

The CASA Brief

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

APRIL 2009



Grant from Douglas County Community Foundation Funds CASA Activity Bags

We are pleased to announce that Douglas County CASA received a \$1,000 grant from the **Douglas County Community Foundation** to provide funding for our new CASA activity bags. Thanks to the generosity of the DCCF and many in-kind donations from CASA volunteers and supporters, these new activity bags are already becoming a reality. Accolades are also due to volunteer Sally Hare-Schriner for her outstanding work coordinating the activity bags and organizing games, books, puzzles, art supplies, and other resources into age-appropriate packets. These activity bags will provide our CASA volunteers with valuable resources as they interact with their CASA children and teens during their time together. We extend our sincere thanks to the Douglas County Community Foundation and to everyone who has contributed toward this important project!

Pictured above, at left, are in-kind donations for the new CASA activity bags. At right are several activity bags filled with items for various age levels. CASA serves children from birth to age 18+.



“As Commissioner of the Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority and as a past Judge, I fully understand the benefits of the work CASA volunteers do to provide advocacy on behalf of children who are experiencing family challenges.

The commitment of the volunteers who serve is a testament to the caring nature of Kansans. CASA volunteers make a difference in the lives of many children throughout our state by holding all parties accountable for serving the best interests of children.”

*– J. Russell Jennings
Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority Commissioner*

Lawrence GiveBack Cards to Benefit Douglas County CASA



GET THIS FREE CARD....

Dining and Donations: Use this card when you dine out and CASA will receive a donation.

An exciting program is now being introduced in Lawrence. **Checkers** and the **Lawrence Originals** (17 locally owned restaurants) will donate a portion of every food purchase to the local Lawrence charitable organization or school selected by cardholders. **The restaurants will donate 5% of the food purchase and Checkers will donate 1% of food purchases.**

...PLUS, cardholders also get the same percentage rebate in the form of reward points on these food purchases loaded onto the card toward future purchases at Checkers or any of the participating restaurants!

For additional information on all details, including reward points, go to: www.lawrencegiveback.com

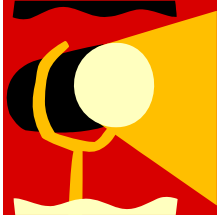
HERE'S HOW YOU CAN DONATE TO DOUGLAS COUNTY CASA WITH YOUR CARD:

1. Pick up your **FREE** Lawrence GiveBack Card at Checkers, at any participating restaurant, or through the CASA office. (Call CASA at 832-5172 and we'll even mail a card to you!)
2. Activate your card online in 30 seconds, designating our organization as the charity to receive the donation when you use your card. On the list of charities to benefit from these cards, go to the "Other" option and choose *Douglas County CASA* in the drop down list.
3. Then use your card every time you shop at Checkers or dine at a participating restaurant. Present your card when you pay, and a donation will automatically be made to CASA.

That's it. It's **FREE** to use and...it's that simple!

These locally owned, independent businesses have stepped up to the plate to help local charities raise needed additional funds. Now you can dine at one of your favorite restaurants and support CASA at the same time!





Volunteer Spotlight: MARIA POPE

A CASA Volunteer Expands Her Work Helping Children

By Kitty Ware

Maria Pope has focused much of her time and energy on helping children. As a fifth grade teacher in the Lawrence public schools, she is a devoted educator. But her interest in assisting children in need didn't end there. Maria was motivated to go the extra mile in her desire to make a difference for children in our area. "I wanted to find an opportunity to volunteer somewhere in the community," Maria says. "I heard of CASA through co-workers and thought that it gave me another aspect of a child's life that I do not see as a teacher."

Maria enjoys becoming acquainted with people she would otherwise never meet, such as the CASA families and the hard-working people at the agencies involved in children's cases. She says, "The most rewarding aspect of being a CASA is getting to know the families and different people from the various agencies."

The job of CASA has its share of difficulties, too. "The most challenging aspect is watching the roller coaster of changes that the children have to experience from being removed from the home to often more than one foster home, the variety of workers from different agencies and the uncertainty that each day brings for the child," Maria explains. "It's hard to see that often what is best for the child is often not what works with the system that they are in."

When she's not teaching or volunteering for CASA, Maria enjoys a number of activities such as softball, reading, watching college sports and spending time with her husband, Steve. She keeps quite busy as well with the activities of her children, Audrey, Kristian and Marissa.

Maria has found her CASA experience to be very positive. "It has been a joy working with the CASA staff. In particular, my supervisor Carolyn Johnson. She has a wealth of knowledge wrapped around a kind heart and great personality." CASA seems to be full of staff and volunteers with kind hearts. (Pictured above right are Maria Pope and her husband Steve, at her left.)



