



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
GEORGIA

connector

Newsletter of Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.



*John Lynott, 2003 CASA Volunteer of the Year, with the CASA Glynn staff
(l-r: Lara Martin, Director, Lee Ann Conaway & Elizabeth Moring, Volunteer Coordinators)*

Summer/Fall 2004

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GEORGIA

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

I am honored to serve as Chair of the Georgia CASA Board for the upcoming year. I want to thank John Adams for his leadership during the past year as Chair. The continuation of the long range planning process, led by Lee Kintzel, assures exciting times ahead for Georgia CASA. As we enter this year, several imperatives are before us. We can do a better job telling our story. We can do a better job in developing resources from the State, foundations, corporations and individuals. The mission and vision of CASA are as necessary and vital as when CASA first began. We must continue to support our affiliates, helping them maintain quality while expanding capacity.

I want to share with you a letter I submitted to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in June in response to the recent media coverage about child welfare. In a nutshell, it defines our mission and vision. I encourage you to tell your friends and family about the difference CASA makes in the lives of children. Thank you for your continued support of CASA.

In response to Craig Schneider's article last Wednesday (June 2nd), "Child welfare cases soar, strain staffers," the number of cases of suspected child abuse and neglect in Georgia has certainly escalated. In fact, 51 Georgia children died from abuse and neglect in 2002, and on average, 200 cases of abuse or neglect are reported daily in the state. Georgia, indeed no state, can keep up with this onslaught, but we as citizens can help by volunteering.

Georgia CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates - is one statewide nonprofit organization that is helping these children. Our community volunteers are appointed by judges to serve as the voice for abused and neglected children in juvenile court proceedings. The CASA volunteer thoroughly researches a child's situation, attends court proceedings and submits a recommendation to help the court make a sound decision about the child's future. CASA volunteers are advocates for children, helping to find each one a safe, permanent home. CASA helps to minimize a child returning to the child welfare system multiple times.

CASA volunteers can be incredibly valuable to an abused or neglected child. But, right now, only about 50% of the children who need a CASA volunteer have one. With the number of child abuse and neglect cases on the rise, the need for more CASA volunteers is growing as well.

I encourage adults reading this letter to consider becoming a CASA volunteer. You could make a real difference in the life of a child. To find out more about the CASA program in Georgia, visit www.gacasa.org or call 404.874.2888.

James M. Sibley, Jr.

ADDRESS CHANGE?

Please email your address change to info@gacasa.org.

Feature Article

2003 CASA Volunteer of the Year Named John Lynott from CASA Glynn Receives Award

John Lynott, CASA volunteer with CASA Glynn, Inc., in Brunswick, was selected as the 2003 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia. At the volunteer appreciation luncheon of the Georgia CASA State Conference, held on April 17th in Atlanta, John received the 2003 Karen N. Sibley Volunteer of the Year Award, named in honor of Karen N. Sibley, founding chair of Georgia CASA.

John found out about the CASA program when he attended an introductory training session with his wife. He was so moved by the description of what CASA volunteers do that he took the extensive 40-hour training with her.

John was cited for his outstanding skills in advocating for the best interests of 46 abused and neglected children in Glynn County since becoming a CASA volunteer in November 1997. He is respected and admired by those with whom he works. Most importantly, the children he advocates for know he will always speak up for them.

"...the children he advocates for know he will always speak up for them."

In one case, Lynott advocated extensively for two sisters, neglected by their mother, who were growing up in a playpen. Neither child spoke and both had extreme developmental disabilities. He not only helped the girls to receive additional services for their disabilities; he also helped to expedite the adoption process. Now both girls have been adopted and are flourishing.

In addition to his work as a CASA volunteer, he has been excellent in developing relationships with other child welfare agencies in the community. Furthermore, John assists with the training of new CASA volunteers for CASA Glynn.

John Lynott's exceptional advocacy on behalf of the abused and neglected children he serves made him a truly outstanding candidate for 2003 CASA Volunteer of the Year.



