



WHAT'S INSIDE

NEW BOARD MEMBERS.....PAGE 2
 PROGRAM IMPACTPAGE 3
 FUNDER SPOTLIGHTSPAGE 4
 OUR VOLUNTEERSPAGE 5
 OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT CASAPAGE 6



NEWSLETTER SPRING/SUMMER 2022

ON THE CALENDAR

- 01** CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH
APR
- 22** EMBRACE A CHILD BREAKFAST COPPER & KINGS
casarr.org/events
APR
- 25** CASA PRE-SERVICE TRAINING BEGINS
shari@casarr.org
APR
- 28** VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER SAWYER HAYES COMMUNITY CENTER
APR
- 11** BOURBON BY THE BRIDGE PARISTOWN HALL
casarr.org/events
JUN
- 20** CASA PRE-SERVICE TRAINING BEGINS
shari@casarr.org
JUN

IN HER OWN WORDS: JUDGE TARA HAGERTY

COURTS NEED CASA VOLUNTEERS

In 2022, the world reached the two-year anniversary of the COVID pandemic. Undoubtedly, social distancing restrictions has had far reaching effects, both on everyone's physical and mental health.

While we contemplate effects of the pandemic on our own lives, our focus should also be on the effects of the pandemic on those more vulnerable — our children, especially those who are at risk of abuse and/or neglect.



These children are also more at risk of malnutrition, homelessness, neglect (due to caregivers' substance abuse or mental health problems), & emotional/physical abuse (worsened by the caregivers' stress). Children's own mental health needs are not being recognized and addressed.

Not only are these children more at risk, but they are much less likely to have an intervention by a teacher, doctor, day care worker or counselor because many of those services have been suspended or are conducted remotely.

CASA volunteers (CASAs) have made and will continue to make a life changing difference in the lives of these children. The Jefferson Circuit Family Courts Dependency, Neglect and Abuse dockets have never stopped occurring over the last two years. However, many of our service providers & social workers are less able to be effective because caseloads have gone from overloaded to impossible.

CASAs advocate for these children. CASAs ensure children don't "fall through the cracks" because of huge caseloads. CASAs model responsible behavior for the children they get to know. CASAs ensure that the children they serve know that they have an adult who cares about and checks in on their welfare and outcome.

For a child in need, there is no greater gift than knowing he or she has an adult who fights for their safety & happiness. CASAs provides that gift to so many children in our community and the Jefferson Family Courts and the children that CASA serves are thankful.



ERICA LEE

Senior Global Expense Analyst
Brown-Forman Corporation



MIKE HENRY

Senior Counsel
Texas Roadhouse



JONATHAN JOHNSON

VP/Senior Relationship Strategist
PNC Bank Private Bank

WHAT ABOUT CASA DREW YOU TO THE ORGANIZATION?

ERICA: During my first two years out of college I worked as a case worker for CASA for Fayette County. Community engagement is still important to me and most importantly I wanted to continue my support of a essential program like CASA.

MIKE: My wife has been teaching in low-income schools for the last 20 years and I've met a number of kids who have lived a repeating pattern of abuse and neglect. Unfortunately, kids are virtually powerless when it comes to their own safety. Attorneys are advocates for their clients, who are typically parents, courts aren't set up or equipped to effectively look out for children's interests, and our social services network is overwhelmed and underfunded. CASA is the first program I've encountered that is designed to look out and advocate for children. In doing so, CASAs are not only advocating for children, they are also advising judges and giving a voice to children in the court system. With each child and each CASA, you can see a tangible result and that is very appealing.

JONATHAN: My uncle was a CASA volunteer in the Oldham/Henry/Trimble area and spoke highly of the work the organization does. It's a mission I could get behind and actually allocate time to. The fact that the organization serves Oldham and Henry County made it seem that much more appealing, that I could help make an impact in the communities I care most about.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

VOLUNTEER PERSPECTIVE

**“Isn’t she my mother
any more?”**

That challenging question came from a ten-year old girl whose mother had given up her parental rights after a family court judge terminated her mother’s parental rights. I tried to explain that “she will always be your mother, she will never forget you, and she will think of you always. But she cannot take care of you.”

I relearned that day what CASA has taught me—we do not meet parents who are bad but parents who are overwhelmed by circumstances beyond our experience or understanding.

They are parents trying to do the best they can for their children. The situations are not the fault of the child and are not fair—they are what they are. We, as CASA volunteers, are privileged to take children’s hands & help them go forward and believe that it will get better. We get far more from the children than we give to them.

