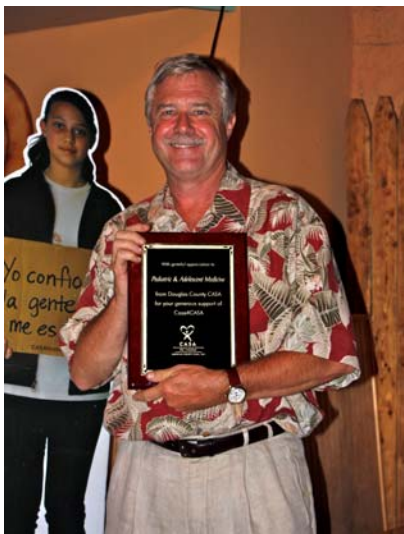


The CASA Brief

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

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children - AUGUST 2009

2009 Casa4CASA Benefit Deemed a Success



Pictured above left is Dr. Terry Riordan, accepting an appreciation plaque on behalf of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, P.A., Casa4CASA Title Sponsors. In the lower righthand photo are (from left to right) Denton Nichols of Treanor Architects, Designer of the 2009 CASA playhouse; Kenton Knowles of Global Homes Design, playhouse construction; and Kevin Edwards, who also assisted with playhouse construction.

A delightfully cool evening provided the perfect background for the 2009 Casa4CASA celebration on July 18 at Cielito Lindo restaurant. More than 100 guests attended this annual benefit for Douglas County CASA, coordinated by the CASA Board of Directors. A silent auction on the patio was an added feature to raise funds at this event. The winner of the 2009 CASA playhouse was Pam Smith of Lawrence. Proceeds help CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children, helping them find a safe, permanent and loving home. The final tally is still pending, but early estimates indicate the 2009 C4C playhouse tour and party raised more than \$20,000. Donations are still being accepted.



**Hon. Jean F. Shepherd
Volunteer of the Year Awards
Presented at *Casa4CASA* Fiesta**

An annual highlight of the *Casa4CASA* drawing party is the presentation of the Hon. Jean F. Shepherd Volunteer of the Year Awards to CASA and Citizen Review Board volunteer honorees. Although every nominee is a winner, the 2009 recipients of this prestigious award were Lee Ann Duver of CASA and Linda Lungstrum of CRB.

Pictured above from left to right are

CASA volunteers Sue Midyett, Ray Beaumont, and Lee Ann Duver; Judge Jean Shepherd is at the far right. Not pictured is CASA volunteer Katie Becker who was unable to attend.

RAY BEAUMONT - Ray began volunteering for Douglas County CASA in 2006. He has served as a firefighter for the Air National Guard in Topeka for 23 years. Ray's first case as a CASA involved two young boys who connected with Ray as a positive role model and were eventually adopted. He is currently assigned to a 16-year-old young man. Ray is dedicated to public service and advocating for the best interest of children.

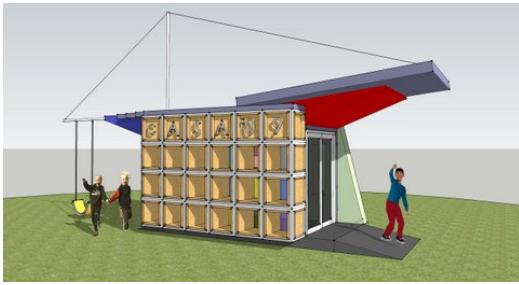
KATIE BECKER – Katie began volunteering for CASA in 2005 and is currently assigned to her fourth case. Her first CASA child was a little girl with a young and troubled mother and a father in prison. She still stays in touch with the family today. Her third case involved a teenage girl and Katie established a great relationship with this teenager and her foster parents. She is currently assigned to two young girls. A retired elementary school teacher, Katie has a wonderful way of interacting with people of all ages and backgrounds.

LEE ANN DUVER – Lee Ann has been a CASA volunteer since 2002. After teaching kindergarten for 25 years, Lee Ann sees her work with CASA as an extension of her career in serving children. Her first case involved two young boys who were abandoned at the police station in the middle of the night. Although they have been adopted and live in another state, they still keep in touch with Lee Ann. Her last case involved two young girls, and Lee Ann was commended by the family for her outstanding efforts on behalf of the children. Lee Ann's husband, Bob, has been a Support CASA since 2006.

