



CASA of Stanislaus County Newsletter

Thank You to all of our wonderful volunteers ... you do make a difference!

January - February 2010

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES of STANISLAUS COUNTY

Volunteer advocates are needed to be the voice of dependent children during court hearings. They'll conduct case fact finding and produce court reports for all hearings based on what is in the best interest of the children.

CASA training includes the following topics: family dynamics; the court process; report writing; domestic violence; cultural diversity; and mental health. Advocates volunteer an average of 10 to 15 hours per month and commit themselves to being available until the end of the case assigned (usually 18 months). This commitment is essential so the volunteer can build and maintain trusting, stable relationships with the children they are appointed to in order to speak exclusively for those children in court.

Volunteers are provided training, supervision and support. 30 hours of in-house training and 10 hours of court observation is provided. Volunteer Requirements: Advocates must be at least 21 years of age; computer literate with access to e-mail; pass a fingerprint background check (paid for by CASA); possess a California driver's license; provide a DMV printout; and show proof of insurance.

Bilingual individuals and males are especially encouraged to apply.

If you are interested in joining us, please call:

(209) 567.4230

or e-mail Cindy Julsgard (casacm@stanct.org)

or Michelle Sales (casacm2@stanct.org). We will respond as soon as possible to your inquiry.



Our BOARD of DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Catherine Flores Hallinan, JD

President

Susan Azevedo

Vice President

Jeff Bettencourt, CPA

Treasurer

Lana Vierra

Secretary

MEMBERS

Marla Arata, LMFT

Marie Assali

John Campbell

Ryan Fitzpatrick

Darin Gharat

Randy Hayashi, DDS

Garrad Marsh

Susan Mattos

Peggy Stepro, MSW

Our STAFF

Steve Ashman

Executive Director

Cindia Julsgard

Michelle Sales

Case Managers

Carol Perry

Volunteer Case Supervisor

Kathy Canales

Administrative Assistant

Our next orientation for potential NEW Advocates will be on January 26, 2010 at 1010 10th Street in Modesto in the Basement Training Room (B300) ... with training for those new advocates beginning on February 18, 2010.

Inside this issue:

CASA moves to new offices!	3
Thank Yous ...	4-5-6
Our Statistics	7
Our Next Event ... Save the Date	8



STANISLAUS COUNTY



As of January 1, 2010 there were over 500 children in need of an CASA (advocate) in Stanislaus County ...

Please help us secure a safe future for a child in need by sending your 100% tax deductible donation to:

**CASA of Stanislaus County
Post Office Box 3488
Modesto, California 95353**

We are also happy to speak directly with you and will gladly accept your credit card payment for any donation you wish to give.

**CASA is a Non Profit
501 (c) 3
Our Tax ID is 91-2168629**

Your generosity and support is appreciated!

THE NEED

More than 500,000 children live in foster care in the United States. These children were abused or neglected and then removed from their families and the place they called home. Sadly, many can become a victim a second time in an overwhelmed child welfare system that does not allow for close attention to each child and their needs or wants.

Each day in California, 70 children who have been abused or neglected join the state's population of nearly 80,000 children in foster care. California is home to nearly one-fifth of all foster children in the United States. In Stanislaus County, there are over 500 children in Foster Care at any given time. If you were to count the children in guardianship or kinship, the number would swell to over 1,200. As dependents of the juvenile court, these children pass through a court system which can leave them frightened, confused and alone.

CASA's PART OF THE SOLUTION

Across California, thousands of volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) build close relationships with and serve as one-on-one advocates for children in foster care. Over 40 CASA programs in California recruit and specially train these volunteers from the community, who are then appointed as advocates by a juvenile court.

CASA volunteers commit to spending at least one year: 1) establishing a strong, stable connection with a child in foster care, 2) gathering information and making recommendations to the court about the child's best interest, and 3) advocating to make sure the child receives needed services. Too often, a CASA volunteer is the only consistent adult in the life of the child.

OUR GOALS

Our goals for the CASA movement in Stanislaus County are:

- 1) To serve and improve outcomes for more children,
- 2) To continuously improve volunteer effectiveness,
- 3) To continuously increase program quality, and
- 4) To share our insights to improve child welfare laws and policies.

THE SUPPORT

CASA is funded through private and individual donations; corporate grants; Community organization donations (like Kiwanis and Rotary); the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and people like YOU!



CASA of Stanislaus County has moved !

Thanks to the generosity of Stanislaus County, our Board of Supervisors, and the Administrative staff of our Superior Court, CASA of Stanislaus County will have a new home beginning January 1, 2010. From our inception almost seven years ago until our new move, we had called 545 square feet of space in the old Modesto City Hall 'home'.

Over the past 18 months, our program has grown over 800% - both in terms of volunteer advocates and our children served. We desperately needed more space as we found ourselves (at times) literally crawling over each other!

