

# The Advocate

## CASA PERSPECTIVES



**Abbey Philips - CASA Volunteer**

When I was approaching my senior year in college, one of my advisors informed me that I would need to do an internship before I could graduate. I was excited by this prospect. I immediately began researching internship opportunities.

CASA was one of the first opportunities that caught my attention. The concentration of my degree is social justice, so naturally CASA was a perfect fit. I had also been an advocate for children with disabilities for a long time; so being an advocate for children in the court system was of great interest to me. I applied for the CASA internship and soon after I applied I began my CASA volunteer training. There was much to learn and retain, but every moment was exciting. I was anxious to complete my training and start working for children.

I was assigned to my first case in October 2008. I had learned so much in the training and I quickly realized that there were many things to learn in the field as well. The idea of advocating for a child in the court system was such an honor. If I ever got overwhelmed with house visits or writing reports, it was always easy to refocus when I remembered what I was standing for by being a CASA. I knew that my efforts had a direct effect on improving a child's situation.

I am coming up to my one year anniversary as a CASA and I can truly say with my whole heart that this has been an invaluable experience. It has given me the opportunity to learn from so many different types of people and circumstances. It is wonderful when you are involved in something to advocate for or help someone else and through that process you realize you are learning a lifetime worth of lessons.

Jamie Haskins, Volunteer Coordinator, shared that it has only been a year since Abbey Philips took her oath to serve the abused and neglected children of Henrico.

From the beginning, Abbey displayed a maturity and competency respected by other professionals and the families of the children she served. Although her first couple of cases required fast detailed research due to short return dates, Abbey rose to the challenge. Now that her school requirements have concluded, Abbey is excited about the possibility of helping even more children.

## Superheroes Needed!



The  
**CASA Superhero Run/Stroll**  
 will be held on  
**April 10, 2010**

Beginning September 1, 2009 please visit  
[www.henricocasa.org](http://www.henricocasa.org)  
 to sponsor the event or register a runner

**Every child needs a hero, but abused children need a Superhero!**

## Welcome Our Newest Child Advocates



**Advocates on board!** CASA training classes were held in the spring of 2009. Our newly trained advocates were sworn in before the Honorable Stuart L. Williams, Jr. The Henrico CASA program staff is very grateful for the insightful and enthusiastic attitudes of our new volunteers: Cheryl Pinks, Beverley Lane, Charles Spraggins, Connie Lacy, Sarah Warren Beverly, Ann Williams, Dawn Thompson, Joan Dyer, Megan Schulze, Tami O'Neil, Maurice Hancock, Sheila Keating, and Kim Eggleston.

### Special Thank You's!!!

Ann Ramsey Volunteer Fund  
Crossroads Art Center  
Dominion Foundation  
Family and Children's Trust  
Glen Allen American Legion

Graphics-3, Inc.  
Jenkins Foundation  
Jersey Mikes on Staples Mill Rd.  
Kappa Alpha Theta  
Memorial Foundation for Children  
Short Pump Rotary Club

The Martin Agency  
Ukrops Foundation  
United Way and CVC Campaigns  
Wachovia Foundation  
Wareheim Foundation  
Whole Foods



## Now is the time to get involved!

Listen to that little voice you've been hearing. Come advocate for a child! Henrico CASA will begin training a group of new volunteer advocates on September 21, 2009. The twelve sessions, presented by area professionals, will be held Monday and Wednesday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Henrico CASA office. If you are interested in becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact Dayle at 501-1675 for further information. You can also apply online at [www.henricocasa.org](http://www.henricocasa.org)

# Continuing Education = Better Advocacy

By Ross Schaefer

Henrico CASA continues to focus on providing top quality continuing education for our volunteers and the community. Several trainings have been presented this year and many more are planned.

2009 began with mandatory training which focused on the different perspectives involved in CASA cases. Morna Ellis of Commonwealth Mediation Group brought her valuable insight into the expectations of parents involved in court proceedings with a focus on co-parenting.

