\$75 - Regular Ticket

www.casarr.org/CASAblanca





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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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