

GEORGIA



A POWERFUL VOICE
IN A CHILD'S LIFE.™

connector

Newsletter of Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.

Summer/Fall
2002

Volunteers are
the foundation
of the Court
Appointed
Special
Advocates
Program.



Joseph Ferguson
2001 CASA Volunteer of the Year
Enotah CASA - Cleveland, Georgia

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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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from the CASA Board

Welcome to the second issue of the updated *Connector*, the newsletter of Georgia CASA. This issue features key findings from the Georgia CASA Performance Improvement Study conducted by Applied Research Services (ARS) in Atlanta. The independent study benchmarks the effectiveness of CASA in Georgia. The results of the study will enable Georgia CASA to work with the 39 CASA programs throughout the state to improve the services CASA provides. The study will also help us in moving towards the development of a process to conduct statewide evaluations. I encourage you to read the feature article to learn more about CASA's strengths and weaknesses and to see the direction in which we are moving for the future.



CASA programs around the state have been very busy, particularly during April since it was designated as National Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month. You can read more about CASA's celebration of April on page 10.

I want to congratulate Patricia Fontaine Angeli, Joseph Ferguson, Susan Lipsitch, Jim Martin, Sandra Miller and Pam Williams, who each received an award at the 2001 Georgia CASA Conference in November. Further information about these people is provided on page 7 along with a wrap-up of the conference.

It has been an enriching experience to serve as Board Chair of the Georgia CASA Board during this past year. We have a strong, diverse Board that brings a lot of energy and experience to the table. I am excited to report that our best Board meeting of the year took place in May. We had a lively discussion and approved six new Board members, a new set of by laws, a revised Affiliation Agreement & Contract for Services and the fiscal year 2003 budget. Three of our founding Board members, Solveig Harden, Karen Sibley and Nicki Vaughan, were awarded life membership on the Board in honor of their long and dedicated service. I want to thank Ethel Ware Carter, Carolyn Dobbins, Elaine Gallman, Roya Irvani, Carmen Rojas Rafter, Dianne Scoggins and Robert Thompson for their Board service over the past years. These individuals were excellent Board members. During my first year, CASA programs throughout Georgia have grown and continued to be successful. I look forward to serving my second term as the fiscal year begins in July. Continue to look for more progress for CASA in Georgia. Thank you for your support.

Richard Childers

ADDRESS CHANGE?

Please email address changes to: gacasa@gacasa.org

Georgia CASA is exploring the possibility of an e-newsletter in the future. Please send your email address to gacasa@gacasa.org.

feature

GEORGIA CASA PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT STUDY: KEY FINDINGS

Applied Research Services (ARS), Inc. Project Staff:
John Speir, Ph.D., Tammy Meredith, Ph.D. &
Sharon Johnson

As CASA programs continue to grow throughout Georgia, Georgia CASA recognized the need for a statewide evaluation of the program. Such an evaluation is essential for several reasons: (1) to identify program strengths and weaknesses in order to build stronger programs and better serve children, (2) to prepare for program expansion, and (3) to collect necessary data to document the success of the CASA network in order to remain competitive for grants and other necessary funding.

This project was the first independent statewide survey of CASA programs and key stakeholders. It is hoped that the information learned through this project will strengthen CASA programs and be used to prepare the organization to conduct outcome evaluations in the future. Outcome evaluations determine whether or not programs have met their intended purposes by comparing the results of the programs to their goals and objectives.

About 750 surveys were mailed to CASA Board Chairs, Umbrella/Court Program Supervisors, Program Directors, CASA volunteers and stakeholders. A multitude of data was collected highlighting CASA's strengths and weaknesses. The end result of the project contains key findings in the following areas: CASA volunteers, CASA administration, CASA stakeholders and the role of Georgia CASA, and also includes a series of recommendations. This article informs about the key findings.