Dr. Laura Wert, a licensed clinical psychologist who has specialized in children and adolescents over the last 15 years, helped our volunteers understand the stressors many of our CASA kids are dealing with when their caregivers are involved with the court. The training also reviewed the ins and outs of working a custody/visitation case as a CASA volunteer. Over forty CASA volunteers

were present for both speakers. What a full night!

In April, Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) joined forces with Henrico CASA to bring an exciting training called the "Stewards of Children" workshop. Volunteers from Henrico and Hanover CASA listened to an informative training on advocating for sexually abused children. This valuable training helped our volunteers understand how to better identify and respond when a child is being abused. The volunteers evaluated the workshop as being very valuable to their work.

Henrico CASA staff heard a request from its volunteers and case professionals that they wanted more resource information and we listened! On July 11, 2009, through generous funding from the Children and Family Trust Fund, area service providers brought literature and resources to

the CASA office to share. Volunteers, guardians ad litem and court workers met with the Fan Free Clinic, Commonwealth Catholic Charities, Adoptions from the Heart, Moore Academy, Lutheran Family Services,

**Each year Henrico CASA provides over 700 hours of Continuing Education opportunities**

Back to Basics, Safe Harbor, Clinical Alternatives, SCAN/FAM, St. Joseph's Villa, the Institute for Family Centered Services, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, Commonwealth Mediation Group, the Salvation Army, and ChildSavers.

We want our volunteers to be their very best when they are out in the community advocating for the children of Henrico County. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future continuing education opportunities, please let us know!

## NEW DATES!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**August 26, 2009: 6-8pm The Effects of Domestic and Sexual Violence on Families presented by Safe Harbor**

**September 14, 2009: 12-1pm Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Deep Run Recreation Center**

**October 8, 2009: 12-1:30pm Lunch Tour at St. Joseph's Villa**

**November 4, 2009: New Volunteer Swearing-In**

**November 17, 2009: 6-8pm CASA Game Night**

**December 16, 2009: 6-8pm Report Writing**

**February 16, 2010: 6-9pm Mandatory Training**

**March 16, 2010: 6-8pm Substance Abuse**

**April 2010: 12-1pm Brown Bag Lunch with Clinical Alternatives**

**May 2010: 12-1pm Brown Bag Lunch**



**Volunteer Mosts Ever**  
Years: Dana Yarbrough  
Cases: David Kovacs  
Case Hours: Lisa Decker  
Children Served: David Kovacs

**Volunteer Mosts This Year**  
Cases: Angela Owusu  
Case Hours: Lisa Decker  
Case Contacts: Lisa Decker  
CE Hours: Jamara Corbin & Pedro Jovel  
Spirit: Carol Young

**Most Valuable Player: Clara Johnson**  
**Rookie of the Year: Ross Mackenzie**  
**Gold Pen: Bob Lawrence**  
**Silver Pen: Kristen Edwards**  
**Board Member of the Year: Pat Hackler**