BY BOB STENGER
CASA VOLUNTEER 2010-2021



CASA ensured 551 children had their voice heard in court, at school, & at home.

551



207 trained CASA volunteers were friends, mentors & advocates to 551 children.

207



CASA trained 59 new volunteers to serve the best interests of children.

59



CASA volunteers served 275 NEW children in 2021.

275



Of the 278 cases closed, 90% of children achieved safe, permanent homes.

90%

PROGRAM IMPACT

CASA of the River Region is supported by the community through individual donations, financial gifts from companies and organizations, and grants. We do not take for granted that during the last few years of the pandemic how many nonprofits have struggled to maintain and grow their mission of service to others. CASA has been able to continue to serve and grow the number of children served despite these obstacles. We could not have done this without everyone who supported us. In this issue, CASA wanted to spotlight grantors who have supported CASA for 10 years or more.



“The Louisville Bar Foundation is proud to fund programs that help give voice to the vulnerable and ensure our justice system operates fairly. CASA’s advocacy programs are a perfect fit for advancing our mission and the LBF is honored to be part of this vital work.”

- JEFF BEEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
LOUISVILLE BAR FOUNDATION



“CASA is an excellent organization doing critical work for children who need a voice -- and we are honored to be part of their good work.”

- GHEENS FOUNDATION



“Kosair Charities is proud to partner with CASA of the River Region. CASA’s work aligns closely with Kosair Charities’ mission of enhancing the health and well-being of children in Kentucky and Southern Indiana, specifically as it relates to ending child abuse and neglect. Over the years, Kosair Charities has granted over \$1 million to CASA of the River Region, so they can continue to be the voice for abused and neglected children. On behalf of Kosair Charities, we’d like to thank CASA of the River Region for all the work that they do.”

- BOARD, KOSAIR CHARITIES

“CASA of the River Region serves a critical need for vulnerable children who are in the court system through no fault of their own. With closely aligned goals to make life better for children with special needs, the WHAS Crusade for Children is proud of the partnership we have developed with CASA to ensure this extremely important population receives the care and support they need. We applaud CASA of the River Region for their outstanding services and advocacy for children navigating trauma due to abuse and neglect and are grateful for the opportunity to be a small part of the difference they make in our community.”

- DAWN LEE, PRESIDENT & CEO WHAS CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN



2021 VOLUNTEERS

20+ YEARS
Drescher, Diane

15+ YEARS
Ashley, James
Staudter, Lee

10+ YEARS
Finlinson, Sharon
Garner, Carolyn
Garner, Tony
Hubbard, Liz
Ilnick, Linda
Kiesel, John
Metcalf, Judy
Reichert, Walter
Scott, Rosalind

5+ YEARS
Barrineau, Hannah
Burke, Marty
Carroll, Mike
Dalton, Stephen
Dukes, Doug
Galbraith, LuAnn
Hale, John
Heick, Mimi
Miller, Doreen
Miller, Paula
Mullins, John
Ohlmann, Vonna
Ostwalt-Whitfield, Rita
Phelps, Terri
Pike Sr, Thomas
Radasch, Dolores
Riggs, Carmen
Rowe, Alicia
Temple, Nick
VonTrapp, Stephanie
Watts, Dorothy
Weisbach, Eric
Woods, Yvonne

4 YEARS
Abell, Nancy
Arbough, Melinda
Bole, Suzette
Bradshaw, Lianne
Brown, Dustin
Clark, Denise
Downey, Carolyn
Drake, Sarah
Ensch, Melissa
Escobedo, Cheryl 'Diane'
Fleck, Lisa
Fuller, Jennifer
Gillespie, Kimberly

Hart, Patricia
Hock, Mary 'Sister Chris'
Hume, Jessica
Kang, Kyung
Meyer, Patti
Schumer, Joan
Underwood, Nancy
VanArsdale, Therese 'Kay'
Wagoner, Ruth
Wesslund, Deborah
Whitaker, James
Zaricki, Stephen