Key Findings: CASA Volunteers

Recruitment: Most CASA programs in Georgia currently use traditional methods to recruit new CASA volunteers. There is much support for more innovative approaches to CASA volunteer recruitment.

Retention: Most Program Directors state that the average CASA volunteer remains active for one to two years. When CASA volunteers were asked if they feel appreciated, most said they do. They also feel the amount of support and contact they receive from their local CASA offices is adequate. CASA volunteers

"...more innovative approaches to CASA volunteer recruitment."

Most CASA volunteers feel appreciated.

were asked to list their biggest challenge as a CASA volunteer. The top three responses were (1) lack of time, (2) lack of cooperation from DFCS (Division of Family and Children Services) and (3) remaining objective.

Training: Most CASA volunteers feel that they received adequate initial training, but they want more. Program Directors and stakeholders also feel that additional CASA volunteer training is needed. CASA volunteers need training in the following areas:

- cultural sensitivity,
- knowledge of the legal and social service system,
- report writing,
- interviewing and
- remaining objective.

Key Findings: CASA Administration

Training: Program Directors think Volunteer/Advocacy Coordinators as well as themselves need more training in supervisory/management skills and in the use of COMET software.

Community Awareness: Board Chairs, Program Directors and CASA volunteers all express a need for stronger community awareness about CASA. It appears that for many programs, recruitment and community awareness efforts are one and the same.

Fundraising: Both Board Chairs and Program Directors say they could benefit from fundraising training. They also mention that some of their biggest obstacles are a lack of time to devote to fundraising activities and a lack of public awareness about CASA.

"...a need for stronger community awareness about CASA."

Technology: Standardized data collection is needed for collecting data from the local CASA programs. This should also include a move to automated data collection. The COMET software can be used for this purpose.

Feature article continued on page 8

legislative advocacy

2002 session wrap-up

Allyson Anderson, Director of Advocacy, Georgia CASA

After the longest legislative session since the 1800's, the General Assembly concluded the 2002 session on April 12, 2002. The following is a summary of budget and policy initiatives that impact our child welfare system.

FY 2003 Budget

- \$154,021 to the Office of Child Advocate to supplant an expiring grant from the Children and Youth Coordinating Council to maintain 2 positions and their related expenses.
- \$235,217 to the Office of Child Advocate to add 4 positions and related expenses to the Macon location of the Office.
- \$6,254,592 to fund an array of services to support both children and families in foster care and to expand services to help prevent a child's removal from the home.
- \$4,352,129 to add 90 line staff and 10 supervisors, plus equipment, for the second year of a plan to reduce child protection worker caseloads.
- \$2,143,677 to support a projected 2.5% increase in the number of children in family foster care and a 5% growth in the number of children needing adoption assistance.
- \$260,000 to provide funds for the Foster Child Education Grant.
- \$573,873 to provide funds to revise the social services curriculum, add 1 trainer, 1 administrative coordinator, to develop curriculum and perform evaluations.
- \$713,600 to fund pilot sites in Fulton and DeKalb Counties to expand private emergency foster care services. Richmond and Muscogee Counties will receive some of these funds for their shelter services.
- \$354,838 for additional funds to cover increased costs for institutional foster care.
- \$40,073 to provide additional operating funds to the Office of Child Fatality Review of the Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Panel.

Article continued on page 11

Governor's Action Group for Safe Children

Interagency Group Chosen to Improve Georgia's Child Welfare System

Amanda Camp, Program Coordinator of Carroll County CASA and Action Group Member

Governor Roy Barnes appointed the Governor's Action Group for Safe Children in January 2002. The Governor has a vision of improving Georgia's child welfare system by building local collaborations with parents, health care providers, law enforcement, schools and organizations such as Family Connection. He has appointed an interagency group made up of individuals from the Department of Juvenile Justice, DFCS, CASA, education professionals, judges and other organizations that work with children.

This group has been charged with coming up with a plan for a collaborative, seamless placement system for children in Georgia. The entire action group meets on average once a month for planning sessions. Then the group is divided into three groups to work on aspects of keeping Georgia's children safe. The first group is working on making sure a child's first placement is the best placement. This is the group I am working with. We are reviewing present assessment tools and trying to come up with a common assessment tool that all agencies can use when a child first comes into care. The second group is reviewing present placement options for children and attempting to locate the gaps in the continuum of placement options. The third group, which includes Rosemary Norsworthy from Rainbow House CASA in Warner Robins, is working on a strategy to recruit, train and retain providers in the child care system. They are also working on developing community partnerships to create placement options. Part of this group's charge is to come up with a plan for sharing data among agencies and other providers and to develop innovative financing of this seamless system. These three groups meet one to two times a month as needed.

The action group began meeting in January and we should have our final report in July of 2002. I am hoping this group of outstanding individuals will be able to come together with a plan for a successful seamless placement system which will help in ensuring the safety of the children of Georgia.

CASA success story

In Georgia, three young girls had suffered abuse by their father. Their mother had been harmed by years of domestic violence and self-medication. The girls were removed from the home and placed together in a group home.

A CASA volunteer was assigned to the children. The CASA volunteer realized that even though the girls were in the same group home, they felt disconnected from family and each other. The CASA volunteer discovered two aunts who deeply cared for the girls and mediations were conducted between the mother, aunts, case manager, therapists and CASA. The CASA volunteer also talked with the mother and she moved near one of the aunts. The girls were placed with the other aunt. Both aunts agreed to provide support to the mother to help her get back on the right track and rediscover her children.

The girls are now happy at home with their aunt!

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 5,018 CHILDREN**

215 NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS were sworn in

1,256 ACTIVE CASA VOLUNTEERS served the children in Georgia

Currently, **39 CASA PROGRAMS ARE SERVING 37 OF THE 49 JUDICIAL CIRCUITS** in Georgia

1st 6 months of
fiscal year 2002

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.™

ask your advocate

Allyson Anderson, Director of Advocacy, Georgia CASA

Q What is the Relative Caregiver Subsidy and how does it affect my work as a CASA?

A The Relative Caregiver Subsidy (RCS) is a new permanency option for children being transferred from temporary DFCS custody to the permanent custody of a relative. RCS requires: (1) a non-reunification court order; (2) DFCS approval of a relative resource who has expressed a commitment to provide a permanent home for the child by accepting permanent custody from the court; and (3) that legal custody be transferred by the court from DFCS to the permanent custody of the relative. It is important to note that children whose parents' rights have been terminated are not eligible for the RCS. For eligible children, RCS provides a monetary payment of \$10.00 per day to the relative caregiver to help defray expenses related to the child's care. Payments continue until the child reaches the age of 18, provided all eligibility requirements remain in effect. The relative must agree to an annual DFCS review and a three-year custody review by the court. As a CASA, consider the availability of this permanency option with potential relative resources who may be able to provide a permanent home for the child for whom you advocate.

If you want to submit a question about advocacy and/or legal issues in relation to CASA, email aanderson@gacasa.org with "Ask Your Advocate" in the subject line. Questions and answers will be published in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

Georgia CASA thanks the following companies who donated food or drinks for "CASA at the Capitol Day:"

*Chick-fil-A
Krispy Kreme
The Coca-Cola Bottling Company*

CASA at the Capitol Day

Event Held on February 7, 2002

CASA volunteers, Board members and staff from across the state met with legislators at the Capitol in Atlanta on February 7th. Joining CASA this year was the Youth Leadership Council (YLC), which includes current and former foster youth, ages 15-22, whose mission is "developing an effective voice for foster youth."

The day began with an informational briefing in the Capitol Rotunda with keynote speakers Jim Martin, Commissioner of Georgia's Department of Human Resources (DHR), and two members of the YLC. Mrs. Marie Barnes, Georgia's First Lady and Honorary Chairperson of Georgia CASA, also spoke.

One of the focuses of the day was advocating for the foster child education grant, which pays for foster youth over age 21 to complete their college education. The grant was proposed by Governor Barnes in January.



Another focus of the day involved CASA volunteers, Board members and staff meeting with their legislators to share concerns about the abused and neglected children their CASA programs serve.

The day concluded with a Chick-fil-A luncheon to thank the legislators for their support of CASA and child welfare issues.

In total, over 200 people participated in "CASA at the Capitol Day," including over 40 youth from the YLC. The day was a success!



Rep. Ron Dodson, Clayton Co., with several foster youth

Above pictures (from top) are Commissioner Jim Martin & Mrs. Marie Barnes; Brooke Hold, Chris Newlin (Floyd County CASA) & Sen. Richard Marable, Floyd Co.

“Champions for Children... Strengthening the Circle of Hope”

2001 Conference Presented by Georgia CASA Provided

Over 300 Child Advocates With Training

Opening Luncheon Friday, November 2nd

The conference began with a luncheon which included awards to Judge James Morris (Cobb County) for his outstanding service to children, the Atlanta Area Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae Association for their continued support of CASA and Jackson Spalding Communications for their support of CASA.

The keynote speaker was Ashley Rhodes-Courter, a tenth grade honors student who spent eight years in foster care. Ashley shared her story along with showing a video about her life. Her mother, Gay Courter, gave introductory remarks. Ms. Courter is a CASA volunteer in Florida.

Workshops

Conference attendees could attend four different workshops over the two-day period. A variety of workshops on child advocacy and child welfare topics were offered, such as:

- Children with AD/HD
- Termination of Parental Rights
- Resilience in Children
- Attachment in Children
- Mental Health Matters
- Family Team Conferences

Other workshops which were offered focused on effectively running a nonprofit organization or CASA program. These workshops included Internet Fundraising, Stress Management, Media Relations and Building a Successful Board.

Closing Session & Luncheon Saturday, November 3rd

Naomi Haines Griffith, a national speaker and consultant on child welfare since 1988, spoke at the closing session and luncheon. She weaved stories from her Southern childhood into a discussion on the invisible scars of emotional abuse.

Recognition Banquet

A recognition banquet was held Friday night to honor those people who advocate for children in our state. Pictured below are the award winners. (Not pictured is **CASA Board Chair of the Year Susan Lipsitch**, former Fulton County CASA Chair.)

**CASA
Volunteer
of the Year
Joseph
Ferguson,
Enotah
CASA**



**Child Advocate
Attorney of the Year
Patricia Fontaine
Angeli & Elaine
Gallman, Clayton
County CASA**



**SAAG of the Year Sandra Miller
(speaking) & Martha Carver,
Tallapoosa CASA**



**DFCS Case Manager of the
Year Pam Williams &
Amanda Camp, Carroll County
CASA**



**Public Servant of the
Year Jim Martin,
Georgia Dept. of Human
Resources with Allyson
Anderson, Georgia
CASA & Chris Martin,
Fulton County CASA**

Thank you to

*Publix Super Markets Charities
National CASA Association
Harry Norman Realtors
Karen N. Sibley*

*for contributing to the success of
the 2001 Conference*

feature

(continued from page 3)

Key Findings: CASA Stakeholders

CASA stakeholders include a variety of people and agencies that work directly and indirectly with CASA offices. These include judges, DFCS employees, foster parents, attorneys, court clerks, social service agencies, child advocacy organizations, domestic violence programs, citizen review board panel members, Department of Juvenile Justice personnel, CASA Board members and children's emergency shelter directors.

Overall, stakeholders provide much positive feedback on the CASA program and its CASA volunteers with most agreeing that: (1) their community supports the work of CASA, (2) their courts support the work of CASA, and (3) CASA volunteers are dependable, enthusiastic and professional.

Judges are also pleased with CASA programs and CASA volunteers, but they do have some special concerns including: objectivity, appropriate knowledge of the legal system, cultural sensitivity and a lack of support by the social service system in the community.