\*all training at the CASA office unless otherwise noted

# Special Thanks to Our Contributors January - June 2009

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Rose Colabella

## Gifts Made In Honor Of

William G. Boice

Pat Hackler

Henrico CASA Staff

Dr. Bill Hunter

Lorraine Thornton

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Glory Days Grill

Hondos

Hooters

Hunting Hawk Golf Club

James River Wine

Jersey Mike's

Lane Sanson

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Li'l Shoppe of Cards

Melting Pot

Movieland

Mulligan's

Outback Steakhouse

Patterson Sports Park

Putt Putt Fun Center

Qdoba

Red Lobster

The Rivanna Resort and Golf Club

River's Bend Golf Course

Rockwood Golf Park

Rowland

Sam's Club

Stonehenge Golf & Country Club

The Crossings

The Gauntlet

Windy Hill Sports Complex

Wintergreen Resort

## Crossroads Art Auction

John Berube

Anita and David Browning

Kevin Bruny

Terry Carter

Rhonda Childs

Ellen Clore

Deborah Costello

Robert Downs

Susan Edwards

Stephanie Evans

Nancy Frank

Barbara Garrison

Genya Glass

Sandra Gramling

Pat Hackler

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Jamie Haskins

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## Crossroads Art Auction

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Joan McKenna

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Elizabeth Muldowney

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Charles Nilles

Rhoda Palmieri

Helen Rodgers

Helen and Earl Sanders

Jerry Shapiro

Karen Sizer

Anne Stratton

Deborah Thomas

Gregory Tucker

Barbara Tyson

Linda Vick

Mark and Lillie Wauford

## Crossroads Art Auction In-Kind

Tami Adams

AirTran

Mehmet Sahin Altug

Pat Angevine

Phobe Antrim

Back Room Musicals

Kathy Yost Benham

Beth Bonniwell

Larry Bonniwell

James Brassfield

Dave and Anita Browning

Kelly Chenault

Rhonda Childs

Classical Guitar

Coffee Cart

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# Recent Fundraising Events

## CASA GOLF CLASSIC A SUCCESS



The 2009 Henrico CASA Golf Classic, sponsored by Dominion Resources, was held at Hunting Hawk Golf Club on April 23. On a gorgeous spring day, 60 golfers played on the course at Hunting Hawk to support CASA Kids! The CASA staff and volunteers were touched by the enthusiasm and support shown by the players and sponsors. Through their generous support (see page 4). CASA raised more than \$10,000 to support the program. Everyone involved was a champion for our kids!

Henrico CASA participates in the following campaigns. Thanks to all of you who used the codes provided to allocate your United Way and CVC funds contribution directly to Henrico CASA. This will help us reach our goal of serving all abused children who are referred for advocacy. Please make a note of our agency number for the upcoming campaign.



**THANK YOU!!**



Contributor's Choice Corporate Campaign Agency Code #3637

Combined Federal Campaign Agency Code #76476



Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign Agency Code #3651



# Upcoming Fundraising Events

## October 3, 2009: Kappa Alpha Theta Alumni Chapter CASA Bowl-a-thon

Shrader Lanes 2- 5pm - [www.richmondthetas.org](http://www.richmondthetas.org) to register your team!

## JANUARY 15, 2010: 4th Annual Crossroads Gallery Opening

To donate your artwork to benefit CASA contact Barbara at 501-1671.



## APRIL 10, 2010: CASA Superhero Family Fun Walk/Run

CASA volunteers act as superheroes every day for the children they serve. This spring, we will partner with Chesterfield CASA to host a Superhero Race and Family Fun Event. This family-oriented event will allow runners and walkers to come out and enjoy a race while supporting the work of our volunteers who provide a voice for abused and neglected children. Our planning committee is hard at work to make sure our inaugural event will be spectacular. We hope to not only raise money for our programs, but to also increase awareness about the problem of child maltreatment in our community. We dare you to move, to get involved, to make an impact, and to help change our world for the better. Stay tuned for more details about how you can support our CASA programs and our CASA superhero volunteers who provide hope to children.

**CASA Is Going Green!** Donate your old cell phones. CASA receives a donation for recycling through Shelter Alliance. For information call Susan at 501-1670. **Search The Web!** with [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and money from Yahoo will go to Henrico CASA without you spending a dime! **Ask for a Speaker!** Henrico CASA has a group of volunteers who are trained and ready to share their knowledge of CASA with others. If you would like to have a speaker at your next meeting, please contact Susan Hill at [hil29@co.henrico.va.us](mailto:hil29@co.henrico.va.us) **Volunteer - Special Projects!** You do not have to work directly with the children to make a difference. Consider volunteering in our office, at the fundraising events, or on a special project.

Henrico CASA must earn \$1,000 to serve a child for one year.

# Juvenile Court Judges Depend On CASA

By Dayle Goldberg, Program Manager

Many of you, whether you have been a volunteer for a short period of time or a long period of time, may have questioned why you are a CASA volunteer. You reflect on your reasons for becoming involved in a program that is time-consuming, has deadlines to meet, requires you to report

**The decisions judges make are only as good as the information on which the decisions are based.**

to a supervisor, can be emotionally draining, frustrating, perplexing, sad and a variety of other adjectives, at times. Who better to provide some real life examples of the benefits CASA volunteers provide than sitting judges in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts of our country.