John Lynott (left) receives his award from John Adams, Georgia CASA Board Chair



John Lynott (center) with his family



Duaine Hathaway (Georgia CASA Executive Director), John Lynott, John Adams (Georgia CASA Board Chair) & Jerry Gitchel (Luncheon Speaker)

Tenth Georgia CASA State Conference Very Successful Participants Received a Wealth of Information to Enhance Child Advocacy Efforts

The Tenth Georgia CASA State Conference was held in downtown Atlanta on April 17th at the Loudermilk Conference Center. Enthusiasm for the event was high: over 300 CASA volunteers, staff and board members attended the conference. Each CASA program in the state was represented.

Congratulations to our programs from Fulton, DeKalb, Hall-Dawson and the Appalachian Judicial Circuit who all had more than 20 people registered from their programs! The excellent turnout was a testament to how critical continuing education is for the CASA network. Participants were most pleased with the relevance of the workshops and the wealth of information provided, with topics ranging from "Understanding DFCS" to "the Rights of Biological Fathers" and "Identifying Commonly Used Drugs."

Jerry Gitchel, a businessman and professional speaker in Jacksonville, Florida, delivered the keynote address at the volunteer appreciation luncheon, speaking to the great work of CASA volunteers. As someone who would have benefitted from having a CASA volunteer when he was a foster child, Mr. Gitchel understood the complexities and difficulties of the child welfare system. The 2003 CASA Volunteer of the Year Award was also given at the luncheon, with John Lynott from CASA Glynn in Brunswick as the recipient.

Next April, Georgia will be host to the National CASA Conference in Atlanta, which will provide a unique opportunity for Georgia to experience nationally recognized speakers in child advocacy.

Save the date...

Members of the CASA "family" from across the state have a great opportunity next year to experience the National CASA Conference, which will be held in Atlanta. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend! You don't want to miss a great opportunity to hear inspirational messages from keynote speakers, participate in a variety of educational workshops and network with over 1,000 CASA people from across the U.S.

24th Annual National CASA Conference

**"Growing a better tomorrow
for every child"**

April 16 - 19, 2005

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Atlanta



Dougherty County CASA attendees at the state conference

Shaken Baby/Shaken Impact Syndrome

Several years ago when a young au pair from Great Britain was charged in the death of the 8-month-old Massachusetts boy in her care, the case received phenomenal media coverage both in the United States and abroad. Lawyers for the prosecution and the defense waged a charged battle throughout the trial, trying to assign the blame for Matthew Eappen's death. But when it was all over, the only thing that was clear was that Matthew's case had become one of the most publicized cases of shaken baby/shaken impact syndrome (SBS).

What Is SBS?



SBS is the leading cause of death in child abuse cases in the United States. The syndrome results from injuries caused by someone vigorously shaking an infant, usually for 5 to 20

seconds, which causes brain damage. In some cases, the shaking is accompanied by a final impact to the baby's head against a bed, chair, or other surface.

Although SBS is occasionally seen in children up to 4 years old, the vast majority of incidents occur in infants who are younger than 1 year old; the average age of victims is between 3 and 8 months. Approximately 60% of shaken babies are male, and children of families who live at or below the poverty level are at an increased risk for SBS (and any type of child abuse).

Normal interaction with a child, like bouncing the baby on a knee, will **not** cause SBS, although it is important never to shake a baby under any circumstances because gentle shaking can rapidly escalate. Pediatrician Allan DeJong, MD, says, "When you shake your baby hard enough to give them these injuries, you know you've crossed the line. This is something violent."

SBS often has irreparable consequences. In the worst cases, the death rate is almost half of all babies involved. Children who survive may suffer partial or total blindness, hearing loss, seizures, developmental delays, impaired intellect, speech

and learning difficulties, problems with memory and attention, or paralysis (some particularly traumatic episodes leave children in a coma). Severe mental retardation may also result.

Even in milder cases, where the baby looks normal immediately after the shaking, he may eventually develop one or more of these problems. Sometimes the first sign of a problem isn't noticed until the child enters the school system and exhibits behavioral problems or learning difficulties. By that time, however, it is more difficult to link these problems to a shaking incident from several years before.

