

CASA NEWS



Volume I, Issue II

Spring 2004



A WORD from the Executive Director

Over the past twenty-five years, tens of thousands of CASA volunteers have served hundreds of thousands of abused and neglected children. Judge David Soukup's initial notion that volunteers are in the best position to most effectively and efficiently provide the advocacy so critical for our children in need has come to fruition.

The volunteer nature of our work is the very foundation on which the CASA program is built and is certainly one of the greatest strengths of our Solano County CASA program. Volunteers are in fact the heart of what we do for children and we do it with the support of a large collaborative network.

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month (April) and National Foster Care Month (May), I invite you to join me in thanking our CASA Volunteers, Foster Parents, Social Workers, Children's Attorneys, Judicial Officers, and policy makers, for making children our number one priority.

Carolyn Thomas-Wold

Below: Fairfield High School Scarlet Brigade Bagpipe Crew



Picture to the right, from left to right: Peake Family, Court Executive Officer Charles Ramey, Judge Garry T. Ichikawa, Commissioner J. Paul Coan

Light of Hope



Doesn't every child deserve hope, a safe home to live in, a chance to thrive? Every year, nearly half a million children in our country cannot live safely at home because of abuse and neglect.

On April 1, as part of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the CASA Program hosted its 1st candlelight vigil for abused and neglected children in Solano County. The vigil was held at the steps of the old Court House in Fairfield.

The event's mission was to spell the word "HOPE" in candlelight for the children of Solano County. We chose to spell the word "HOPE" with candles, because we see the optimism and HOPE that our volunteers and community partners bring into the lives of these children. Among the guest speakers were Solano County Board Supervisors John Vasquez (District 4) and Barbara Kondylis (District 1), California CASA's Resource Specialist Derek Peake and Susan Dolan from Child Protective Services and the Child Abuse Prevention Council. The event concluded as the Child Abuse Prevention Council led attendees to tie blue ribbons on a tree to recognize that violence against children is a real issue and further prevention efforts are needed.



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A CASA Volunteer

"The lawyers know the statutes; the social workers the regulations. But the CASA volunteer is assigned to know the child, one child at a time."

National CASA

Living next door to a sex offender?

77,000 sex offenders are missing from the databases of 32 states. California lost track of 33,000 sex offenders! Massachusetts has lost track of 44 percent of 18,000 offenders. 95 percent of sex offenders are male! 70 percent are white! Most are 15 years old when they start molesting children! Be suspicious of anyone who is more interested in your child than you.

Megan's Law allows public viewing of the Department of Justice's data on sex offenders. This system is updated every 24 hours and provides the registered sex offender's name, aliases, photograph, physical description and their residence ZIP code. It is available in 13 different languages. The Department of Justice Intranet system is available at the following location:
 Sheriff's Office, 530 Union Ave. Suite 100, Fairfield, CA. 94533
 You must make an appointment the day you plan to visit by calling (707) 421-7000 or 421-7093, and bring a valid photo identification with you.

Upcoming CASA Events

ORIENTATION, May 5, 18 and June 2 6-7:00 p.m., CASA Office
 Information about the CASA Program, volunteer opportunities and requirements. For more information call (707) 399-4961.

CASA SWEARING-IN, May 10 4:00 p.m., Hall of Justice
 The third class of CASA Volunteers will be sworn-in. For information about attending, please call (707) 399-4961.

CRUISE WITH CASA, August 28
 Cruise with CASA is an 8-day Alaskan cruise fundraiser. We set sail on the Diamond Princess, leaving Seattle on August 28, 2004. For more information call (707) 421-7945.

WORD SEARCH

People in Court



B B F W K U V I C I P A R
 R J T V I Y P C X P S E B
 S E P T D T H N N B K P A
 R N T E S E N L I R R E I
 E P Q R G H A E O R E J L
 T Z K D O W C A V S V L L I
 E T U Z Y P L A V S C X F
 R J V E L A E V L U E D F
 P F R T I I W R H Q J S Q
 R S S C J U R Y T C T B X
 E Y O R E S T N E R A P Z
 T S X C O T P G Q T U S X
 N A T T O R N E Y S R O A
 I Q D U A Y U L Q P W Q C
 D Z E R H V B J B O G P M

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|----------------|---------------|
| ATTORNEYS | JURORS |
| BAILIFF | JURY |
| CASA | KIDS |
| CLERKS | LAWYERS |
| COURT REPORTER | PARENTS |
| INTERPRETERS | SOCIAL WORKER |
| JUDGE | WITNESSES |

Everyone can make a difference...

In the United States over one half million children are in foster care because they cannot safely live with their families. Nearly 70,000 National CASA volunteers serve approximately 280,000 of those abused or neglected children every year.

Please join Solano County CASA in our mission to make sure every child in need has a voice. A child should have a childhood and a safe, permanent home. To contact Solano County CASA, please call (707) 399-4961 or log onto nationalcasa.org for more information.

Book Review

By: Maria Moses, CASA Program Coordinator

David Pelzer survived the third worst case of child abuse in California. After living through this nightmare, he managed to re-visit his childhood and write his autobiography in a three-book sequence. The first book, 'A Child Called "It"', begins with David's rescue, allowing the reader to understand that no matter how bad his story gets, he does survive. He then steps back in time to begin the tale of his early years of abuse and pain. David survives unthinkable horrors, which he describes from a child's perspective; however, through the efforts of caring and courageous adults, he is removed from his abusive home and placed into the foster care system. The second book in the series, titled "The Lost Boy", is about his experience in foster care and the stigma and problems associated with being a foster child. The third book, "A Man Named Dave" chronicles the struggle of forgiveness that David must deal with as an adult and his search for personal happiness and family.