Our Executive Director Steve Ashman approached Stanislaus County Supervisor Vito Chiesa to discuss the options that might be available to relocate our program. Supervisor Chiesa put us in touch with Patty Hill-Thomas (our County's Assistant Executive Officer) and her staff to discuss a potential move and available space.

Ms. Hill-Thomas and her staff exceeded our wildest dreams by offering our program a place in the Court House; and in the process quadrupled our office space! We cannot thank Ms. Hill-Thomas and her staff, particularly Tim Fedorchak, enough for their generosity of time and spirit.

In addition to County Staff, we would like to extend our gratitude to our Superior Court and in particular Linda Romero-Soles, Rebecca Fleming, Mike Tozzi, Debra Brasher and their respective staffs for their assistance and willingness to take us on as neighbors in the Court House.

Our new physical address is: 800 11th Street — 4th Floor — Modesto, CA 95354

Our mailing address is still the same: Post Office Box 3488 — Modesto, CA 95353

Our phone number remains the same: 209-567-4230

- To find us in the Superior Court building, Go through Court House security (11th St. entrance)
- Go upstairs to **2nd floor** — At top of stairs or when exiting the elevator go **left**, down the corridor (windows to your right overlook the court parking lot)
- At end of corridor (Self-Help Center) turn right, and go down another corridor.
- Where this corridor ends look for beige phone marked CASA, on your left.
- This phone will connect to CASA office ... From this point we will need to escort you to our 4th floor offices.



Some of the many faces that make our program thrive. **THANK YOU ADVOCATES!**



CASA CONTACT INFORMATION

Our Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 3488
Modesto, CA 95353

Our Phone: (209) 567.4230

Our Fax: (209) 567.4231

Our Website:

www.casaofstanco.org

Our E-mails:

casaed@stanct.org

Steve Ashman, Executive Director

casacm@stanct.org

Cindy Julsgard, Case Manager I

casacm2@stanct.org

Michelle Sales, Case Manager II

Please note:

CASA offices WILL BE CLOSED on January 18; February 12; February 15 due to Court Holidays and January 20 and February 17 due to Court Furlough Days.

CASA OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday
8:00am — 5:30pm

We are generally in our offices on Fridays, but we often reserve that day to address internal needs and training. If you call our offices on a Friday, you will likely get our answering machine, but if the call is urgent rest assured we will respond as soon as possible.

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Stanislaus County **THANKS** our generous supporters!



CASA would like to **thank** the following individuals, community groups, companies and corporations for their generous support of our program this past year. Without them, we would not be able to provide the needed services for our foster youth in Stanislaus County:

Kiwanis of North Modesto	Parent Advocates of Stanislaus County
In 'N' Out Burger Foundation	Dale S. Wilson, Attorney at Law
Wells Fargo Foundation	Dependency Advocates of Stanislaus County
Bank of the West	Tamie L. Cummins, Attorney at Law
Stanislaus County Bar Association	Catherine Flores Hallinan, Attorney at Law
Susan and Art Azevedo	Lana Vierra - She's the Organizer
The Honorable Linda McFadden	Sandra Lucas
Manuela Cross	Danny Bava
Stanislaus County Widowed Persons	Winton, Ireland, Strom & Green
The Tozzi Family	Dr. Don Strangio
The Honorable Marie Silveira	Denise Davis
The Rhine Family	Mike Zagaris
The Honorable Nancy Willamsen	Valley Hill Dental Group
The Honorable Nan Cohen Jacobs	Larry Morse
The Youngblood Family	The Honorable John Kiriara
Don Kemplen	The Honorable William Mayhew
The Honorable Harry Jacobs	Lenita Williamson, M.D.
Judie Piscatello	Craig and Cindia Julsgard
Kiwanis of Greater Turlock	DOT Foods - Becky Shokraii
Curtis and Nancy Grant	Cathy and Bill Zoslocki
Delta Cappa Gamma	Dr. L. Edward Elliott
The Fleming Family	Valley Ceramic Tile
The Honorable Donald Shaver	Cyndee Borges-O'Dell
Ralph Curtis	The Gorrasi Family
The Leverone Family	Darin and Stacy Gharat
Turlock Sunrise Rotary	Oak Valley Community Bank
Chiesa Farms	Stanislaus County Police Activities League
The Law Office of Jeanette Sereno	California State University, Stanislaus
The Honorable Ricardo Cordova	
Michelle Morrow	

CASA THANKS ...



Kim and Al Spina

Jill and Vito Chiesa

Ruben Villalobos, Attorney at Law

Baker - Cadra; Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Dave and Kris Santos

Marla and George Arata

Dr. Peter and Vickie LaTorre

Lou and Kenni Friedman

Chiesa Ranch, Inc.

