



# CASA of Stanislaus County Newsletter

Volume 6 — Issue 5

September - October ... 2009

## 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:

Cindy Julsgard at (209) 567.4230  
or e-mail her at  
casacm@stanct.org



## Our BOARD of DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Catherine Flores Hallinan, JD**  
President  
**Susan Azevedo**  
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### 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 Wednesday - September 16, 2009 at 6pm at our CASA offices ... with training for those new advocates beginning by October 5, 2009 at our CASA offices.**

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**As of September 1, 2009 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!**

## **Friends of CASA / Kiwanis of North Modesto Annual Golf Tournament a Rousing Success**



On August 31, over 110 golfers hit the links at the prestigious Spring Creek Golf and Country Club to participate in the 19th annual North Modest Kiwanis Golf Tournament benefitting local charities. For the sixth consecutive year, CASA of Stanislaus County was the sole beneficiary of Kiwanis efforts.

Over \$20,000.00 was raised to help support our local CASA program because of these efforts. "There was a period of time when we, as a program, might not have survived if not for the generosity and commitment of Kiwanis of North Modesto" according to Steve Ashman, Executive Director. "We truly value our long-standing relationship and cannot believe how incredible Kiwanis' commitment to our community is. The members of the club do so much for our community on so many levels. They really step up and we are so grateful."

The day began with registration at 10:00am followed by lunch and 18 holes of spectacular golf. Unlike many tournaments, each golfer plays his or her own ball throughout the day (unlike a "best ball" format commonly employed). "It makes for a great day of golf and you can actually turn in your real score" offered Brian Mautino, golfing in his first CASA event. "I had a blast ... the food was great, with lots of free beverages on the course to keep you hydrated. They really took care of us".

The day of golf was followed by dinner and both silent and live auctions. In addition, over 40 bottles of premium wine were raffled off, generating close to \$2,000.00 in raffle tickets sold.



Loren Suelzle (far left) was among the guiding forces for this (and every year's) Tournament. His efforts on CASA's behalf are exemplary.



Beverages were aplenty on the Spring Creek course.



Golf was followed by dinner in the Spring Creek Golf & Country Club dining room. Over \$20,000 was raised for CASA of Stanislaus County.



The Grand Raffle prize—over 40 bottles of premium wine was a huge hit!

*Photos from the Friends of CASA / Kiwanis of North Modesto  
Annual Golf Tournament*



*All photographs courtesy  
of Michael Campbell;  
Campbell Photography*



**FOSTER PARENT/KINSHIP CARE TRAINING**  
**SEPTEMBER 2009**

The following listed classes (No pre-registration necessary) will be held at the Family Partnership Center, 421 E. Morris Avenue, Modesto from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Note: Supervised child activities are ONLY available for ages 5 and older at the Center and is limited to six children....therefore supervised care activities is limited to first come first served.

**Date:** 21 Sept (Monday)  
**Topic:** Whole Family Foster Care  
This class will provide skills for assisting teen parents in care.  
**Trainer:** Annette Evans Foster Parent

**Date:** 28 Sept (Monday)  
**Topic:** How to Help Your Teen Gain Independence  
This session will discuss the emancipation process to include available community resources for teens emancipating.  
**Trainer:** Nick Konner Fos-Adopt Parent

The following listed workshop will be held at the Community Services Agency, 251 E. Hackett Road, Modesto from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m.

Note: Please pre-register not later than 23 Sept by calling one of the phone numbers indicated below and leaving your name and phone number. (Calls will not be returned). *This is to contact you should a class be cancelled.*

**NOTE NOTE NOTE**

**BECAUSE OF BUDGETARY RESTRICTIONS AS A RESULT OF THE STATE'S FINANCIAL SITUATION, OUR PROGRAM WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE LUNCHES AT WORKSHOPS. THEREFORE, ATTENDEES MUST MAKE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOOD AND DRINK**

**Date:** 26 Sept (Saturday Workshop)  
**Topic:** How to Help Your Child to Succeed in School  
This workshop will, in part, cover learning techniques, understanding various aspects of child development and behavioral challenges as it relates to learning.  
**Trainer:** Joan Mancini MA, School Teacher

California Community Colleges around the State are offering classes in foster care and kinship care education through specially funded programs created by the California Legislature and the Governor. This semester, the Community College in your area is offering classes listed on this flyer and is free of charge.

