



# connector

*Newsletter of Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.*



*National CASA Conference  
Comes to Georgia!  
Join other child advocates as we  
discover new ideas and solutions  
for helping children.*

April 16 - 19, 2005  
Downtown Atlanta  
Hyatt Regency



**Winter/Spring 2005**

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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 interests 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**

**A**s I enter the second half of my term as Board Chair, it is exciting to share with you that the CASA program in Georgia is now present in 100 counties! CASA continues to expand throughout the state, thanks to the support of judges and others in the communities who wish to make an investment in CASA, a proven program that uses CASA volunteers to invest in the lives of abused and neglected children involved in court proceedings, helping to ensure they find their way to a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible.

As we begin 2005, Georgia CASA remains committed to its vision to provide a CASA volunteer for every child who needs one. Thanks to the work of the Long Range Planning Committee and the Georgia CASA staff, the current development of our long range strategic plan for fiscal years 2005 - 2010 will give us a road map for the future as well as work plans to help reach our goals and vision. You will see evidences of our plan in action during the years ahead.

All of us in the state have a great opportunity in April to attend the National CASA Association's annual conference, which will be held in Atlanta. The conference is a top-notch event with many inspiring, motivational speakers and great workshops to improve our knowledge about issues facing abused and neglected children as well as managing CASA programs. For more information about the conference, see page 5.

Also of note in this issue of the *Connector* is the feature article on Georgia's Model Courts Project (see following page). The Project provides a great opportunity for improvement in juvenile courts and ultimately for children. CASA programs at several of the model court sites are involved in the Project and have already seen advancements in how court is conducted.

The longest-serving CASA volunteers in Georgia are profiled on page 7. Bill and Berenice Wilson are two individuals who truly live out their commitment to children each day. I know you'll enjoy reading about them and their experiences as CASA volunteers.

Finally, don't forget the Georgia CASA luncheon and fashion show on Wednesday, March 16th. Details about the event are on page 5.

James M. Sibley, Jr.

**ADDRESS CHANGE?**

Please email your address change to [info@gacasa.org](mailto:info@gacasa.org).

## Feature Article

# Georgia's Model Courts Project

## An opportunity for excellence for children through court improvement processes

The Model Courts Project is a nationwide effort to improve how courts handle child abuse and neglect cases. The Project works with judges to bring together juvenile court staff and other related agencies to improve court procedures and implement "best practices," resulting in substantially improved outcomes for children.

The national Project began in 1992 and is supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency and the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges' Permanency Planning for Children Department (PPCD). Model courts throughout the U.S. are selected based upon their agreement and ability to carry out initiatives such as the following:

- ◆ Establishing a collaborative team with key stakeholders
- ◆ Assessing court practice and identifying challenges, goals and improvements
- ◆ Agreeing to serve as a "laboratory" for systems change
- ◆ Tracking improvements
- ◆ Agreeing to mentor other jurisdictions

Based on the national Project, the Permanency Planning Committee of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges (CJCJ) developed the Project for Georgia in 2000. Originally funded by the CJCJ through grant funds from the Georgia Supreme Court of Georgia's Child Placement Project, it is now funded through the Administrative Office of the Courts. In Georgia, the Project aids courts in developing practices and procedures including, but not limited to, the following:

- ◆ Ensuring representation of children and parents involved in deprivation (abuse or neglect) and termination of parental rights cases
- ◆ Improved case flow management
- ◆ Promotion of the One Family/One Judge model

Eleven model court sites currently operate in Georgia. Each site receives training, referrals to other programs and hands-on assistance from the Project. Dianne Scoggins, Project Coordinator for the Appalachian Judicial Circuit and Director of the local CASA program, states

that "the opportunity to participate in the process has been invaluable. We have shared our successes with the other Georgia model courts." The model juvenile court sites in the state include the following:

- ◆ Appalachian Judicial Circuit (Fannin, Gilmer & Pickens counties)
- ◆ Bartow County
- ◆ Clayton County
- ◆ Cobb County
- ◆ DeKalb County
- ◆ Dublin Judicial Circuit (Johnson, Laurens, Treutlen & Twiggs counties)
- ◆ Fulton County
- ◆ Houston County
- ◆ Paulding County
- ◆ Troup County
- ◆ Southwestern Judicial Circuit (Lee, Macon, Schley, Stewart, Sumter & Webster counties)

The Project in Georgia has three levels of accountability. First, a local collaboration team is composed of key stakeholders. (CASA is involved in the stakeholder meetings, where goals are developed for each court to implement.) Stakeholders are assigned responsibility to insure implementation. Second, each county is paired with another model court site that is close in location in order to compare efforts and keep each other motivated. Last, the Model Courts Coordinator oversees the Project.