DFCS employees provide mixed opinions on CASA programs and CASA volunteers. Some special areas of concern include: objectivity, knowledge of the social service system in the community, CASA volunteers working with parent's attorneys and CASA volunteers abiding by the boundaries of their job.

Communities and courts support the work of CASA.

Key Findings: Role of Georgia CASA

Three service areas where improvement by Georgia CASA is needed are (1) increase statewide public awareness, (2) provide more financial assistance to programs, and (3) provide more training (COMET, public relations, fundraising).

In addition, before Georgia CASA can conduct outcome evaluations, three steps must be taken: (1) identify clear goals and objectives, (2) standardize data collection, and (3) survey judges annually.

This study reveals many CASA strengths and weaknesses. The need for training, standardization of information collection and stronger relationships with DFCS and other social service agencies are brought to light.

The process of improving programs, community relationships and information collection will strengthen the entire CASA network in Georgia. That process will empower CASA programs in Georgia to provide enhanced advocacy for the children they serve as well as gain an advantage in the competition for scarce nonprofit resources.

CASA volunteers and staff need more training in various areas.

Based on the findings of this study, Georgia CASA has identified several initiatives:

- 1. Improve training to meet the needs of CASA volunteers, staff and boards.*
- 2. Create standardized data collection.*
- 3. Improve professional relationships with DFCS and other community agencies.*
- 4. Provide fundraising assistance to local programs/boards.*
- 5. Increase statewide public awareness/public relations.*

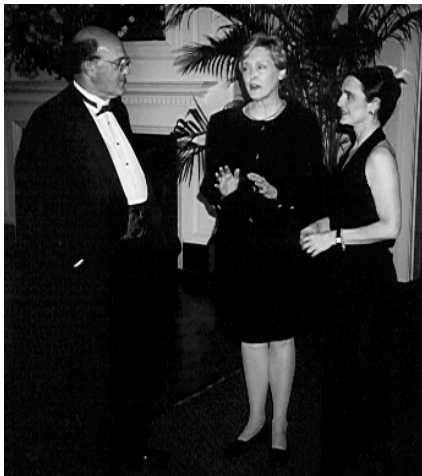
In collaboration with the local CASA programs, strategies will be developed in order to achieve goals and objectives for each initiative.

program highlights

The **Dougherty County CASA Program** is one of the newest CASA programs in Georgia. The program started in January 2002 and serves Dougherty County, which makes up the Dougherty judicial circuit. The CASA program's office is located in Albany with Rita Ellis as the Program Coordinator. Training sessions for approximately twenty new CASA volunteers started in May and a second set of training sessions will begin in September.

The thirty-ninth and newest CASA program in Georgia is **Sowega CASA, Inc.** in Americus. Also started in January, it serves the counties of Macon, Schley, Stewart and Sumter, which are located in the Southwestern judicial circuit. The CASA program is directed by Patsy Brunson. Training sessions for the first group of CASA volunteers are scheduled to be completed in July.

10 Year Anniversary of Thomas County CASA, Inc.



Pictured from the March 26th celebration: Larry Harmon and his wife, Kaki, longtime supporter and past Board member, with Asun Ellis, Executive Director

Enotah CASA, Inc. was one of six CASA programs across the country chosen to participate in the National CASA Association's outcomes project. The pilot project was for a self-assessment tool for CASA programs to evaluate if they are in compliance with National CASA standards. Enotah CASA was 97% in compliance and made the necessary changes in their program to be 100% in compliance.

Stacy Davy, Executive Director of Enotah CASA, states that when the user-friendly tool is made available to all CASA programs that it will provide them with a great opportunity to "improve their program and ultimately their service to the children."

Regional Trainings for CASA Volunteers, Board and Staff Address Diversity

In four cities across Georgia, diversity workshops, presented by the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), Atlanta, and sponsored by Georgia CASA, were held in April and May.

