

CASA PROGRAM OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

THE CASA MONTHLY

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APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April is [National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#) which is a time to recognize the role individuals can “play in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in communities.” While CASAs commit to serve the best interests of children in the system year round, the need to increase awareness for the safety and welfare of the children in our community is more important than ever.

As CASAs, our advocacy services are typically ren-

dered after child abuse or neglect has already occurred. But with this month’s designation to child abuse prevention, the [National Child Welfare web site](#) explains a variety of ways for citizens to be actively involved in raising public awareness regarding abuse prevention. By volunteering time, contacting state legislators, or participating in memorial ceremonies for children who have fallen victim to abuse or neglect, spreading the word about child

abuse prevention is vital for our community.

Coincidentally, [National Volunteer Week](#) is celebrated the week of April 15 -21. The CASA Program of St. Joseph County, Indiana will recognize and thank our CASAs active commitment to our most vulnerable children by celebrating at Coveleski Stadium on Monday, April 23rd. Please be sure to RSVP to Stephanie by April 13th at casa@jjconline.org or at 574.233.2272.

CASA OFFICE INTERN SPOTLIGHT: HELEN

CASA Intern Helen joined the CASA office in January 2012, and she has been a tremendous help to the staff Monday through Wednesday mornings. Helen assists the CASA supervisors by organizing and copying DCS case files, and the entire office is appreciative for this help.

The Monthly sat down with Helen to talk about her involvement with the CASA Program, and she explained that she had been a stay-at-home mother of four (4) for thirteen (13) years when she decided to return to college at Ivy Tech. As part of her

internship credit, Helen interned at the CASIE Center in the fall of 2011, and that is where she realized it was her “calling to help children that had been abused or neglected.”

When it came time for Helen to do her second internship, she spoke with Brenda about the CASA Program. Helen learned that CASA’s mission was “about volunteers that dedicated their time in speaking out for children who were in the system” and she knew that she “would be able to learn

about the procedures in helping children in need.”

Helen believes that “each task” completed at the CASA office prepares her for her future in the work force. She enjoys “observing the different factors that interact with a child that is in need of services.”

The CASA Staff is extremely grateful for Helen’s help and enthusiasm, and we wish her all the best as she plans to receive her Associates Degree in Human Services in May 2012.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CASA SPOTLIGHT	2
BOOK CLUB RECOMMENDS	2
FEATURE STORY	2
CASA ANNIVERSARIES	2
CALENDAR OF EVENTS: APRIL	2



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Brandy B. Susan L.
Sarah D. Carolyn M.
Brian G. Dick Z.
Shirley G.

Happy Birthday from *The Monthly!*

THE MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT: TAMMI R.

The *Monthly* recognizes Tammi R. as the CASA of the Month!

CASA Tammi was sworn in to the court in April 2011, and she is already working two (2) cases that includes four (4) CASA children in total.

Within the last year, Tammi has found herself butting heads with the Department of Child Services on a number of occasions, but she has remained focused and clear about serving the best interests of her CASA children. Despite various roadblocks, Tammi has steadily

voiced what she believes is most advantageous for her CASA kids.

In addition to her persistence, Tammi regularly attends court hearings and speaks on behalf of CASA kids. She attends and participates in various meetings, and most importantly, she visits with her CASA kids on a regular and consistent basis.

Furthermore, Tammi keeps in frequent contact with the CASA office and does not hesitate to come forward when she has questions about her cases.

The CASA Staff is grateful to have Tammi on our team, and we thank her for all that she does for her CASA children!

FIND CASA OF SJC

WEB SITE:

WWW.SJCCASA.ORG

FACEBOOK:

[CASA PROGRAM OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY](#)

TWITTER:

[@CASAOFSJC](#)

APRIL

Calendar of Events

Submit your **monthly hours** + **reports** to your supervisor

National Volunteer Week: April 15—21, 2012

Monday, April 23rd at 5:30 pm:

CASA Recognition at Coveleski Stadium.

RSVP by April 13th to 574.233.2272 or casa@jjconline.org

CASA VICKI R. RECOMMENDS THE BOOK *ROOM*

CASA Vicki R. recommends *Room*, by Emma Donoghue, to *The CASA Monthly* Book Club. Vicki believes *Room* is a “very interesting read” and she reports that the premise is about a “woman that was kidnapped and forced to live in a 12x12 foot room for seven (7) years. The woman gives birth to a baby boy and the story is told through his

eyes.” She explains that “the boy was confined in this space for six (6) years” without the opportunity to see the outside, experience nature, or have other human contact. Vicki states that “it was very interesting to see how the boy occupied his time, and upon his release, the problems [he had] adjusting to all of the new stimuli that was

now available to him. Some of these problems included lots of sensory deprivation.”

Thanks, Vicki, for the book recommendation!

As always, we welcome all CASA volunteers to submit a brief summary about a book you feel would be worthwhile to share with your fellow CASAs.

NATIONAL CASA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

The 2012 National CASA Conference has been scheduled for June 9-12, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

In addition to a variety of exhibits, workshops, and panel discussions, the National Conference will also include a Keynote Address from bestselling author and foster care alum [Andrew Bridge](#). He will discuss his life in the foster care system,

and the failures and successes he faced while growing up without a mother.

While in Washington D.C., National CASA invites all attendees to be part of a delegation to bring voices of our CASA children to Capitol Hill. Known as [CASA Meets Congress](#), National CASA intends for delegates to meet with members of Congress to share the mes-

sage of CASA so that they are aware of the work everyday citizens are doing in their districts.

[Early registration](#) for this conference ends on April 13, 2012. If you are interested in participating in the Annual Conference, call the CASA office at 574.233.2272 for more information.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

5 YEARS	Thank you for your service to our CASA children!
Judy G.	
4 YEARS	
Yolanda Y-S.	
Howard H.	
Sharon L.	2 YEARS
	Rachel H.
3 YEARS	Joanna W.
Emily B.	Jay W.
Ilene N.	Amy T.
Jill S.	Sandy W.
Vicki R.	1 YEAR
Jill K.	Brooke H.
Carl L.	Jenny K.
Judy R.	Tammi R.
Cheryl P.	Pam P.