Twice per year, a workshop is held for model court sites and stakeholders in Georgia to update each other on progress as well as work on completing any assigned special projects. Some recent projects have been the visitation project protocol, a report on the promise of permanency and an implementation guide to Senate Bill 236. Full reports of all projects may be viewed at [www.childwelfare.net/mrb/projects/](http://www.childwelfare.net/mrb/projects/).

Judge Velma Tilley of Bartow County Juvenile Court states, "the CASA program is a vital part of the Model Courts Project effort [to achieve timely permanency for children]. If CASA is involved, an exhaustive search for a suitable family member has been made, which can save valuable time in eliminating inappropriate placements."

For the future, the CJCJ hopes to broaden the Project by adding additional counties as model court sites each year, as possible. A long-term aspirational goal is to eventually have all juvenile courts in Georgia be part of the Project.

For more information about Georgia's Model Courts Project, contact Lori Bramlett, Model Courts Coordinator, at [bramlett1@gaaoc.us](mailto:bramlett1@gaaoc.us) or 404.463.6480.

## More Bang for Your Board

Ann Barrett, Resource Development Director, Georgia CASA

**B**oard recruitment is one of the most important tasks for an organization. A strong Board renews itself annually with rotating members and new members. On their Boards, CASA programs need to balance diversity, raising money and outreach to prospective volunteers. One way to do all three at one time is to recruit someone from a local civic club, fraternity or sorority.

Clubs that have meetings are always looking for programs that can be presented at their meetings. If a Board member, CASA volunteer and staff member can put together a moving presentation that is successful at Kiwanis, it can also be used at a Sunday School Class, Women's Club or a professional organization. There should always be an opportunity to ask/sign up for more information.

People who express an interest in CASA, the mission of your program, and in serving abused and neglected children are possible candidates for your Board. Each of them has particular expertise – some will have skills that your program needs for a balanced Board. Those are your “target” individuals.

But each of these individuals also brings the collective interests and skills of his/her civic group. Following are what some civic groups have done for CASA programs in Georgia:

- ◆ Conducted a fundraiser for the CASA program
- ◆ Had a party for kids in foster care
- ◆ Been a fundraiser sponsor
- ◆ Built a playhouse for a raffle
- ◆ Manned a CASA informational booth at a community fair
- ◆ Made a donation to the CASA program
- ◆ Found ways to meet the special needs of CASA children

A Rotarian, a member of AKA, a Kappa Alpha Theta, a Kiwanian, a Junior Service League member - all have one thing in common: they are part of a larger group of people who are interested in their community and in helping others.

## 2nd Summit on Our Children Hosted by First Lady of Georgia

Statewide Event Held August 11, 2004

**A**s First Lady of Georgia Mary Perdue continues her commitment to the well-being of children in the state, she hosted the second *Summit on Our Children* in August, part of the *Our Children Campaign*, to bring awareness and activism to caring for Georgia's foster children.

Atlanta's Georgia Public Broadcasting Studios was the host site for the event. The Summit was simulcast to seven other sites in the state in the cities of Augusta, Columbus, Dalton, Gainesville, Macon, Savannah and Tifton. In addition, the Summit was aired on Georgia's Public TV stations.

The Summit exposed attendees and viewers to the needs of foster children in their communities. After opening remarks by Governor and Mrs. Perdue, special guest speaker Naomi Haines Griffith, a national speaker and consultant on child welfare issues, wove her common sense pragmatism and 30 years experience in child welfare into inspirational stories that motivated the audience both personally and professionally.