Dr. Clark Filippi, DDS

Peter T. Soderstrom, DDS

Central Valley Professional Exchange

B&B Fluid Power

Adam and Lisa Stewart

Dr. Robert and Mary Lefevre

Jack Bright

Gary Lopez

Soroptimist International of Modesto

Mayor John and Nellie Lazar

Garrad Marsh and Dallas Kadry

Franklin & Downs Funeral Homes

Mattos Newspapers - Susan Mattos

Modesto Family Law Center

E. Cash - Dudley, Attorney at Law

Daisy Rock Guitars

Christina and Mike Staack

Petrulakis, Jensen & Friedrich, LLP - Attorneys at Law

Bill Mattos

Azevedo Ranches - Arthur and David Azevedo

Benchmark Farm Management - John Campbell

Louise and Joe Coelho

H. Naraghi Farms

Dr. Paula and Jon Tremayne

J. Allen Gammon, MD MPH

Tom Hallinan, Attorney at Law

Aesthetic Dental Designs - Randy & Nina Hayashi

Mike and Jannette Assali

Valley Lexus - Ryan, Ed and Bertha Fitzpatrick

Denise Costa

Harland Jewelers - Ben Barnes

Gleason & Camacho, Attorneys at Law

Patricia Ashman

Assali Farm Properties - Frank and Marie Assali

Doug and Carol Stephens

Doctor's Medical Center

The Bruno Family

Turlock Dairy and Refrigeration

Grizzly Nut, LLC

Gallo Family Vineyards

Jim Toal

F&M Bank

McCoy Truck Tire Service Center

Don's Mobile Glass

Wille Electric

Ristau & Company, CPA

Smith/Barney - Jim Perez

Elizabeth A. Demichelis, DDS

E&J Gallo Winery



Continued on Page 6

CASA THANKS ...



Wing Stop

Aim Property Management

CoSol Commercial Real Estate

J.S. West & Company

Central Valley Community Bank

Foster Poultry Farms

Modesto Sunrise Rotary

Robert's Auto

Tim Ragsdale Construction

Valley Hill Dental Group

GFI Stainless

Granite Construction Company

Central Valley Perfusion, Inc.

Michael Campbell Photography

Yosemite Meat Company

Fores - Macko

House of Carpets

Dimitri Philopivitch, DDS

Stanislaus County Superior Court

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

Tim Fedorchak

Patricia Hill - Thomas

Rick Robinson

Linda Romero - Soles

Rebecca Fleming

Michael Tozzi

Loren Suelzle

Roger Suelzle

McHenry Bowl

Canal Street Grille

Dana Arnold - Ebster

John Ebster

Modesto Convention and Visitor's Bureau

Burnside Auto Body

Doug Vandenenden

George and Marie Barrie



Kyle Barker

West Orthodontics

Richard and Jackie Cotta

Spring Creek Golf & Country Club

Peggy Stepro

Modesto Fire Fighters

Rina Colosimo

Naraghi Real Estate - Hashem Naraghi

McCormick Barstow LLP - Attorneys at Law

Richard and Judy Jantz

Bright Family Foundation

Fremont Gate LLC

Ristau & Company

Sylvester Aguilar

Camilla Basham

J.S. West and Company

Armando Flores

Tande Guida

David and Patricia Halvorson


The Honorable Jack and Paulette Jacobson

All of our Advocates (past and present), Board (past and present) and Staff





ELIZABETH A. DEMICHELIS, D.D.S.
Family Dental Practice



2020 Coffee Road, Ste. J-4
Modesto
California • 95355
Tel: 209•522•2348
Fax: 209•522•2342

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVOCATES!

John Arnold ... Steve Ashman ... Cynthia Barstad ... Alice Bechard ...
 Jamie Bertolotti ... Sherry Bertolotti ... Linda Bush ... Tammera Carson ...
 Angie Cherry ... Sharon Clark ... Danni Demateo ... Holly Feebeck ...
 Veronica Fernandez ... Linda Fruge ... Carol Gipson ... Rob Gleeson ... Amanda Hall
 ... Char Hernandez ... Cynthia Hurt ... Laurie Jamison ... Cindy Julsgard ...
 Donnajean Kabella ... Michelle Keener ... Sherrie Keener ... Susan Linville ...
 Synthia Lofton ... Linda Martelli ... Navidad Martinez ... Brenda Mueller ...
 Veronica Napier ... Jessica Nunes ... Nancy O'Reilly ... Bill Parks ... Carol Perry ...
 Angela Poling-Perez ... Jerry Rhine ... Lisa Rose ... Michelle Sales ... Kathi Schiffler
 ... Kathy Schmitt ... Karen Sederquist ... Darlene Soares ... Stacy Spieller ...
 Donna Marie Strickler ... Beverly Swanson ... Angela Timpone ...
 Vivian Valentine ... Joanne Wallace ... Carolyn Whited ... Lloyd Wiley ... Lois Wilson.