Judge Patricia A Macias, from El Paso, Texas stated, "The child's voice

demands an advocate who fulfills their role **and** who speaks clearly and with determination about what is best for the child, even if that position stands alone."

Judge Leslie Kirkland Riddle from Columbia, South Carolina was named 2008 CASA Judge of the Year. She comments, CASA volunteers "have the unique ability to bring a calming sense of reason in many volatile family court cases. Families who feel respected and heard are far more receptive to services and intervention...The CASA volunteer is the child's appointed voice in court, the eyes and ears of the court, and the arm of hope to a maltreated child."

Judge R. Michael Kay, from LaGrange, Georgia, notes, "There are millions of good, caring, well-intended people in this world who never make a meaningful difference in the life of a child outside their family or circle of friends. Not so with CASA volunteers, who, on an average day, change for the good the

lives of children with whom they had no previous connection and, on many extraordinary days, literally save children's lives. The decisions judges make are only as good as the information on which the decisions are based. It is absolutely critical that the court has information that is current, complete, accurate and relevant."

Saving the "best for last," here is a comment from one of our own Henrico County judges who filled out our annual survey. This judge states, "CASA has done a magnificent job of staffing the cases with good people who turn out a quality work product. The passion and commitment of the staff and volunteers is incredible."

So now when you may question why you are a CASA volunteer, please always remember that our children, families, and judges depend upon us and the work that we do. Thank you for being there for them.

## CASA BY THE NUMBERS FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

0%	Percent of children re-abused while assigned to CASA
2.2%	Number of children per 1000 who have been abused or neglected in Henrico County
2.33 years	Average length of time a CASA volunteer stays with the program
3	Number of children on waiting list at year-end
0-4 years	The age group of children with the highest rate of abuse and neglect and deaths
11 months	Average length of time a CASA is assigned to a case
12	Number of continuing education hours a CASA volunteer must complete yearly
15 years	Length of time Henrico CASA has been serving the community
26	Number of Virginia's children who died of abuse or neglect
35 hours	The length of training for a new CASA volunteer
82	Average number of volunteer case hours the CASA volunteer contributed
86 minutes	Frequency of child abuse in Virginia
94%	Percent of CASA volunteers recommendations incorporated into court orders
94	Number of CASA volunteer advocates
101	Average number of direct case contacts the CASA volunteer made
295	Number of children served
\$973	Approximate per child cost to provide CASA services
1,186	Total number of children served by Henrico CASA volunteers since 1994
10,239	Number of volunteer advocacy hours provided to children served
68,800	Number of CASA volunteers nationally

# Baby Boomers Bring Zest To CASA

By Barbara Garrison, Volunteer Coordinator

Currently in the Richmond area there are over 100,000 boomers volunteering their time and energy to causes that are important to them. According to a symposium held at VCU on March 26, baby boomers, especially those born between 1946 and 1955, are the next big wave of volunteers. Their approach to volunteerism is, however, different than their parents'. As in everything they have done before, they want to pave their own way. In their volunteer jobs boomers want to make a meaningful contribution, they want flexibility, and they want to make social connections. They don't want a boss, they want a collaborator.

Baby boomers, as a group are said to be optimistic and team oriented. They are the first group of people who were born genuinely expecting the world to improve with time. Work has always been an important part of their lives. They want to do something meaningful. They don't want to be put in a box, they want more choices. It has been said that people spend the first part of their lives becoming someone, and

the last half being someone. Boomers are embracing this concept.

Many boomers are reevaluating their values and are finding possessions are not as important as purposes. Lisa Decker, a CASA volunteer since 2005, said that she had always had a desire to give back but because of work demands had not been able to. When she took early retirement she knew this was the perfect time. Lisa remembers her father saying "Everyone makes a mark in life; I'd like you to make a difference."

**"Find your passion and give it your heart."**

She thought that CASA would be the perfect way for her to do this and has never regretted her decision. Since being at CASA Lisa has served sixteen children and has definitely fulfilled her father's hope that she would make a difference. Lisa's advice to boomers who are looking to volunteer is "Find your passion and give it your heart."

