

CASA PROGRAM OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

THE CASA MONTHLY

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UNDERSTANDING MINIMUM SUFFICIENT LEVEL OF CARE

CASA volunteers are charged with the mighty task of advocating for what is in the best interest of the children. And with that comes the responsibility to thoroughly check out foster homes and parents' homes.

When making recommendations to a judge or magistrate, it is imperative to remember that a minimum sufficient level of care (MSLC) is all that these homes are required to meet. Remember, MSLC is minimum, not ideal. Though it may not be a home CASAs would want their own children or grandchildren to be raised in, the following questions are necessary in assessing the MSLC in these homes:

Is the home safe, physically, for the child I am advocating for?

Is the home safe, medically, for the child I am advocating for?

Is the home safe, emotionally and developmentally, for the child I am advocating for?

When considering MSLC for a home, CASAs must also take into consideration social standards for our community and the culture with which we are working. The standards for South Bend, Indiana are going to be different than those for a different city, county, and state, and these standards often evolve over time.

MSLC varies case by case and child by child, yet must

remain consistent throughout the life of the case. In other words, when a child is in a placement, the decision about reunification must be based on the same MSLC baselines as when the child was removed.

Always remember that it is crucial not to impose your standards of your home and life on the people with which we work. When in doubt, ask your CASA supervisor for her honest opinion about the MSLC on a home in your case.



THE MONTHLY TO FEATURE UPDATES ON CASA VOLUNTEERS

Once CASAs are sworn-in to the Court, many volunteers have expressed that they feel "disconnected" from their buddies from class.

With that in mind, *The CASA Monthly* plans to feature an "Updates" section for news about our very own CASA volunteers.

The Monthly asks that all active CASAs submit any fun, exciting, or good news that you wish to share with your fellow CASA volun-

teers. *The Monthly* wants short stories or mini-updates that are unrelated to the work done as a CASA, such as any updates on a new baby in the family, or a story about an exotic vacation taken in the past few months.

Feel free to submit your stories to casa@jjconline.org.

We look forward to hearing some great stories from each of you in the upcoming months!

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)

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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday from
The Monthly!

Joan A.	Rachel H.
Susan A.	Joy K.
Linda B.	Sarah T.
Scott E.	Don W.
Patti G.	Steve W.
Howard H.	

THE MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT: KELLY G.

The Monthly recognizes Kelly G. as the CASA of the Month!

Since Kelly was sworn-in to the Court in February 2011, she has been appointed to three (3) cases with a total of seven (7) children, and has donated over 150 hours to the CASA program.

While one of her cases went to a successful reunification with the mother, another case ended in adoption by the foster parents. Kelly was a pivotal part in bringing both sides together on the adoption by allowing for a biological grand-

mother to remain in contact with the child, and also advocating for the child to remain in the home where she had bonded and become comfortable with her foster, and now adoptive, parents.

Throughout her time spent advocating, Kelly drove to Fort Wayne countless times to visit a mother and a sibling group, and has been wonderful at communicating with providers, Family Case Managers, foster parents, and parents. Kelly makes all parties feel at ease, and she truly cares about the outcome of

the children that she serves.

Finally, Kelly constantly remains in contact with the CASA office and keeps her supervisor(s) aware of the goings-on in her cases. And if any issues pop up, Kelly will let the office know, but the roadblocks she faces do not hold her back from working her case in whatever way she can.

The CASA office is extremely grateful for Kelly's energy and time advocating for her CASA children!

BOOK CLUB RECOMMENDS *SILENT SCREAMS AND HIDDEN CRIES*

Silent Screams and Hidden Cries, An Interpretation of Artwork by Children from Violent Homes is a captivating book where authors Agnes Wohl and Bobbie Kaufman present fifty (50) drawings of homes, families, and self-portraits from children who have lived in

domestic violence homes and have often been victims themselves. Along with this artwork are the psychologists' analyses of the pictures and the revelation of emotional problems that stem from the violence that takes place in the home. Through this art-

work, the reader can grasp the children's feelings as well as ultimately see the great need for therapeutic intervention.

Swing by the CASA office to pick up a copy of this powerful and enlightening book.

I AM FOR THE CHILD CAMPAIGN OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

National CASA has launched its newest "I Am for the Child" Campaign at www.iamforthechild.org. This campaign intends to motivate individuals to volunteer time or donate money to CASA, using new poignant advertisements, images, and PSAs. The campaign's web site also features [real stories](#) about CASAs and the successful advocacy that has come from the tireless work



of volunteers around the United States.

Additionally, the [I am for the Child Blog](#) features information about CASA pro-

grams around the nation, and how each program is crucial, as well as cost-effective, for the benefit of the foster care system.

The CASA office encourages all volunteers to get acquainted with this new campaign so that our CASAs can continue to spread the word about the CASA program to create awareness in our own community.

JUNE

Calendar of Events

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

Car Insurance and ID Cards:

Please bring in a copy of your current/valid insurance card and ID card next time you are in the CASA office.

Summer CASA Training:

June 5 - July 26

- ◆ Invite your family + friends to join the CASA team.
- ◆ Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am - Noon.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

10 Years:
Billie Jean C.
Brian G.

Thank you for your service to our CASA children!

9 Years:
Barbara A.
Roseann E.

7 Years:
Linda B.