



# Boone County CASA Burlington, Kentucky

*Working to assure that each  
child has a safe, permanent home.*

Fall 2004



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## Golf Outing Benefits CASA

On September 25, 2004, eighty golfers combined their love of golf with their love for kids as the **Boone County Businessmen's Association** hosted a golf outing to benefit CASA. The golfers enjoyed beautiful fall weather at Sugar Bay Golf Course in Warsaw, Kentucky. The afternoon concluded with a delicious chicken dinner in the clubhouse.

The team of **Max Montoya, Jeff Carter, Bill Steppen, and David Coppage**, came in 11 under par. As first place winners, they will be

reminiscing about the outing over a delicious dinner at Montgomery Inn. Max commented, "It was a great tournament. It's always a good thing when the proceeds go to children in need." Max knows firsthand about CASA's work for children. His wife, **Patti**, has been a CASA volunteer for five years.

The Boone County Businessmen donated \$1,750 of the proceeds from the outing to CASA. We would like to thank the Boone County Businessmen's Association, the hole sponsors,

and everyone who participated in making the outing a success!



Boone County CASA Board President Tracy Watson congratulates Max Montoya and his team on winning the Golf Outing.



## Wreath Auction to Benefit CASA

Even though you probably have not polished off the last of the Halloween candy, we need you to start thinking about pine boughs, holly berries, and little silver bells! Boone County CASA has been chosen as the beneficiary of the wreath auction held during the **Boone County Heritage Christmas** celebration on **Saturday, December 4**. So grab your hot glue gun and put your creative talents to work for the benefit of Boone County's most vulnerable children! Wreaths of any size, color, material or design can be dropped off at the Boone County Administration Building by Friday, November 19. The wreaths will be displayed in the **Oakbrook Skyline** until December 1. The silent auction will take place on December 4 in the old clerk's building located in the Administration Building parking lot. Please come by and place a generous bid on your favorite wreath. Bidding closes at 3 PM. Winners may collect their wreaths on Saturday evening from 5:45 to 7 PM.

You also won't want to miss the Christmas parade at 3 PM. Boone County CASA will have a float urging people to "Give a gift of your time to help abused and neglected children." Immediately following the parade the CASA office will host an Open House with cookies and hot chocolate. The office is located at 2989 Washington Street, just across the alley from The Little Place Restaurant. We look forward to seeing you then!



## Greetings from Our Board President

This is a very exciting time for Boone County CASA! We have been chosen to receive a sustainability grant from the National CASA Association. The purpose of the grant is to establish a long-range development plan to help assure that CASA volunteers will be available for Boone County's children in the future. We have contracted with a consultant to help us accomplish our goals. It is an intense process, but one that we are sure will yield benefits for our clients long into the future.

I would also like to welcome two new Board members, **Richard Colvin** and **Mary Ann Pfetzer**. Richard is a partner in the Florence law firm of Boggs & Colvin. He will be serving on the Fundraising Committee. Mary Ann works in banking and will also be serving on the Fundraising Committee. I know that their assistance will be invaluable as we work on our development plan.

Finally, I would like to encourage members of the community to get involved with CASA to help improve the lives of abused and neglected children. We are always looking for CASA volunteers to work with the children and Board members to work behind the scenes to strengthen and promote the program. If you would like to offer your talents, please contact the office at 586-1222.

**Tracy Watson**, Board President

## Training

Boone County CASA is always looking for mature, caring adults to advocate for abused and neglected children. You do not need a special educational or professional background to volunteer. Dedication, perseverance, and the ability to make a significant time commitment are the keys to being a successful CASA volunteer.

We offer a thirty hour training program for new volunteers. Subjects covered include: child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health issues, the legal system, interviewing and record keeping skills. We also offer on-going training on a monthly basis. For more information about how **you** can help Boone County's most vulnerable children, please call 586-1222.

## CASA Welcomes New Volunteers



**New volunteers Howard Snow, Mary Ann Pfetzer, Susan Miller with Family Court Judge Linda Bramlage**

Boone County CASA extends a warm welcome to four new volunteers. After completing training in October, **Susan Miller**, **Mary Ann Pfetzer**, **Judy Slater**, and **Howard Snow** were sworn in as Court Appointed Special Advocates by Boone County Family Court **Judge Linda Bramlage**.

Susan Miller is a Finance Specialist with a large Cincinnati company. Susan read a magazine article about CASA programs and decided to volunteer. Susan believes "If I can help a child have a better chance of success in life, then I feel I will truly have accomplished something in my life."

Mary Ann Pfetzer has been a resident of Boone County for 22 years. She has worked in banking in Northern Kentucky for 15 years. Mary Ann is grateful for the support others gave her through difficulties in her own life and wants to make a positive difference in a child's life.

