

GEORGIA



A POWERFUL VOICE
IN A CHILD'S LIFE.™

connector

Newsletter of Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.

Special Edition
October 2001

Every child
should have
a safe,
nurturing,
permanent
home.

Champions for Children



Strengthening the Circle of Hope
2001 Conference Presented by Georgia CASA

November 2-3, 2001
Atlanta Marriott Century Center
Atlanta, GA

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**A POWERFUL VOICE
IN A CHILD'S LIFE.™**

Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. develops and supports court-sanctioned, community-based programs which provide trained and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court deprivation proceedings.

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Member of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association

from the CASA Board

Welcome to the "new" *Connector*. As you read this issue, you will notice that the newsletter's look has been updated, along with several new content sections. The *Connector* will be published twice a year. In between issues, look for the *Connector Bulletin* to get the latest news from Georgia CASA. Georgia CASA has been in the process of updating our communications materials, including our letterhead and newsletter. Note that the newsletter will soon become available on our web site.

It is my privilege to serve as Chairman of the Board for Georgia CASA for the next two years. These are exciting times and many positive changes are underway at Georgia CASA. In addition to our updated communications materials, we have ten excellent new Board members, thanks to the hard work of Ethel Ware Carter. We welcome them to the Board. Our new Board members are listed in the article "Diversity Initiative" on page 6. With our exceptional Board and exceptional Georgia CASA staff, we anticipate great progress for CASA in Georgia!

Georgia CASA has started an in-depth process evaluation of our organization. This study is being conducted by Applied Research Services in Atlanta. The evaluation will assist us in assessing the quality of services CASA provides, planning for expansion of CASA in Georgia, documenting program resources and operational procedures, and developing the infrastructure necessary for CASA to conduct statewide evaluations. I look forward to sharing the results of the evaluation with you in the future. Also, look for a new and improved Georgia CASA web site in the near future.

Finally, I want to invite all of you to take part in the Ninth Annual State Conference, "Champions for Children...Strengthening the Circle of Hope," on November 2 and 3 at the Atlanta Marriott Century Center. This is a great opportunity to network with "champions for children" from around the state and attend informative and educational workshops on a variety of topics. With everyone in collaboration, we will really be able to further "strengthen the circle of hope" we give to the abused and neglected children of Georgia.

Richard Childers

ADDRESS CHANGE?

Please email address changes to:
gacasa@gacasa.org

Georgia CASA is exploring the possibility of changing to an e-newsletter in the future. Please send your email address to gacasa@gacasa.org so you can be a part of this proposed project.

feature



INVISIBLE SCARS: THE TRAUMA OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Naomi Haines Griffith, MA, MSW
and Janet S. Zigler, J.D.

In the mid '70's, federal requirements for state child abuse statutes included the establishment of central registries for reporting, designation of mandatory reporters and stipulations for the definition of child abuse that should be included in the statute. As a result, state legislatures rewrote the language of their laws, and child protective service agencies revised policy and procedures to conform to federal guidelines.

Although initially most states defined child abuse only in terms of physical and sexual abuse, the later enactment by the federal government of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) required each state to include a definition of "emotional harm" in its abuse and neglect statutes in order to qualify for certain federal dollars. CAPTA generally required states to minimally define child abuse and neglect to include "the act or failure to act of a parent or caretaker" which results in emotional harm or "the act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm." (42 U.S.C. § 5106 g(2))

Good practice and basic knowledge of child development tell us that children who experience emotional abuse will be damaged. We know the elements of emotional health that are generally required for a child to thrive and grow successfully into adulthood, and it is obvious that emotionally abusive or neglectful treatment must compromise, interrupt and possibly destroy the process.

Just because a child initially does not appear to be damaged by the emotional abuse does not mean that the effect of the abuse, whether immediate or latent, is not harmful. One of the problems with emotional abuse is that the child may not show the results immediately. Instead of acting out at school, for example, he or she may be quiet or withdrawn, and subsequently ignored. This very child, as a result of the abuse, may strike out viciously years later, and no one, not even the child, knows why.

