

THE CASA MONTHLY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8 SEPTEMBER, 2012

CASA BIDS FAREWELL, WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF

To quote Bob Dylan, “the times, they are a-changin’.” CASA Supervisors Erin and Liz bid farewell to their roles in the CASA Program. Fortunately, Erin and Liz will continue to serve children and families in St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties, but they will be sorely missed in the CASA office. Erin’s last day was on August 17th, and Liz’s last day was September 7th.

But with these goodbyes, the CASA staff is excited to welcome Kirk and Jill to the office as the new CASA supervisors.

Jill has served the program as a CASA volunteer since 2009, and Kirk is entirely new to the CASA Program. However, both Kirk and Jill have years of experience serving children and families in our community, and coincidentally, they have previously

worked with each other at the Family and Children’s Center.

Both Kirk and Jill will begin their new roles on Monday, September 10th. Next time CASA volunteers or friends of CASA are in the office, we encourage all to welcome Kirk and Jill to the CASA Team!

CASAs CAN RECEIVE IN-SERVICE HOURS FROM CLASSES, BOOKS

CASA volunteers that are looking to fulfill the twelve (12) hours of continuing education can partake in a variety of lunch ‘n’ learn sessions and classes that are taking place in the community this fall.

In honor of National Recovery Month, Oaklawn will be hosting a series of free lunch ‘n’ learns during the month of September. In addition, Oaklawn will hold other educational classes that address certain topics in depth. These particular classes may require registration fees to partici-

pate. The calendar of these Oaklawn sessions and their descriptions can be accessed at oaklawn.org/news.

Similarly, the Samaritan Counseling Center will be hosting a variety of lunch ‘n’ learns that require reservations. More information regarding these sessions can be accessed on the [CASA web site](#) or at Samaritan Counseling Center’s [continuing education page](#).

As always, all volunteers are welcome to show up to the current [CASA training](#)

if there are any sessions that could serve as refresher courses for active CASAs.

And finally, reading books related to CASA work count as three (3) continuing education hours. Volunteers can submit the title and author of the book, and a brief summary of the topics discussed in the book to receive credit.



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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday from
The Monthly!

Hetty C.

Judith G.

Brooke H.

Chris H.

Bruce M.

Chloe R.

THE MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT: TOM L.

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

Tom was sworn-in as a CASA in 2006, and has been an extraordinary asset to this program ever since. Tom has taken on a total of three (3) cases during his tenure at CASA, and he has been a strong role model for all of the children for whom he has advocated. In addition to being a consistent and caring resource for his

CASA children, he has proven to be reliable and stable, while some of his CASA children have had up to six (6) or seven (7) DCS Family Case Managers.

Though two (2) of Tom's cases have closed, his current, open case involves a situation where the parents' rights have been terminated, but the child remains in the system without a permanent home. Tom has been assigned to this child for

about six (6) years, and he remains tremendously effective and involved in the child's life. Tom "enjoys seeing the young person mature" and seeing him "take responsibility" in his life.

When asking Tom about the difficulties in being a CASA, he mentions that he was blessed to have been raised with a supportive mother and father, but he sometimes struggles

with the "different value system of the parents." But he does not let his different upbringing prevent him from remaining unbiased, and Tom has done a fantastic job advocating for truly what is in the best interests of each of his CASA children.

The CASA Program is grateful for Tom's hard work and dedication he gives to his CASA children, past and present.

Book Club Recommends *Wherever I Wind Up*



The autobiography, *Wherever I Wind Up: My Quest for Truth, Authenticity and the Perfect Knuckleball* by Mets knuckleball pitcher, R. A. Dickey, is a personal look into Dickey's quest to find

greatness in his life and on the baseball diamond. While Dickey discusses his many battles, losses, and triumphs as a baseball player, he also writes about his challenges throughout his personal life. He freely and openly talks about his dysfunctional and abusive childhood. The reader gains

much insight into Dickey's darkest days, but ultimately, through the power of religion and therapy, R. A. Dickey finds personal happiness, and success as a professional knuckleball pitcher for the Mets.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: SEPTEMBER

- ◆ Fall CASA Training begins Tuesday, September 4 and runs until October 25th, 2012.
- ◆ The CASA staff bids farewell to supervisors Erin and Liz. From staff to volunteers, the CASA program will miss them dearly, but we wish them well on their future endeavors!
- ◆ We welcome two (2) new CASA staff, Kirk and Jill, on September 10th. They will replace Erin and Liz as CASA Supervisors.
- ◆ Please submit your [monthly hours + reports](#) to your supervisor
- ◆ Any news, updates, questions for the CASA staff? Send them to casa@jjconline.org and they'll be featured in future *CASA Monthly* Newsletters!

