



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Advocate's Voice

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

FALL 2010

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Making A Difference In Children's Lives

♥ **Chris Aveni-Hatcher** was the CASA for eight-year-old Evangeline*. Evangeline became involved with Child Welfare Services (CWS)

due to neglect by her mother. Evangeline's father lived out of state and did not know that his daughter was brought into care until she had been in care for approximately 6-8 months. He expressed his desire to have Evangeline live with him but the Department was hesitant

about such a placement because the mother had told the Department that he was abusive. Chris maintained contact with the mother and met with Evangeline weekly; Evangeline shared with Chris that she wanted to live with her father. Chris spoke with the father several times and met with him when he came to town to visit Evangeline. Chris had the opportunity to observe their interactions firsthand. She also obtained a copy of the Interstate Compact which supported Evangeline's placement with her father. Chris was able to provide the court with valuable information which helped the Judge make the decision to have Evangeline placed permanently with her father and to have her case close.



♥ **Michelle Hsu** has been a CASA volunteer since May 2003 and has been serving as a CASA for Julie*, a teenage girl, since April

2009. Julie has a long history of aggression and suicidal ideation in addition to suffering from an eating disorder. Most recently, Julie was the victim of sexual abuse while residing in a licensed foster home. She was removed from the placement where she

had lived for approximately one year and placed in Baltimore, Maryland. Michelle has been a stable adult presence for Julie and visits her and maintains contact with the professionals on her case. Michelle has been very supportive, listening to Julie as she often wants to discuss the details of her abuse during visits. Michelle was able to help Julie without providing counseling or therapy by striking a balance between being an empathetic listener and encouraging Julie to confide in her therapist and Social Worker.

**names have been changed
additional story on page 2*

Volunteers Going Above & Beyond

♥ **Jeanette Winton's** CASA child Shane* has been in a residential treatment center in Baltimore since July 2008. Jeanette has been his CASA since December 2009 and has driven from Rockville to Baltimore (102 miles round trip) nearly every week. When she is not able to visit him, they speak on the phone and this has given Jeanette the ability to develop a great relationship with Shane and has enabled her to establish a working relationship with the staff at the treatment center.

♥ **Sharon Gooding** recommended that the court orders on her CASA child's case be translated into Spanish. The biological parents on her case are Spanish speaking and may not completely comprehend the orders of the Court if the provided documentation is only in English. Sharon's recommendation was accepted and the orders were translated for the parents.

**name has been changed*



CASA

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FOR CHILDREN

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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Case Supervisor

Angie von Stein
Case Supervisor

Danielle Verbiest
Office Manager

Lisa Stone
Assistant to the
Executive Director

CASA Volunteer Anniversary* Celebrations

Sixteen Years

Marsha Leikin

Fourteen Years

Frank Chiancone

Thirteen Years

Elizabeth Bishop

Eight Years

Pam Collins
Akilah Hughley
Leslie Greenberg
Melissa Scales

Seven Years

Michelle Hsu

Six Years

Shari Golob
Janet Lee
Ellen Siskind

Five Years

Kathy Channick
Kim Showman

Four Years

Phyllis Himelfarb
Lorrie Kaitz
Linda Tabach

Three Years

Charles Chesson
Ellen Cohen
Bonnie Fritz
April Gilbert
Brenton Grimes
Joyce Ingle
Diane Krishnamurti
Laura Kutkat
Rosalind Smith
Lauren Supplee

Two Years

Sheila Berman
Denise Brown
Devorah Diener
Heather Dublinske
Michele Forzley
Holly Fungler
Dori Garmeister
Robin Gross
Gail Macleod-Ball
Susan Nerlinger
Alberto Nogales
Clem Rastatter
Sandra Richardson
Kelsey Skjei

One Year

Barbara Abramson
Effie Amoah-Ntim
Diane Baker
Brenda Baker

One Year

Janice Blum
Sheryl Donaldson
Christine Eldarrat
Audrey Elkinson Griff
Katherine Englar
Christine Floyd
Arriell Garner
Elina Garrido Ekwurzel
Toby Guy
Cathy Hodin
Charles Hosten
Nancy James
Aliya Khan
Leonard Kolsky
Limnyuy Konglim
Loretta Lagoon
Nikki Lak
Stephanie Lee-Rizas
Ute Main
Karen Martinson
Sharon Mitri
Phylcia Mortey
Eileen Murnane
Theodore Ravas, Jr.
Kathy Ravenscroft
Gerald Reichlin
Alissa Sagri
Kara Savory
Anushri Singhvi
Lenworth Smith Jr.

