

The CASA Brief

A Newsletter for Volunteers, Friends and Supporters of Douglas County CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children - AUGUST 2010

Home Sweet Home: 2010 CASA Playhouse Delights Winner's Grandchildren

An exciting highlight of the annual *Casa for CASA* playhouse fundraiser is the moment when the lucky winner's name is plucked from the bin of tickets brimming with hopeful entries. This year, Russell Hilton boasted a huge smile when he heard his name announced by playhouse builder Dr. Marshall Kelley at the *Casa for CASA* celebration on July 17 at the Lawrence Arts Center. Pictured below are Jackie and Russell Hilton with their grandchildren Sophie and Dominic LaPoint. Sophie and Dominic are the children of Jill and Mark LaPoint. The playhouse now resides at the LaPoint homestead where Sophie and Dominic will share it with their local cousins and friends – and the family dog, of course.



“Thank you for the CASA Playhouse! It is so cool and so much fun.

I love it so much. Thank you so much!” – Sophie LaPoint

“Thank you CASA! We love our playhouse!” - Dominic LaPoint

**2010 Honorable Jean F. Shepherd
Volunteer of the Year Award Nominees
Recognized at Casa for CASA Celebration**



An annual tradition at the *Casa for CASA* celebration is the presentation of the Hon. Jean F. Shepherd Volunteer of the Year Awards to outstanding volunteers from Douglas County CASA and from the Citizen Review Board. Pictured above left is **Georgia Orchard**, the 2010 CASA volunteer winner of this prestigious award. Above right are the other 2010 CASA nominees for this award; pictured from left to right are CASA Director **Diana Frederick**, **Oliver Finney**, **Sue Richardson**, **Judge Shepherd**, **Jessica Daniel**, and **Marcus Merritt**.



The Citizen Review Board honorees for the Hon. Jean F. Shepherd Volunteer of the Year Awards are pictured above left: **Jo Bryant**, **June Boyajian**, **Judge Shepherd**, CRB Director **Heather Krase-Minnick**, and **Jody Johnson**. June Boyajian is the 2010 CRB winner of the volunteer award.

Award presentations this year included a special musical tribute to Judge Jean F. Shepherd. The center photo features *The Cornertones* performing "Workin' in the Courtroom". At right, Judge Shepherd, who retires on January 11, 2011, reacts to their performance. Tributes to Judge Shepherd also included announcements that a room in the CASA office will be named the *Jean Shepherd Room* and the Citizen Review Board Conference room will also be named in honor of Judge Shepherd after her retirement.

SCENES FROM THE 2010 *CASA FOR CASA* PLAYHOUSE CELEBRATION



More than 200 guests joined the festivities at the *Casa for CASA* playhouse celebration on July 17 at the Lawrence Arts Center. Pictured above left is a glimpse of the crowd; above right are **Beth and Marshall Kelley** (wearing white), creators of the 2010 *CASA* playhouse, receiving an appreciation plaque from *CASA* Board President **Mary Boatright** while *CASA* Director **Diana Frederick** bestows a set of Lincoln Logs. The lower left photo features **Maleah and Marla Herron** admiring one of the 20 dollhouses, “Casitas for *CASA*: Little Houses for a Big Cause,” included in the silent auction. Pictured in the lower right photo are *CASA* Board Member **Karen Oberzan** and **Ben Novorr**. *Details about Ben’s Bar Mitzvah project to benefit CASA will be featured in the September newsletter.*

Thank You for Supporting Douglas County CASA!

Casa for CASA Playhouse Celebration - www.dccasa.org

Saturday, July 17 - Lawrence Arts Center – 940 New Hampshire



We Gratefully Acknowledge Our 2010 Casa4CASA Sponsors:

Playhouse Design and Builder: Dr. Marshall Kelley

Playhouse Tour Sites: Peoples Bank / HyVee / Wal-Mart /
Lawrence Community Mercantile / Downtown Lawrence Association /
Lawrence Arts Center

Cornerstone Advocates: Capitol Federal Savings / Collective Brands-
Payless ShoeSource

Foundation Advocates: Westar Energy Foundation /Dr. Robert Gollier, DDS /
Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine, P.A.

Bricks and Mortar Advocate: Growing Smiles Dentistry / Bird Physical Therapy

Framework Advocates: Stephens Real Estate / Malls Barbershop /
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

“Casita” Dollhouse Builders & Artists: Lawrence Arts Center Preschool / Jennifer Immel-Oldridge /
John Sebelius & Stephen Schmile / GPW & Associates Engineering Consultants / Omega Phi Alpha &
Muggle Friends / Kansas University Theater – Dave Wanner & Tammy Keiser / KU Office of the
University Registrar / Austin Noll / Lisa Patrick & Susan Eagle / The Lied Center / Dan Schrinier &
Sally Hare-Schriner and family / Colleen Gregoire / Joanne Renfro / Lauren Davis & Bethany Keefer –
Trenor Architects / Katie Bracciano & John Wilson / Christina Gordzica & Carol Armstrong /
Uva Ovas Women’s Wine Group / Anonymous

