

# CASA PROGRAM OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

# THE CASA MONTHLY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7    JULY - AUGUST, 2012

## CASA PARTNERS WITH RSVP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

In June 2012, the CASA Program of St. Joseph County, Indiana partnered with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties. RSVP is a local program that is funded by the Catholic Charities national organization.

From this partnership, the CASA Program becomes a “volunteer station” for retirees who wish to volunteer in the community. RSVP recruits, surveys, and matches volunteers with

opportunities based on their interests, skills, experience, and time availability.

The CASA Program is excited to work with this pool of individuals who have the time, energy, and experience to provide a voice for our community’s most vulnerable children.

CASA will be working with RSVP Project Coordinator John Bruinsma in developing particular recruitment strategies so that interested RSVP volunteers’ talents fit

with those of prospective CASAs.

CASA is excited for this new partnership, and *The Monthly* will provide quarterly updates regarding this new relationship.



## DCS TO “REINVEST” \$10 MILLION DOLLARS FOR SERVICES

In May 2012, the [Indiana Department of Child Services announced](#) that it would “reinvest nearly \$10 million in rate increases” to service providers in Indiana. This money will increase payment for about 300 in-home service providers in the state. These services include “therapy, parenting skills, child development and other educational services.”

In the last few years, DCS had cut providers’ pay by ten percent (10%), so this reinvestment is a step in the right direction for in-home programs and services.

Though these “rate increases support in-home programs

and services, not intensive residential treatment,” this reinvestment is a vast improvement from the current status of contracts for in-home providers.

As most are aware, DCS’ focus has been on more home-based treatments to help families, rather than removing children from the home and placing them in residential facilities.

However, IARCCA, an association of Family and Children’s services, still has a pending lawsuit against DCS regarding cuts in residential treatment and foster care.

Despite the concerns regarding outpatient services, Bruce Greenberg, CEO of Family and Children’s Center, said “it is too soon to know how FCC’s programs might be affected” by this announcement, but he assumes it will be positive.

**CASA OF SJC  
ON THE WEB**

[WWW.SJCCASA.ORG](http://WWW.SJCCASA.ORG)

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### JULY + AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

**Happy Birthday from  
*The Monthly!***

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| Joseph A.   | Karen P.     |
| Barbara A.  | Shalishah P. |
| Philip C.   | Denise R.    |
| Rosemary D. | Kay R.       |
| Ron D.      | Judith R.    |
| Cindi F.    | Amy T.       |
| Amy G.      | Brian W-B.   |
| Judith M.   |              |

## THE MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT: CINDI F.

*The Monthly* recognizes Cindi F. as the CASA of the Month!

Cindi has been a CASA for a little over one (1) year, and she had taken on a particularly difficult case involving a six (6) year old girl. Cindi was assigned to a termination case and had approximately one (1) month to read through her case file, meet and interview everyone involved, and write a TPR report. Cindi did an excellent job tackling each

of these tasks, and she did a fantastic job testifying at the TPR trial. Most importantly, she took the time to meet with her CASA child regularly to discover what was truly in the child's best interests.

In addition to this particularly complicated TPR case, Cindi has willingly accepted another tough case that will require her thoroughness and open mind.

Her hard work on behalf of her CASA child is outstanding, and on top of that, Cindi is in frequent contact with her CASA supervisors. She calls with questions, concerns, and updates regarding the case.

Furthermore, the CASA staff appreciates Cindi's approach to her cases as she takes them on with enthusiasm and a smile.

Thank you Cindi, for all that you do for the CASA team!

### JULY AND AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

**20 Years:**  
Renee B.

**4 Years:**  
Lou-Ann S.  
Judy S.

**3 Years:**  
Shirley G.  
Connie J.

Don W.  
Gaylen W.  
Dick Z.

**1 Year:**  
Bob D.  
Rosemary D.  
Ron D.  
Cindi F.  
Sharon P.

Thank you for your service to our CASA children!



### Book Club Recommends *Death From Child Abuse, and No One Heard*

*Death from Child Abuse* is a horrifying account of five (5) year old Ursula Sunshine Assaid's last fifty-five (55) hours on this earth. Authors Eve Krupinski and Dana Weikel compiled the story of Ursula, a Florida child who died in 1982 at the hands of her mother's boyfriend, while her mother stood idly

by. Given the current situation in our own community, this book is a way to experience the pain and suffering that many children endure, and then see what happens when the abuse goes too far. Although the information at the end of this book is outdated, the story itself is enough to incite anyone to

find a way to help the most vulnerable citizens of our society.

If you have the stomach, *Death From Child Abuse* is an insightful read.

Should you read this book, contact Liz to get an update on the status of Donald McDougall and Susan Assaid.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS: JULY - AUGUST

- ◆ The CASA Team welcomed six (6) new CASAs on July 27, 2012
- ◆ Fall CASA Training begins Tuesday, September 4, 2012  
Spread the word and encourage friends and family to join our team!
- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, September 15 - Picnic for CASA Kids**  
Potawatomi Park in Mishawaka. Details to follow!
- ◆ Please submit your monthly hours + reports to your supervisor
- ◆ Any news, updates, questions for the CASA staff? Send them to [casa@jjconline.org](mailto:casa@jjconline.org) and they'll be featured in future *CASA Monthly* Newsletters!