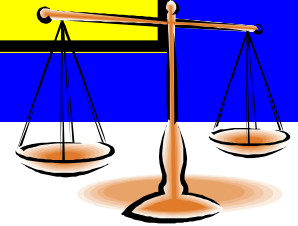


# The Advocate



## Why CASA?



**Ted Kuester**  
**CASA Volunteer**

It all began when I volunteered for the Richmond City auxiliary police force, a special unit which was to be called on during emergencies. The Program's participants had to complete the full police academy and ten hours of monthly volunteer police work with a licensed police officer. After two years

of training, you were able to operate independently. It seemed that with our youngsters facing constant peril in Iraq, I needed to assist in alleviating some dangers when they returned home. The auxiliary program was scrapped when the City's police chief resigned. I continued to feel the need to contribute something back to my community.

Soon after, a friend asked me if I was interested in trying to save the children before the police were needed to arrest them. He told me about Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). While I was contemplating his information, an advertisement for Henrico County CASA volunteers came out in the newspaper. I answered the ad, was interviewed, and quickly started training.

During the training phase, I had a continual nagging feeling that I was getting into something I was not qualified to do. It seemed to me that social service workers and attorneys are better qualified to do these things.

After being sworn in, I reluctantly accepted my first case involving three children. During my first court appearance on this case, I had a fourth child added to the mix. He was an infant half-brother who had a different father. I felt even more overwhelmed.

When I first started investigating the family's situation, I felt out of place; like I was being nosy. With practice, I eventually became more comfortable and things began to come together. A true picture of the circumstances that the families faced began to evolve. I was able to paint a picture for the judge in my CASA reports. My first CASA report contained recommenda-

tions that I thought would lead to an improvement in the children's situations. The judge ordered that all of the recommended services be completed by the family. Report after report, again and again, the services were ordered and completed. Things were improving for "my" kids. Innocent lives were getting untangled. Children were smiling and laughing again.

With the support of the system, the father of my first three CASA children really stepped up to the plate and was awarded full custody while the mother was placed under a no contact order but still required to provide financial support. The baby half-brother is in the process of being adopted by his foster parents, after the natural parents relinquished their parental rights voluntarily. As a CASA worker, I know I had a tremendous positive impact on the futures of these four children.

Could court appointed lawyers and social service workers have made the same contribution? I believe the answer is no. Despite consistent hard work from the lawyers and social workers, they are simply overwhelmed with their caseloads. None of the workers had the time that I had to concentrate on just these four special children.

The CASA program and its volunteers make the time to personalize each child's situation for all those involved in serving the family, most importantly the judge but also the attorneys and social workers.

CASA is the answer. It is YOUR business if it is YOUR community. A child needs your help and it is needed NOW. Step up and make a difference or just continue to assume that someone else will always clean up the mess. This is your chance to be the someone else. It will be the most fulfilling work you have ever done. I have agreed to advocate for two more children. Need to get to work.

### IN THIS ISSUE....

- Special Thanks to Our Contributors
- My Decision to Volunteer
- Fundraising Event Update
- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
- Upcoming Training Opportunities
- Message from the Board of Directors

# Special Thanks to Our Contributors in 2005

## In Memory Of Joy Joynt

Victoria & Louis M. Bosse  
Helen Carter  
Kathleen Duval/Joynt  
Natalie Harris  
Bill & Cheryl Joynt  
Richard G. Joynt

Suzanne Roski  
Meredith Sanderlin  
Barry & Betty Jean Saunders  
Ellie Speer  
Kathryn Stottlemeyer  
Tweed  
The Ukrop Foundation  
Ukrop's Supermarkets, Inc.  
Nancy Williams

Janet Distelman  
Amy Dilworth  
Disco Sports  
Domino's Pizza  
Dunlora Woman's Club  
Richard & Kathleen Essex  
EZ Games  
Susan & Frank Ferguson  
Firehouse  
William & Sally Foy

Claire Morris  
Patricia Nicholas  
Deborah O'Connor Bird  
R. Ortiz  
David Pearson & Seon-Sook An  
Pepsi  
Peggy & James Perry  
Karen & Scott Phillips  
Betsy Cloud Pike  
Planet Hair

## Patron

Annabella Jenkins Foundation  
Circuit City Foundation  
Commonwealth of VA Campaign  
The Community Foundation  
County of Henrico  
DCJS  
Funny Bones Comedy Club  
Glen Allen American Legion, Inc.  
Jackson Foundation  
Kappa Alpha Theta  
Memorial Foundation for Children  
Philip Morris Employee Comm. Fund  
Robins Foundation  
United Way  
Virginia Law Foundation  
VOCA  
E. C. Wareheim Foundation