**from date first assigned*

Montgomery County Needs Foster Parents

CASA is partnering with the Montgomery County's Children's Action Team, a group comprised of Juvenile Court judges and representatives from agencies that serve court-involved children, to highlight the need for more foster homes in our community.

While we at CASA remain focused on recruiting additional CASA volunteers, we are also concerned about the impact of the scarcity of foster homes on the children we serve. There is a high need for bi-lingual foster homes and foster parents willing to



accept teenagers and/or children with special needs. Active CASA volunteers are ineligible to be foster parents in the County, but please consider sharing this information with friends, co-workers, or

relatives who might be willing to open their homes to a child or children in foster care.

For more information contact:
Department of Health and Human Services,
1301 Piccard Drive, 4th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850
or call 240-777-1664

Volunteers Making A Difference In Children's Lives

▼ **Marsha Leikin** was the CASA for Mark* from September 2009 through June 2010, when he aged out of the system upon turning 21. Mark and his family had contact with Child Welfare Services (CWS) due to allegations of abuse of Mark by his mother's boyfriend in 1994 and by his father in 2002. In 2006, CWS received a report alleging neglect of Mark by his mother. Mark had been diagnosed with serious emotional, behavioral, and developmental disabilities and receives services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). Since March 2006, Mark has been placed in at least seven residential facilities and group homes, and been hospitalized for suicidal ideation, violent outbursts, and psychotic incidents. Marsha was assigned to the case shortly before Mark's 21st birthday. She worked diligently with his placement to ensure that he was properly placed with the necessary resources before his case closed. Marsha also visited Mark consistently, despite the fact that he was placed hours away from Montgomery County. Mark's final placement was determined before he was 21; however, he was not able to move there before he turned 21 and his case was closed. Before the case closed, Marsha spoke to all parties involved to be sure of the final plan for Mark and to know he would ultimately be placed in the correct facility and be monitored by DDA.

**name has been changed*

Donors Making a Difference

Mr. Jonathan R. Agre
Andra Allison

Ms. Diane Baker
Honorable Sharon Burrell
Steve and Leslie Cohen
Abdalla and Chris Eldarrat

The Community Foundation for Montgomery County
Dickstein Shapiro, LLP
Abdalla and Chris Eldarrat
Gannett Foundation

Robert and Arlene Hillerson
Andrew and Phyllis Isaacson
Chris McAndrews and Tamara Horne
Mead Family Foundation

National Council of Jewish Women, Montgomery Cty
Bill and Elissa Oshinsky
Pepco

Sandra Richardson
Stuart and Renee Shaw
St. Andrew Apostle Catholic Church
Nancy Stockbridge
Women of St. Francis Episcopal Church

In Honor of Elizabeth Bishop and Darren Gemoets

Ms. Graciela Rosenblatt

In Honor of Melanie and Herbert Dubin

David and Carolyn Hockstein

In Honor of Jack Burton and Dan Evans

Frederick and Patricia Evans

In Honor of Barbara Faigen

Dr. Stan & Mrs. Paulette Shulman

In Honor of Leslie Greenberg

Carol Sadoff

In Honor of Nancy James

Fred Giroux

In Honor of Brauna Martin

Joel and Cara Weiss

In Honor of Joan Schaffer

Laura Olle

In Memory of Catherine B. Garland

Ms. Julie Orr

In Memory of Jack Meltzer

Ms. Carol Bluestone
Stuart and Lorine Pergament
Ms. Dorothy L. Spritz
Mrs. Elaine G. Stanley

In Memory of Frank G. Zizlavsky

Lynne Zizlavsky

In Memory of Shannon Elizabeth Tobin Machado

Laura, Mira and Humberto Araujo-Barbosa

Steve and Karen Arciero
Ms. Elizabeth Arrabito
Ms. Susan Berrington
Ms. Bethany Bradley
Ms. Lauren Brown
Renee Davidson
Ms. Doreen Dillon
Brenna Dorrance and David Tinkler
Ms. Roberta Edkins
Ms. Christine Ellin
Ms. Maureen Franz
Mr. Gary Garman
Mr. Thomas Griffin
Ms. Margaret Harrington
Mr. Jeff Headlee

Elizabeth and Robert Kasegrande

The Kelleher Foundation

Thomas and Adrienne Keller

Vincent and Diane LoBello

Ms. Caryn Lustig

Tom and Sara McCullough

Tom and Julie McGuigan

Ms. Lisa Miller

Mary Mizurak

Peter and Maris Moriarty

Mr. Benjamin Nibali

Ms. Diane Palmieri

Mr. David Rentrop

Mr. Phil Rodger

Ms. Mary Ruland

Ms. Joy Sama

Ms. Kathleen Sanseverino

Ms. Patricia Steeg

Janet and Mildred Trettau

Ms. Ann Waters

William and Judy Welsh

Ms. Stephanie Williamson

Make a difference in a child's life.