One of the key findings from the recent Georgia CASA Performance Improvement Study by Applied Research Services (ARS), Inc. was the need for more training in various areas for CASA volunteers, Board members and staff. "Cultural sensitivity" was identified as one of the areas.

NCBI, who led the Welcoming Diversity Workshops, is a nonprofit leadership development organization which trains both individuals and organizations in prejudice reduction and coalition building. NCBI has chapters located throughout the U.S. and abroad.

The day-long, interactive workshop taught participants about identifying misinformation about diverse groups of people, unfreezing prejudicial attitudes, learning how various groups experience mistreatment, healing the personal impact of prejudice, fostering self-esteem and group pride, building intergroup alliances and empowering yourself and others for institutional change.

Participants engaged in many group exercises as part of the learning process. They also had the opportunity to share their experiences and contribute their ideas.

At the end of the day, each person left the workshop being more aware of the cultural diversity present in our world and how each person's cultural background contributes to our society.

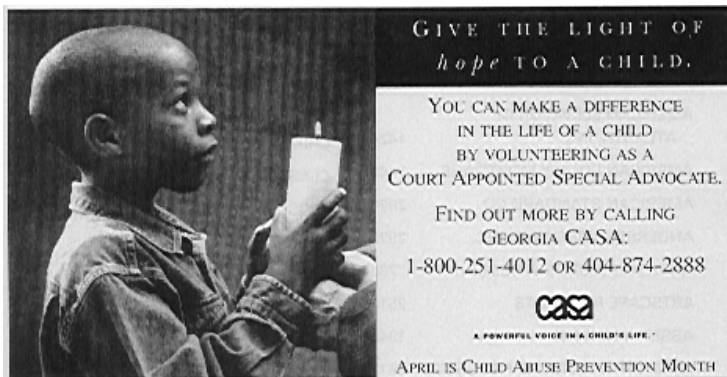
April: A Light of Hope Shines in Georgia

CASA Programs Around the State Celebrate National Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month and CASA Day in Georgia

April was National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month. CASA programs throughout Georgia celebrated the month by participating in various activities and holding special events.

Utility Bill Inserts

Text for a CASA utility bill insert was provided to local CASA programs. The programs contacted their local utility company and requested the insert be included with the April bills. Camden County CASA and Hall-Dawson CASA were among some of the programs that participated. This was a great way to reach a large portion of the community.



Flyers

Georgia CASA created a flyer which was distributed to people across the state who were already familiar with CASA. The flyer reminded people that April was National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month and encouraged them to give the “light of hope” to a child by supporting CASA.

Atlanta Magazine Ad

A CASA ad, designed to recruit more CASA volunteers for CASA programs throughout Georgia, appeared in the April issue of *Atlanta Magazine*. The ad was also included in the program of the Atlanta Home Show, which was held April 18-21 in Atlanta. (The ad is shown on this page.)

First Fridays Event - April 5th

CASA was named First Friday’s Very Worthy Charity of the Month for April. First Fridays is a monthly networking/social event held in Atlanta that is attended by almost 2,000 young African-American professionals. CASA had an exhibit booth at the event, which was staffed by people from several metro-area CASA programs and from Georgia CASA. This provided a great opportunity to educate the African-American community about CASA.

CASA Day in Georgia - April 11th

Governor Roy Barnes issued a Governor’s Proclamation proclaiming “CASA Day in Georgia” on April 11th. On that day, CASA programs increased the public’s awareness of CASA and its mission. Awareness activities included candlelighting ceremonies and proclamations from local officials. The day also provided the opportunity to thank CASA volunteers for their work.