In-Kind Donations: Marilyn Horsch / Sunflower Broadband / Mark’s Jewelry / Kizer-Cummings
Jewelry / Weaver’s / ProPrint / Alvamar / Halcyon House Bed & Breakfast / Checker’s / Blockbuster /
Dash Salon & Day Spa / Kansas Public Radio / J&S Coffee / Jackie Hilton / Jack’s Stack Barbecue /
Shear Perfection / Endless Summer Tan / CASA Kids Studio / Heather Krase-Minnick /
Wilkerson, Saunders & Anderson, DDS, LLC / Amyx Barber Shop / Beth & Marshall Kelley /
Elizabeth Halsey / Patrick Rapp / Kendra Jones – Designers Salon / Mainline Printing / Shelley /
Matt Gatewood / Sammie Conder / Pride Promotions / Kansas City Royals / Clinton Marina /
Lindsay Kemple / Nail Expressions

Special thanks to: Douglas County CASA Board of Directors/
Douglas County CASA Staff & Volunteers / Douglas County CASA Children /
Joe and Sarah Farthing / KLWN-KLZR & Hank Booth / Kansas Public Radio / The Cornertones /
Ben Novorr / Lawrence Arts Center / Lawrence Journal-World / Amanda Warren / Gail Vick /
Macy Ritchey / Michele Ritchey / Casita Judges: Mark Bradford, Bill Carswell, Erika Dvorske,
Bruce Flanders, Bobbie Flory, Margey Frederick, Denton Nichols, Anne Patterson & Susan Tate



OUR WISH LIST ...

- ☺ Fleece blankets, mittens and hats for children and teens.
- ☺ Journals and gel pens.
- ☺ Diaper bags, baby powder, baby lotion, rattles & teething rings.
- ☺ Monetary or in-kind donations (e.g., movie and bowling passes) for the CASA Child/Volunteer Activity Fund. Special thanks to the generous donor who provided seed money for this important need!
- ☺ Softball, baseball, and adult & child-size ball gloves for playing catch.
- ☺ Snacks for children (fruit snacks, granola bars, animal crackers, frozen treats, etc.)

The Advocate

A special section for our Douglas County CASA Volunteers



New Resources Available in CASA Office *We have a Wii!*

Now you can bowl, golf or play tennis or baseball with your CASA child in the CASA office!

Thanks to funding from the 2010 St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, we now have a Nintendo Wii in the office, with Wii Sports activities to challenge children, teens, and adults. A Wii has been on our wish list for months, but thanks to inspiration from volunteer Sue Richardson, who brought her Wii from home recently to play with her CASA kids in the office, we decided the time was right to purchase our own game system for CASA kids and volunteers.

Finding free and low-cost activities to do with your CASA child or teen is an ongoing challenge for volunteers, so we are pleased to announce a variety of new resources now available in the CASA office. In addition to the Wii, we now have a collection of 37 DVD movies appropriate to view in the office with CASA toddlers, children and teens. Titles include *Akeelah and the Bee*; *The Wubbulous World of Dr. Seuss*; *Toy Story*; *The Princess and the Frog*; *Harry Potter*; *Narnia – The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*; *Bend It Like Beckham*; *Baby Einstein – World Animals*; *Remember the Titans*; *The Great Debaters*; *Twilight*; *Pirates of the Caribbean*; *The Incredibles*; *Spiderman*; *The Adventures of Milo and Otis*; *Shrek*, and many more. Thanks to our St. Pat's Parade funding, we also have comfy chairs for viewing, individual popcorn packs, fruit snacks, ice cream bars, and sugar-free popsicles.



We also have cookie dough ready for baking in the CASA convection oven. Just contact the CASA office if you would like to reserve the activity room for a visit with your CASA child or children.

If you are visiting your child out of town, don't forget the CASA activity bags for every age group filled with games and activities to take with you. There are also art boxes, craft kits, and outdoor activity bags with Frisbees, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, and more.

AUGUST IN-SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: ICPCs

We are pleased to announce an important in-service opportunity for CASA and CRB volunteers: **Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) and Interstate Compact on Juveniles (ICJ)**

WHEN: Thursday August 26th - Noon to 1: 30 p.m. Lunch provided with RSVP

WHERE: Jury assembly room in the basement of the Judicial and Law Enforcement Center

Presenters: Patti Dawson Young, KS ICPC Deputy Com. Admin/ICAMA Compact Administrator

Anthony Ellis, KS ICJ Deputy Compact Administrator

Please RSVP to the CASA office (832-5172) or Elizabeth Day (eday@douglas-county.com) by 8/20.



We extend our warm wishes for a speedy recovery to CASA volunteer Jill Miller who recently returned home after major surgery. Get well soon, Jill!

Douglas County CASA, Inc.

Board of Directors: Cara Nossaman Anderson, Mary Boatright (*President*), Julia Butler, Shelly Goscha, Beth Kelley, Brad Kemp (*Vice President*), Eve Kemple, Missy Martin (*Past President*), Karen Oberzan (*Secretary*), Lisa Ramler, Ruthi Rapp, Brian Seymour (*Treasurer*), Libby Johnson (*Kappa Alpha Theta*)

Staff: Diana Frederick, *Executive Director*; Sherry Catt, *Volunteer Supervisor*; Elizabeth Day, *Volunteer Supervisor*; Carolyn Johnson, *Volunteer Supervisor*; Diane Mosher, *Administrative Assistant*

Contact Information: Douglas County CASA, Inc., 1009 New Hampshire, Suite B, Lawrence, KS 66044; Phone: 785-832-5172; Fax: 785-856-1279; E-mail: casa@douglas-county.com; Web site: www.dccasa.org; for newsletter questions or suggestions, please contact Diana Frederick at dfrederick@douglas-county.com.

Our Mission:

CASA strives to ensure that children of Douglas County grow up in safe, permanent and loving homes by advocating for the best interests of children who have been abused or neglected and are under the protection of the Juvenile court.



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