

**Henrico County  
Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.**



**Annual Report  
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009**

## **MISSION STATEMENT OF HENRICO COUNTY COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES, INC.**

The CASA program is a nonprofit organization committed to advocating for the best interests of children involved in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court process. The CASA program recruits, trains, and supervises competent volunteers dedicated to representing the needs of abused and neglected children, as well as other children in juvenile dependency proceedings. The program promotes safe, permanent homes for all children and seeks to educate the community concerning the needs of abused and neglected children.

### **PROGRAM GOALS FOR HENRICO CASA**

1. To provide the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court with independent factual information on which to base decisions in cases of child abuse or neglect.
2. To assist the court and social services in assuring that children are in safe placements and that their basic needs and educational needs are met.
3. To provide advocacy for abused and neglected children who are the subjects of judicial hearings.
4. To monitor cases involving abused, neglected, or educationally at risk children while they are under the court's protection.
5. To reduce the recurrence of abuse and neglect and to assist the court and social services in attempting to break the cycle of child abuse in families.
6. To educate the community about the problems of child abuse and neglect in Henrico County and to encourage community involvement in preventing child abuse/neglect and in advocating for abused and neglected children.

## **THE NEED FOR CASA**

During the past decade in Henrico County, child abuse and truancy reports have continued to increase, without a corresponding increase of social workers to investigate and monitor the cases. Each year, Virginia children are injured and some die due to abuse and neglect. This is where Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) have a critical role. CASAs are trained community volunteers who are appointed by Juvenile Court Judges to serve as advocates for children who are involved with the court system due to abuse and neglect.

## **HOW CASA HELPS CHILDREN**

Henrico CASA is a locally based organization that is part of a nationwide program to improve the response of juvenile courts to the needs of abused or neglected children. Henrico CASA is dedicated to making sure that children who have been neglected or abused have the best chance of getting their stories told during the court process.

The CASA volunteers get to know the children they serve by thoroughly researching the child's daily living situation. The volunteer also reviews all relevant records, and interviews the child, family, school personnel and other professionals who may have pertinent information about the child's environment. A complete report is submitted to the court that describes the child's life. Included in the report are recommendations pertaining to the child's needs and recommendations for services that might help the family provide a safer more adequate home for the child.

The child comes to understand that the CASA is a reliable person who speaks to the child's safety and best interests during what is often a confusing and terrifying process. Through this monitoring of the child's situation, the volunteer is able to spot and report any concerns about the child's safety, progress, and unmet needs. The CASA also observes the child's caregivers to see if the court's orders are being followed after the court has made an order.

## **THE CASA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IN 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR**

The Henrico CASA advocacy program serves children who are before the 14<sup>th</sup> District Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court because of abuse, neglect, or failure to attend school. Henrico CASA maintains an office in Suite A at 3001 Hungary Spring Road, Henrico, Virginia. The Program operates between the hours of 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

In fiscal year 2008-2009, Henrico CASA provided advocacy services to 295 children who were referred through the Juvenile courts. Twenty-six community volunteers completed the thirty-six hours of initial-training classes. A total of 116 advocates were active during the year. The children ranged in age from four days to eighteen years. During the year, volunteers provided over 9,944 hours of services to the CASA program and our referred children. 998 volunteer hours were contributed by the Board of Directors.

The Henrico CASA program was staffed by:

Barbara Herzog, Executive Director (employed since 1/1/2002)  
Dayle Goldberg, Program Manager (employed since 4/1/2008)  
Susan Hill, Case Manager (employed since 4/1/1995)  
Jamie Haskins, Volunteer Coordinator (employed since 10/1/2006)  
Barbara Garrison, Volunteer Coordinator (employed since 9/1/2007)  
Ross Schaefer, Volunteer Coordinator (employed since 9/22/2008)  
Donna Banks, Volunteer Coordinator (resigned 8/30/08)  
Anita Browning, Development Assistant (employed 9/1/08 - 11/30/2008)

## **THE HENRICO CASA ORGANIZATION**

Henrico CASA was incorporated and was designed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in May 1994. The program is administered by a volunteer board of directors, and management of the volunteer program is carried out by the Executive Director. The Executive Director carries out fundraising, board development, and assists with community awareness.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

### **Volunteer Program**

Increasing advocacy services is a priority for Henrico CASA. Recruitment and training efforts will continue in pursuit of our efforts to maintain an adequate number of volunteers to meet the needs of abused and neglected children, and “at risk” children.

### **Community Awareness**

Community education about child abuse and neglect and public awareness of the CASA program will be emphasized. This will be achieved by maintaining a Speakers Bureau. Combined efforts with other local CASA programs will continue to increase through the Metro Richmond CASA Network.

### **Community Involvement and Support**

Henrico CASA continues to expand our community support by recruitment of a more diverse volunteer pool. A big effort to expand awareness of CASA should allow for maintained growth of the program and increased funding through newly introduced donors. CASA has established a stronger board that has succeeded in increasing our fundraising base. There are many plans in place for a continuation of these newly established efforts.

## **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

The following is an overview of Henrico CASA’s income and expenses for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2009:

<b>Total revenues and support</b>	<b>\$311,684</b>
<b>Program service expenses</b>	<b>\$238,115</b>
<b>Management and general expenses</b>	<b>\$25,636</b>
<b>Fund raising expenses</b>	<b>\$31,979</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$303,165</b>
<b>Ending net asset balance</b>	<b>\$248,601</b>

## **HENRICO CASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Executive Committee**                      **Term Dates**

#### **President**

Pat Hackler                                      2005-2011

#### **Vice President**

Charles Quagliato                            2006-2010

#### **Secretary**

Katie Pinkard                                   2007-2011

#### **Treasurer**

Meade Prillaman                              2007-2009

### **Directors**

Beth Bonniwell                                2006-2008

Chris Busse                                    2006-2011

Michelle Collins-Robinson                 2007-2009

Teresa Hairston                                2007-2009

Nimat Haque                                    2007-2009

Angela Sparagna                              2007-2009

Anne Stratton                                 2006-2009

Donna Wiley                                    2007-2008

Jonathan Willard                              2007-2008

### **Advisory Committee Members**

Kevin Bruny

Rhonda Childs

Jim Doran

Katharine Hunter

Henry P. ‘Toby’ Long

Rebecca Rodgers

### **Legal Counsel**

Timothy S. Feehan, Esq.

### **Executive Director (ex-officio)**

Barbara Herzog

### **Meetings of the Board of Directors 2008-2009**

In fiscal year 2008-2009, The Board of Directors met at the following times:

July 17, 2008	6:00 p.m.	Board and Advisor Orientation
July 24, 2008	6:00 p.m.	Special Strategic Planning Meeting
August 2008		Committee Meetings
September 18, 2008	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
October 16, 2008	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
November 20, 2008	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
December 2008		Committee Meetings
January 16, 2009		Hosted Crossroad Gallery Opening
February 19, 2009	6:00p.m.	Annual Retreat/Strategic Plan
March 2009		Committee Meetings
April 23, 2009		Hosted CASA Golf Classic
May 21, 2009	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
June 5, 2009		Hosted CASA Garden Party
June 25, 2009	6:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting

The Henrico CASA Board of Directors routinely met on the third Thursday of the month at the CASA office located at 3001 Hungary Spring Road in Henrico County. Traditionally, no board meetings are held in November and December due to the holidays, but this year the Board or committees of the Board met each month to ensure their completion of a five-year strategic plan. A board retreat, which focused on the strategic plan, was held in February at the Board President's home. In June, a gathering to introduce the Board and interested community members was held by the Executive Director at her home.