

CASA PROGRAM OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

THE CASA MONTHLY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 2012

ANNUAL STATE GAL/CASA CONFERENCE

The [Indiana State Office of GAL/CASA](#) hosted the 16th Annual GAL/CASA conference, "Getting Kids to Home Plate," at the Indianapolis Marriot East on Saturday, October 13, 2012. Thank you to those of you that joined us in attending.

It's always a pleasure to get together with others doing the same type of advocacy work. It becomes inspirational and enlightening to hear what fellow advocates are saying and experiencing.

CASAs Don, Diana, and Rose, attended this year's CASA conference. Diana writes, "My husband and I have been part of the local CASA program for a year. We decided to check out the Annual State GAL/CASA Conference in Indianapolis on October 13th. To be honest, we also wanted to get a LOT of continuing education hours in one day! The program included a keynote speaker and three 1-1/4 hour breakout sessions. Each of the ses-



sions had five different subjects you could choose from. I attended those that I felt would be most helpful on my current case. Two of them were excellent and one was OK. I enjoyed the lunch keynote speaker, [Dr. Jaiya John](#) who did a great job with his presentation. We had lunch with Brenda and met Rose, another really nice CASA from our county. It was better than we expected.

The best thing about attending was to be in the same room with probably 750 CASAs from throughout the state who have the same passion to improve the life of one child at a time. We work so independently on our

cases that we don't realize how powerful we are as a whole."

Thank you Diana, for sharing your experience with *The Monthly*.

CASAs who attended also expressed interest in the CASA creed that was shared aloud and recited as a group. The *Monthly* would like to share the [CASA Creed](#) with everyone and we hope you will consider joining us at next year's State GAL/CASA Conference.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CASA SPOTLIGHT	2
BOOK CLUB RECOMMENDS	2
OCT/NOV ANNIVERSARIES	2
CALENDAR OF EVENTS: OCT/NOV	2

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday from
The Monthly!



- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Don D. | Pam P. |
| Kathleen G. | Barb R. |
| Terez H. | Lori R. |
| Jill K. | Vicki R. |
| Carl L. | Judy S. |
| Tom L. | Laura S. |
| Katina M. | Sandy W. |
| Ralph M. | Gaylen W. |

THE MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT: SHARON L



The Monthly recognizes CASA Sharon L. as CASA of the Month!

Sharon has been an active and dedicated CASA for

almost four (4) years. Since being sworn into the court in 2008, Sharon has advocated for twelve (12) children and has helped them all find some form of permanency.

Currently, Sharon serves four (4) CASA children on two (2) separate cases. Not only does Sharon fulfill her weekly and monthly duties by submitting her hours and reports to her

communicates with family case managers and other providers involved in her cases, and her diligence helps to find solutions for the children for whom she is advocating.

Because of Sharon's hard work, dedication, and love for her CASA children, she has become a rock for our CASA program. We are so grateful to have Sharon on our CASA team!

Book Club Recommends *Methland*

CASA Gaylen W. recently read and reviewed *Methland – The Death and Life of an American Small Town* by Nick Reding:

"I had a continuing interest in the subject after attending the In-Service Training program on Methamphetamine conducted by the Indiana State Police at the JJC on June 5th, 2012. Methland addresses the subject as a "socio-cultural cancer" as reflected in the experience of one community, in Oelwein, Iowa. It tells a complicated story in

comprehensible, human dimensions reflected in the character studies of individuals involved in the subject on all sides of the issue - the heroes, the addicts, the helpless witnesses, the innocent victims and the perpetrators. It is particularly poignant in its discussion of the impact on families and children. The author neither romanticizes nor moralizes, but simply endeavors to hold a mirror up.

As a side note of local interest, the author while

working on the book interviewed Indiana Representative Mark Souder who all but single-handedly pushed the Combat Meth Act through Congress (at the time he was representing the district that includes Fort Wayne). His district, as Souder put it, is 'defined by its meth problem.'"

Thanks to Gaylen for an outstanding review and for donating *Methland* to CASA's lending library.



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Thank You!

8 Years

Reva Cheri U.

6 Years

Lisa G.

3 Years

Peggy A.

5 Years

Terez H.

Philip C.

Tom L.

Sarah D.

Carolyn M.

Elizabeth S.

2 Years

Susan A.

Laura S.

Bruce M.

1 Year

Melva M.

Carol B.

Tammy M.

Don D.

Shalishah P.

Angie L.

Diana N.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS: OCTOBER

- ◆ Need to get your in-service hours completed before the end of the calendar year? Check out the volunteer section on the [CASA web site](#).
- ◆ Please submit your [monthly hours + reports](#) to your supervisor.
- ◆ Any updates, book reviews, or questions for the CASA staff? Send them to casa@jjconline.org and they'll be featured in future *CASA Monthly* Newsletters!
- ◆ The CASA office will be closed November 6 for Election Day, November 12 in observation of Veteran's Day and November 22 & 23 to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday!