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YES! You can count on me! I would like to support the mission of Illinois CASA to develop local programs whose volunteers advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children in the juvenile Court system.

Will You Support Illinois' Children?

ILLINOIS CASA NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2010

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Peoria, Illinois 61614

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Cornerstone of the Voice

Summer 2010



Random Technology Thoughts

By *Carla Haynes*

This is my first year with Illinois CASA and I had the opportunity to attend National CASA Conference 2010, in Atlanta. I was impressed for many reasons, the facility, the information, the speakers, and just the simple fact that I was able to go and learn about our organization and how it impacts the lives of abused and neglected children on a national level.

One of the main ideas I came away with was how to grow our organization to serve more children in need. The reoccurring theme to achieve this was technology, coupled with awareness for what we do as a whole.

I am confident that all of our supporters have heard of Facebook, Google, My Space, YouTube and Twitter but are you using them to build support for CASA in Illinois? Many of our local programs across the state have a presence on many of these networking sites and I invite you to join them. While this type of technology is rather new to us here at Illinois CASA, I was still surprised to learn of other social networking sites such as : Cubase, oncause.com, and amazon.com. We can use these web sites to

our advantage to grow our awareness and our funding. Oh... and did I mention they are **FREE?**

Here at Illinois CASA we are already in pursuit of using these tools to our advantage. The implementation this new technology will enable us to not only raise awareness, funding, and grow into our mission but the side affect is we will also be going green.

We are exploring all the opportunities these companies can provide us and our ultimate goal is to launch an e-newsletter, new webpage, and new information boards to make it much easier for all of us to keep up with the changes in our community. Just think, we can do all of this and save the environment as well.

Illinois CASA urges you to please follow your local program on Facebook or whichever site you prefer. If your local program hasn't yet established a presence on these new networking sites you can always "friend" National CASA. Please send us your email addresses to be on the new e-newsletter mailing list and any contact information you would like to share on anyone who is interested in our efforts to help abused and neglected children.

Just let me know if you would like to read our newsletter quarterly and contact me at:
carla@illinoiscasa.org



Local Programs

Kane- trained 17 new CASA/GAL volunteers and they are serving to date with probate and abuse/neglect cases 412 children. They held the annual Hands around the Courthouse" event and had the Chief Judge, Keith Brown and Abuse and Neglect Judge, Susan Clancy-Boles speak with about 125 in attendance.

Coles- held the first Longaberger Basket Binga last month. They raised some money and some awareness as well.

Sangamon- Participated with the Child Advocacy Centers across the state in the Champions4Children Walk on May 15th. Sangamon County had over 80 people register to walk a 4 mile route through the Illinois State Fairgrounds and was very successful for the program.

Lake- is one of CASA/GAL chapters to be hosting National CASA's pilot program, Fostering Futures Initiatives. This program offers intensive training for those advocates with children ages 14 to 21years of age.

Boone- recently held a swearing in ceremony on May 13 and added seven new advocates. They now have four bilingual advocates and are also working on having the brochure translated into Spanish. The next fundraiser will be the "Celebrity Roast" of local attorney and community activist Curt Tobin. The event is scheduled for August 26.

Champaign- They just graduated a new class of 5 and will be starting a summer class soon. They asked a team of community members to conduct fundraisers on behalf of the local program. The individuals were called Champions for CASA and were asked to raise \$1000 each. The 20 champions enlisted the help of others to have a very successful month.

Saline- is in the middle of the spring training class. They have 3 trainees scheduled to be sworn in early June and are working on the 2nd annual golf tournament that is scheduled for September.

Winnebago- Has hired a new Advocate Facilitator (case manager) who began on March 29, 2010. They are just finishing the spring training class and hopefully, will be swearing in 19 new CASAs on June 9, 2010.

Macon- Had a volunteer training class beginning June 2, with 8 new volunteers signed up! Macon County CASA just wrapped up the 8th annual "Casas for CASA" playhouse raffle, which was very successful.

Peoria- Executive Director was named the 2010 Widmer Wish Hero! CASA of Peoria County will be receiving a \$20,000 office make over.

DeKalb- was able to swear in 6 new advocates on May 25th. The next fundraising event, "A Midsummer's Night Wine Tasting" to be held on June 18th.

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Board Member Spotlight Kelly Pokharel

Kelly has been the Executive Director for CASA of McHenry County since 2005, when the program first started in McHenry County. She has been on the Illinois CASA Board since April 2009, and is also an active participant for the Global Outreach Committee at Resurrection Catholic Church in Woodstock. Before coming to CASA, Kelly worked as a community organizer with farmers and ranchers in Montana and with youth nationwide. Last year Kelly was selected as one of ten recipients of the "McHenry County Business Journal's Top 10 Under 40 Award" and recently the CASA of McHenry County program received the Liberty Bell Award for Law Day 2010 from the McHenry County Bar Association.

Kelly has been married to her husband, Anil, for seven years and they have 2 young boys, Aneesh (5) and Kiran (2). Kelly also teaches yoga in the community.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to help children in our communities have a voice; CASA has brought me the opportunity to follow my passion. I am constantly amazed by our dedicated advocates and board members who care so much about the children they work with. I am excited to have the opportunity to contribute at the state level with the Illinois CASA Board."



Kelly Pokharel

Continued from page 2

Jefferson-CASA of Jefferson County just recently trained 4 more volunteers and will be offering a summer training class in July. The next major fundraiser is a fall BBQ scheduled for August 20, 2010.

DuPage-Trained and swore in 17 advocates in April. Their 5th annual Golf outing was held Monday May 24th at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton. They have 124 registered and 3 title sponsors! CASA of DuPage County was the philanthropic recipient of both the Naperville chapter and the DuPage county chapters of 100 Women Who Care. The freshman class at Glenbard East High School did a drive for foster care kids and generated several carloads of gently used and new sweatshirts, suitcases, backpacks, toiletries, and etc. The donations filled up the auditorium stage!

McHenry- was awarded the Liberty Bell Award for Law Day 2010 on Friday (from our local Bar Association). It was a surprise, but they were so grateful for the recognition.

McLean- in May they graduated 5 volunteer and they were sworn in on May 25th. June 18th they will be hosting a conference in Pontiac "***In the Child's Best Interest.***"

Vermillion- swore in 7 new advocates from the spring training and have been actively recruiting males into the program with several avenues.



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The mission of Illinois Association of Court Appointed Special Advocates

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in the development and
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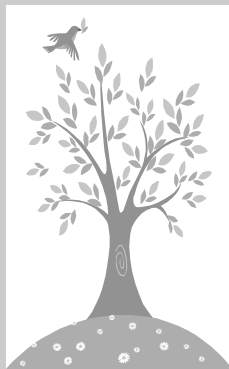
THANK YOU

Tove Thomas
in memory of Donald &
Grethe Armstrong

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in memory of
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Illinois CASA has a goal to go green in the year 2010. We want to be environmentally responsible and save some green. Sign up today for the e- newsletter, by joining our constant contact list. We will not only save our organization some green, but think of how many trees we can save.

Illinoiscasa.org

Help Us Save Some Green

Sign up for our
e-newsletter on
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