

CASA PROGRAM OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

THE CASA MONTHLY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5 MAY 1, 2012

CASA PROGRAM RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS, JUDGE AT THE COVE

On Monday, April 23rd, the CASA Program of St. Joseph County, Indiana celebrated its dedicated CASA volunteers at Coveleski Stadium. Approximately 112 CASA volunteers, Juvenile Justice Center board members, judges, magistrates, and family and friends attended the appreciation event, and everyone enjoyed the time to relax, eat, and reconnect with one another.



The evening was full of baseball, burgers, hot dogs, and an endless supply of hugs and cookies.

The CASA Program also took the opportunity to give special thanks and appreciation to Judge Nemeth, who has supported the CASA Program since taking office, but will be retiring at the end of 2012.

Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Director Jennifer Pickering also praised our volunteers for their commitment to our community, and she expressed the need for more awareness of abuse prevention in St. Joseph County.



The night came to a successful end as the Silver Hawks beat the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, 8-1. Overall, the recognition was a wonderful event, and the CASA Staff thanks all who have helped our Program become an indispensable resource for our community.

CASAs ARE ENCOURAGED TO IMPLEMENT *EACH ONE, REACH ONE*

The ongoing media coverage about the failures of the Department of Child Services has been unavoidable in recent weeks. And while many argue that the overall state of child welfare in Indiana is on the decline, the need for more CASA volunteers becomes increasingly apparent.

Currently, there are 101 active CASA volunteers in St. Joseph County, and the Program is hoping to increase this number by fifteen (15%) percent by 2013.

With this goal in mind, the CASA Program of St. Joseph County runs four (4) eight-week trainings each year, and the Program is looking to our current CASAs to help fill these training sessions with capable volunteers.

Using the “Each One, Reach One” strategy, the CASA Program requests that each active CASA volunteer refer at least one (1) friend, family member or acquaintance to our Program. Like most successful grassroots organizations, the strength of the

program comes from the valuable individuals who makeup the program itself.

The CASA office has extra “Each One, Reach One” cards for dispersal, and all active CASAs can pick them up at anytime during the week.

The CASA Program is forever grateful for the hard work of all of our CASA volunteers, and we look forward to introducing new members to this great team.

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CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Renee B.	Cheryl P.
Emily B.	Misty T.
Roseann E.	Happy Birthday from <i>The Monthly!</i>
Sonya G.	
Tammi R.	
Ilene N.	

THE MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT: SUSAN L.

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

CASA Susan was sworn in on February 25, 2011 and has been a strong advocate for five (5) children in three (3) separate cases since becoming an active CASA last year.

While one of Susan's cases is about to close with a successful reunification, her other two (2) cases have required a great amount of attention. In one case, a child is home on a trial home visit, and the other case is in the

midst of disarray.

Nevertheless, Susan has been dedicated to her cases by attending all meetings and hearings. Most importantly, Susan sees her CASA children multiple times a month, making sure that they have a stable person to count on.

And while Susan has had to make unpopular decisions many times throughout her cases, she has stood by her convictions in what she believes is in the best interests of the children she serves.

Overall, Susan embodies the mission of the CASA Program by tirelessly advocating for our community's most vulnerable children, day in and day out.

FIND CASA OF SJC

WEB SITE:

WWW.SJCCASA.ORG

FACEBOOK:

[CASA PROGRAM OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY](https://www.facebook.com/CASA-PROGRAM-OF-ST-JOSEPH-COUNTY)

TWITTER:

[@CASAOFSJC](https://twitter.com/CASAOFSJC)

BOOK CLUB RECOMMENDS *AND STILL WE RISE*

Miles Corwin's *And Still We Rise: The Trials and Triumphs of Twelve Gifted Inner-city Students* chronicles the stories of highly exceptional high school seniors in South Central Los Angeles. While these students exhibit remarkable intelligence, they all face great challenges and

obstacles, such as being confronted with broken families, poverty, juvenile detention, and gang-violence in the inner city.

Each student's story is compelling, and Corwin provides insight into the daily lives of children who suffer from their environments.

While *And Still We Rise* explains the struggles of each student, there is an overwhelming feeling of hope as the stories unfold.

Feel free to drop by the CASA office and borrow this book from the Library.

WNIT PRESENTS SERIES ON *CHILD ABUSE: OUR SILENT CRISIS*

WNIT hosted a series called "[Child Abuse: Our Silent Crisis](#)" in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention month. This program was a three-part series that involved a variety of professionals from the community who offered their expertise on different topics regarding child abuse and neglect.

The first topic of the series

was "[Recognizing and Reporting](#)," which was panel discussion that included insight from DCS Director James Payne. The second part of the series was about "[Consequences](#)" of child abuse, and both Dr. Burnett and Judge Nemeth weighed in on a variety of mental health and societal problems that stem from abuse

or neglect. The last of the series was a call-in show, "[Ask an Expert: Preventing Child Abuse](#)" where the public called in with questions regarding child abuse.

The CASA Program is grateful for WNIT's willingness to host this series on a difficult subject that directly affects our community.

MAY Calendar of Events

Submit your [monthly hours + reports](#) to your supervisor.

**Friday, May 4th:
Swearing-In**
8:45 am [Court Room 1]

- ◆ All volunteers and JJC board members are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, May 8th:
CASA Office Closed for [Primary Election Day](#).

**Summer CASA
Training:**
June 5 - July 26

- ◆ Invite your family + friends to join the [CASA team](#).
- ◆ Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, **10 am - Noon**.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

18 YEARS

Denise R.

Thank you for your lengthy service to our CASA children!