Support

CASA of Montgomery County
with your campaign designation.

United Way #8814

Combined Federal Campaign #90448

Maryland Charity Campaign #4197



Visit our NEW WEBSITE at

www.casamontgomery.org

Click "Donate"

Online donations

are processed through

Local Independent Charities



There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in.

CASA Welcomes A New Office Manager

Danielle Verbiest joined CASA as a part-time office manager in August. A native of the Netherlands, Danielle has a BA in Oriental Languages and Communications and a MA in International Non Governmental Organizations. She comes to CASA with strong skills in office management having most recently been the office manager for Bridgestone Netherlands. Danielle, her husband and daughter live in Germantown. Be sure to introduce yourself to Danielle on your next visit to our office.

Congratulations To Our Pre-Service Training Class Graduates

Andy Andrianantoandro ~ Akua Ansong ~ Karen Auerbach ~ Billy Avedi ~ Sheila Bagheri

Caroline Barnes ~ Miffi Bedrick ~ Corinna Bell ~ Faye Bobb-Semple ~ Robert Boone

Sandra Boots ~ Kristen Bower ~ Mary Cary Bradley ~ Jill Brigati ~ Pamela Buchanan

Chrissie Capron ~ Susan Casey ~ Daniela Chavez ~ LaShonda Coleman ~ Scarlett Escott

Susan Filocco ~ Sharon Flynn ~ Jon Frank ~ Kathy Franzel ~ Cheryse Furman ~ Sheryl Geronimo

Abiose Gittens-Parker ~ JoAnn Goedert ~ Teri Goldstein ~ Trina Gotkin ~ Tracy Greaney

Julie Haberman ~ Sarah Hall ~ Michele Hamilton ~ Lauren Hammer ~ Anika Harris

Carl Hayes, Jr. ~ Diane Hemmersbaugh ~ Rebecca Holsen ~ Frances Homer ~ Marlene Jacques

Kari Jones ~ Kindra Jones ~ Janet Kadish ~ Stephen Kamas ~ Bonnie Kasander ~ Kathleen Katz

Ann Kim ~ Francesca Kim ~ Jessica Membreno ~ Connie Moran ~ Rachel Narrow ~ Nancy Olins

Katherine O'Neill ~ Nita Patel ~ Jennifer Port ~ Perry Sandler ~ Ayaba Sedjro ~ Elizabeth Shannon

Frances Sloan ~ Kathy Smith ~ Donna Snyder ~ Cassandra Somasundaram

Elizabeth Stefanowicz ~ Salmeh Tabatabaee ~ Erica Vargas ~ Lydia York



1010 Grandin Avenue
 Room B-3
 Rockville, Maryland 20851
 Phone: 301-340-7458
 Fax: 301-340-7458
 Email: mail@casamontgomery.org
 Website: www.casamontgomery.org

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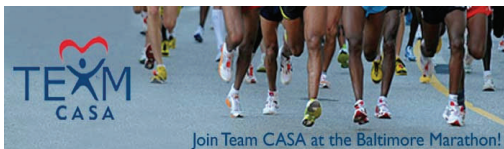
Become A Powerful Voice In A Child's Life

CASA Website Gets A New Look

Many thanks to Susie Buckley for graciously volunteering her time, expertise, and creative talents to redesign our website. Our new site is easy to navigate and filled with important information about CASA of Montgomery County. Take a tour of our new site soon!

Visit us at www.casamontgomery.org

Saturday, October 16, 2010 Baltimore Running Festival



*Marathon - Half-Marathon - Team Relay - 5k
 Kids Fun Run*

Help raise public awareness and funds to recruit more volunteers to serve Maryland's abused and neglected children.

For more information contact Farajii Muhammad
farajii@marylandcasa.org or call 410-828-6761
 visit www.marylandcasa.org

Upcoming Pre-Service Training

Applications for Fall 2010 are being accepted

FALL 2010

Saturday, September 25	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday, September 27	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Wednesday, September 29	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Friday, October 1	8:15 am to 4:30 pm
Monday, October 4	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Wednesday, October 6	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Tuesday, October 12	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm

WINTER 2011

Saturday, January 8	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday, January 10	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Wednesday, January 12	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Friday, January 14	8:15 am to 4:30 pm
Tuesday, January 18	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Thursday, January 20	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Tuesday, January 25	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Tuesday, January 27	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm

~dates are tentative and subject to change~

Contact the CASA office for more information
 301-340-7458 or visit www.casamontgomery.org