



Boone County CASA

Burlington, Kentucky

Summer/Fall 2005

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Addia Wuchner
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Donna Mullins
CASA Program Coordinator

Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.

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What I do makes a difference in their lives...

Some people have asked me why I volunteer as a CASA worker, and what it means to me. I do it because there are so many abused and neglected children, and I know that what I do makes a difference in their lives.

I didn't know it at the time, but as I look back on my childhood, I now realize how "wealthy" I was as a child. Don't get me wrong, we were never financially well off by any means, but my brothers and I had rich lives in so many other ways. We had kind and loving parents, a close-knit extended family, and a neighborhood full of children with families like mine. I learned the golden rule at home, in church, and in school, and the people in my life taught me how to live it, by their example. Whenever tragedy came to someone that I knew, family, neighbors, and church all came together to help. Today, so many children lack this kind of "wealth". CASA volunteers can help to bring just a little of it into their lives.

Throughout my career in law enforcement, I worked in Cincinnati, and later in Northern Kentucky, in rich neighborhoods, and in poor. I discovered that abused and neglected children lived all around us, and all of these children need much more help than they are getting. CASA volunteers can be a big part of the answer to this problem.

People can help by donating money to good causes, but getting personally involved is much more satisfying to me and much more valuable to the children in need. CASA is a program that connects people like you and I, who want to help, with children who desperately need it. I feel the value of being a CASA volunteer worker in many ways. I see it in the faces and hear it in the voices of children when I visit their homes. They seem to know I'm there because I care for them, and that is so important to them. I also know that the family court judge appreciates having another voice in court, in addition to the social worker, as an advocate for the child. I've seen social workers who feel more confident in their recommendations to the court because I'm there to support them. While I'm not naïve enough to think that I'm going to remove all of the pain and suffering from an abused or neglected child's life, I am confident that in each case, my work will make a difference. The way I see it, if enough people can get involved, and make a difference in the life of a vulnerable child, then the future will be brighter for that child and for all of us. -Paul Buelterman, CASA Volunteer since 2003

CASA needs more volunteers. Please join us. For more information visit www.casanky.org

Welcome New Board Members...

Boone County CASA is pleased to announce that John Biggs, Cynthia Clausen, Jim Newman and Addia Wuchner have joined the Board.

Addia Wuchner

This R.N. and former Executive Director of Corporate Relations and Strategic Planning for the Health Alliance and St. Luke Hospital is currently the Boone County State Representative. Addia studied Bioethics at the Regina Apostolorum in Rome and has served on many Boards ranging from Boone County's Success by Six to Founding Project Wings of Mercy. The experience Addia brings to the Board via her lifetime of community service is invaluable.

Jim Newman

Jim serves as the Boone County Fiscal Court Webmaster. He designed and donated our new web site and will be helping us bring our information systems needs up to speed. Before joining Boone County, Jim was the V.P. of Human Resources for a local construction material supplier. Additionally, Jim served as a Board of Trustees member for Millersburg

Military Institute, Kentucky's only remaining military school. Jim attended Northern Kentucky University where he studied Political Science.

Cynthia Clausen

Cynthia, a 2001 graduate of Salmon P. Chase College of Law is currently in private practice in Florence. Cynthia and her husband John, a special education teacher at Ockerman Middle School, reside in Burlington with their daughter Ella Grace. Cynthia has performed pro bono work for indigent clients throughout Northern Kentucky and is looking forward to her term on the Board.

John Biggs

John retired from Delta Airlines after 26 years in January, 2005 and began his second career the same day as Operations Manager for Rich Certified Services. John was the recipient of numerous awards over his years of service with Delta where he most recently served as the Regional Compliance Manager. John is excited about having an opportunity to give back to the children in his community. John resides in Independence.



New Executive Board Members: Jim Newman, Addia Wuchner, Cynthia Clausen, and John Biggs.

Letter from the President



**Bob McBride, CASA N. KY
President**

In late May, the Board of Directors elected new officers. I have the distinct honor of having been chosen as the President. Terry Fasig is our new Vice President, Ted Funk is our Treasurer, and Mary Ann Pfetzer is serving as our Secretary. Before I discuss the issues facing CASA, I would like to thank our out-going President, Tracy Watson. Tracy was, and will continue to be, a tireless advocate for CASA. She provided needed leadership and direction to the Board. And she did so with patience and grace. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Tracy for her service as the President. I know she will continue to be a leader on our Board.

There have been some changes at CASA. As many of you know, Lisa Arnett resigned as our director. Lisa was the core of the organization for many years. She provided guidance and support for our volunteers, and kept the program going through many difficult times. Although we regret that Lisa has moved on, we wish her all the best.

Donna Mullins is our new Program Coordinator. Donna comes to us from the Cabinet for Health & Family Services where she worked as a social worker. Her experience and temperament have made her an excellent fit for the CASA Program. Already, Donna has taken the initiative in key areas and made concrete, positive changes.

Halfway through the year, CASA was (and is) facing two important challenges: the need to recruit more volunteers and fund-raising. As Boone County grows in population, the need for CASA volunteers increases. At the same time, we have experienced some attrition in the number of volunteers, and some cases were not assigned volunteers. Donna has taken several steps to improve our numbers. First, she has conducted a review of the training and found ways to shorten the process without compromising the substantive materials. She then contacted individuals who expressed an interest in being a volunteer and forwarded them written materials for home study. Additionally, Donna has initiated a mentor program in which more experienced volunteers work with new volunteers in handling cases. In this respect, some of our volunteers have taken a leadership role, and are therefore able to provide additional skills to CASA other than advocacy. Finally, Donna hosted a dinner with the volunteers and the Board members. The idea was to build a better bond between those components of the organization. Donna will host these dinners on a regular basis, and I hope everyone attends. Through Donna's efforts, our volunteer roles have increased to the highest level in several years.

As always, financial sustainability is a key to the growth of the organization. Last year's Sutter Home event proved to be a great success and we are grateful to everyone who attended and contributed. We are forever in the Sutter's debt for their gracious hospitality. We cannot, however, rest on our laurels. As she did with the Sutter Home event, Mary Ann Pfetzer is spearheading the golf outing-a great event in which everyone should participate. Mary Ann and her committee are working hard and are planning future events. Also, we are grateful for our funding from the county. However, we must face the reality that there are more groups than ever competing for the County's support. We will continue to be careful stewards of the County funds entrusted to us, but we must also diversify our sources of funding. I encourage everyone to take a role in raising CASA's public profile by telling your friends and co-workers about our mission, volunteering to speak to community groups, and supporting our fundraising events.

While this is a time of transition for Boone County CASA, we are headed in the right direction. We have addressed our fundamental issues and expanded our ability to serve the children of Boone County. I am looking forward to working with the volunteers, staff, and Board in the coming years, and I am certain we will only continue to grow and improve our service to the community.

CASA Volunteer News



Welcome New Members...

Boone County CASA would like to extend a warm welcome to five new volunteers. **Mary Beth Amend, Lisa Bermingham, Angela Gott, Tom Quinlan** and **Sue Smith** began the required thirty hours of training in late June and were sworn in as Court Appointed Special Advocates at the end of July.

Mary Beth Amend's background is in social work. She previously worked for child protective services in Northern Kentucky for approximately eleven years, and is currently working with the elderly in Ohio. Mary Beth is excited about this volunteer opportunity, and is

looking forward to entering back into the family court arena. Mary Beth states that "children are her passion" and she is eager to begin advocating for their interests.

Lisa Bermingham is a foster parent, waiting for the adoption of her children. Lisa's background is in nursing, and she lists funding attempts for medically fragile respite homes as a special interest. Lisa believes that "Children are always a gift, and I want to be able to advocate that we treat them as such." When Lisa was a child, she promised that someday she would become a CASA volunteer, and she feels that she is finally ready to face the challenges that lay ahead.

Angela Gott is currently seeking a degree in criminal justice, and is interested in possibly working within the justice system. Angela saw an ad on the internet and decided to become a CASA volunteer. Angela believes that this volunteer experience will give her positive insight into the court system and will allow her to help make a difference in someone's life.

Tom Quinlan spends his retirement days as a substitute teacher in Boone County schools.

Tom is a Vietnam Veteran who has seen good times and bad, and has a passion for defending those who cannot do so themselves. Tom prides himself on his commitment and dedication, and promises to do his very best and to try to make a difference in the life of a child.