Effects of SBS

In any SBS case, the duration and force of the shaking, the number of episodes, and whether impact is involved all affect the severity of the infant's injuries. In milder cases, the infant may seem lethargic or irritable or perhaps will not be feeding well. Unfortunately, unless a doctor has reason to suspect SBS, these cases are often misdiagnosed as a viral illness or colic. "Their brain may have been scrambled [by the shaking], but not to the point of significant brain injury, yet they could have been a shaken baby," Dr. DeJong notes. Lacking a diagnosis of SBS and subsequent intervention, these children may be shaken again, worsening any brain injury or damage.

Besides lethargy, a baby who has been shaken may experience vomiting, poor sucking or swallowing, decreased appetite, lack of smiling or vocalizing, rigidity, seizures, difficulty breathing, altered consciousness, unequal pupil size, an inability to lift his head, or an inability to focus his eyes or track movement.



What makes SBS so devastating is that it usually involves a total brain injury. The development of language, vision, balance and motor coordination, all of which occur to varying degrees after birth, are particularly likely to be affected in any child who was a victim of SBS.

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CASA Success Story

Tommy*, age four, and his half sister Anna*, age three, were removed from their home due to their mother's drug and alcohol use, unstable employment and lack of housing. Often the children were left unsupervised with no food and their mother would medicate them with excessive doses of Phenobarbital.

A CASA volunteer was appointed by the judge to represent Tommy and Anna's best interests. The CASA volunteer explored relative placement and located Tommy's father in another country. The father immediately began making plans to gain custody of his child. A complete home evaluation was conducted on the father and it was determined that he and his family would be a very appropriate placement. Meanwhile, the CASA volunteer worked with the mother to help her meet the goals of reunification and ensure visitation with the children. However, the mother did not meet the goals set by the court to regain custody of her children.

The CASA volunteer was instrumental in mediating an agreement between the parties. The mother agreed to give up her parental rights to both children. All parties agreed that Tommy and Anna should be kept together. The father adopted both of them and brought them back to England* where they now have an extended family and are safe in a permanent, nurturing home. *Names and location changed

Attention CASA programs and CASA volunteers: Do you have a CASA success story you'd like to share? Please email your 'short' story to lderhammer@gacasa.org.

STATISTICS

CASA programs in Georgia **SERVED 5,741 CHILDREN**

312 NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS were sworn in

1,322 ACTIVE CASA VOLUNTEERS served the children in Georgia

Currently, **42 CASA PROGRAMS ARE SERVING 39 OF THE 49 JUDICIAL CIRCUITS** in Georgia

JULY - DECEMBER 2003

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.™

A Light of Hope for Abused and Neglected Children Shines in Georgia

CASA Celebrated April as National Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month

During the month of April, CASA programs across the United States celebrated the hope of a brighter future that CASA volunteers give to children. CASA also used the month to increase the awareness of CASA among the media, key decision makers, collaborative partners, supporters and the general public. The National CASA Association held a “Light of Hope” event on April 1st in Bryant Park, New York City. Many CASA programs in Georgia held public awareness events throughout the month and also collaborated with other child welfare groups. Several types of events were held, including candlelight ceremonies, a balloon release, volunteer appreciation banquets and a motorcycle ride, to name a few. In addition, various members of the Georgia CASA Board hosted “CASA house parties” for their friends. Nine parties, including a BBQ, picnic, bridge party, wine and cheese tasting, and a party at an art gallery, were held to inform more than 200 guests about CASA.

In addition to special events, CASA in Georgia also participated in various public awareness initiatives, as listed below:

Governor’s Proclamation - Governor Sonny Perdue proclaimed April 1st as “CASA Day in Georgia.”

Statewide Press Releases - Media outlets throughout the state received two press releases about the Governor’s Proclamation and the child abuse and neglect focus of CASA events during the month of April. The second press release also included information about the Georgia CASA State Conference, where the CASA Volunteer of the Year Award was given.

WSB-TV’s People 2 People Show - Representatives from Georgia CASA and Fulton County CASA were guests on the April 11th community affairs show of the ABC affiliate in Atlanta.

FOX5’s Good Day Atlanta Show - Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director of Georgia CASA, was a guest on the April 13th morning show.