The child we saw as "no problem" becomes a killer, and then we begin our search for reasons.

Waiting until there is a discernable outcome of emotional maltreatment is not only irresponsible to the child, but it can jeopardize the safety of those persons in the lives of these victims. If we can accept that the emotional and mental torture of prisoners of war leaves scars and residual injury, we can do the same for children. Children must be protected from adult behaviors that ignore, reject, isolate, terrorize and corrupt them. By the same token that failure to provide food, clothing, shelter and medical care constitutes child neglect; failure to provide necessary emotional sustenance is also neglectful. If overt acts of physical injury or sexual assault are considered child abuse, overt acts of emotional trauma or emotional battering must be evaluated and addressed. Just as the pediatrician will provide an expert opinion on sexual abuse and the orthopaedic surgeon on physical abuse, the psychiatrist or psychologist will opine about the impairment of a child's emotional development in the face of abusive or neglectful behaviors.

It is vital that emotional abuse and neglect be routinely diagnosed and treated within the mandated responsibilities of the child welfare system to protect children from the destruction of their hearts.

The authors are completing work on a book addressing the emotional health and abuse of children which is expected to be available within the next year.

Naomi Griffith will be the keynote speaker on Saturday, November 3, at the upcoming conference presented by Georgia CASA. Her presentation will include the topic of emotional abuse.

View and print the
conference registration
brochure online at
www.gacasa.org

To register, mail the
registration form to
Georgia CASA.

You may also register
at the conference.



Kids Count!



In July, the Georgia KIDS COUNT: Factbook 2000-2001 was released by Georgians For Children, a nonprofit child advocacy organization in Atlanta. The 2001 KIDS COUNT Data Book, which is for the United States, was also released.

An annual project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the KIDS COUNT books are a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children throughout the United States. Information in the national fact book measures the educational, social, economic and physical aspects of the well-being of children. The Georgia fact book contains more detailed information for the state and county-by-county information on the conditions of Georgia's children. The Georgia KIDS COUNT fact book is a great tool to use to educate the public and policy makers on the status of children in Georgia.

Listed are several highlights from the Georgia KIDS COUNT fact book:

Promising Information:

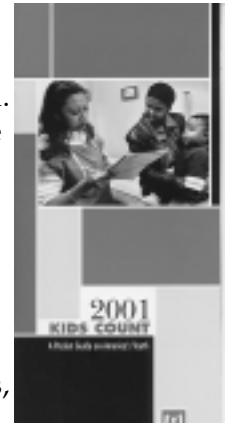
- 1) The substantiated number of child abuse and neglect cases has decreased.
- 2) There has been a decline in the number of child deaths, teen deaths by accident, homicides and suicides.
- 3) There are less children living in poverty.
- 4) The infant mortality rate has decreased.
- 5) The number of births to teens has decreased.
- 6) Math scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) have improved in grades 3, 5 and 8.

- 7) 71% of students complete high school; previously 68% completed high school.

Disturbing Information:

- 1) The number of juvenile arrests has increased.
- 2) The number of families starting at risk of poverty has increased.
- 3) Reading scores on the ITBS are lower for grade 8.

The majority of the fifteen indicators in the Georgia KIDS COUNT fact book reveal that Georgia is moving in the right direction. In five of the indicators, Georgia has not made an improvement. Georgia ranks 44th in the nation based on the national composite ranking indicators for child well-being. Progress has definitely been made in Georgia in the area of child welfare, and there is still progress to be made.



Do you want further information about the KIDS COUNT fact books?

To receive one free copy of the national fact book, a data sheet and a pocket guide, call 410.223.2890. You can also view the fact book and other relevant information online at www.kidscount.org and order additional copies of the fact book.

For the Georgia fact book, order copies through Georgians For Children by calling 404.843.0017 or 1.800.543.7772.