## Friend

Julie Agris  
Mustafa Naci Altug  
Doris Apperson  
Barbara C. Ayers  
Bagboy  
Karen Barnes  
Anne & Timothy Beane  
Bertucci's  
Leslie & William Bien  
Rose M. Bilbao Y Leon  
William G. Boice  
Yael Buchbaum  
CASA Grande  
Constance & Thomas Bowden  
Judy Burtner  
Capital Ale House  
Helen & William Carter  
William & Cordelia Brand  
David & Melanie Bucheit  
Charlotte & Robert Cassada  
Sally Sun Cheung  
Sally Cipolla  
Jean B. Clark  
Sandy D. P. Clark  
Shelton Coleman  
Helen & Robert Comet  
Mark Condon  
Rebecca & Wellington Cottrell  
Steven & Cary Cronemeyer  
Carol & James Crowder  
Constance & Roy Debus

Leslie & Glenn Frazho  
C. Gardner  
Katherine & Daniel Gerritz  
Clair Gill  
Jeffress & Teresa Given  
Cheryl Gray Ball  
Sophie Gutner  
Timothy Hagemann  
J. Hagen  
Susan Haubensstock  
Barbara Herzog  
Susan Hill  
Barbara Holdren  
Thomas Jennings  
Mary Beth & Stephen Keller  
May & James Kepler  
S. S. Kere  
Teri Klug  
Ann Knobbe  
Polly M. Larimer  
Linda & Patrick Latimer  
Dao Le  
Cameron & Thomas Lee  
James Levenson  
Tena & Jeroen Lustig  
Agnes & Paul Maguire  
Martha & Barry Marano  
Cheryl & Brian Matt  
Richard C. McCullough, Jr.  
John E. McNeil, Sr.  
Jeffrey Meck  
Fred Mershon  
Frank & Amy Moore

Elizabeth & Glenn Poehler  
Ann & Daniel Polk  
Erin Porterfield  
Timothy Priddy  
Elizabeth Prom  
John Reece  
Theresa Rhinehart  
Richmond Braves  
Winifred & Harriss Ricks  
Elizabeth Riley  
Bonnie & Lawrence Salzman  
Paula & Stephen Saxby  
John W. Sherwood III  
Mary Jo Sisson-Vaughn  
Starbucks  
Michele Stuchell  
Wayne & Susan Slough  
Sharon & Ralph Small  
Jennifer Snyder  
Mary & Ira Spears  
Ann & L. I. Sutphin  
TGI Friday's  
Susan Tiffin  
Deborah Trainer  
Anthony F. Vitiello  
Jen Vittum  
Nancy Volante  
Lillian Wauford  
Kathryn & Rodney Wright

## Sustainer

John & Lynn Berry  
Wilhelmina Bourne  
Janet E. Brown  
Michele Burke  
Costen Floors  
Kelly Faglioni  
Pat Hackler  
Rebecca Kepler  
Taylor Leverty  
Joan McKenna  
Outback Steakhouse  
Patterson Counseling Center



## Upcoming Fundraising Events



**Mark your calendars to participate!**

**BOWL-A-THON:** On Sunday, **February 26, at 2pm**, Henrico CASA's seventh annual Bowl-a-Thon will take place at AMF Sunset Lanes, 6540 W. Broad Street. High school and middle school players and teams (3 to 4 players), please sign up by February 10, 2006 by contacting Nancy Williams at [nancy.s.williams@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.s.williams@gmail.com). It is expected that each player or team will seek financial sponsorships for the event. Corporations and individuals are also welcome to participate in the event or sponsor a team. Sponsorship information is available from Sophie Gutner at [s\\_gutner@yahoo.com](mailto:s_gutner@yahoo.com). Many fun prizes will be awarded throughout the afternoon's festivities

**CORPORATE SPELLING BEE:** The Henrico CASA Board of Directors is sponsoring a major fund-raising event to be held in spring 2006. The Corporate Spelling Bee will raise funds to further CASA's goal of ensuring that all abused and neglected children in Henrico County have an advocate as they proceed through the juvenile court system. The fun filled event will be comprised of 8–12 corporate teams that will compete for the "Championship Speller" title. This is a first-of-its kind event to be held in Richmond in quite some time. The Bee is sure to be popular among executives who like to have fun and learn new things, while supporting an extremely worthwhile cause. More details about this exciting event will follow in the coming months.

## Recent Fundraising Events

In March 2005, Henrico CASA held its sixth successful **Bowl-a-Thon** raising about \$5,000 from 19 teams (76 players).

The Board of Directors, staff, advocates and guests had a festive evening at the **Funny Bone Comedy Club** located in the Short Pump Mall on November 3, 2005. Jake Johannsen, comedian, performed his comedy routine filled with funny jokes and stories. Given the heartaches that the advocates face every day, it was nice to share a laugh or two. The event raised over \$1,600 for our program.