*Without YOUR commitment and efforts,
 we would not be here ...*

The CASA of STANISLAUS COUNTY Mission:

*To provide quality advocacy services for all abused
 and neglected children in the dependency system
 through the use of trained volunteers.*

The CASA of STANISLAUS COUNTY Vision:

*CASA of Stanislaus County is a passionate community
 organization the provides every child received through
 the court system with personalized advocacy and sup-
 port. Our goal is to provide a safe, permanent, nurtur-*

Thank you to
 Elizabeth Demichelis, DDS
 for her unwavering commitment
 and support.

**Current Available
 & Active**

Advocates : 39

**Current Advocates
 on Leave : 12**

**Current Advocates
 by Gender:**

Female - 45

Male - 6

**Current Children
 Being Served : 55**

**Current Advocates
 in Training : 16**

**Advocates in
 Training by Gender:**

Female - 13

Male - 3

**All Statistics as of
 January 4, 2010**

SAVE THE DATE !!!

Please mark your calendars -

The 6th annual
CASA of Stanislaus County
‘Light of Hope’ Spring
Fundraiser will be held at the
Gallo Center for the Arts on
May 4, 2010.

Sponsorship opportunities available!

SAVE THE DATE !!!

Abandoned
ADOPTED



CASA WWW.NATIONALCASA.ORG

BE THE
DIFFERENCE.
VOLUNTEER.





STANISLAUS COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES PRESENTS:

A FREE SERIES OF WORKSHOPS FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING RECOVERY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sponsored by the Mental Health Services Act

Where: **Redwood Room, 800 Scenic Drive, Modesto, CA**

When: **10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Who: Are you interested in supporting recovery, becoming a volunteer, learning more about how you can support others or your loved ones?

January 12, 2010

Orientation to Behavioral Health

An introduction to the concepts of community capacity, wellness, resilience and recovery.

January 19, 2010

Overview of Psychiatry and Treatment Services

Types of Services and Types of treatment

January 26, 2010

Learn how to reduce the stigma of mental illness

The important role of culture in mental health

February 2, 2010

Resources and Supports for individuals and families

February 9, 2010

Patient's rights and responsibilities

Panel of volunteers share their stories

February 16, 2010

Learn expectations and roles for being a volunteer

February 23, 2010

Developing skills for self help groups

March 2, 2010

Opportunities for volunteering

Stipends, educational opportunities

REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR - OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

For further information please contact: Dorbea Cary, Training Coordinator at (209) 525-6274 or
Kimberlee Hamilton, Volunteer Coordinator at (209) 525-6056.

Sponsored by Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

HELPFUL WEBSITES

CASA

California CASA: <http://www.calcasanet.org/>

National CASA: <http://www.nationalcasa.org/>

National CASA in Spanish: <http://www.nationalcasa.org/hispanic-latino/index.htm>

CASANet (Resources for CASA Volunteers): <http://www.casanet.org/>

Child Welfare

Stanislaus County Community Services Agency: <http://www.csa-stanislaus.com/>

Stanislaus County Department of Child Support Services: <http://www.stanccdcss.org/>

Education

Stanislaus County Office of Education: <http://www.stancoe.org/>

Stanislaus County School District and Schools: <http://www.stancoe.org/index/districts.html>

Stanislaus County Schools, Superintendents and Principals:
<http://www.stancoe.org/SCOE/admin/common/suptprincipal.html>

Stanislaus County SELPA (Special Education Local Planning Agency):
http://www.stan-co.k12.ca.us/student_services/special_ed.html

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/>

California County Offices of Education: http://www.stancoe.org/index/county_offices.html

CASE Advocacy for Special Education: <http://www.caseadvocacy.org/>

Special Education Information: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/>

Foster Youth Legislation and Statutes

Information about California Assembly Bill (AB)490: <http://www.abanet.org/child/rclji/education/ab490.html>

Information about California Assembly Bill (AB)3632 for Children with *Mental Health needs within Special Education*:
http://www.best-pals.org/a_ed_special_ed.html

Other Sites of Interest

Stanislaus County Superior Court: <http://www.stanct.org/>

The Modesto Bee: <http://www.modbee.com/>

The California Youth Connection (A website driven for - and by -current and former Foster youth):
<http://www.cal-youthconn.org/site/cyc/>

Foster Connections via Stanislaus County CSA (Resources for Foster Youth):

<http://www.csa-stanislaus.com/content.php?nav=childrens-services/foster-connections.htm>

Forgotten
FOUND



BE THE
DIFFERENCE.
VOLUNTEER.
WWW.NATIONALCASA.ORG