A variety of topics were then presented as part of a panel discussion. Topics included prevention, Department of Family & Childrens Services (DFCS) and the courts, homes and services, and foster/adoptive parents. Juvenile court judges on the panels at each site told attendees about the CASA volunteer opportunity. Representatives from CASA also staffed exhibit booths at each site. Georgia CASA received several calls from Summit audience members who were interested in becoming CASA volunteers.



# Georgia CASA Luncheon & Fashion Show

## Event to be held on Wednesday, March 16th

**B**oard member Marcy McTier and a group of volunteers including Claire Barry, Jan Bennett, Pat Leake, Kay Adams, Sylvia Attkisson, Karen Brown, Ellen Beard, Jane Blount, Ethel Ware Carter, Susan Forehand, Sally Hinkle, Virginia Hopkins, Sally Jobe, Peggy Jones, Lee Kintzel and Avery Tucker have been busy for the last six months planning this inaugural event, a luncheon and fashion show, to benefit Georgia CASA and to develop new CASA affiliate programs and support the established programs in Georgia.


The family style luncheon will feature fashions from several well known Buckhead shops. Included among the professional models will be several "surprise volunteers" who will add an element of fun, as well as educate guests about CASA. Door prizes and a raffle will add to the fun. AirTran Airways has generously donated five pairs of roundtrip tickets to any AirTran destination in the continental United States!

We are particularly delighted that Karen N. Sibley, founding leader of CASA in Georgia and a child welfare advocate for many years, has agreed to be our first Honorary Chairman. Her extraordinary commitment has been vital to the development of CASA programs throughout the state, and she continues to serve as a Life Member of the Georgia CASA Board of Directors.

If you want to make sure that you receive an invitation to the event, please call or email Ann Barrett at 404.874.2888/800.251.4012 or [abarrett@gacasa.org](mailto:abarrett@gacasa.org).

## National CASA Conference Comes to Georgia!

**A**tlanta will be the host city for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual National CASA Conference: "Growing a better tomorrow for every child." The conference will be held April 16 – 19 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Atlanta. The conference's mission is to bring together the network of CASA volunteers, staff and board members with judges, attorneys, social service professionals and other child advocates to discover new ideas and solutions for helping children. More than 50 workshops on topics ranging from *Facing the Methamphetamine Epidemic* and *How Child Abuse Changes a Child* to *Developing Major Donors* and *Introducing CASA to Your Community* will be offered over the four days.



Special guests at the conference this year include Judge Glenda Hatchett and Naomi Haines Griffith. Judge Hatchett was Georgia's first African-American chief presiding judge of a state court and the department head of Fulton County Court, one of the largest court systems in the country. Judge Hatchett is a National CASA spokesperson and well-known from the nationally syndicated series *Judge Hatchett*. Ms. Griffith is a national speaker and consultant on child welfare issues and serves as a consultant to the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse. She is also the Executive Director of the child abuse prevention agency PACT, which she helped found.

Georgia CASA is pleased to be able to provide scholarships for two volunteers from each program in Georgia to attend the conference in Atlanta. Everyone attending the conference also has the opportunity to receive \$50 off his/her registration by volunteering to work at the conference.

On sale at the conference will be *Home Grown: A CASA Cookbook for Family Meals*. CASA volunteers, staff, board members and supporters from across Georgia submitted their favorite family recipes, and some special stories about them, to help create this unique cookbook. The cookbook will also be made available to local CASA programs to sell in their communities.

For more information about the conference and to register, please visit [www.casanet.org/conference/](http://www.casanet.org/conference/). If you have any questions about the conference, or would like to volunteer at the conference, please contact Katherine Hunter at 404.874.2888 / 800.251.4012 or [khunter@gacasa.org](mailto:khunter@gacasa.org).

# CASA Success Story

In south Georgia, twelve-year old Serena's\* mother was in jail and she had never met her father. She lived with relatives and was removed from her home because of reported abuse. After being removed from the home she had lived in since infancy, she was appointed a CASA volunteer by the judge.

The newly sworn-in CASA volunteer worked diligently and had a report for the hearing in two weeks. The CASA volunteer had thoroughly researched Serena's case and located her father.

