



CASA NEWS

Volume I, Issue I

Winter 2003

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we welcome in the New Year, we reflect on accomplishments and challenges of the previous year. The Solano County CASA program saw tremendous growth and change in 2003 with the addition of two new staff members as well as the loss of our very first staff member.

Maria Moses joined our team as Program Coordinator. Her leadership experience combined with her extensive background working with volunteer organizations made her the perfect candidate for this challenging position.

Solano County CASA was also extremely fortunate with the addition of Alba Quiroz-Garcia who joins our team as Volunteer Coordinator. Alba hit the ground running when, after only a very short time with us, she began facilitating our volunteer training classes. She brings a high level of professionalism to our team and we appreciate her dedication to our CASA Advocates.

In 2003, CASA experienced the loss of our first staff member, Lois Scoggins. Lois retired and is moving to Oregon to pursue new interests. She assures us that CASA is in her blood and she will be offering her volunteer services to CASA in her new community.

As we look forward to 2004, we anticipate another year of growth and challenges. We also anticipate the ability to do more of what we set out to do, advocate for the best interests of children. With the addition of our new staff members and recruitment of volunteer advocates, we anticipate 2004 will be a very good year for Solano County children!

Peace,

Carolyn Thomas-Wold



VOLUNTEER SWEARING-IN!

The second class of volunteer advocates has completed their forty-hour training. Commissioner J. Paul Coan swore in eight volunteers on December 17, 2003 at the Hall of Justice in Fairfield. Volunteers are ready and eager to begin advocating for abused and neglected children in Solano County.

The four key components of the CASA Volunteer are:

Research... Carry out an unbiased, organized examination of the situation, including relevant history, environment, relationships and needs of the child.

Facilitation... Identify resources and services for the child and simultaneously maintain a collaborative relationship with all parties involved in the case to ensure the child's needs can be met.

Advocacy... Speak-up for and plead the case of the child for whom they are appointed during the court process.

Monitoring... Keep track of court orders and plans of the child welfare agency to ensure they are completed. Collaborate with Child Protective Services and report to the Juvenile Court.



RECOGNITION

CASA kicked off its first Volunteer Recognition and Fundraising Ceremony. The event was successful in getting information out to the community on the CASA Program and inviting local businesses to donate items to benefit abused and neglected children. During the ceremony awards were presented to Ms. Aggie Jackson, Volunteer of the Year; Supervisor Barbara Kondylis, Community Partner of the Year; Commissioner J. Paul Coan, Board Supporter of the Year.

CASA KIDS

This Little Girl
By Kassie O., Age 16

She needs your hand
She is so confused
She doesn't know
Where she is or where she is going

She doesn't know if this is all just a dream
She needs your hand she needs it so
She needs your hand to grasp and lead her
You can't begin to understand
What this little girl is going through
She needs your help to know what love is

She was told that she didn't love herself
She is lost in this heart.
This heart that is broken
She can't see what is going on
With these feelings inside
She needs your hand to grasp
To tell her everything will be all right

UPCOMING CASA EVENTS

1. **CASA Orientations** are scheduled for the following Wednesdays in 2004:

January 7, February 4 and March 3 at 2300 Boynton Ave., Suite 103, Fairfield, CA. from 6-7:00 p.m.

2. **CASA Training** is a forty-hour process and is scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning February 17 through March 25, 2004 at 580 Texas St. Human Resource Basement, Fairfield, CA. 94533

3. **Educational Advocacy Workshop** March 10, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. @ Sutter Square Galleria 2901 K St. Sacramento, CA. Course meets the qualifications for 6 hours of CASA CEUs. Please contact Grace Barajas at (530) 757-8643 , email: gbarajas@unexmail.ucdavis.edu

4. **Golden State Warriors** presents Child Abuse Prevention Night, March 26, \$5.00 from every ticket purchased will benefit the Greater Bay Area Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition. For more information call Andy Berling @ (510) 986-2214.

5. **Cruise with CASA** is an 8-day Alaskan Cruise Fundraiser. We set sail on the Diamond Princess, leaving Seattle on August 28, 2004. Please call our office for more information at (707) 421-7945.

*Attend Cruise Preview Night to receive an amenities package valued at \$125.00 and take advantage of the \$100 reduced deposit, Feb. 11, 2004 7:00 p.m., 1359 Oliver Rd, Fairfield



DONATIONS NEEDED

This is your opportunity to help the CASA Program continue its progress and assist abused and neglected children in Solano County.

