



# CASA's Heart



Volunteers are the heart of CASA/Prince George's County

## News & Information for CASA Volunteers

### Welcome to CASA's Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of CASA's Heart, CASA/Prince George's County's first newsletter dedicated solely to volunteers and the news and information that you need! Our hope is that the information you find in this newsletter will not only make you a better CASA to the children you serve, but it will help you stay connected to other CASA volunteers, program staff, and the fun events available to all volunteers. Be sure to check the calendar at the end of this newsletter to see what's coming-up!

We have named this newsletter, "CASA's Heart," because our volunteers are truly the heart and soul of CASA/Prince George's County. At CASA we feel that our volunteers are like family, and we hope this newsletter helps us all stay connected.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact Kelly (kfranks@pgcasa.org).

### Get to Know Eric Lulow (CASA's Newest Case Supervisor)

Hello everyone! I just wanted to introduce myself. My name is Eric Lulow and I'm the newest addition to the Prince Georges's CASA team. I just moved up here from Tennessee this past December and so far I've really enjoyed what Maryland has to offer. I wanted to share with you why I wanted to work for CASA. I was 21 in my junior year in college and trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life. I started thinking about the people in my life that had influenced and inspired me and looked at what they did for a living. One of the people who stood out in my mind was my CASA. I had

spent almost 8 years in foster care and at the age of 18 found myself homeless, without a real plan. Because of the values, work ethic, and encouragement instilled in me by my CASA and others like him, I was able to overcome the barriers in my life and graduate college with a degree in Social Work. I want to thank each of our volunteers for the work that they do. You really do make a difference in the lives of others; you made a difference in mine. Thank you for being a hero. I look forward to working with everyone in the years to come. Let's make a difference.

### Happy Birthday!

#### April

- 9th Saira Haqqi
- 14th Dempsey Bullock
- 21st Ann Vidale
- 25th Marsha Voigt

#### May

- 2nd Yvonne Hefley
- 3rd Zelma Hinton
- 4th Marie Buchanan
- 15th Clementine Jackson
- 21st Jennifer AbdulWali
- 25th Mary Clarke

#### June

- 10th Delia Patterson
- 14th Carrie Akridge-Johnson
- 20th Laura Bailey
- 21st Crystal Gaston

### CASA Anniversaries

#### 1 Year of Service

Tomasha Colvin, Fred Curtis, Margaret Harris, Kimberly Keys, Terri Keys, Angela Motley, Regina Schumate, Henry Stancil, Jerry Thigpen, Betty Thompson

#### 2 Years of Service

Cynthia Goudeau-Jordan, Louise Hatcher, Sherryl Hatcher, Paul Horton

#### 3 Years of Service

Iniobong Akpan, Terry Hardy, Kathy Mull

#### 4 Years of Service

Diane Diekman, Yvonne Hefley

#### 5 Years of Service

Malca Giblin

#### 6 Years of Service

Carolyn Jackson

**News & Updates**

**A Star Among Us!**

Congratulations to long-time CASA volunteer Malca Giblin for winning a WATCH Award! The WATCH (Washington Area Theatre Community Honors) Awards honor local theater groups in Maryland, Virginia and the District. Malca was honored with the Watch award for Best Producer of a musical for her work on "A New Brain." Malca is a member of the Kensington Arts Theatre and has been on stage as well as behind the scenes. Much like her work at CASA, Malca poured her heart and soul into this production and we are all thrilled that she was recognized for her hard work!

**Another CASA Baby!**

We are all excited to welcome the newest addition to the

Binsner family, Lyla! Ann Marie's beautiful baby girl was born on March 6th; she arrived two weeks early! Mom and baby are doing great! We miss Ann Marie already and look forward to her return in early May!

**Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow . . .**

In late February, CASA bid a fond farewell to Sherryl Hatcher, our Outreach Director. Sherryl has left CASA to return to her career in the corporate world. While we will miss Sherryl, we wish her well in her future endeavors and thank her for the great work she has done for CASA over the last year and a half. Fortunately, Sherryl remains a very important part of CASA, as she will continue to serve as a CASA volunteer.

**What's up with CASA's website?**

If you have visited [www.pgCasa.org](http://www.pgCasa.org) lately, you may have noticed, our website has been experiencing some technical difficulties. We are working on it and hope to have it updated and better than ever very soon!

**Welcome to our Newest Volunteers**

**Our Winter 2009 Class:**

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Laura Bailey           | Clementine Jackson |
| B. Marie Buchanan      | Delores Monroe     |
| Mary Clarke            | Rosetta Penn       |
| Marsha Culler          | Eunice Pierre      |
| Walter Grier           | Carene Simon       |
| Portia Golding-Alleyne | Cynthia Snavelly   |
| Cecelia Harris         |                    |

**CASA's CALENDAR**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	NEED MORE INFO?
March 28th	8:30 am - 3:30 pm	MD State CASA Conference	Catonsville Community College	Visit: <a href="http://www.marylandcasa.org">www.marylandcasa.org</a>
April 14 - May 12th	Tues/Thurs 6pm-9pm	CASA Pre-Service Training	Local 400 Union Hall in New Carrollton	TELL A FRIEND to contact the office!
April 25th - 28th	multiple	National CASA Conference	Denver, Colorado	Visit: <a href="http://www.casenet.org">www.casenet.org</a>
April 28th	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Court Report Writing Refresher	TBA	Contact Kelly <a href="mailto:kfranks@pgcasa.org">kfranks@pgcasa.org</a>
May 6th	12pm	Conference Call: Worker with younger kids!		Contact Gabby! <a href="mailto:gsmith@pgcasa.org">gsmith@pgcasa.org</a>
May 21st	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Book Club The Lost Children of Wilder (By Nina Bernstein)	Borders Books (Largo)	Contact Eric <a href="mailto:elulow@pgcasa.org">elulow@pgcasa.org</a>
May 25th	All day	OFFICE CLOSED	NA	