Due to the CASA volunteer's persistence, Serena's father attended the court hearing. Her father and step-mother wanted to give Serena a stable home life and Serena's father wanted custody of his daughter.

Today, Serena lives with her father, step-mother and two step-siblings in a safe, permanent, nurturing home.

\*Name 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](mailto:lderhammer@gacasa.org).*

## STATISTICS

CASA programs in Georgia **SERVED 7,483 CHILDREN**, an increase of over 400 more children than the previous year

**1,551 CASA VOLUNTEERS** were assigned to serve the children

**1 NEW CASA PROGRAM** began in Georgia and **CASA EXPANDED TO 7 ADDITIONAL COUNTIES**

Currently, **43 CASA PROGRAMS ARE SERVING 100 COUNTIES** and **40 OF THE 49 JUDICIAL CIRCUITS** in Georgia

Fiscal Year 2004

## 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 interest for the child.

The goal of a CASA volunteer is to advocate for a safe, permanent home for each child.

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

# CASA Volunteers Profile

## Bill & Berenice Wilson, Enotah CASA, Dahlonga, Georgia



*Bill and Berenice Wilson have been CASA volunteers with Enotah CASA since 1995, when the program began. They are the longest-serving CASA volunteers currently in Georgia and have advocated for over 40 children. Following is a recent interview with them:*

**Connector: How did you learn about CASA?**

*Berenice:* I was involved with the CASA program in South Carolina (known as the Guardian ad Litem program in that state), where I grew up. Bill and I were both widowers who met, married and moved to northeast Georgia. I wanted to become involved with the CASA program in Georgia.

*Bill:* I saw a TV program on child abuse, which interested me in finding a way to help children. In addition, my wife infected me with her enthusiasm for the CASA program. We then both took the CASA volunteer training together.

**Connector: What qualities are important to have as a CASA volunteer?**

*Bill & Berenice:* We've found that having compassion, common sense and tenacity are great qualities to have as CASA volunteers.

**Connector: What has been your greatest success as CASA volunteers?**

*Bill & Berenice:* One of the most rewarding aspects of our service as CASA volunteers is to always have the children we serve know that we are here for them, working for what is best for them.

**Connector: You've had many CASA success stories over your years as CASA volunteers. Would you like to share a few of those stories?**

*Bill & Berenice:* Sure, we have many stories we could tell. We'll share three stories that really stand out to us.

Two girls we were CASA volunteers for had moved from foster home to foster home and to one relative placement over a three-year period. We

found out about a particular foster home and were able to help the girls be placed in the home, where they will grow up. Two years later, the girls, ages 13 and 15, were blossoming both socially and academically. When we talk with the girls, their happiness means so much to us.

In another case, we advocated for a five-year-old girl who wore leg braces due to a medical condition. When charges were brought against her father, she was removed from her home and placed in a foster home. Her foster parents did not take proper care of her. She had to stand in a corner without her leg braces, go untreated for a badly infected hand and was not kept clean. Even though the county the girl lived in did not have a CASA program, we kept searching and found an adoptive home capable of caring for a special needs child. The adoptive mother funded treatment for the girl and now, at 14, she is thriving.

The last case we'll share is about an 18-month old child with a very young mother. The child was removed from her mother after an aunt reported that the mother had neglected her child. After being assigned to the case, we discovered that the aunt made a false report because she wanted to raise the child. As it turned out, the mother had married a stable young man and they were living with his parents. The little child was returned to her mother within a month of being removed from her home.

**Connector: What additional comments would you like to add?**

*Bill & Berenice:* We would like to see CASA programs everywhere in Georgia and all over the United States.

*Thank you to all CASA volunteers, like Bill & Berenice Wilson, who give selflessly of their time and talents to help Georgia's children!*

# Recognizing Our Donors

*Carroll Jones, Georgia CASA Board Member & Chairman of Resource Development Committee*

**T**he CASA organization requires the dedication of many individuals: CASA volunteers who give their time and attention to children and families and turn their knowledge into critical reports for the judge; staff who provide the training and support for those volunteers and reach out to new volunteers; Board members who govern the program; and donors who provide the means to serve children.