Items needed:

- ◆ Toys and games for all ages
- ◆ Movie passes
- ◆ Gift certificates to local retail and book stores and restaurants
- ◆ Tape Recorders
- ◆ IBM compatible computer and printer

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

WORD SEARCH - CASA Child

a b u s e g x k e d t x n f z
u w m j d n p m h r d a c r b
i t r q v c o p u o a k u o s
m r e c l t l o l y m n s r q
s y e r i b c m w y e e t m i
j s t o e u o z z r j m o d z
g j n b v k a n d h p k d e f
r h u g x s a l d x n d y r j
c m l t x k i t j i y x c u k
h m o l c h o f e z n g a c f
i q v q c e u z j r u g s e r
x y f d m n l j o l a q a s u
z l z d e m k g n k y c y q d
a d v o c a t e e r u t l u c
s v o s f w u e p n y n p v v

abuse	children	emotion
advocate	court	fun
bonding	culture	home
caretaker	custody	neglect

Can you find the hidden bonus word? _ _ _ _

THIS QUARTER'S BOOK SELECTION

Book Review by Kathleen Carroll, Solano CASA Volunteer

Best-selling author and Florida Guardian Ad Litem, Gay Courter, wrote I Speak for This Child, published in 1995. This very telling book is about life as a child advocate. Names and certain details were changed to allow confidentiality. Courter tells how she read an article in *Parade* in 1988 called, "Who Speaks for the Lost Children?" which referenced the National CASA Program and inspired her to volunteer for the Florida GAL Program.

I appreciated the truthfulness in this book. Courter relates problems and successes that she encountered in cases about Lydia, a sixteen-year-old girl; the three Stevenson children; and the three Colby sisters. Children wouldn't be in "the system" if there weren't problems, however, Courter is able to solve these problems in innovative ways. It provides very good reading as well as background without becoming "boring." I wish there were more books like this! This book may be reserved at solanolibrary.com. Additional reviews as well as links to purchase the book are available at gaycourter.com.

EVENTS **for Kids** AND FAMILIES

FEBRUARY

Family Story-time and Crafts, February 2

Stories and crafts for all ages. Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center, 7:00 p.m., 1020 Ulatis Dr. Vacaville, 449-6290

Grandparents' (and other caregivers') Tea, February 4

Offering information and support for these special caregivers, Dover Middle School, Room 1
301 Alaska Ave., Fairfield, 4-5:00 p.m., 421-4145 Monica Tipton or Pam Sparks

Family Night @ Your Library, February 4

Families are invited to join us for an evening of stories, crafts, scavenger hunt, refreshments and fun for all ages! Fairfield Civic Center Library, 6-8:30 p.m., 421-6500

Nurturing Fair for People Raising Children, February 5

Nurture yourself with speakers, face and body treatments and support! Childcare provided. Ulatis Cultural Center, Vacaville, Room D, 449-6151. Sponsors: Children's Nurturing Project and Vacaville FIRST FRC

Parents' Evening Out, February 6

Circle of Friends Day Care Center in Fairfield will provide childcare for a limited number of children. Pre-registration required. 429-8605 Rose Kendrick

Valentines Day Craft Program, February 7

Join us for Valentines Day crafts for the whole family! Rio Vista Library, 44 S. 2nd St. 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 374-2664

Guest Speaker: "Honoring Parents", February 18

Dixon Family Services, 155 N. Second St., Dixon, 10:00 a.m., 678-0442

MARCH

Vacaville: Vacaville Museum, 213 Buck Ave., will open a retrospective examination of the past 15 years of museum exhibits, date to be determined - 447-4513.

Dixon: Chamber's Citizen of the Year Western Barbecue and Dinner Dance, early March - 678-2650.

Suisun City: Sturgeon Derby Festival, a three-day fishing contest on the Suisun Slough with a grand-prize giveaway of a boat, last weekend in March - 425-5518.

FEATURED WEBSITES

- ◆ <http://www.nationalcasa.org/> General Information on National CASA (news, events, resources, on-line library and shopping)
- ◆ <http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov> Foster Care Resources
- ◆ <http://www.toyhotline.org> Toy Safety Resource for Parents

DONATION INFORMATION

Charitable Organization
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Abused and Neglected Children
Tax Deductible

Gift Amount \$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Enclosed is a check or cash for this amount.
(Circle One)

Donor Information

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

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.



Solano County CASA Program THANKS

the following businesses and community members for their generous donations to the silent auction at the First Volunteer Recognition and Fundraising Ceremony to benefit abused and neglected children:

Ann Hamilton-Short, Athenian Grill, Bab's Delta Diner, Baja Fresh, Carolyn Thomas-Wold, Cold Stone Creamery, Costco, Fusilli, Hilton Garden Inn, Janice Silva, Jelly Belly Candy Company, Johnny Carinos, Lauren's Hallmark, Main 627, Maria Moses, Marlene Weber, Muriel Clemente, Patti Hall, Rosanna's Bakery, Solano Community College, Thornton and Sons Jewelers, Tortellini's, Touch of Glass, and Trader Joe's Company.

WE WELCOME VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL CULTURES, PROFESSIONS, AND ETHNIC AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUNDS.



Solano County CASA
2300 Boynton Ave. Suite 103
Fairfield, CA. 94533
(707) 399-4961

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