3 YEARS
Adams, Timothy
Alonso, Mallory
Amerman, Taylor
Ankenbrand, Jay
Barnett, Alicia
Beeson, R 'Matt'
Boomer, James 'Sandy'
Eve, Shawn
George, Mark
Graham, Nancy
Locke, James
Maldonado, Mara
May, Renae
McDevitt, Holly
Merz, Lynda
Montgomery, Elizabeth
Morrison, Martha
Muldoon, Susan
Pence, Sallye
Petersen, Lissi
Peterson, Peg
Reece, Miranda
Stermer, David
Taylor, Matthew
Warrier, Maya
White, Brooks
Wickliffe, Chantay
Willis, Nancy
Winters, Barbara
Young, Ann
Zimmer, Jennifer

2 YEARS
Andrew, Suzanne
Bland, Patricia
Boblitt, Mike
Campbell, Diane
Cates, Christy
Field, Paul
Fulkerson, Debra
Gordon, Anne
Hardin, Della

Hopkins, David
Lesshafft, Lisa
Li, Cong
McDowell, Emily
McLendon, Jennifer
Melchior, James
Mooneyhan, Carol Beth
Muldoon, Sean
Newton, Ashley
Nieto, AJ
O'Hara, Karen
Penasa, Angeline
Quinn, Valecia
Scanga, Rita
Shaeffer, James
Steele, Debra
Turner, Helen
Walton, Elizabeth
Walton, Janet
Weidmann, Katherine
Winkler, Matthew

1 YEAR OR LESS
Bailey, Hettie
Bale, Mary
Battcher, Duane
Battcher, Kathleen
Baxter, Traci
Beckham, Jenny
Blade, Karen
Brennan, David
Brooker, Valerie
Brown, Elizabeth
Cassady, Kimberly
Cissell, Nicole
Combs, Hilary
Correll, Adrienne
Cottrell, Rebecca
Cowley, Anne Margaret
Damron, Jordan
Davenport, Amy
Davie, Lindsey
Deegan, Lydia
Dennis, Erin
Dixon, Patricia
Duke, Dana
Duncan, Robert
Edwards, Hannah
Ervin, Nicole
Evans, Cary
Feger, Jane
Fehr, Bridget
Finley, Derrick
Goodin Jr, Robert
Goodman, Kimberly

Graves, Lydia
Hackett, Brenda
Hall, Jordan
Henderson, Ruhiiyyih
Herberg, Paul
Hill, Yvette
Horn, Natalie
Jarecki, Jamie
Kennedy, Tracy
Lee, Ariana
McCarthy, Cynthia
Means, Elizabeth
Meinhold, Misha
Milo, Joanne
Mockbee, Hannah
Niehoff, Sarah
Otto, Melissa
Padgett, Julie
Parson, Pamela
Phillips, Mikki
Pratt, Ken
Pratt, Linda
Richards, Lisa
Roman, John
Rosenman, Barbara
Schnepf, Ann
Sebastian, Elizabeth
Serrano, Alexandra
Shipman, Kristee
Silich, Cheryl
Smith, Christine
Smith, Dawn
Smith, Jordan
Smith, Kimberly
Smith, Michele
Stivers, Veronica
Tabb, Kathi
Tabler, Kim
Taylor, Lyndsey
Teegarden, Brenna
Trahan, Deborah
Tucker, Carre
Urbach, Kathy
Vedula, Shailaja
Vetter, Edwin
Weathers, Margaret
Weyhing, Sheri
Whatton, Olivia
Wheatley, Natalie
Whittle, Briana
Workman, Amanda
Zartman-Ball, Eve
Zimmerman, Mary Jane

FRIDAY, APRIL 22 | 8 am BREAKFAST | COPPER & KINGS DISTILLERY

Embrace a Child



For more information on events visit our website: www.casarr.org/events
 Contact Amabelle Camba, Director of Development at amabelle@casarr.org
 for information on sponsorship opportunities.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

THANK YOU!

APR 28, 2022 | 6 PM

Sawyer Hayes Community Center
 2201 Lakeland Rd, 40223

CASA'S ANNUAL PREMIER TASTING
 EVENT RETURNS

BOURBON

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 5 PM

BY THE BRIDGE

PARISTOWN CHRISTY'S GARDEN
 720 BRENT STREET, LOUISVILLE, 40204
WWW.CASARR.ORG/EVENTS

2021 EMBRACE A CHILD BREAKFAST (VIRTUAL)



Judge Christine Ward gives speech from bench.



Volunteer Mimi and her CASA, Tori.



CASA Hero 2021: Texas Roadhouse



CASA Hero 2021: Peggy Buechler

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION/HOLIDAY DINNER



For more photos/latest updates, follow us on social by searching for @CASARiverRegion





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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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