Radio Interview - April 23rd

Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director of Georgia CASA, was the guest on the Morning Show of J93.3 (FM), an Atlanta-based radio station whose coverage also reaches outside the metro-area. He talked about child abuse and neglect and CASA’s role in the child welfare system. He also emphasized the need for more CASA volunteers.

resources

BOOKS

Lighting the Way
Child Advocates Speak Out
Foreword by Anna Quindlen

Foster Care Today (2001)
By Kathy Barbell and
Madelyn Freundlich

When Drug Addicts Have Children
*Reorienting Child Welfare's
Response*
Edited by Douglas J. Besharov

**Building Communities From the
Inside Out**
*A Path Toward Finding &
Mobilizing a Community's Assets*
By John P. Kretzman and
John L. McKnight

**Leadership & Management of
Volunteer Programs: A Guide for
Volunteer Administrators**
By James C. Fisher and
Kathleen M. Cole

*Each book is also available for check-out from
Georgia CASA's resource library*

WEB SITES

1. **www.casenet.org**
*Many valuable child advocacy
resources are included at the
National CASA Association's
site for its members*
2. **www.aecf.org**
*Site of the Annie E. Casey Founda-
tion, it provides the best avail-
able data and analysis on critical
issues affecting families and at-risk
children*

3. **www.hearmyvoice.org**
*Highlights child advocacy cases and
other issues confronting child
advocates*
4. **www.gcca.org**
*Site of Prevent Child Abuse Georgia
(formerly the Georgia Council on
Child Abuse)*
5. **www.youthleadershipcouncil.org**
*Site of Georgia's Youth Leadership
Council (YLC), information is
provided about the YLC's mission
of developing an effective voice for
foster youth*

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

legislative advocacy

2002 session wrap-up (continued from page 4)

Legislation

Senate Bill 333 – eliminates the statute of limitations on six of the seven deadly sins (armed robbery, kidnapping, rape, aggravated child molestation, aggravated sodomy, and aggravated sexual battery) where DNA evidence is used to establish the identity of the accused. Murder, the seventh deadly sin, already had no statute of limitations. SB 333 also extends the time period at which the statute of limitations begins to run on crimes against children. Under the new law, the statute will begin to run at age 18 (previously 14) and will extend until the child is 25 years of age (previously varied from four to seven years).

Senate Bill 407 – failed to pass. The child endangerment bill and its companion, HB 1062, failed to pass in the House before the legislature adjourned on April 12th.

Senate Bill 433 – increases the penalty for sex offenders who fail to re-register annually from a misdemeanor to a felony punishable by 1-5 years in prison.

House Bill 360 – The "Safe Place for Newborns Act" allows mothers to surrender a newborn infant to a medical facility without fear of prosecution for abandonment.

House Bill 1054 – requires the Department of Education to furnish schools with a list of registered sex offenders and with instructions on how to obtain these lists from the GBI website.

House Bill 1142 – increases the fees and raises payments for victims' compensation.

For a complete recap of legislative activity in the 2002 session, please visit www.ganet.org.

● calendar of events ●

SATURDAY, JULY 20 - WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2002

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia's **18th Annual Symposium & APSAC Advanced Training Institutes** takes place at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia in Atlanta. The event is noted as "the Southeast's most comprehensive child abuse prevention and treatment conference." Details are at the web site www.preventchildabusega.org.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13 - THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2002

New CASA Staff Orientation Training is scheduled in Macon. These training sessions will include COMET, General Program Orientation and Managing Training. Additional details will be announced in the future.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2002

The **Third Annual Child Placement Conference, "Special Forces for Children and Families,"** will be held at the Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center in Peachtree City, GA. More details will be available in the near future at www.gahsc.org.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2002

The fall meeting of the **Council of Programs** will take place in Macon, GA. Training will be provided for CASA program directors about issues and concerns that affect their programs and the children they serve. There will also be the opportunity to network and share best practices. Additional details will be announced in the future.

OCTOBER 2002

Domestic Violence Awareness Month
www.vawnet.org
26 - Make a Difference Day

NOVEMBER 2002

National Adoption Month
www.adoptmonth.calib.com

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IN A CHILD'S LIFE.™**

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