SUE MIDYETT – Sue has been a CASA volunteer since 2004. A retired elementary teacher, Sue has been a dedicated advocate for children. Her first case involved 5 children, including one who was disabled. Sue was assigned to two Native American children for her second case. Her current case includes 3 young siblings and she has exhibited a positive working relationship with all agencies and staff involved. She has also earned the trust and respect of relatives involved with the children.



Pictured at right are Citizen Review Board volunteer honorees Joshua Arce, Jennifer Sanner, Alison Lungstrum (attending on behalf of her mother Linda Lungstrum) and Judge Jean F. Shepherd.



18th annual *CASA 4 CASA*

Thank You!

Playhouse Design: Denton Nichols of Treanor Architects

Playhouse Construction: Kenton Knowles and Global Homes Design

Title Sponsor: Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, P.A.

Cornerstone Advocate: Capitol Federal Foundation

Foundation Advocates: Robert A. Gollier III, DDS; Hedges Real Estate;
Payless ShoeSource; Treanor Architects

Bricks and Mortar Advocates: Growing Smiles Dentistry; Michael Roark

Framework Advocates: Bird Physical Therapy; Diane's Artisan Gallery; Douglas County Bank;
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; Malls Barbershop; OrthoKansas, P.A.; Stephens Real Estate

Silent Auction Contributors:

Amyx Barber Shop, Au Marché, Aveena Natural Cleaning Services, Blue Plate Dinners, BoMo, Tammy Howell Cates of All About You Salon, Eccentricity, Eileen's Colossal Cookies, Marilyn Horsch, Images Salon, Kansas Public Radio, Beth & Marshall Kelley, Brad Kemp, Kizer-Cummings Jewelers, Heather Krase-Minnick, Lake Perry Marina, Jill & Mark LaPoint, Jim & Carrie Mandigo, Missy & Dave Martin, Massage Envy, Rynette Reiling-Minor of Winfield House, Elizabeth Moore Photography, Anne Patterson, Starr Pugh of DASH Salon & Day Spa, Patrick Rapp, Lisa & Pete Ramler, Chris Rhoad of MORPH, Sunflower Broadband, Weaver's, George Welch of Thunderhill.

In-Kind Contributors:

ACI Plastics, KCMO
Amanda Warren::Design::Illustration::Books
Celestial Ironworks
Douglas County CASA Board of Directors
Frank Paxton Lumber Company
Joel Frederick
Kennedy Glass
Luminous Neon Art & Sign

Mainline Printing
Midway Wholesale
Minuteman Press
John and Diane Mosher
PODS
ProPrint
Schmidt Builders Supply

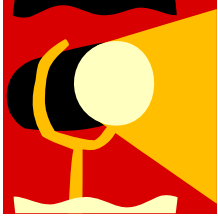
Special Thanks to:

Sam & Thomas Boatright
CASA Kids Studio & Jenny O'Brien
Cielito Lindo
Citizen Review Board Staff
Community Mercantile
Douglas County CASA Board and Families
Douglas County CASA Staff
Douglas County CASA Volunteers
Downtown Lawrence, Inc.
Kevin Edwards

Farmer's Market
Josh Frederick
Hillcrest Wrecker Service & Marshall Coplen
HyVee on 6th Street
Kansas Public Radio
KLWN & Hank Booth
Lawrence Journal-World
Dave Martin
Hon. Jean F. Shepherd
Wal-Mart

We are grateful to everyone who helped or provided a donation to support the 2009 Casa4CASA event.

"A Powerful Voice in a Child's Life" - www.dccasa.org



Staff Spotlight: Elizabeth Day

New Volunteer Supervisor Joins Douglas County CASA

We are delighted to welcome Elizabeth Day as a new Volunteer Supervisor with Douglas County CASA. Following Sammie Conder’s recent retirement, Elizabeth began her new position with CASA on August 3rd. Our agency has a history of attracting skilled and dedicated employees, and Elizabeth is no exception. She has a Master’s Degree in Social Work and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Social Welfare at KU where she also serves as a field instructor with master-level Social Welfare students.

A former WRAP Social Worker at Lawrence High School, Elizabeth has also been a Family/Child Social Worker with SRS and a Foster Care Social Worker with KVC and the Kansas Children’s Service League. Earlier in her career, Elizabeth worked as a Mitigation Specialist in the Office of Missouri State Public Defender, taught English as a Second Language, and volunteered in the Peace Corps. And those are just a few highlights!