CASA success story

A toddler was taken to the hospital by her parents because she was vomiting. Routine tests were run, and a positive result for cocaine was found. DFCS was contacted, and the court agreed at the emergency hearing that the child should be in DFCS custody.

The CASA volunteer assigned to the case began to assess the situation. After a few days, the CASA volunteer began to question whether the hospital lab could have made a mistake. The lab manager was not cooperative to the CASA volunteer's inquiries. A substance abuse specialist was consulted. The specialist stated that the testing technique used at the hospital was not very differentiated. A lab sample was requested to send to another lab that used more specialized techniques. The lab reported that the "cocaine" was not present; significant quantities of cold medication were found.

The toddler was returned to her parents. Without the CASA volunteer, the lab results may never have been questioned.

Attention CASA programs and CASA volunteers: If you have a CASA success story you'd like to share, please email your story to lderhammer@gacasa.org

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CASA programs in Georgia **SERVED 5,526 CHILDREN**, an increase of almost 1,000 more children than the previous year

The number of CASA volunteers in Georgia increased by over 150 to **1,291 CASA VOLUNTEERS**

More CASA programs began in Georgia, currently with **37 CASA PROGRAMS SERVING 34 OF THE 48 JUDICIAL CIRCUITS** in Georgia

fiscal year
2000 - 2001

CASA...

trains volunteers to help abused and neglected children in the juvenile court system. A CASA volunteer assesses the child's situation and reports to the judge what is in the best interests for the child.

Our goal is to advocate for a safe, permanent home for each child.

A POWERFUL VOICE IN A CHILD'S LIFE.™

legislative advocacy current event

Allyson Anderson, Director of Advocacy, Georgia CASA

This summer, with the invaluable research and assistance of Linda Dam, Georgia CASA's intern from Mercer Law School, we presented a proposal to the Office of the Governor to obtain tuition waivers for foster youth attending Georgia's public colleges and vocational schools. The idea for tuition waivers came from the Youth Leadership Council (YLC), an organization of current and former foster youth, ages 15-22, to provide a voice for children in foster care. One of their top priorities is tuition waivers. Research demonstrates that of the 20,000 youth in the United States who age out of the foster care system each year, half do not finish high school and nearly half will experience homelessness, incarceration or will receive public assistance after leaving foster care.

DFCS provides educational and financial assistance to youth until age 21. After that, the students are on their own and often have no one to fall back on for support. Many foster youth cannot complete their course of study by age 21 because they enter college at a later age than traditional students, due to changes in placements and schools, which delays their high school graduation. By recognizing these youth for their perseverance in attending college and vocational school and supporting them in their efforts to complete their education, Georgia can do so much to avoid the poor outcomes suffered by many youth who age out of the system every year.

Stay tuned for further updates on our tuition waiver proposal as the legislative session draws near!

ask your advocate

Q Do you have questions about advocacy and/or legal issues in relation to CASA?

A Then this is the column for you! Allyson Anderson, Director of Advocacy at Georgia CASA, will answer your advocacy questions in upcoming issues of the newsletter. If you want to submit an advocacy question, please email your question to: aanderson@gacasa.org with Ask Your Advocate in the subject line.

Diversity Initiative Georgia CASA Board Initiative Strengthens the State Board

*Ann Barrett, Program Operations Director, Georgia CASA
and
Ethel Ware Carter, Nominating Chair, Georgia CASA Board*

The Nominating Committee of the Georgia CASA Board of Directors planned expansion of the Board this year by using a process to increase diversity. The National Standards for State Programs ask that Board and CASA volunteers be reflective of the population served and sound management practices suggest a balance of skills and expertise as well as age ranges.

After reviewing the composition of current Board members continuing to serve, the Nominating Chair, Ethel Ware Carter, invited some community leaders to discuss our needs and make some suggestions to fill those needs. Those participating were Barbara Day-Miller, Candler School of Theology; Lino Dominguez, editor of "Mundo Hispanico"; Shirley Franklin; Felecia Guest; Bernadette Hartfield, Georgia State University School of Law; Maritza Keen, the Latin American Association; Maria Elena Retter, the Goizueta Foundation; Janice Robinson, United Way; Tiffany Simpkins, Director of Cultural Diversity, the Lovett School; and Dr. Kelwyn Thomas, Morehouse School of Medicine. As a result, the Nominating Committee presented another strong slate of candidates to the Board in May.

New Georgia CASA Board members include:

Michelle Barclay, Director, Supreme Court of Georgia
Child Placement Project
Charles Belk, Hothouse, Inc.
Elaine Gallman, Clayton County CASA Program
Director
The Honorable Peggy Walker, Douglas County
Juvenile Court
Carroll Jones, Merrit/McKenzie
Dinah McClymonds, Kappa Alpha Theta
Alumnae
Kellyn O. McGee, State Bar of Georgia
Donald G. Myers, CASA volunteer and fundraising
consultant
Carmen Rojas Rafter, attorney with the Latin
American Association
Ken Washington, Chattahoochee CASA Program
Director

Thanks to Casas for CASA!

Atlanta Area Kappa Alpha Thetas Hold Annual Event to Raise Money for CASA

Each year, the Atlanta Area Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae Association holds a "Casas for CASA" event as a fundraiser for Georgia CASA. CASA is the national philanthropy of the sorority, and Kappa Alpha Thetas from across the country hold fundraising events to benefit the CASA program(s) in their area.

The "Casas for CASA" fundraising event has been held by the Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae in the Greater Atlanta Area for the past four years. They have raised over \$80,000! Proceeds from the event have been



Mrs. Marie Barnes with
Duaine Hathaway,
Executive Director of Georgia CASA

used for several purposes, including providing display boards for Georgia CASA and each local CASA program in Georgia, and funding the annual conference presented by Georgia CASA.

Georgia CASA thanks all of the Kappa Alpha Thetas who so willingly give of their time each year to make the "Casas for CASA" events a success. Thank you for all you do!

Pictures are from the 2001 "Casas for CASA" event, in which raffle tickets were sold for five playhouses.



Some of the Atlanta Area
Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae



Mrs. Marie Barnes
reading a story to the children

Do you receive a United Way donation form?
You may be able to contribute to Georgia CASA through United Way

If you receive a United Way donation form and can designate on the form a specific agency to donate to, you can fill in Georgia CASA's name and address. This will send your United Way donation to Georgia CASA.

This is a great and easy way to show your support of CASA in Georgia!

Georgia CASA's 2001-2002 Strategic Plan

Overview, Vision, Mission and Values

Georgia CASA was established in 1988 to create and support CASA programs throughout the state of Georgia. Our vision developed out of a passion to give every child that is abused and neglected a powerful voice and a strong sense of hope. Today we have thirty-seven programs in Georgia serving over 5,500 children with almost 1,300 CASA volunteers. This is quite an accomplishment! It is a great testimony to the program staff, Boards, CASA volunteers and communities of these thirty-seven programs.

While we can certainly celebrate present accomplishments, we must have a plan for continued success in the future. The Georgia CASA Board has adopted a strategic plan that has three primary objectives:

- 1) Increase Volunteer Capacity
- 2) Support Local Programs
- 3) Promote the Integrity of CASA

Georgia CASA's performance and organizational effectiveness will be based on the results of these objectives.

Duaine Hathaway

Executive Director, Georgia CASA

Our Vision: A Court Appointed Special Advocate will be available for every child involved in deprivation proceedings in Georgia by June 30, 2005.

Our Mission: Georgia CASA develops and supports court-sanctioned, community-based programs which provide trained and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court deprivation proceedings.

Our Values:

- Every child should have a safe, nurturing, permanent home.
- Volunteers are the foundation of the CASA Program.
- Communities offer a solid foundation to advocate for abused and neglected children.
- Advocacy should be based on the culture and language that is familiar to each child.
- Assuring quality is paramount in advocating effectively for the best interest of children.
- Being focused, accountable and providing measurable results promotes the integrity of CASA.
- Prudent resource management is essential.
- All relationships should be dealt with in a caring, open and trustworthy manner.

program highlights

Piedmont CASA, Inc., which serves the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, held its first swearing-in ceremony for its CASA volunteers in February of this year. Serving Banks, Barrow and Jackson Counties, the Piedmont CASA program was started in August of 2000. Eight CASA volunteers were sworn in. The CASA volunteers are pictured below with B.J. Strickland, Executive Director of Piedmont CASA, Inc., and Judge Kevin Guidry.



Bartow County CASA held its first swearing-in ceremony in June. Fourteen CASA volunteers were sworn in. Mrs. Marie Barnes was also present. The program, located in Cartersville, serves Bartow County. Started in November of 2000, the program is under the umbrella organization Advocates for Bartow's Children, Inc. Ava Lipscomb is the Program Director of Bartow County CASA. The fourteen CASA volunteers are pictured below.



Governor Barnes Appoints Allyson Anderson to Child Advocate Advisory Committee

In April, Allyson Anderson, Director of Advocacy at Georgia CASA, was appointed by Governor Barnes to serve a two-year term on Georgia's Child Advocate Advisory Committee. Allyson stated, "It's an incredible honor and privilege to serve on the Child Advocate Advisory Committee. I will do all I can to assist the Advocate in her work and make the Office successful."



As part of the seven-member committee, Allyson meets with the Child Advocate, Dee Simms, and her staff, to review and assess issues relevant to the Office. These include the treatment and services given to children whose well-being is threatened, policy implications and necessary improvements to the child protective services system. An additional responsibility of the committee is to help evaluate the effectiveness of the Office of Child Advocate.

Other members of the committee include Alma Noble, with Baby World Day Care Center in Albany; Dr. Joy Maxey, pediatrician in Atlanta; Susan Krysalka, pediatric social worker in Macon; Dr. John Adams, psychologist in Statesboro; J. Branson Parker, attorney in Athens; and Juvenile Court Judge Tracy Graham, in Jonesboro.

Established in January 2001, the Office of Child Advocate promotes a healthy and more efficient child protective services system in Georgia. The primary purpose of the Office is to independently monitor and oversee the Department of Family and Children Services at both the state and local levels. This helps to insure that Georgia's children are secure and free from abuse and neglect.

Meet the Georgia CASA Staff...

Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director

Duaine began at Georgia CASA in September of 2000. Retired from Georgia Power since 1998, he was previously with Central Atlanta Progress, a nonprofit Downtown Atlanta business association.

Allyson Anderson, J.D., Director of Advocacy

Allyson joined Georgia CASA in January of 2000 and coordinates legislative and new program development activities. She received her law degree at Georgia State University in 1999 and served as an intern with the Supreme Court of Georgia Child Placement Project and the DeKalb County Child Advocate's Office. Allyson currently serves on several child welfare committees.

Ann Barrett, Program Operations Director

A former member of the Georgia CASA Board since 1992, Ann joined the staff in 1996. She has extensive experience in training, facilitation and nonprofit governance gained through work with the Junior League, United Way, the Georgia Center for Nonprofits and through service on a variety of Boards.

Lori Derhammer, Communications & Marketing Manager

Lori came to Georgia CASA in January of 2001. She has a B.B.A. degree, with a major in marketing. She was previously in Training and Documentation at Total System Services in Columbus, Georgia.

Maryum Lobbins, Resource Development Director

Maryum is Georgia CASA's newest staff member, joining the staff in May. She was previously Manager of Strategic Studies for Alexander Haas, Martin and Partners. Her duties there included directing and advising nonprofit clientele on fundraising goals, strategies and procedures.

Ewansiha Simmons, Technical Support Manager

Ewansiha has been with Georgia CASA since August of 2000. He handles day-to-day business, financial management and office network administration. He previously was an intern with the Atlanta Urban League and a student at Morehouse College with a major in African-American studies and a minor in sociology.

Joyce Smith, Staff Associate

Coming on staff in March of 2000, Joyce was previously Administrative Assistant with the Atlanta Urban League's Employment Department. Included among her duties at the Georgia CASA office is assisting the local CASA programs. Joyce provides requested materials and information to the local programs as needed.

Lauren Williams, J.D., Project Manager

Joining the staff in December of 2000, Lauren's current duties include planning the 2001 conference and revising the Affiliates' contracts. She has a B.A. degree in public relations and a law degree from the University of Mississippi. She was previously with CASA in Memphis, Tennessee, and with the Guardian ad Litem Program in Miami, Florida.



resources

BOOKS

Red Clay and Vinegar: Looking at Family Through the Eyes of a Southern Child
by Naomi Griffith

I Speak For This Child: True Stories of a Child Advocate
by Gay Courter

What Children Can Tell Us: Eliciting, Interpreting and Evaluating Critical Information from Children
by James Garbarino, Frances M. Stott and Faculty of The Erickson Institute

The 5 Life Stages of Nonprofit Organizations
by Judith Sharken Smith, with J. Terence Donovan

Community Building: What Makes It Work
by Paul Mattessich, Ph.D., and Barbara Monsey, M.P.H.

WEB SITES

1. www.dhr.state.ga.us/
Georgia's Department of Human Resources (DHR) site, with a link to DFCS
2. www.childwelfare.net
Home of the Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic, this site includes relevant information for child welfare in Georgia

3. www.promisingpractices.net
Highlights programs and practices that are effective in improving outcomes for children, youth and families
4. www.calib.com/nccanch/
Gives information on child abuse and neglect and child welfare
5. www.cwla.org
Child Welfare League of America site
6. www.childstats.gov/ac2001/highlights.asp
Gives statistics and other information on America's children for 2001

If you know of a valuable book, website or video for child advocates, email the information to lderhammer@gacasa.org

Do you want to help the abused and neglected children in Georgia?

- Yes! Enclosed is my tax deductible donation in the amount of \$ _____
- I prefer to donate anonymously
- My employer has a matching gift program

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

This gift is in memory of _____

This gift is in honor of _____

Notify _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Thank you for your contribution!

Please mail to:
Georgia CASA
1776 Peachtree Road, NW
Suite 219, South Tower
Atlanta, GA 30309

You might also be able to donate to CASA through United Way! See page 7 for details.

● calendar of events ●

FRI., NOVEMBER 2 - SAT., NOVEMBER 3, 2001

"Champions for Children...Strengthening the Circle of Hope," the Ninth Annual State Conference presented by Georgia CASA, will be held at the Atlanta Marriott Century Center. See the web site www.gacasa.org for more details.

WED., NOVEMBER 14 - FRI., NOVEMBER 16, 2001

"From Surviving to Thriving" is the Second Annual Child Placement Conference. It will be held in Savannah, GA, at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. See the web site www.gahsc.org for more details.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2002

"CASA at the Capitol Day" will be held at the Capitol in Atlanta beginning at 9 a.m. in the Rotunda. The day will include a legislative briefing, meeting with legislators and a luncheon. Additional details will be announced in the future.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2002

The National CASA Association will hold its first national "Light of Hope" event in Washington, DC.

"CASA Day in Georgia" will take place, with CASA programs throughout the state holding local events to publicize CASA.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 - TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2002

The annual National CASA Conference will be held in San Diego, CA, as CASA celebrates twenty-five years. The theme is "Changing a Million Lives...One Life at a Time." See the web site www.casanet.org for updates.

2001

International Year of Volunteers

OCTOBER 2001

Domestic Violence Awareness Month
27 - Make a Difference Day

NOVEMBER 2001

National Adoption Month
17 - National Family Volunteer Day

DECEMBER 2001

10 - Human Rights Day

APRIL 2002

National Child Abuse Prevention &
Awareness Month

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