Opposite Editorial (Op-Ed) Article - CASA programs were provided with an Op-Ed article to submit to local newspapers.

Statement Stuffers - CASA programs were provided with sample wording to include on various utility bills to inform people about CASA and recruit CASA volunteers.

Radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs) - Radio PSAs, a component of the statewide marketing campaign, continued to air during April.



Tips on How to Be a Good Volunteer

Respect everyone's time. Remember to turn in paper work, be on time for meetings and honor the training and assignment schedules to which you agreed.

Confidentiality is critical. Being inside an organization gives you access to confidential information. Be careful not to break the confidentiality of clients, members, employees or patrons of the organization you serve.

Ask questions. Volunteers are often asked to do things that seem out of the ordinary. Make sure you understand the rules and procedures of the organization. If you don't understand something, ask for clarification.

Be clear about your purpose. Some people select a volunteer assignment based on what they do best. Other volunteers look for assignments where they can learn new things. Let the organization know what you hope to achieve. It will help the organization find the best place for you.

Be professional. Volunteers represent the organization and should be role models to visitors, clients and other volunteers. Professionalism, courtesy and a smile are all valuable tools for volunteers.

Speak up. Sometimes volunteers can encounter problems with a client, another volunteer or staff member of an organization. If you find yourself in a difficult situation, go to your immediate supervisor or the manager of the volunteer program to address your concerns.

Background checks. You may be asked to undergo a background check. These precautions are common for volunteers working with children, battered women and clients with mental or physical challenges.

Advocacy. Become an advocate for the organization. Share your volunteer story with friends, co-workers and community contacts. Your associates may have resources that can advance your agency's mission.

Adapted from the National Football League's "Volunteer - Join the Team" program.

Governor Perdue Honors Camden County CASA

In a special ceremony on March 5th at the State Capitol, Governor Sonny Perdue spotlighted a grant to Camden County CASA Program, Inc., in the amount of \$19,371.

Governor Perdue said, "Child abuse victimizes Georgia's most vulnerable citizens. Camden County CASA is a model program in the state providing services to these children."

The award is part of the 2003 Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program (VOCA). The purpose of the grant is to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system with an emphasis on serving the needs of victims of violent crimes. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) administers the VOCA Grant Program.

CJCC Executive Director Gale Buckner said, "The VOCA Grant Program provides vital support to state, local and private non-profit programs, such as the Camden County CASA Program, throughout Georgia."

The VOCA program provides funds to benefit children's advocacy centers, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, Court Appointed Special Advocate programs and victim witness assistance programs. The federal government awards the grant to CJCC on behalf of the State of Georgia for distribution to victim services providers across Georgia. All recipients must provide direct services to victims of crime. In addition, the grant program fosters a level of community involvement by requiring a 20% match of each applicant.

"Residents of Camden County can be proud of the CASA Program. The Camden County CASA staff works tirelessly to assist innocent child victims of crime and their non-offending caregivers," said Buckner.



Governor Perdue (center) & Gale Buckner (far right) with Camden County CASA representatives; special guests included Rep. Cecily Hill & Sen. Eric Johnson

Meet the New Georgia CASA Board Members

The Honorable Linnie Darden, III, juvenile court judge with the Atlantic Judicial Circuit in Hinesville

Ronnie Forrester, Board member and past Board Chair of the Hall-Dawson CASA Program, Inc., in Gainesville

Frank Inman, Beacon Management, community leader in Atlanta

Maritza Pichon, Executive Director of the Latin American Association in Atlanta

The Honorable William L. Tribble, Sr., juvenile court judge with the Dublin Circuit in Dublin

Returning from Sabbatical

Carolyn Dobbins, attorney with Rogers & Harden in Atlanta

Ann Rotroff, attorney with Sanderson & Rotroff in Atlanta

Congratulations to...

Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director of Georgia CASA, who will attend Harvard Business School in Boston in July for a week of executive education focused on strategic perspectives in nonprofit management.

Duaine was one of four nonprofit executives awarded a scholarship for the course by the Harvard Business School Club of Atlanta. He plans to use the skills gained from the course to help enhance Georgia CASA's ability to work effectively for abused and neglected children as well as to expand the CASA program to cover 100% of the state.

