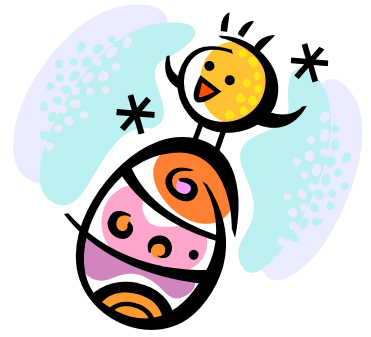




# CASA of Southeast Missouri, Inc.

## March 2008



### Meetings

The March monthly meeting scheduled for March 27, 2008 at 6:30pm in the Kasten Conference room will feature Revonda Kirby. She will be teaching the class on Permanency Planning and Aging Out. We hope to see several of you there, as this is an important class.

### Training Opportunities

FREE Workshop May 22, 2008 – Enhancing your Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence. Registration deadline – April 10, 2008 This is an all day workshop at the Drury Lodge, Cape Girardeau. A complimentary breakfast and lunch will be served. Full registration details are in the office and we can fax in your form for you. Upon registering, please be committed to that date. They have featured trainers with the Battered Women's Justice Project: Graham Barnes, Resource Specialist and Rhonda Martinson, Staff Attorney. If you need more information, please call the office. I will be sending out this form as a PDF file for you to view at home as well.

### Web cast Series: Child Welfare

The NGA Center, in partnership with Casey Family Programs, is pleased to announce a series of web casts on improving outcomes for children and youth in the child welfare system. We encourage you to pass this invitation along to your colleagues who might be interested in this event. Please copy and paste the web site address in your browser. This information was sent to you by email a few weeks back. For in-service purposes, you would need to write a short paragraph about the web cast you watched.

<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.af624995eb41697a4ddcbeeb501010a0/?vgnnextoid=bbe4edc8acf54110VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=8188aa9c00ee1010VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD&vgnnextfmt=print>

### We celebrate the Swearing In of 7 New CASAs!

On March 12, 2008 – Judge Statler swore in 7 new CASAs. We are delighted to have them join our CASA Program! Their names are Wilma Camp, Donna Dowdy, Jeanine Hager, Aaron Horrell, Elaine Jackson, Cathy Schroeder, and Steve Simmons. Our first graduates going through the new curriculum! WELCOME and thank you for wanting to serve the children of Southeast Missouri!

### Thank You Go to:

Mary Elizabeth Ambery – for her donation to our resource room. She has donated 5 DVDs to our library for you to use as in-service credit. In addition, through Mary we received a large donation of clothing for kids in care. Thanks so much Mary!

The clothing donations are from birth to 3T, both boys and girls, and then we have little girls S, M, & L clothing. In addition, we have three nice winter coats (need a washing but are in great shape and are very nice coats) 1 boys medium and two girls 6 and 8. If you have kids in these size ranges please come by and look at them. They will not last long and all are in great shape. Some of the clothing items are very nice. Eventually, if there are any left over, we will send them over to the Safe House Thrift Store.



# A Message from the CASA Director – Revonda Kirby

Be sure to let the CASA office know if you receive any case information from other parties. For example: CD may mail you an FST date that we may not know about and therefore we cannot help you to prepare for it. If we do not know about it, we cannot be a support to you in getting ready before the meeting.

Please be aware that there should not be any sharing of information with anyone other than CASA staff, CD, the JO or the GAL. This includes the foster parents and any family members.

Please be timely with your paperwork, by the end of the first week of the month you should be turning in your monthly paperwork. Case files upon closing; should be gathered up; all notes and notices of court/FSTs etc. Everything you have on your case, pack up and turn into the office. Pam would like to have these files within two weeks of closing.

## Resource room – Library Materials

We have new DVDS for in-service hours thanks to Mary Elizabeth Ambery for donating them! In addition, there are a couple new books that you should check out as well! We will be adding more new DVDs and books to the library this coming month so by the March meeting you should be able to come upstairs and take a look to pick something out for an in-service project.

## CASA VOLUNTEER REVIEWS

CASA Evaluations are in process at this time. You should be receiving a letter in the mail in regards to your standing. If you are notified of a deficit in your hours or attendance, please note that those must be made up first before you can accrue for 2008. It can be a tough situation when you fall behind, don't let that happen to you! For those of you that have recently been sworn in, (November 2007 and March 2008) you will not receive a letter this year.

## 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!

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

Start With Yourself

Author Unknown

When I was young and free and my imagination had no limits, I dreamed of changing the world. As I grew older and wiser, I discovered the world would not change, so I shortened my sights somewhat and decided to change only my country.

But, it too, seemed immovable.

As I grew into my twilight years, in one last desperate attempt, I settled for changing only my family, those closest to me, but alas, they would have none of it.

And now as I lie on my deathbed, I suddenly realize: *If I had only changed myself first*, then by example I would have changed my family.

From their inspiration and encouragement, I would then have been able to better my country and, who knows, I may have even changed the world.

The above words are said to be written on the tomb of an Anglican Bishop in the crypts of Westminster Abbey in London, England.