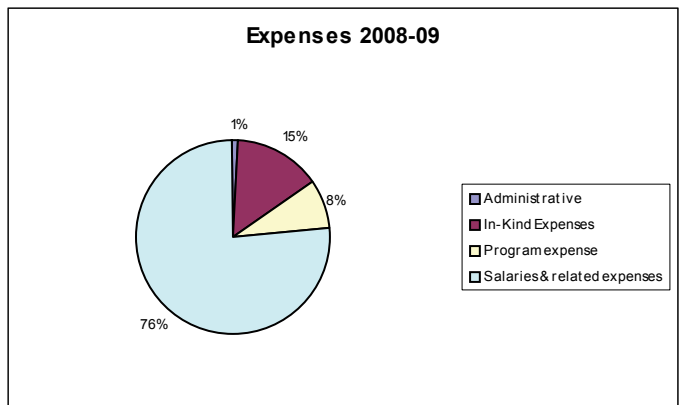
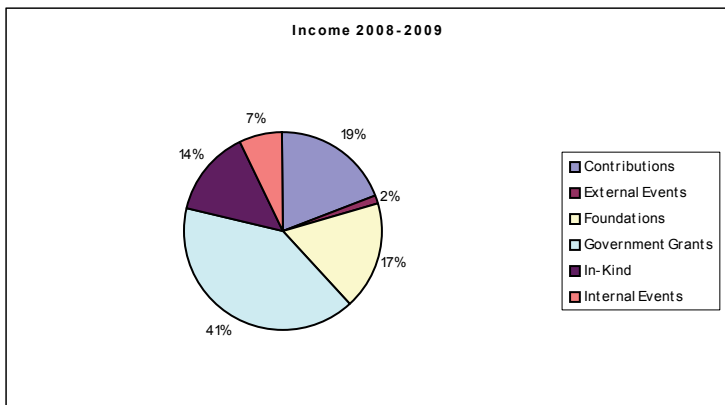
George Preston, who has been a CASA volunteer for over seven years, has served thirty-one children. He also came to CASA after taking early

retirement. George felt that CASA was a good fit for him because he had always been interested in the court system and how it worked. He wanted a volunteer experience where you could see the results of your work. His career had been about finding solutions to problems and he wanted to continue this with his volunteer work. One thing that he has found fulfilling in his work at CASA is that sometimes the smallest

thing can make a difference. Although not all problems can be solved, he always comes away from his cases with a positive feeling, knowing that he has given it his best.

Boomers such as Lisa and George are an invaluable resource to the Henrico CASA program. They have shown that they have the time, the commitment, and the energy to make a difference in the lives of children.

## Henrico CASA Year End Financials....



To view our 2008-2009 Annual Report and 990 Nonprofit tax return please visit our website at [www.henricocasa.org](http://www.henricocasa.org)

# A Message from the Board President

Henrico CASA Board of Directors held its annual meeting on June 26 and elected its 2009-2010 Board members and officers. Despite current challenging economic times, the Board approved a growth budget that will move the organization toward achieving its vision that every child in Henrico County lives in a safe and stable home. Each Board member pledged an individual financial contribution as well as continued service to CASA.

While some nonprofit Boards have recently cancelled their special events, HCASA successfully held its 2009 fund development events. Also during the past year the Board approved a new strategic plan and began implementing its five goals and respective action items.

The 2009-2010 Board recognizes its retiring members and thanks them for their significant contribution to the past year's achievements: Nimat Haque, Anne Stratton, Angela Sparagna, Meade Prillaman and Michelle Collins-Robinson. The retiring members will continue to serve CASA as advisors and task force consultants. As Board president, I thank my fellow Board members, advisory members, task force members and CASA staff. I thank members of the community who supported us financially or through alternative ways. Always and of utmost importance I thank the CASA volunteers who are the true superheroes for the children.

*Patricia W. Hackler, Ed.D.*

Do you need more Information? Want to Volunteer? Care to Donate? Please visit our Website!

[www.henricocasa.org](http://www.henricocasa.org)

## Board of Directors

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