Shaken Baby/Sudden Impact Syndrome

(continued from page 5)

Such impairment can require rigorous physical and occupational therapy to help the child acquire skills that would have developed on their own had the brain injury not occurred. As he gets older, a child who was shaken as a baby may require special education and continued therapy to help with language development and daily living skills, such as dressing himself.

Can SBS Be Prevented?

While the consequences of SBS are terrible, it is important to remember that the syndrome is 100% preventable. The perpetrators in SBS cases are almost always parents or caregivers, who shake the baby out of frustration when he is crying inconsolably. It is estimated that males, often in their early 20s, usually either the baby's father or the mother's boyfriend, are the perpetrators in 65% to 90% of cases. Caregivers who shake babies usually do so out of the stress of dealing with a fussy baby. Sadly, the shaking has the desired effect: although at first the baby cries more out of fear, he eventually stops crying as his brain is damaged.

Finding ways to alleviate the caregiver's stress at these critical moments will significantly reduce the risk to the child. If a baby in your care won't stop crying, try the following:

- ◆ make sure the baby's basic needs are met
- ◆ check for signs of illness
- ◆ rock or walk with the baby
- ◆ sing or talk to him
- ◆ offer the baby a pacifier or a noisy toy
- ◆ take him for a ride in his stroller or in his car seat in the car
- ◆ swaddle the baby snugly in a blanket
- ◆ turn on the stereo, run the vacuum cleaner or the clothes dryer, or run water in the tub (babies like the rhythmic noise)
- ◆ hold the baby close against your body and breathe calmly and slowly
- ◆ call a friend or relative for support to take care of the baby while you take a break
- ◆ if nothing else works, put the baby on his back in his crib, close the door, and check on him in 10 minutes

--Adapted from www.kidshhealth.org

Note: Information is for educational purposes only. For specific medical advice, diagnoses and treatment, consult a doctor.

“CASA at the Capitol Day” and Kick-off to Ad Campaign Mark February Events

On February 4th, CASA volunteers, Board and staff members from across the state gathered at the Capitol in Atlanta for the annual “CASA at the Capitol Day” event. Also joining the group were foster youth from Georgia.

To begin the day, First Lady of Georgia Mary Perdue addressed the large group in the Rotunda by commending CASA volunteers for their efforts in working with Georgia’s abused and neglected children. Foster youth Donnie Olajuwon gave several words of thanks to all who support foster youth. In addition, Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director of Georgia CASA, announced the kick-off to the statewide marketing campaign. The campaign’s initial phase included radio public service announcements (PSAs), newspaper ads and billboards. A large poster with ad samples was on display in the Rotunda.

After constituents met with their legislators about child abuse and neglect issues as well as issues faced by the children CASA volunteers serve, a Chick-fil-A luncheon for all attendees and legislators was hosted by Georgia CASA.



Mary Perdue,
First Lady of Georgia

Special thanks to...
The Coca-Cola Bottling Company
and
Krispy Kreme Doughnuts (Ponce de Leon Ave. in Atlanta)
for donations for the day.

Program Highlights

Devan Fleming, new CASA volunteer with **Coastal Plain CASA, Inc., (Tifton)** was crowned Miss Plantation Trace in August 2003. When she competes in the Miss Georgia 2004 pageant, CASA will be her platform. Devan is also the youngest person to serve as a CASA volunteer with Coastal Plain CASA.

Someone There for Me: Everyday Heroes Through the Eyes of Teens in Foster Care, a book released in May from the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) Press and edited by the National CASA Association, features 28 inspirational short essays by teens in foster care who have CASA volunteers. A contest was held to select the winning essays by foster youth. Congratulations to **Emily Cole, Carroll County CASA volunteer, and Linda Stacy, DeKalb County CASA volunteer**. The essays of children for whom they advocate are included in the book.

On July 1st, **Forsyth County CASA, Inc.**, began operation as an independent CASA program serving the Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit. **CASA for Children, Inc.**, had served Forsyth County since FY1993. CASA for Children continues to serve Cherokee County in the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit. The creation of a new judicial circuit preceded the change.