## Welcome to our newest Child Advocates



**More help is on the way!** Two advocate training classes were held during 2005. Thirty-two newly trained advocates were sworn-in before the Honorable Judge A. Elisabeth Oxenham. *Henrico CASA is grateful for the enthusiasm and energy of our new volunteers:* Theodore Kuester, Audrey Anderson, Robert Argabright, Wendy Austin, Rony Spsychalla, Lisa Decker, Renata Manzo, Charlene Rhodes, Janice Freed, Maria Jackson, Kathleen Damico, Brenda Rawlings, Hope Gilkey, Velma Williams, Terry Spurrier, Brenda Putney, Melinda White, Sarah Mitchell, Esther Snead, Lacey Tadlock, Dona Briggs, Brenda Britton, Gwen Steinbrecher, Paula Palmer, Debra Miller, Charles Talley, Suzie Landis, Nadia Jones Terry Massie, Jeff Carter, Cathy Lomax and Susan Tiffin.

**The next 32 hour initial advocate training class is scheduled to begin in March 2006. Those interested in being a volunteer can now submit their applications online at: [www.henricocasa.org/gift2.asp](http://www.henricocasa.org/gift2.asp)**

## My Decision to Volunteer

To my CASA kids I say....hang on,  
don't give up...your past does not  
determine your place in life.

I am one of two boys raised by a single mother in Creighton Court. I have never been arrested or in jail, though I have had my share of problems.

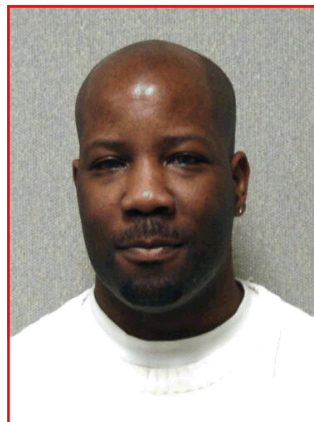
As a young man, without a father, I was lonely, confused and angry with everyone and most every thing. I thought I was a freak that no one would ever love or understand. I put myself on the path to assured destruction and didn't care what would happen.

Then, one day someone showed they cared about me, for no other reason except that I was alive, and a child in pain. He did something I never thought anyone would do; he listened to me. He showed, through action, that he cared about me and about what would happen to me. He shared his time, talent and love with me and helped me to see that I needed to change. That person was my older brother. Just by listening to me, caring about me and showing me by example, he pushed me to do better, to strive for excellence and to never let my grasp exceed my dreams. He is a pediatric doctor now, a natural selection for him considering that his first "patient" was a very angry young man that he helped out when it was needed.

My brother is one of the main reasons that I now volunteer with CASA. To give another child, one that may be in a similar place to the one where I struggled, the chance to see there is a light at the end of

the tunnel. I don't want to be that light; I just want to show him or her, like I was shown, that there is a light!

To Dr. Charles E. Carter I say thank you and I love you for all that you have done. To my CASA kids I say....hang on, don't give up...your past does not determine your place in life. You will make it because someone does care. Being a CASA Volunteer is not about money, or praise or recognition. It's about passing on the hope, the kindness, that was shown to me by another, and hoping that, in turn, that person will one day be able to do the same.



Jeff Carter  
CASA Volunteer

## Upcoming Advocate Training Opportunities

Child Advocates are required to attend continuing training during their tenure, for at least 12 hours per year.

On **February 8, 2006**, the Virginia Department of Health will present training on "Get Equipped: Tools for helping teens avoid coercive, exploitive, and unhealthy relationships" in Charlottesville.

Mandatory training, for all advocates, is scheduled for **February 21, 2006** at 6 PM. Dr. Martin Buxton will present on the topic of Attachment Disorder .

In 2006, the Central Region VISSTA Area Training Center is offering the following classes in Richmond:

- Infant care, development, health (**February 8, 24, or 28**)
- Working with resistant parents (**March 6**)
- Domestic violence (**March 29**)
- Substance abuse (**April 5**)
- Skills for home visitors (**April 20**)
- Case documentation & court appearance (**May 8**)

For additional information on these classes and others, contact Barbara Herzog, Program Director, 501-5256.

## Honoring our Long-term Advocates

New advocates agree to serve for a minimum of one year, when they are sworn-in by the juvenile court judge. It is always difficult to remain an active volunteer when you provide service to children who are involved with the Court due to abuse or neglect. Therefore, it is a great accomplishment to serve several years in a row as a CASA advocate. Here, we recognize and appreciate the long-time dedication of our most experienced advocates: **Lissy Bryan, Cheryl Gray Ball, Kathleen Grogan-Casey, Barbara Herzog, Clara Johnson, David Kovacs, Mary Lynn, John McNeil, Ann Ramsey, James Schmidt, Susan Tellier, Wendy Williams and Dana Yarbrough.**

If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all. ~Pearl S. Buck

# Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Hosted by Outback

Sally Cipolla  
Volunteer Coordinator

Thanks to the generous hospitality of Outback Steakhouse, CASA volunteers came together to enjoy salad, chicken, steak, and baked potatoes at the third annual CASA Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, held this year on October 19, 2005 at the Outback Steakhouse Restaurant on Broad Street in Henrico. Volunteers were treated to what may be for many an increasingly rare accomplishment: sitting down to a hot meal in the middle of the day surrounded by the appreciative company of those who best understand what CASA volunteers do—fellow advocates, board members, and staff.