**Don Rousseau (Asst Program Director) 529-6141**  
**Amie Prutch (Foster Parent Recruiter/Trainer) 558-3983**



**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](http://www.casaofstanco.org)

### Our E-mails:

[casaed@stanct.org](mailto:casaed@stanct.org)

*Steve Ashman, Executive Director*

[casacm@stanct.org](mailto:casacm@stanct.org)

*Cindy Julsgard, Case Manager I*

[casacm2@stanct.org](mailto:casacm2@stanct.org)

*Michelle Sales, Case Manager II*

### Please note:

**CASA offices WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, September 7 and Monday, October 12 due to Court Holidays.**

### 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.*

## CASA Teams with Children's Crisis Center and the Society for Handicapped Children & Adults to Raise Funds to Meet the Needs of Children

Get on your dancing shoes! **CASA of Stanislaus County**, the **Children's Crisis Center** and the **Society for Handicapped Children & Adults** have joined forces to produce a benefit concert on **October 31, 2009** (Halloween) at the **State Theatre** in Modesto.

The concert will feature a 15-piece rhythm and blues band, the legendary **Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra** from San Francisco. The Pitts (as they are affectionately known), have sold out the State multiple times and this concert (as always) promises to be an evening of non-stop dancing and fun.

"In these times of shrinking revenues and resources, it only makes sense for community organizations to partner in new and exciting ways to reach the community" opined Steve Perry, SHCA Board President. "The Pitts are a great band, one that never disappoints. This truly is a win-win-win for our organizations, community AND the people we serve. We couldn't be more excited."

*"This truly is a win-win-win for our organizations, community AND the people we serve. We couldn't be more excited."*

*Steve Perry,  
SHCA Board  
President*

Tickets for the event are \$50.00, with 100% of the proceeds going to the organizations to help meet the needs of the Stanislaus County children (and adults) who benefit from their services.

Tickets are available on-line at the Society for Handicapped Children and Adults website:

<http://www.societyforhandicapped.org/special-events/zasu-pitts.php> or in person at Clayton's - located at 1016 H Street in Modesto.

Doors at the State Theatre will open at 8:30 with the concert scheduled to begin at 9:30. The Pitts are legendary for their inspired (and lengthy) performances. A typical concert last 3 hours. Vocalist Larry Batiste commented, "We promise that our audience always gets their monies worth. As a band, we truly love performing together and I think that translates to our audience. Once we get started, people are on their feet and dancing ... and it doesn't stop until we do ... we are expecting a few "surprise" guests to join us as well. It will be a great time."



Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

**STANISLAUS COUNTY**



**Society for Handicapped Children & Adults**  
Over 60 years of Caring



## Bank of the West continues their commitment to CASA of Stanislaus County

Bank of the West has been a long treasured supporter of our program. On August 4th, we were pleasantly surprised to see Bank of the West Senior Vice-President Marlene Stante appear at our office with a generous donation for our program.

“What a wonderful surprise! Words cannot express our heartfelt thanks to Bank of the West for their generosity and commitment to our program



... not just in this instance, but since our inception in 2002. They have always been there for us and we appreciate their support” said Steve Ashman, ED of CASA.

Community partners like Bank of the West really make a difference to help meet the needs of the children of our county. We cannot thank them enough.



Bank of the West representative Marlene Stante presents a generous donation to CASA of Stanislaus County Executive Director Steve Ashman.



### 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 that provides every child received through the court system with personalized advocacy and support. Our goal is to provide a safe, permanent, nurturing environment for every child served.*

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

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Modesto  
California • 95355  
Tel: 209•522•2348  
Fax: 209•522•2342

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

**Current Available & Active Advocates: 32**

**Current Advocates on Leave: 8**

Current Advocates by Gender:  
Female - 34      Male - 6

**Current Children Being Served: 58**

**Current Advocates in Training: 14**  
Advocates in Training by Gender:  
Female - 14      Male - 0

All Statistics as of September 1, 2009

## THANK YOU TO OUR ADVOCATES!

John Arnold ... Steve Ashman ...  
Alice Bechard ... Jamie Bertolotti ...  
Sherry Bertolotti ... Linda Bush ...  
Tammera Carson ... Angie Cherry ...  
Sharon Clark ... Jolene Daly ...  
Danni Demateo ... Holly Feebeck ...  
Veronica Fernandez ... Rob Gleeson  
Char Hernandez ... Laurie Jamison  
... Cindy Julsgard ... Donnajean  
Kabella ... Michelle Keener ...  
Sherrie Keener ... Synthia Lofton ...  
Linda Martelli ... Veronica Napier ...  
Jessica Nunes ... Nancy O'Reilly ...  
Bill Parks ... Carol Perry ... Jerry  
Rhine ... Lisa Rose ... Michelle  
Sales ... Kathy Schmitt ... Karen  
Sederquist ... Stacy Spieller ...  
Donna Marie Strickler ... Angela  
Timpone ... Vivian Valentine ...  
Joanne Wallace ... Carolyn Whited  
... Lloyd Wiley ... Lois Wilson.

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