Georgia CASA has been fortunate over the last 16 years to have faithful donors who stand behind our mission to develop and support CASA programs that provide trained and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in juvenile court. Without the sustained financial commitment of these individuals, CASA in Georgia could not have also attracted institutional donors, who look for commitment from the community before making an investment of their funds and attention. Beginning this year, we will recognize our donors by the following named categories:

\$5,000 and over Beacon of Light  
\$2,500 - \$5,000 Champion  
\$1,000 - \$2,500 Guardian  
\$ 500 - \$1,000 Advocate  
\$ 250 - \$ 500 Sustainer  
Less than \$250 Friend of Children

We hope these levels of recognition will encourage you and others to increase giving to CASA so that we can fulfill our mission of service to abused and neglected children in Georgia. If you know anyone who would like to participate in volunteering or giving to CASA, please connect him/her with your local or state CASA leadership.

## Meet Georgia CASA's Director of Advocacy & Program Development

**A**ngela Tanzella became Georgia CASA's Director of Advocacy & Program Development in August 2004. Angela received her undergraduate degree in English from the University of Georgia and her J.D. from Mercer University School of Law. Angela's initial involvement with CASA began during an internship with Georgia CASA in the summer of 2002. Afterwards, she became a CASA volunteer for Central Georgia CASA in Bibb County.

In the area of advocacy, Angela's primary responsibilities include promoting and enhancing CASA's goals, mission, and image through the exchange of information with the affiliate CASA programs, court systems, state agencies, and the general public.

In the area of program development, Angela facilitates the development and expansion of new CASA programs throughout the state. She has already begun discussions about bringing CASA to the Griffin and Oconee judicial circuits.

Angela stated, "The best part about CASA is the people. Not only does everyone in this organization share the common goal of improving the lives of deprived children, but they're always willing to help each other out. It's great to know that if I'm in a town with a CASA program, I'm in a town with a friend."

In her spare time, Angela is a Big Sister through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Heart of Georgia. She also enjoys shopping, golfing and spending time with her friends.



# Methamphetamine:

## A serious drug problem that also puts children in harm's way

A highly addictive stimulant drug, methamphetamine (meth) affects the central nervous system by producing a sense of well-being for up to 24 hours. Because it can be produced from ordinary items available at retail stores, meth is relatively cheap (also known as poor man's cocaine) and is therefore a popular drug. It also ranks high among its users for its long-lasting effects. In Georgia, meth has become an increasing threat, especially in the Northern and Central areas of the state. Many children are put directly in harm's way due to meth abuse by adults.

Taking meth produces feelings of alertness and elation. The drug causes increased wakefulness, increased physical activity, decreased appetite, increased heart rate and elevated blood pressure. Over time, nerve cells are damaged. Meth is produced in illegal laboratories and its appearance can vary dramatically. It is odorless, bitter-tasting and either in a powder or rock-like chunk form. While it is usually white in color, a variety of colors has been observed. Meth users either swallow, smoke, snort or inject the drug. Either smoking or injecting the drug produces the fastest euphoric effect. Users get high very rapidly and as soon as the feeling fades, they want to recapture the feeling immediately.

Many serious physical problems can accompany meth usage, especially over a period of time, including damage to the small blood vessels in the brain (which can lead to strokes), inflammation of the heart lining, hyperthermia, convulsions and even death. Meth causes unpredictable behavior in individuals. Chronic meth users may also experience psychotic behavior, including violence, paranoia, anxiety, confusion, auditory hallucinations, mood disturbances and delusions. When meth is injected, a person is also exposed to additional risks of blood-borne viruses. When a meth user undergoes withdrawal from the drug, symptoms include depression (when the potential for suicide is high), fatigue, aggression, intense cravings, anxiety and paranoia. Specialized treatment is required for meth addiction. The most successful treatment may include lengthy intensive group therapy, frequent drug testing and months of aftercare.