The overwhelming message through-out this series is that of the indomitable human spirit. It is this spirit that allows readers everywhere to admire the man David is now. His story will take the reader from heart-wrenching torture and discipline, to triumph and dignity. It is a journey well worth your time and effort.

Crisis Help



NINE LINE

Kids and parents can reach out any time of the day or night for free, confidential, and immediate crisis intervention by dialing 1-800-999-9999. Last year Nineline's trained staff received over 63,000 crisis calls. Almost 200 times a day our workers and volunteers talk with callers about all types of crises ... the breakup of relationships, problems with parents, school, or peers, parenting concerns, alcohol and substance abuse, health concerns, physical abuse, homelessness, and suicide.



Community Events

MAY

- Dixon: May Fair, one of the oldest agricultural fairs in the state; the four-day festival features livestock, exhibits by FFA and 4-H, carnival rides and games, parades and puppets, big-name entertainers and local talent, at the Dixon Fairgrounds, 655 S. First St., May 6-9 678-5529.
- Fairfield: The city's Certified Farmers Market's season is May 6 - Oct. 7, every Thursday from 4-8 p.m. in downtown Fairfield - 422-0103.
- Vacaville: May Family Fun Day at Padan Elementary School, May 15 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - 592-5724.
- Suisun City: annual Golden Hills Mustang Car Show, on the waterfront, Sat. May 15 421-7309.
- Vacaville: Wings of Freedom Tour at the Nut Tree Airport. Tour the inside of two World War II Bombers. Price of tour is \$8.00 per person, May 18 & 19 446-0322.
- Vacaville: Fiesta Days, city-wide celebration of its Western and Hispanic roots, includes a parade, carnival, competitions, musical entertainment, and food. It begins Wednesday, May 26 and runs through May 31. Events are held throughout Vacaville - 448-4613.
- Sacramento: Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, more than 100 traditional jazz bands from around the world, blues, zydeco, gospel in Old Sacramento, May 28-31 (916) 372-5277.

JUNE

- Isleton: Crawdad Festival, food, music, arts and crafts, held annually over the Father's Day weekend, June 18-20 (916) 777-5880.
- Vacaville: Celtic Nations Festival at Andrews Park sponsored by Vacaville Chamber of Commerce. This year's festival will have something for everyone in the family. June 26 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.-448-6424.

JULY

- Benicia: Torchlight parade and street dance in downtown Benicia, July 3 6:30 p.m. - 745-9791.
- **Fourth of July Celebrations**
 - Vacaville: Musical Americana, featuring music and snacks, at the Vacaville Museum, 2 p.m. 213 Buck Ave - 447-4513.
 - Vacaville: Fireworks in Andrews Parks, beginning at dusk, activities pending - 451-2100.
 - Dixon: Fireworks in Hall Park 678-7000.
 - Vallejo: Parade in downtown at 10 a.m. Vallejo Symphony concert at 1 p.m. on the marina green at the waterfront. Fireworks at the waterfront at dusk - 644-5551.
 - Vallejo: Fireworks at Six Flags Marine World - 643-6722.
 - Benicia: Picnic In The Park at Military and First St., fireworks, arts and crafts, begins at noon - 745-9791.
 - Fairfield: Parade, begins at noon downtown. Assembles at Webster and Kentucky St. - 422-0103.
 - Suisun City: Live music, kiddie carnival, arts and crafts fair, games, food and fireworks over the harbor. Suisun Waterfront - 421-7309.
 - Winters: Fireworks display on Dr. Sellers football field at Winters High School. \$1 admission at gate for those 12 and older. Gate opens at 6 p.m. and show lasts until 10 p.m. (530) 795-2329.
- Vallejo: Solano County Fair held at the Solano County Fairgrounds, this 10-day event includes headline entertainment, horse racing, a rodeo, a demolition derby, a flower show, a livestock show and a carnival midway, July 16-25 648-FAIR.
- Fairfield: A Christmas craft fair, Fairfield Senior Center, July 10 - 428-7421.
- Suisun City: Sunday Jazz Concert Series, at the Harbor Plaza. Free concerts with a picnic atmosphere at the plaza July 11-Aug. 22 - 421-7309.
- Fairfield: NorthBay Hospital Guild Golf and Tennis Tournament, Green Valley Country Club, Reservations needed July 12 - 429-7911.

- Dixon: Lambtown USA, downtown Dixon. The one-day event includes a lamb cook-off, sheep-shearing contest, sheepdog trials, an arts and crafts show, music and dancing, July 24 - 678-2650.
- Benicia: Waterfront Festival & Offshore Powerboat Races, at the end of First Street. The celebration includes fresh seafood, live music, wine and beer tasting, crafts, and offshore power boat racing, July 30, 31 and Aug. 1 - 745-9791.

DONATION SLIP



We greatly appreciate your donation. Your generosity assists us in realizing our goal of providing the abused and at-risk children of Solano County with a volunteer CASA whenever one is needed.

Enclosed is a check or cash for this amount:

Gift Amount \$ _____.

Donor Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Please cut and mail to:
Solano County CASA
2300 Boynton Ave. Ste. 103
Fairfield, CA. 94533

Other Donations Needed

- ❖ Gift certificates to local retail, bookstores and restaurants.
- ❖ Movie Passes.
- ❖ Tape Recorder.
- ❖ IBM compatible computer and printer.
- ❖ Toys and games for all ages.



Be the DIFFERENCE. DONATE.

Solano County CASA Thanks the Following:

- ♥ All Light of Hope attendees, with special thanks to Supervisor Barbara Kondylis (District 1), Supervisor John Vasquez (District 4) and Susan Dolan from Child Protective Services.
- ♥ Derek Peake, California CASA Resource Specialist
- ♥ Fairfield High School Scarlet Brigade Bagpipe Crew

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