Sue Smith has worked in domestic relations for 35 years as a wife, mother and now a grandmother. She stated that she doesn't know what other job she would qualify for outside of home and children. Sue spends a lot of time alone these days, and feels that she is "too young not to be of use but is old enough to have seen just about everything once." She wants to help the world, and believes that being a CASA volunteer will make that possible.

These volunteers come from very different career paths, however their extraordinary commitment to helping children has led each of them to become a CASA volunteer. We are grateful for their willingness to advocate for children, and look forward to the difference that their volunteer efforts will make in the lives of the children in Boone County.

BOONE COUNTY CASA SUTTER HOME PREVIEW PARTY

A big thank you to **Hosts Lynn and Tom Sutter of Sutter Homes, Judge Executive, Gary and Joy Moore, Presenting Sponsor - The Bank of Kentucky** and all the generous sponsors, hosts and hostesses for making the first annual Boone County CASA Preview Party such a success.



Mary Ann Pfetzer-Chair

With over 200 in attendance more than \$13,000 was raised to support the Boone County CASA program.

The beautiful Sutter Cavalcade of Homes entry, the Scottsdale, was the perfect setting for our first major annual fundraiser.

Mary Ann Pfetzer, vice president, with the Bank of Kentucky and Board Member of CASA was the event chair. Mary Ann introduced Congressman Geoff Davis, co-hosts Boone County Judge Executive Gary and his wife Joy, a former Board Member of CASA, as well as other Members of the Board, volunteers and thanked all in attendance.

A long time volunteer, Patti Montoya, talked about her involvement with the program and encouraged others to join her and support CASA.

Thank you again to all who made this evening such a success and we look forward to the second annual preview party next year (*details will be in the next newsletter*).



The Sutter Family pictured with Judge-Executive Gary W. Moore and former Board member Joy Moore.



Volunteer & Board Group Photo



Hats off to the Boone County Businessmen's Club for another successful Golf Outing. **The 5th Annual Outing** raised over \$9,000.00 with more than \$4,000.00 designated to Boone County CASA. Many thanks to chairs **Pete Michels, Gary Winn, Mary Ann Pfetzer, David Schneider, and John Binder** for their outstanding work and commitment. A special thanks to the main sponsors **The Bank of Kentucky and Aristech Acrylics LLC** and to all the hole sponsors and door prize donors who made the Golf Outing such a success.

Mark your calendars...

For the second year Boone County is sponsoring a Christmas Wreath Auction with all proceeds going to Boone County CASA. Wreaths may be dropped off at the Boone County CASA headquarters, located at 2989 Washington Square, 2nd Floor, in Burlington starting October 31st through November 16th. Handcrafted wreaths of any size, color, material or design are welcome. The wreaths will be displayed, again this year, at **Skyline Chili**, located at 6091 South Limaburg Road in Burlington. Bids are welcome from November 17th through 3:00pm on December 12th.

Boone County CASA would like to thank **Erik Brown, Manager of the Burlington Skyline**, for graciously agreeing to display the wreaths and **Shawn Cox, Community Development Director for Boone County**, for spearheading this event.

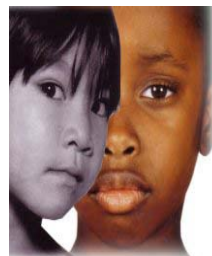
Please encourage everyone you know to stop by **Skyline Chili** and place a bid. Winners will be contacted by phone on Monday afternoon, December 12th.

For more information please call Donna Mullins at 586-1222 or Shawn Cox at 334-2282.



The amazing generosity of St. Timothy's Parish...

St. Timothy's Parish has awarded Boone County CASA a grant of \$2,500.00 to be used for ongoing office expenses. The gift will be used to purchase file folders for our volunteers, file cabinets as well as purchasing a new fax machine. St. Timothy's also invited members of our Board as well as our Program Coordinator to speak at the Sunday Masses on August 17th to share with their congregation information on our program. Members of the Parish have also agreed to help us with our quarterly newsletter mailing in the month of August. A thank you seems hardly sufficient for this amazing generosity.



PLEASE DONATE ONLINE AT: WWW.CASANKY.ORG



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Visit our new website at <http://www.casanky.org>

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.



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