Georgia constituents with Robert E. Lewis, Jr.
(center), Legislative Correspondent for
Senator Zell Miller

The **National CASA Association’s 23rd annual conference** was held in June in Washington, D.C. 50 CASA volunteers, staff and board members from Georgia were in attendance. “CASA Meets Congress Day” was held during the conference. Georgia participants met with their representatives, senators and/or congressional staff to talk about the CASA program in Georgia as well as to ask for continued support of federal government funding for CASA.

CASA Resources

Books

10 Minutes to Better Board Meetings
A booklet guide

Children Can't Wait

Reducing Delays in Out-of-Home Care
By the Child Welfare League of America

Children at the Front

A Different View of the War on Alcohol and Drugs
By the Child Welfare League of America

Video

"Georgia's Meth Epidemic"

A GBI Training Video
March 2004

Books and the video are available for check-out from Georgia CASA's resource library.

Web Sites

www.cacga.org

Site of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia, visit this site to find out what a children's advocacy center is and view lists of established and developing centers in Georgia

www.childwelfare.net

Home of the Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic, this site includes relevant information for child welfare in Georgia as well as an index of recent Georgia newspaper stories related to child welfare

www.kci.org

Visit this site and view a wealth of meth-related information and links, including frequently asked questions and a reference library

www.naccchildlaw.org

Home of the National Association of Counsel for Children, this site includes a section on children and the law, with topics on child maltreatment, the legal system and recommended readings

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc

Site of the Office for Victims of Crime under the U.S. Department of Justice, this site includes statistics, research findings, publications and much more concerning victims of crime

Do you want to recommend a book, video or website for this list? If so, please email lderhammer@gacasa.org with the information.

Can you help CASA advocate for children?

I'd like to volunteer

I'd like to make a donation to Georgia CASA or a local program: _____

\$5,000 **Beacon of Light**

\$1,000 **Champion**

\$500 **Guardian**

\$100 **Advocate**

\$ _____ **Friend of Children**

Name _____ Anonymous

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

This gift is in honor or memory of _____

Please notify _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to Georgia CASA and mail to: 1776 Peachtree Road, Suite 219 South, Atlanta, GA 30309

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, August 11, 2004

The **First Lady of Georgia's Summit on Our Children** will be held at several regional sites around the state. As part of the *Our Children Campaign*, the Summit is designed to energize community resources on behalf of Georgia's abused and neglected children. The Summit focuses on ways citizens can get involved in four key areas: prevention, courts (includes CASA), foster/adoptive parenting and housing & services. For more information, visit www.gov.state.ga.us/summit_fl/index.shtml.

Tuesday, August 24 - Thursday, August 26, 2004

Train the Facilitator, co-sponsored by the National CASA Association, will take place in Atlanta for new CASA staff and for those who will co-facilitate future Train the Facilitator sessions in Georgia. The session will teach participants how to facilitate the training provided to new CASA volunteers.

Wednesday, September 29 - Thursday, September 30, 2004

The Office of the Child Advocate and the Supreme Court of Georgia Child Placement Project will sponsor the second **Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) Conference** in Macon at the Crowne Plaza. Registration is free! Visit www.gachildadvocate.org and click "About OCA" to download the registration form. Questions? Call 478-757-2664 or 1-800-254-2064.

Fall 2004

The **Council of Programs** meeting, for local CASA program directors, will take place during the fall. Training will be provided about issues and concerns that affect CASA programs and the children served by CASA. Opportunities to network and share best practices will also be provided. Additional details will be given in the future.

October 2004

Domestic Violence Awareness Month
23 - Make a Difference Day
www.makeadifferenceday.com

November 2004

National Adoption Month
20 - National Family Volunteer Day
www.pointsoflight.org/organizations/nfvd.cfm

December 2004

10 - Human Rights Day

April 16 - 19, 2005

National CASA Association's
National Conference in Atlanta at the
Hyatt Regency Hotel

Wednesday, November 17 - Friday, November 19, 2004

The fifth annual **Child Placement Conference** takes place at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel/Country Suites in Augusta. For more information, visit www.gahsc.org.



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