

Volunteer Voice

November 2011

Volume 5, Issue 11

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

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

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

Children Helping Children

When the Sunday School class at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Española heard that there were children in foster care who might need dolls and other soft, stuffed toys to love, they wanted to help. Assisted by their teacher, Julie Bulthuis, they gathered two huge bags of toys to send to the CASA office.



Janice with the class donation

These students have been helping children in other countries through Heifer International, but they were especially excited to be able to do something for kids in their own community.

Although they are young, the members of this Sunday School were touched by the story of children without the security of a permanent home. They are committed to continue to help CASA kids.



CASA Holiday Open House



There will be a Holiday Open House at the CASA office **on December 9th from 2:00pm to 6:00pm**. Please come, share some holiday cheer, and create gift bags for your CASA kids filled with toys, books, winter hats and scarves. CASA holiday cards and ornaments will be available for purchase, with all proceeds going to the CYFD Foster Children Christmas Party. Light refreshments will be served.

OFFICE CLOSURES

November 24 - 25th Thanksgiving

December 23 - Jan 2, 2012 Holiday Break

OCTOBER Stats:

Abuse/Neglect Cases

191.75 service hours reported (79% reporting)

8.5 training hours reported

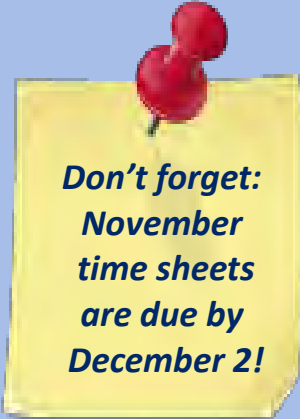
23.5 program hours reported

3071 miles driven

JJS Mentoring Program

50.25 service hours reported

805 miles driven



**Don't forget:
November
time sheets
are due by
December 2!**



**Happy Birthday
November Babies!**

Laurel Roberts - November 3

Eleni Cahn - November 5

Tony Guiles - November 6

Jane Starrett - November 22

Rachel King - November 23

Ernesto Sandoval - Nov 26

In-Service Training Opportunities

Topic: Human Sex Trafficking - A Recap

Date: Wednesday, November 30th from 12:00 - 1:00 pm at the CASA office.

1 hour program = 1 CASA CEU credit

RSVP to Diane Bowman; diane@casafirst.org.

Jamie O'Neill, CASA JJS Mentoring Program Coordinator, and Enid Margolies, CASA Youth Mentor, will share what they learned at a full-day Oct 20th workshop offered by the Coordinated Community Response Council (CCRC). This is an important issue for those who work with children - The average age of girls who are sexually exploited is between 10 and 13 years, and some cases have involved boys as young as 6 to 8 years old. Don't think sex trafficking happens "out there"; NM is a main corridor to larger cities. And, a large percentage of youth victims involved in sex trafficking were/are foster youth.

Topic: Psychological Evaluations Explained

Date: Tuesday, December 6th from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. at the CASA office

1 hour program = 1 CASA CEU credit

RSVP by Wednesday, November 30th to Diane; diane@casafirst.org

Dr. Nisha 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.

2010 Children's Law Institute - Community Matters

**Date: Wednesday, January 11th to Friday, January 13th at Hotel Albuquerque
Deadline for registration, hotel and RSVPs December 16th!**

12 - 15 CASA CEU credits

It's that time of year again – the registration for the Children's Law Institute is open online. When you attend the whole conference, you satisfy your entire year's requirements of 12 continuing education credits!! If you go to the pre-conference session, you get 3 more!! Go to the website now, www.childrenslawinstitute.org, and read about the plenary speakers, workshop titles, pre-sessions, and hotel registration at the Hotel Albuquerque.

There are 3 pre-sessions, and you must register for them, even if you do not attend the rest of the conference. The CASA pre-session is free, and features Ashley Rhodes-Courter, the little red-haired girl in the CASA video "Everyday Heroes"; we also have a copy of her book in our library if you want to read it before the conference.

Dr. Bruce Perry, founder of the Child Trauma Institute, will be discussing the link between child abuse and delinquency, which is very relevant to our work as advocates for abused children and as mentors to youth involved with the Juvenile Justice System. This session will cost \$20, and is not included in your \$64 conference tuition. Dr. Perry is definitely worth it!!

There is a free CASA luncheon after the morning pre-sessions, which you also must RSVP to our office to attend. **Please let us know about 3 things: your registration at a pre-conference session, your RSVP for the CASA luncheon (must RSVP by December 16th), and your registration for the CLI conference itself. DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION, HOTEL AND LUNCHEON RSVP FRIDAY DEC. 16TH.**

CASA Corner - Introducing Our New Volunteer Coordinator: Holly Garcia

Where are you from and where do you live? I was born and raised in Albuquerque. Currently, I am living minutes away from the CASA office here in beautiful Santa Fe.

What brought you to CASA? I was interested in CASA because it allows me to use my prior experience as a teacher to help children and give back to the community.

What did you do before CASA? For the past nine years, I was an elementary school teacher at both public and private schools. My husband and I recently moved back to New Mexico from the Houston Bay Area to be closer to family and friends.

What have you enjoyed so far working for CASA? I am enjoying meeting the CASA volunteers, all the people that work in the children's court and learning new skills.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I enjoy reading, baking, painting, eating at all of the Santa Fe restaurants, and spending time with my family and friends.

Holly has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from the University of New Mexico and a Master's degree in Education from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As a Title I early childhood educator, Holly managed a federally funded public school pre-K program for five years, where she worked with disadvantaged families to further their child's education as well as their own. Through this program, she also taught volunteers how to work with young children. She has assisted in curriculum development and multi-cultural awareness. All of Holly's talents and past experience will be put to use at CASA as she becomes the main line of support for volunteers.



Case Discussion Meetings

JJS Case Discussions: Wednesday November 30, 11:00-12:00 am at CASA. Please RSVP to Jamie, jamie@casafirst.org; 505-820-1500.

A/N Case Discussions: Tuesday, December 6th, 10:00 - 11:00 am at CASA. Please RSVP to Vivian, vitjon@aol.com or 505-470-0523.

Remember, you can earn CASA continuing education credits by attending case discussion meetings.

CASA
Holiday Cards
are now available
for purchase at
the office.

I am for the child.



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