It's a Boy!!

Douglas County CASA is pleased to welcome a new member to the CASA family. CASA Board member Cara Nossaman Anderson and her husband Jan-Eric are the proud parents of Wrenner Bahm Anderson (pictured at left). Big brother Winton is excited to welcome his new sibling as well. Wrenner was born at 9:38 pm on March 10. He weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces and was 21 inches long. Wrenner definitely has CASA in his genes since his grandmother, San Dee Nossaman, is a CASA volunteer!

The Advocate

A special section for our
Douglas County CASA
Volunteers



**April is National Child Abuse
Prevention and Awareness Month**

**National Volunteer Week is
April 19-25, 2009**

**We Appreciate our Outstanding
Douglas County CASA Volunteers!**

“Volunteers are our greatest natural resource.”

CASA Volunteer News and Reminders ...

- **Summer Scholarship** information will arrive in your mail this month. Funded by the Ethel & Raymond Rice Foundation, the Summer Scholarship Program provides opportunities for CASA children and youth (and other at-risk children in the community) to attend area day camps and activities for free or reduced cost. The information packet you will receive contains important details, but start thinking about a camp or class that your CASA child might like to attend. If you have questions, contact Sherry Catt at the CASA office (scatt@douglas-county.com; 832-5172).
- **Please join us for a celebration of your outstanding volunteerism! CASA Volunteer Appreciation Gathering – Thursday, April 16, 5:30-7:00 pm at Maceli’s (Bistro Room), 1031 New Hampshire.** Appetizer buffet, cake and beverages provided. Cash bar available. RSVP by noon on April 9 (832-5172 or dmosher@douglas-county.com).
- **Did you know that Home Depot offers Saturday workshops for children?** On the first and third Saturdays of each month, from 9 am to noon, the Lawrence Home Depot store hosts special craft and building project workshops just for kids. If you are looking for a fun activity to do with your CASA child, you might want to add this to your list of options.
- **Don’t forget that you can view the CASA Quilt and other great quilts at the Kaw Valley Quilter’s Guild Show, April 25-26, at the Douglas County Fairgrounds! For more information, visit their web site at www.kawvalleyquiltersguild.org**



“CASA volunteers hold their children’s hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.”



Our Appreciation is Extended to Our Wonderful Douglas County CASA VOLUNTEERS:

Wesley Barfield
Barry Barnes
Lisa Barnes
Ray Beaumont
Katie Becker
Carol Bland
Nick Chernock
Pamela Cullerton
Bettie Currie♥♥
Kacie Doll
Bob Duver
Lee Ann Duver♥
Oliver Finney♥
Rebecca Finney
Allyson Flaster
Sally Hare-Schriner
Tracy Harrison
Jill Kleinberg♥
Dana Knorr
Wayland Lankford
Patsy Lankford
Patricia Lechtenberg
Gretchen Lehman♥♥
Marcus Merritt
Sara Meyer
Sue Midyett♥
Jill Miller
Derek Moore
Ben Neaves
Pearl Neaves

Lis Niswonger
SanDee Nossaman♥
Georgia Orchard♥♥♥
Andrea Partee♥
Ken Phipps
Maria Pope
Sue Richardson
Gary Schmidt
Jean Schumaker
Stacey Schwartz
Kelsey Sewell
Joy Slavens
Marty Smith♥♥♥
Jim Stuit♥
Joan Valburg
Mary Wallace♥
Victor Wallace
Kitty Ware

And special thanks to:
Douglas County CASA Board of Directors
KU Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority
All past, present & future CASA Volunteers!

(Hearts ♥ indicate 5 or more years of service as a CASA volunteer: ♥5+ years; ♥♥10+ years; ♥♥♥15+ years)

Douglas County CASA, Inc.

Board of Directors: Cara Nossaman Anderson, Mary Boatright (*Vice President*), Julia Butler, Mark Emert (*Secretary*), Beth Kelley, Brad Kemp, Eve Kemple, Jill LaPoint, Missy Martin (*President*), Karen Oberzan, Chris Phalen (*Treasurer*), Lisa Ramler, Ruthie Rapp, Becca Braun (*Kappa Alpha Theta*)

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

Contact Information: Douglas County CASA, Inc., 1100 Massachusetts St., Suite 302, Lawrence, KS 66044; Phone: 785-832-5172; Fax: 785-832-5359; E-mail: casa@douglas-county.com; Web site: www.orgsites.com/ks/douglascountycasa; For newsletter questions, 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.



Douglas County CASA, Inc.
1100 Massachusetts Street, Suite 302
Lawrence, KS 66044