

Volunteer Voice



January 2012

Volume 6, Issue 1

1995 - 2011

16

YEARS OF PROVIDING TRAINED COMMITTED VOLUNTEERS TO ADVOCATE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CASA,
First Judicial District

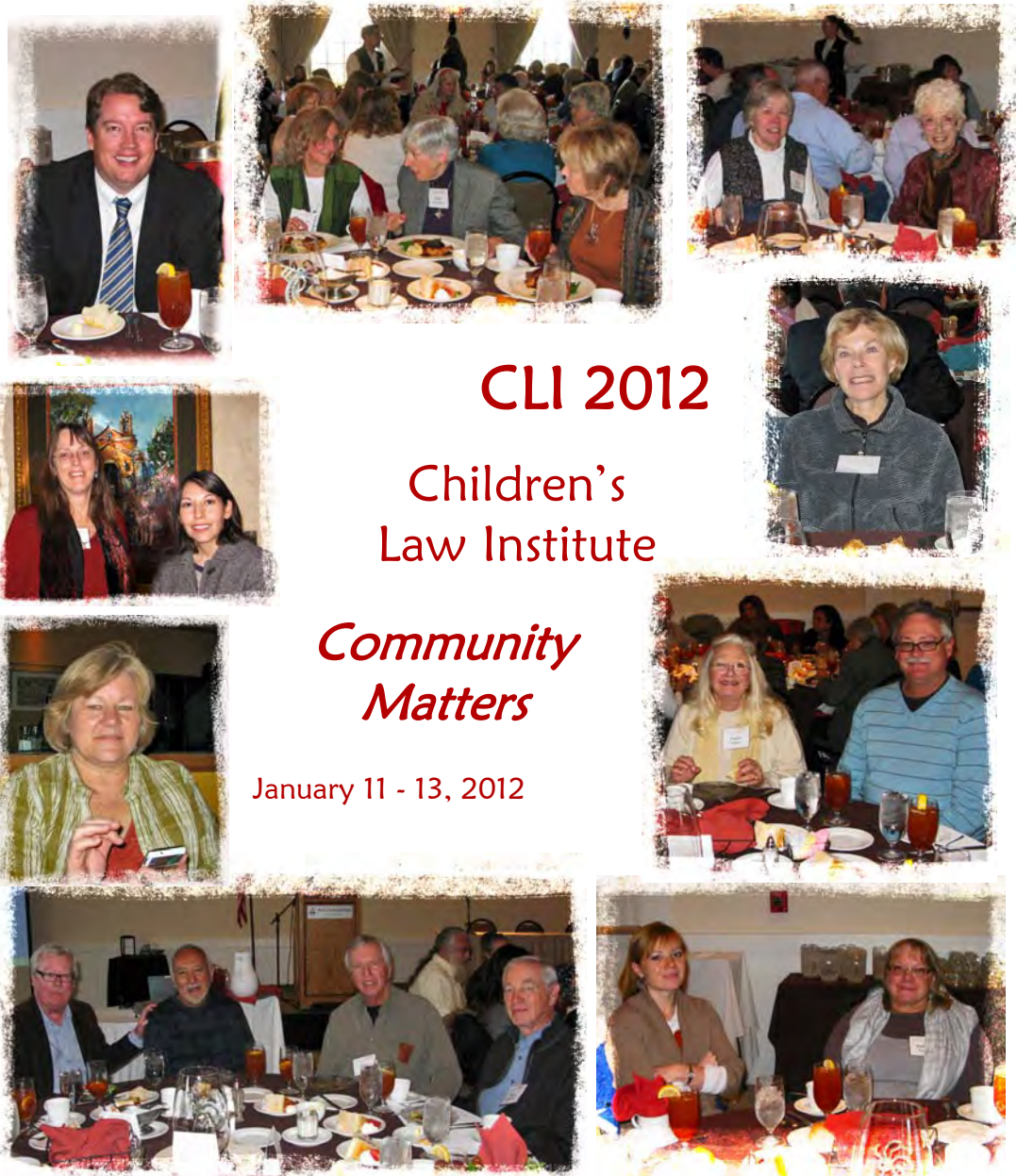
Serving Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, & Los Alamos Counties since 1995

466 W. San Francisco St.
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505.820.1500

info@CASAfirst.org
www.CASAfirst.org

CASA, First Judicial District is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization

Please submit articles and suggestions to:
diane@CASAfirst.org



CLI 2012

Children's Law Institute

Community Matters

January 11 - 13, 2012

Clockwise from upper left: Brian O'Connell - Director, NM Child Advocacy Networks; Bhanu Joy Harrison - NM School of Natural Therapeutics, CASA volunteers Adair Waldenberg and Suzi Borgo; volunteers Ann Lindsay and Nancy Gehman; volunteer Sue Fenimore; JJS Mentor Paula Williams and Jamie O'Neill - JJS Mentor Program Coordinator; volunteers Ann and Kathy Parsons; CASA Board members Charlie Flynn, George Flores and Tony Guiles, and volunteer Bob Metchick; CASA volunteer and JJS Mentor Tracy Rice; Diane Bowman - CASA Communications Coordinator and Holly Garcia - CASA Volunteer Coordinator.

DECEMBER Stats:

Abuse/Neglect Cases

158 service hours reported
(56% reporting)

8 training hours reported

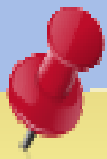
24.5 program hours
reported

2,784 miles driven

JJS Mentoring Program

69.5 service hours reported
(89% reporting)

638 miles driven



Don't forget:
January
time sheets
are due by
February 3!



