



CASA of Southeast Missouri, Inc.



February 2009

Meetings

February meeting – Thursday, Feb 26. 5:30pm, Kasten Conference room -

The January monthly meeting was canceled due to the weather and has been rescheduled for February 26th. The February meeting will be a double header combining January and February together. We will begin our meeting at 5:30pm and the evening will be over between 7:30-8pm. Part of the evening will be turned over to CD- with Terri Mungle, Circuit Manager leading. We will have pizza and dessert during the evening. You will receive in-service hours for your whole time present and also two attendances if you are there for both sessions. Looking forward to a good sized group!!

CASA VOLUNTEER EVALUATIONS

The annual evaluation process will take place this month. Staff will review each CASA's status (paperwork, in-service and attendance) for the year of 2008. Those that have not met the requirements will be placed on in-active status. Once placed on in-active status a CASA will be expected to fulfill the requirements not met in 2008. In addition, the CASA is expected to be current at the end of the 2009 calendar year. If you have questions about this process please call the office. I am still awaiting paperwork from a couple of you for the 2008 calendar year. Please turn this in as soon as possible so your status is as current as it can be. Many thanks for your help in this process.

In-service Opportunity

Lifetime movie- "America" is being shown three times beginning Feb. 28th. Check your listings. There are several movies on the Lifetime channel that can be used for in-service. If you watch one that has to do with the foster care system or abused and neglected children then please write down the name and times on your monthly paperwork along with a short paragraph about it.

Thank You Go to:

Morning Ladies Bible Study St. Vincent Church – we received 5 Happy Birthday Bags with party supplies, cake mix, frosting, plates and wrapping paper plus much more! Everything you need to make a special day that much better! Please come by the office if your child's birthday is soon to come. Maybe this will fit him or her just right!

CASA WEBSITE

Please use this tool-Check it often for updates, monthly newsletters, calendars, and to check out all the activities that CASA is involved in! It is a great resource for information!



A Message from the CASA Director – Revonda Kirby

I was listening to KHIS 107.9 Monday on the way to work and heard Casting Crowns' song, "Slow Fade". I had not heard the song before but it really touched me and I couldn't help but see how true the words were for all of us and especially the families with which we work. It took me a long time when my husband and I were doing foster care to realize that people who hurt children don't just wake up one morning and decide to do so –it is not ever that simple –which is one of the reasons child abuse and neglect are such difficult issues to combat and overcome. Someone, in one of the many seminars I have attended, and I am sad to say that I do not remember who, stated that foster and adoptive parents had to find something positive or some strength about the child(rens) birth parents to effectively deal with the parents and to better rear the child. As I have matured, I understand the wisdom behind that statement.

This song talks about how mistakes don't happen all at once. They are usually gradual and a result of smaller decisions that are made day to day. Individuals can find themselves having done something or in some position they never dreamed they would be. Those smaller choices have led to that point –a "slow fade". I have reprinted the lyrics below and highlighted some of the lyrics that really remind me of the struggles of the families with which we deal. Perhaps they can help you in dealing with your cases or perhaps even in your own life.

Slow Fade

Be careful little eyes what you see
It's the second glance that ties your hands as darkness pulls the strings
Be careful little feet where you go
For it's the little feet behind you that are sure to follow

It's a slow fade when you give yourself away
It's a slow fade when black and white have turned to gray
Thoughts invade, choices are made, a price will be paid
When you give yourself away
People never crumble in a day
It's a slow fade, it's a slow fade

Be careful little ears what you hear
When flattery leads to compromise, the end is always near
Be careful little lips what you say
For empty words and promises lead broken hearts astray

It's a slow fade when you give yourself away
It's a slow fade when black and white have turned to gray
Thoughts invade, choices are made, a price will be paid
When you give yourself away
People never crumble in a day

The journey from your mind to your hands
Is shorter than you're thinking
Be careful if you think you stand
You just might be sinking

It's a slow fade when you give yourself away
It's a slow fade when black and white have
turned to gray
Thoughts invade, choices are made, a price will
be paid
When you give yourself away
People never crumble in a day
Daddies never crumble in a day
Families never crumble in a day

Oh be careful little eyes what you see
Oh be careful little eyes what you see
For the Father up above is looking down in
love
Oh be careful little eyes what you see