In the course of performing their duties, CASA volunteers have been known to visit children at all hours of the day and night, patiently listen to hostile parents, track down difficult-to-obtain records, wait for phone calls to be returned, sit outside the courtroom for hours on end, write careful and comprehensive reports, and drive to such far-off places as Williamsburg, Norfolk, Lancaster, Roanoke, Aylett, New Kent, Petersburg, Charles City, Cumberland, and all manner of places in between. There does not seem to be much that CASA volunteers won't do for the children they advocate for. Certain volunteers were singled out this year for outstanding performance in the line of duty, including David Kovacs, Dona Briggs, Jim Schmidt, Renata Manzo, Bob Argabright, Donna Tycer, Ted Kuester, Mary Lynn, Lisa Decker, Susan Tellier, Clara Johnson, Kristen Watson, and Dayle Goldberg, but it is notable that each and every Henrico CASA volunteer contributes countless hours of dedicated service to speak up for children involved in the Henrico juvenile court system.

This year, Program Director Barbara Herzog was also recognized for her ten years of passionate devotion to Henrico CASA. The volunteers presented her with an engraved, crystal testimonial to let her know they think the world of her.

Luncheon attendees listened to Michele Stuchell, Executive Director of C3, a community organization and space at 1801 E. Cary Street promoting creative endeavors in the Richmond area. Ms. Stuchell delivered an inspiring and thought provoking speech, entitled "Off the Gerbil Wheel." Volunteers also had the opportunity to participate in a raffle of various prizes donated by Liberty Tax Services, Sur La Table, and CASA board members, and they left with their own CASA logo'd red portfolios to bring with them to future court hearings. Henrico CASA is truly fortunate to have volunteers of the highest caliber, and would like to humbly thank them and all who contributed to a well-deserved event.



sit  
difficult-to-obtain  
records, wait for  
phone calls to be  
returned, sit



## Be a "Friend" to Henrico CASA

Henrico CASA relies on volunteers to assist the program to ensure that all children in need of advocacy are represented. Please contact Susan Hill at 501-5256 if you can help:

- Child Advocates** represent children during the court process
- Fundraising Assistants** assist with fundraising events
- Public Relations Assistants** help with publicity for our events
- Financial Contributors** provide support for children in need

Would you like to make a donation to our Program?

I am enclosing a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.



Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please send payment to:  
Henrico CASA  
P.O. Box 9610  
Richmond, VA 23228



# A Message from the Board of Directors

While we wish it was not the case, the children in Henrico County need our help. The community must face the reality that more abused and neglected children could benefit from the care and attention of a Henrico CASA volunteer. In order to provide a highly trained advocate for every child who needs one, we must expand our program, which means training more volunteers and hiring additional staff (to maintain the staff-to-volunteer ration imposed by the Department of Criminal Justice Services). The funds must come from foundation, corporate grants, individual donors and fundraising events. Due to the Program's growth, the Board is faced with a tremendous challenge in the new year. We extend our thanks to our current and past contributors. Please contact us through our website to donate your time, expertise or financial support. Thanks to your ongoing support, all children who need an advocate will be served by a Henrico CASA volunteer in 2006.

## Board of Directors

*President*

Joan McKenna

*Vice President*

Bill Joynt

*Secretary*

Sophie Gutner

*Treasurer*

Nancy Volante

*Assistant Treasurer*

Suzanne Roski

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU!** This past semester the *Kappa Alpha Theta* sorority, of the University of Richmond, sold Kit Kat candy bars in their student commons to raise money for CASA. The group is currently creating the University of Richmond Student Organization Calendar, which will be published in the new year. The calendar, with student photos, will be available for sale to the entire student and faculty. The funds raised by the sorority will benefit CASA. Lastly, every spring the group hosts a Theta 5K run, around the university's lake, which benefits the CASA program. Henrico CASA would like to extend a special thanks to the group for their consistent efforts on behalf of the children served by our program.

**Care to Donate? Visit our Website!**

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

Amy Dilworth

Susan Ferguson

Genya Glass

Cheryl Gray Ball

Pat Hackler

Licia Haws

Taylor Leverty

Erin Porterfield

Meredith Sanderlin

Ellie Speer

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

P.O. Box 9610  
Richmond, VA 23228