*Happy Birthday
January Babies!*

Sharon Palestine - January 5

Tracy Rice - January 9

Alicia Brito - January 16

Paula Williams - January 21

Megan Perkins - January 28

In-Service Training Opportunities

Topic: The Monthly Report - Learning to Love our Interactive Forms!

Date: Tuesday, January 31; from 1:00pm to 2:00pm at the CASA office.
1 hr program

RSVP by January 27th to Diane; diane@casafirst.org

Unfortunately, that pesky form that you receive at the end of the month really is necessary. In the future you will be seeing more of these interactive Adobe forms, so all of us need to learn to use them. In this informal discussion and Q & A, we will walk through the process on a PC and on a Mac, and try to solve any problems you are having. You will have an opportunity to try saving and sending on your own email accounts. Janice Quinn will be our Mac instructor, and Diane will help you with the PC version. Hopefully, by the end of the session, sending in your report will be painless!

Topic: Psychological Evaluations Explained - RESCHEDULED!!!!

Date: February 7; from 9:00a.m. to 10:30am at the CASA office or TBA
1.5 hour program = 1.5 CASA CEU credits

RSVP by January 27th to Diane; diane@casafirst.org

Dr. Neshia Morse is a clinical psychologist who provides comprehensive psychological evaluations to youth and adults connected through CYFD, including many of our CASA children and respondent parents. Dr. Morse will explain how psychological evaluations are conducted, how results are determined, and be available to answer any questions we may have about them.



If you have ideas, suggestions or requests for training,
please contact Holly Garcia; hgarcia@casafirst.org.

Case Discussion Meetings

A/N Case Discussions: Tuesday, February 14th, 10:00 - 11:00 am at CASA.

Note: Day changed due to conflict with Inservice Training. Please RSVP to Vivian, vitjon@aol.com or 505-470-0523.

JJS Case Discussions: Wednesday February 22, 11:00-12:00 am at CASA.

Please RSVP to Jamie, jamie@casafirst.org; 505-820-1500.

Remember, you can earn CASA continuing education credits by attending Case Discussion Meetings, even if you don't currently have a case.

CASA Corner - Introducing New Board Member Marty Braniff



Veteran children's advocate Martha "Marty" Braniff has joined CASA's Board of Directors. Marty has been a tireless and lifelong champion of the underprivileged. Formerly from Houston, Texas, she worked for several years as a nurse at Ripley House, in a community health program serving a mostly Hispanic neighborhood. After creating the first art program at the Harris County Juvenile Detention Center, in 1984 she founded Child Advocates, the Houston CASA program. She went on to become Co-Founder and now Emeritus Board Member of Texas CASA; and was the former President and now Emeritus Board Member of National CASA Association Board.

Marty is also an accomplished author, with published poetry, articles, short stories and novels. Her latest novel, *Step Over Rio*, comes out in March of this year. This book should be of interest to CASA volunteers, as it addresses the issue of immigrant child trafficking (see below).

Marty says: "I'm inspired to serve on the board of CASA First because of the dedication and commitment I have observed in the staff and board members. I believe the CASA Programs are most effective with good leadership, and CASA First has excellent leaders. I'm proud to be a part of the team." And we are proud and excited to welcome Marty to our Board!

Step Over Rio By Martha Everhart Braniff

Coming March 2012

[Pre-Orders Now Available!](#) Order your copy now for a discount and it will ship to you on 3/10/12!

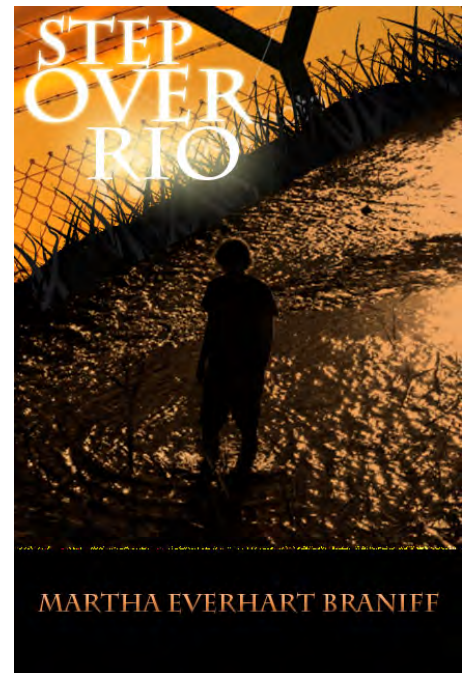
A young Guatemalan boy's triumphant odyssey to find a better life in the United States. Aided by a fearless journalist and federal agent, his journey is woven into a larger quest to bring down the kingpins of a child trafficking ring.

Over the past thirty years, Braniff has worked with victimized children, advocating for their rights through the courts, dealing with children of gang members, and endeavoring to help illegal kids caught in the treacherous web of child trafficking. *Step Over Rio* is Braniff's fictional exploration of very real and timely issues affecting hundreds of thousands of youths every year.

To pre-order click [HERE](#)

or go to

<http://waythingsare.com/products-page/step-over-rio>



To give a child a CASA is to give them a voice... To give them a voice is to give them hope, and to give them hope is to give them the world. I believe that with all my heart. Pamela - a former foster child