In the past, meth was typically used by adult males with below average incomes, primarily in the Western U.S. Today, meth is widely used throughout the U.S. by people of all ages and economic statuses. Many teenagers and young adults (18 to 25) have reported meth use. In Georgia, meth is the primary drug threat to Dalton and Macon. It is also a serious problem in many smaller towns and cities in the state. Sadly, almost 16% of Georgians aged 18-25 reported using illicit drugs during the past month during a drug study in 2000-2001. During 2003, over 400 meth labs were raided by law enforcement in Georgia. Over 18% of the federally-sentenced drug defendants in Georgia in 2001 were sentenced on meth charges.

Children are in great danger when they are around meth. Often, adults who have meth labs in their homes have children. These children are exposed to dangerous substances, toxic waste and possible fires since chemicals are cooked above 200 degrees. In addition, when a parent is high on meth, he or she is certainly not able to care for a child, leading to possible child abuse or neglect. In Georgia over the past two years, 113 children were found by police in homes used as meth labs.



The Georgia General Assembly has responded to the state's meth problem. Criminal penalties have been increased for meth-related crimes. With the passage of the child endangerment bill in 2004, additional penalties have been added for making meth in the presence of children. Child protection caseworkers in the state are being trained about meth labs in homes and are being notified by law enforcement when a raid will be made on a home where children live.

Meth use is an ever increasing problem in the U.S. as well as in Georgia. Many innocent children are put in harm's way. By being aware of the meth problem and the powerful effect it has on users, law enforcement officials, caseworkers, CASA volunteers and others can help to lessen the risks to children.

For more information on meth and other drugs, visit the following web sites:  
[www.acde.org](http://www.acde.org), [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov), [www.health.org](http://www.health.org)  
& [www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov)

**Sources for article:** American Council for Drug Education, Georgia Department of Human Resources, National Drug Intelligence Center, Office of National Drug Control Policy & U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

# Coweta County Starts Newest CASA Program

With 43rd Program, CASA in  
Georgia Now Serves 100 Counties

The CASA program has arrived in Coweta County, southwest of Atlanta. CASA was already present in the Coweta Judicial Circuit with Carroll County CASA and CASA of Troup County.

Coweta County CASA, whose office is in Newnan at The Rutledge Center, will operate as an independent nonprofit under the direction of Sue Rickenbaker, a retired elementary school principal. Tracy Jones, Executive Director of CASA of Troup County, is helping with the program's start-up. CASA volunteers will be trained during the first part of 2005.

Over 175 children are in foster care in the county, and Coweta County CASA will work towards providing a voice in court for each abused and neglected child.

The Newnan Junior Service League has chosen Coweta County CASA as the benefactor of their annual event. This year, The Red Baron Ball (black tie optional) will be held on Saturday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Newnan Coweta Airport. If you are interested in attending or wish to receive more information, you may contact Betsy Burnette, Ball chairperson, at 770.253.8523 or [bburnette@numail.org](mailto:bburnette@numail.org).

Do you know someone who may be interested in volunteering with CASA? Contact information for all CASA programs in Georgia can be found at [www.gacasa.org](http://www.gacasa.org) or by calling 404.874.2888 or 800.251.4012. The Coweta County CASA program's phone number is 770.253.1189.



## Program Highlights

Congratulations to **Renee Gresham Crawford**, Executive Director of Savannah/Chatham County CASA, and **David Wall**, CASA volunteer and Advisory Board Member of Clayton County CASA (Jonesboro), who both received a Liberty Bell Award for 2004! Local bar associations honor a non-attorney each year with the award.

**Marilyn Howard**, CASA volunteer with Fulton County CASA (Atlanta), was one of seven volunteers featured in the National CASA Association's most recent annual report (2003). The report included a story about Marilyn's first case as a CASA volunteer in 1998, as she helped to influence a teenage boy to graduate from high school instead of becoming a delinquent on the street.



Mrs. Georgia (back center) with participants  
at Tri-County CASA Ceremony

**Mrs. Georgia 2004-2005, Markie Cohen**, is serving as a CASA spokesperson for CASA in Georgia. Markie is a CASA volunteer in Cobb County whose pageant platform is CASA. She is available to make appearances and speak at various CASA events in the state. Mrs. Georgia was the guest speaker at the volunteer swearing-in ceremony of Tri-County CASA (Baxley) in October. She also was a special guest at the Very Important Duck Party in October for Clayton County CASA's Sixth Annual Duck Derby.