Elizabeth grew up in Fairway, Kansas, where both of her parents were teachers. As the only girl among four brothers, Elizabeth admits she was frequently spoiled by relatives who treated her to special excursions and extra attention. She has lived in Lawrence for over ten years now; home is a tiny bungalow that she shares with two friendly dogs and “quite a bit of clutter”. When she’s not out walking Mari and Lucy, Elizabeth reads – both for pleasure and for coursework toward her Social Welfare Ph.D. She also bikes (a little), spends time with friends, and nourishes her Netflix addiction.

Several years ago, Elizabeth maintained a foster home license. Two teenaged girls were placed with her. This experience taught Elizabeth the role and value of CASA volunteers. The young women who lived with her benefited greatly from the support and encouragement provided by their CASA volunteers. As a result, Elizabeth is greatly looking forward to getting to know Douglas County CASA volunteers, and doing her part to support the invaluable work they do.

Needless to say, we are extremely fortunate to welcome Elizabeth Day to the staff of Douglas County CASA and encourage you to extend a warm welcome as she begins her tenure with our program. We are already enjoying her great sense of humor and Elizabeth’s impressive blend of experience and compassion.

“Powerless Children Need Powerful Friends”

Thank You ...



... To the “Twens” at First United Methodist Church for using proceeds from their bake sale to purchase “Wish List” items for Douglas County CASA: rattles, teething rings, infant socks, Johnson Take-Along Packs, playing cards and more (donations pictured at left).

... To Sheridan’s Frozen Custard for donating coupons for CASA kids who enter our art contest.





Our sympathy is extended to the family of former CASA and CRB volunteer *Linda Penny*, who died at her home on July 4 after a short battle with a brain tumor. We are extremely honored that her family included Douglas County CASA as a recipient of memorial gifts in tribute to this remarkable woman.

More information and a complete list of memorial contributors will be included in the September edition of our newsletter.

The Advocate

A special section for our
Douglas County CASA
Volunteers



Free Birthday Party at Premier Martial Arts!

For a birthday party that's a "real kick", keep your CASA child in mind. The party includes 1½ hours of karate lessons, games & fun with up to 15 friends, ages 5 to 12, and more. Special thanks to board member Jill LaPoint for this donation. For more information, please contact the CASA office at 832-5172.

ARTWORK from CASA Children and Youth – Contest

Deadline Extended! The deadline for our 2009 CASA Art Contest has been extended to September 1. Every child or teen who submits their artwork will receive a coupon for a free cone at *Sheridan's Frozen Custard* and the winners will receive a special prize – in addition to having their artwork framed and displayed in the CASA office and featured on holiday greeting cards.

Free admission coupons to the **Thunderhill Speedway** in Mayetta have been donated for CASA children and volunteers. (Special thanks to George Welch!) Contact the CASA office for details and to obtain free passes.



Our thoughts are with CASA Administrative Assistant Diane Mosher who will be out of the office for 4-6 weeks following knee replacement surgery. We wish Diane a speedy recovery! During her absence, you may hear a new voice answering the CASA phone. Zee Button will be assisting in the CASA office while Diane is recuperating.

The CASA Cook's Corner:

Cake Balls

Courtesy of Karen Oberzan, CASA Board Member



Ingredients: 1 cake mix; 1 can frosting (you only use ¾ of it); chocolate bark and/or white dipping bark. **Instructions:** Bake the cake according to directions and let it cool completely. Crumble the cake until it is almost like a cornmeal texture. Take ¾ of the frosting and mix it into the cake crumbs. Keep mixing until you cannot see any frosting. Roll the mixture into small balls, about an inch big, and put them on a cookie sheet. Freeze them. When you're ready to dip them, put parchment paper on the counter and melt the chocolate in the microwave. Use a fork and a knife to help you dip the balls. The fork will let the extra chocolate drip off and the knife will help you slide the dipped ball onto the paper. As these sit, you will see condensation on the outside of them; this will go away. For a nice design, take a small amount of the opposite color of chocolate and put it in a baggie. Snip the end and then drizzle it over the dipped balls. *Editor's note: These cake balls, which resemble expensive truffles, were a hit at the Casa4CASA Drawing party and everyone was clamoring for Karen's recipe. If you have a recipe to share, please send via email to casa@douglas-county.com.*

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, Ruthi 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.dccasa.org; 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