



# CASA of Southeast Missouri, Inc.



## April 2009

### April Monthly Meeting

The April monthly meeting is **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT!!!** You can toot your own horn! (If you have one!) It is scheduled for **Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 6:00pm.** It will be in the Kasten Conference room. We will be enjoying dinner potluck style. CASA will provide the fried chicken and drinks as well as the paper goods – and we hope you can provide the fixin's to go along with that. Any side dishes or desserts you desire we will appreciate! We expect a great turnout as you know this night is all about **you!** So come and enjoy the company of other CASA volunteers and have some fun and good food too! Of course there will be an agenda for the evening and you will receive attendance and in-service for coming. Any questions- please call the office! Looking forward to seeing you there!

### Binder Checks

For those of you that have not had your binder checked, please bring to this next meeting or come by the office. You may also have Pam check it when you are out together for court or an FST. This is a required evaluation and time to tidy up and get your items in order!!

### Summer is coming!

Remember how long the summer days can be for a small child. There are many ways to keep them busy and **you** can be a great resource for them. There are many camps going on in and around town. See what the requirements are and help your child get involved. Please help to make summer a happy time for your CASA children and not long hot days filled with nothing to do.. CASA kids know their volunteers are good at getting things done, so jump in early and get them ready for summer!

These are a few places we recommended last year –

Boys and Girls Club camp

Salvation Army day camp

Cape County park conservation center

Day Springs Camp

I will get the application pages and enrollment fees from these places and hopefully more by the April meeting. Then you can take it with you and help make your child's summer one he wants to remember! If you have an idea for a summer activity for children please bring it with you or send me the information and I will get copies ready to have at the monthly meeting.

### Reminder

**Paperwork should be turned in monthly** regardless of whether or not you have an active case. The Monthly Activity Sheet reflects **all** CASA related activity. Don't forget to include in-service hours and phone calls, even those calls to the CASA office. Record any and all time you have spent on your case including going to and from your visits.

**Mileage for the quarter should be turned in by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month** - If you wanted to be reimbursed through CASA for your mileage you should have it in to our office by now. Remember if you are reimbursed through CASA you **cannot** claim it on your taxes.



# A Message from the CASA Director – Revonda Kirby

I attended a meeting recently in which an educator shared a story about a parent receiving a call from a coach about her daughter. Her first response, once the coach identified himself, was something to the effect of “Oh my God, what has she done now.” He explained that he was calling her to let her know that her daughter was picked as his “Student of the month”. The mother shared that this was the first time she had ever had any positive comments made about her child from anyone at school. How sad!

As I was driving back to the office, it occurred to me that this lesson especially applies to us at CASA. In training, I try to focus in on the importance of strengthening families and looking for positives and strengths to build upon. I trust that you all are doing that but everyone once in a while, we all need a little “prick in our heart” to remind us that we are dealing with human lives and not just cases. Most of the families and children we serve have been exposed to generational poverty, generational incarceration, generational substance abuse, etc. Maybe they haven’t heard anything positive about themselves, their family or their children in a very long time. Have they lost hope? Please make special efforts to encourage them. You never know where that kind word may lead. Continue the good work.



## CASA FUNDRAISERS –

**CASA RUN is scheduled for June 27, 2009** Last year we were not able to have our “Run for the Kids” but this year it is back and the date is set! This will be our 2nd Annual CASA Run for the Kids and will be held again through HealthPoint Fitness. If you participated before we hope you will join us again this year. There will be a run/walk for adults and an honor walk for the kids. Please contact us if you would like to volunteer for this fundraiser. As you may remember, there are a lot of people needed to be at crosswalks and water areas. **Please let us know if you can volunteer for this activity!! We will talk about this at our April meeting.**

## CASA BBQ –

Things are shaking up this year! The **CASA BBQ WILL NOT** be held in August as it has in years past. This year we will be hosting it in **October**. The location has changed too and we are very excited about it! When more information is available, we will pass it along. I just wanted you to be aware that the event had moved from August to October.



***If you can be sad and excited for someone, that is what we are.***

On Monday, Revonda announced that she will be leaving our organization at the end of June. That is the sad part. She has done so much for CASA since coming on board and helped the organization in so many ways. We have grown a lot as a CASA Program and she is going to be greatly missed. The excited part is that they are moving to Baton Rouge, Louisiana as Brian is going back to working in Ministry! A wonderful opportunity became available and everything fell right into place! Definitely a calling from God and we are so happy for them. SO when you have the chance to wish them well, please do!

***Words of Inspiration.....***

**“Be the change you want to see in the world”**

*Mahatma Gandhi*