Judy Slater brings 27 years of experience working with children as a teacher and a librarian to her role as a CASA. Judy retired from teaching in 2001 and wants to use some of her free time to improve the lives of abused and neglected children.

Howard Snow is a retired quality engineer. He is a relatively new Boone County resident, but has lived in the Greater Cincinnati area for some time. He has volunteered with children as a sports coach and Cub Scout leader. Howard is looking forward to applying his skills to advocating for children in difficult family situations.

These volunteers come from very different career paths. As they pursued their education and careers, they probably never expected to be in a courtroom advocating for a child. However their extraordinary commitment to helping children has led each of them there. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and look forward to seeing the changes that their advocacy can bring to the lives of children.

# Volunteer Spotlight

Although **Diana Gulley Van Gilse** currently lives in a Cincinnati suburb, her heart remains with the children of her native Boone County. In the summer of 1999, Diana contacted Boone County CASA about serving as an advocate for abused and neglected children. Having retired from a nursing administration job at a Cincinnati hospital a few years earlier, Diana was eager to put her dormant skills and spare time to use helping abused and neglected children. While there were many volunteer opportunities closer to home, Diana's Boone County roots called her to volunteer here.

In the five years that Diana has been a CASA volunteer, she has served more than 40 children. She has confronted issues of chemical dependency, domestic violence, sexual abuse, physical abuse, and adoption disruption. Although it can be frustrating, Diana knows that her work makes a difference. In her words: "As a CASA volunteer, I have the opportunity to make recommendations to the judge and then follow up on the family's progress on the court's orders. It is the best way I

know of to make a positive change in a child's life."

Diana, however, was not satisfied with *just* being a volunteer. A few years ago, she realized that the organization could benefit from her years of administrative experience. Diana joined the Board of Directors and currently is the Chair of the Nominations and Recruitment Committee.

In addition to her dual duties as a CASA volunteer and Board member, Diana volunteers with the Red Cross as a disaster relief worker. She recently spent three weeks in Florida helping residents recover from the ravages of Hurricanes Charley and Frances. In 2001, Diana went to New York to assist the victims in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks. Diana was also involved in the relief efforts in the Carolinas following Hurricane Floyd.

Whether advocating for abused and neglected children in Boone County or providing relief to victims of disasters, it is clear that Diana never shies away from a tough assignment. Diana has

touched many lives with the generous gifts of her time and skills. We, at Boone County CASA, are very grateful for her contributions. We know that many children and families in Boone County and around the country share our gratitude.



**Diana Van Gilse**

"As a CASA volunteer, I have the opportunity to make recommendations to the judge and then to follow up on the family's progress on the court's orders. It is the best way I know of to make a positive change in a child's life."

## Thank You

- Lisa Arnett
- Bank of Kentucky
- Bavarian
- Bigg's
- Dianne Bressler
- Boone County Businessmen's Assoc.
- Freda Carlin
- Kimberly Carroll
- Jeff Carter
- Richard Colvin
- County Seat Restaurant
- Jennifer Damon-Walden
- Fasig Company
- Fifth Third Bank
- Flanagan's Front Porch
- Florence Elks Lodge
- Florence Hardware
- Florence United Methodist Church
- Ted Funk
- Hamilton-Stanley Funeral Home

- Mike Helmig, Sheriff
- Irving Materials
- Judge Linda Bramlage
- Judge Michael Collins
- Judge Anthony Frohlich
- Judge Charles Moore
- Karen LaRosa
- LaRosa's Corporate
- LaRosa's, Florence
- Brandi Moore List
- Maplewood Guild
- Don Markesberry Contractor, Inc.
- Molly McEvoy
- Gary & Kathy Menne
- Michaels Paving
- Patti Montoya
- Morris & Bressler
- Shirley Peeno
- Penn Station East Coast Subs, Oakbrook
- Mary Ann Pfetzer

- Proctor & Gamble
- Rafferty's
- J. R. Schrand
- Lisa Schmitt
- Security Self Storage
- Seligman Family Foundation
- Serve Pro
- Linda Tally Smith
- Sutter Homes, Inc.
- Marcia Thomas
- Diana Van Gilse
- Viking Supply
- Von Lehman and Company
- Tracy Watson
- Dave Wickline Insurance Agency
- Thomas Willenborg
- Becky Wood
- World of Sports
- Ziegler and Schnieder



*Boone County  
CASA is a non-profit  
organization which  
trains and supports  
community volunteers  
who advocate for  
abused and neglected  
children in Boone  
County Family Court.*



*Boone County CASA  
2989 Washington Square, 2nd floor  
Burlington, KY. 41005  
Phone: 859-586-1222  
Fax: 859-586-1333*

*Boone County CASA  
2989 Washington Square, 2nd floor  
Burlington, KY 41005*

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*7309 DIXIE HIGHWAY  
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(859) 525-6306*