**Laurens County CASA (Dublin)** recently expanded to serve the Oconee Judicial Circuit in middle Georgia. CASA services will be provided initially in Bleckley, Dodge and Wheeler counties.

# CASA Resources

## Books

### The Abusive Personality

Violence and Control in Intimate Relationships

By Donald G. Dutton

### Communication Skills Profile

By Elena Tosca

### Emerging Practices in the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

By Caliber Associates

### Someone There for Me

Everyday Heroes Through the Eyes of Teens in Foster Care

By CWLA Press; Edited by National CASA Association

*Books are available for check-out from Georgia CASA's resource library.*

## Web Sites

### [www.childwelfare.net/CFR/](http://www.childwelfare.net/CFR/)

*As the site of Georgia's Office of Child Fatality Review, this site provides information about opportunities for prevention, findings and recommendations surrounding child fatalities in the state*

### [www.gocwi.org/](http://www.gocwi.org/)

*Site of the Child Welfare Institute Internet Resource Center, find information, ideas and guidance in relation to the field of child welfare training*

### [www.hearmyvoice.org](http://www.hearmyvoice.org)

*This site highlights child advocacy cases and other issues confronting child advocates*

### [www.serviceleader.org](http://www.serviceleader.org)

*This site provides information on all aspects of volunteerism, from best practices in volunteer management to full documents and reports related to volunteerism*

### [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)

*Site to post the CASA volunteer opportunity online; visitors to the site enter a zip code to search for volunteer opportunities in their communities*

Do you want to recommend a book, video or website for this list? If so, please email [lderhammer@gacasa.org](mailto: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 and over **Beacon of Light**

\$2,500 - \$5,000 **Champion**

\$1,000 - \$2,500 **Guardian**

\$500 - \$1,000 **Advocate**

\$250 - \$500 **Sustainer**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **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

## February 10, 2005

"CASA at the Capitol Day" will be held in Atlanta beginning at 9:45 a.m. at Central Presbyterian Church, across from the Capitol. The day includes an inspirational speech by Judge Velma Tilley, a legislative briefing, photo with the Governor, meetings with legislators and a luncheon.

## February 14; 15 - 17, 2005

A workshop on the **Juvenile Court Process and CASA's Role** will take place in Macon at the Peyton Anderson Building for new CASA staff from 1 to 4 p.m. on February 14. A **Training of the Facilitators** workshop will be held at LaQuinta Inn in Macon on February 15 through 17. New CASA staff will learn how to facilitate the training curriculum provided to new CASA volunteers.

## March 3 - 4, 2005

The spring **Council of Programs** meeting, for local CASA program directors, will take place in Macon at The Methodist Home. 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.

## March 23 - March 25, 2005

The **Building Successful Teams Conference** takes place at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta. Sponsored by several state government offices, including the Georgia Department of Human Resources, the conference centers around child abuse, injury and fatality: investigation, prosecution and prevention. Registration brochures will be sent via mail.

## April 16 - April 19, 2005

"Growing a better tomorrow for every child," the **National CASA Association's 24th annual conference**, takes place in Atlanta at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. For additional information and/or to register, visit [www.casenet.org/conference/](http://www.casenet.org/conference/). Also see p. 5 for information.

## February 14 - 20, 2005

Random Acts of Kindness Week  
[www.actsofkindness.org](http://www.actsofkindness.org)

## April 2005

National Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month

**4-8** National Youth Violence Prevention Week

[www.violencepreventionweek.org/](http://www.violencepreventionweek.org/)

**17-23** National Volunteer Week  
[www.pointsoflight.org](http://www.pointsoflight.org)

## May 2005

National Foster Care Month

## June 16, 2005

The annual **Celebration of Excellence** takes place at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta to honor graduates in Georgia's foster care system. Visit [www.celebrationofexcellence.org](http://www.celebrationofexcellence.org) for details.

## July 10 - 12, 2005

**Prevent Child Abuse Georgia's 21st Annual Symposium** takes place at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia in Atlanta. For more information, call 404.870.6565. Visit [www.preventchildabusega.org](http://www.preventchildabusega.org) for updates.



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