



CASA of Southeast Missouri, Inc. March 2009



Meetings

The March monthly meeting scheduled for **March 26, 2009 at 5:30pm** will be in the Kasten Conference room. Please note the time difference. This night we will have two presentations; one from Leisa Blissett with the Community Counseling Center and the other from Lutheran Family Services. First will be Leisa Blissett at 5:30pm until 6pm and then we will have pizza from 6-6:30pm after which Lutheran Family Services will begin. This night will provide you with the opportunity to receive two attendances- only if you are present from 5:30 sharp on. You will receive in-service for the amount of time you are present. This night we will conduct **binder checks** so please have your case binder with you. This will be part of the evaluation process and it will be expected that you will provide us with your binder to view.

Training Opportunities

FREE Poverty Conference March 20th, 2009 – Restoring Hope – Bridges out of Poverty 10-4pm. This is an all day conference including lunch. CASA will be taking care of the fee for this conference however; you must register with us prior to attending. Revonda has sent in a list of names for CASA and there is still time to register. Please do it ASAP! This conference is at Dempster Hall SEMO Campus. Call us for more information. 335-1726. You will receive an attendance for this as well as in-service.

Thank You's Go to:

- ☺ **Rushing Marine** for their donation of \$1000 to CASA of Southeast Missouri. Thank you!!
- ☺ **Barnes and Noble** for the opportunity to be a part of their bookfair program. We received 7 boxes with over 900 books for our resource room and \$188 dollars in donations. Thank you!
- ☺ **Jeanine Hager and the Potters Clay-** Lutheran Women in Missouri for the bags of blankets they made for our CASA kids! What a nice surprise and how special to a child to have something of their own! We appreciate you thinking of our children!
- ☺ **Linda Reutzel** for her donation to CASA and the extra t-shirts she purchased so that we may have a supply here at the office to sell. Thank you for your special gift to our program!
- ☺ **To all of you** that have kept our program in your thoughts and prayers during these last couple of months. For you we are forever grateful!

Binder Checks – please remember to bring your case binder to the March meeting for a review by CASA staff. This is a required evaluation and if you cannot be present at the meeting it will be expected for you to bring it in to the office for review. Time to tidy up and get your items in order!!

CASA VOLUNTEER REVIEWS

CASA Evaluations are complete and letters have been mailed out. If you would like to view your evaluation, it is in your personal file here at the office. If your letter states a deficit in your hours or attendance, please note that those must be made up first before you can accrue for 2009. It can be a tough situation when you fall behind, don't let that happen to you! For those of you that were recently sworn in, (November 2008) you will not receive a letter this year.

A Message from the CASA Director – Revonda Kirby

Focus on Education

83% of foster children are held back by the third grade.

75% of children and youth in foster care are behind grade level.

46% of former foster youth complete high school (compared to approximately 70% of the general population).

Based on high birth trauma and many life challenges, 50% of foster youth experience developmental delays, which is 4-5 times more than the rate found among children in the general population.

70% of teens who emancipate from foster care report that they want to attend college, but less than 50% complete their high school graduation and fewer than 10% of who graduate from high school enroll and college, and of those less than 1% graduate from college.

Report cards just came out. Do you know how your child(ren) did? Have you spoken with their teachers(s) lately? It won't be long before the school year is over. What can you do to help your child(ren) for the remainder of the year and to be prepared for next year? If you need some help in this area, do not hesitate to call. If you think your child(ren) may have an undiagnosed learning disability or an IEP that is not effective, call me so we can arrange to talk about it.

Words of Inspiration.....

The Seven Wonders of the World Author Unknown

Junior high school students in Chicago were studying the Seven Wonders of the World. At the end of the lesson, the students were asked to list what they considered to be the Seven Wonders of the World. Though there was some disagreement, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. The Taj Mahal in India
3. The Grand Canyon in Arizona
4. The Panama Canal
5. The Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student, a quiet girl, had not turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The quiet girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. to touch...
2. to taste...
3. to see...
4. to hear... (She hesitated a little, and then added...)
5. to feel...
6. to laugh...
7. and to love.

The room was so quiet; you could have heard a pin drop.

May this story serve as a gentle reminder to all of us that the things we overlook as simple and ordinary are often the most wonderful - and we don't have to travel anywhere special to experience them.

Enjoy your gifts!