



Georgians at the National CASA Conference in Atlanta

(l-r): Linda Stacy, CASA Volunteer in DeKalb County, with Judge Glenda Hatchett (conference speaker) and the children she advocated for - Meagan Stegall (conference speaker) & Christin Stegall

Summer/Fall 2005

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Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. develops and supports court-sanctioned, community-based programs that 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

It is my pleasure to serve as the Board Chair of Georgia CASA for fiscal year 2006. Thanks to the leadership of former Board Chair Jim Sibley, Georgia CASA continues its work to reach our vision for each abused or neglected child involved in juvenile court proceedings to have a safe and permanent home. Together with the local CASA programs in Georgia and their CASA volunteers, we can reach our vision. Georgia CASA recently developed a long-range strategic plan for the next five years. Our goals include the following: increase CASA volunteer capacity, support local CASA programs, promote the quality and integrity of CASA and improve Georgia CASA's ability to provide services. Throughout the coming year, I will work as Board Chair to lead the Board and staff as we carry out various activities to accomplish the strategic goals. We will embark on a major fundraising campaign in order to expand CASA throughout the state to provide CASA volunteers to all children who need them. Accomplishments will result in positive changes for our children, Georgia CASA and CASA in Georgia.

Congratulations to Willia Banks, the 2004 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia! You can read about her accomplishments on the following page. I commend Willia and the over 1,500 CASA volunteers in the state for their continued efforts to help our most vulnerable citizens – abused and neglected children. Thank you for your willingness to serve. You are the lifeline of the CASA organization.

Please take a few moments to read the newsletter. It includes a lot of helpful information, including an article on advocating for the educational needs of youth in foster care (page nine), a wrap-up of the 2005 Georgia legislative session (page five) as well as a resource article about burn injuries in child abuse (page seven).

Thank you for your continued support of CASA in Georgia!

Lee Kintzel

Look for Georgia CASA's new email newsletter next year! To ensure you continue to receive the newsletter, send your email address to:

lderhammer@gacasa.org

(This is the last printed edition of the newsletter.)

Feature Article

Georgia's 2004 CASA Volunteer of the Year

Willia Banks, CASA Volunteer with Hall-Dawson CASA, Is Honored

Willia Banks, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer with Hall-Dawson CASA Program, Inc., in Gainesville was chosen as the 2004 CASA Volunteer of the Year in Georgia. Willia received the 2004 Karen N. Sibley Volunteer of the Year Award, named in honor of Karen N. Sibley, founding chairman of Georgia CASA, at the annual volunteer recognition reception of Hall-Dawson CASA, which was held on April 28th in Gainesville.

Willia was cited for her outstanding skills in advocating for the best interests of over 50 abused and neglected children in Hall and Dawson counties since becoming a CASA volunteer in 1994. In one case, she helped a young neglected toddler find a permanent home with a loving adopted family. The toddler was also malnourished, could not sit, had poor motor skills and virtually no verbal skills. She helped to ensure his physical and developmental needs were met.

In addition to serving as a CASA volunteer, Willia has also been involved with CASA in the community in Gainesville, including being a CASA presenter to various groups and representing CASA on the Domestic Violence Task Force of Hall County.

Willia is an outstanding community volunteer who truly has a heart for serving abused and neglected children as well as other victims, including homeless women and those affected by domestic violence. She has been honored with several awards for her community service, and Georgia CASA was pleased to present her with the 2004 CASA Volunteer of the Year Award for the state.

Georgia CASA
proudly recognizes

Willia Banks

**2004 Karen N. Sibley
CASA Volunteer of the Year**

for her outstanding service
to children.



Duaine Hathaway (Georgia CASA Executive Director), Connie Stephens (Hall-Dawson CASA Executive Director), Willia Banks, Dr. Mike Hosford (Hall-Dawson CASA Board President) & State Rep. Stacey Reece



Willia Banks with Judge Glenda Hatchett at the National CASA Conference in April

CASA and Foster Youth Day at the Capitol

Statewide Event to Build Relationships with Legislators Held in February

On February 10th, about 200 people from across the state took part in “CASA and Foster Youth Day at the Capitol” in Atlanta. To start the day, Judge Velma Tilley of Bartow County (Cartersville) Juvenile Court gave an inspirational and motivational speech to CASA volunteers, board members, staff and foster youth. After an informational briefing on the legislative process and how to talk with state legislators, everyone made their way to the Capitol for a group photo with Governor and Mrs. Sonny Perdue, where the Governor presented a CASA Proclamation to Duaine Hathaway (Executive Director of Georgia CASA) and Jim Sibley (Board Chair of Georgia CASA) in honor of CASA volunteers in Georgia.

CASA constituents then met with their local senators and representatives to talk about the CASA organization and the issues facing the abused and neglected children CASA volunteers serve. Afterwards, legislators were invited to have a Chick-fil-A lunch with their constituents and the foster youth.



Jim Sibley (Board Chair), Mrs. Mary Perdue, Duaine Hathaway (Executive Director) & Governor Sonny Perdue

Thanks goes to
*Krispy Kreme &
The Coca-Cola Bottling Company*
for food & drink donations for the day!

Georgia CASA Luncheon & Fashion Show Very Successful

The March 16th Georgia CASA Luncheon and Fashion Show held in Atlanta was a dramatic success! Marcy McTier and her committee put together a delicious luncheon at Maggiano’s, a fashion show with some very special models and a raffle with exciting trips. One of the highlights was a visit from Mary Perdue, First Lady of Georgia, who spoke to our guests about the need for community involvement through CASA to ensure positive opportunities for abused or neglected children.

The fashion show featured six Atlanta boutiques: Bilthouse, Bonnie White, Celebrity, Children & Prep Shop, G. Gilbert and Peoples. Our models included well-known child advocates Stephanie Blank with her adorable twins and Shannon Mora, a Kappa Alpha Theta and the Falcon head coach’s wife. Connie Stephens, the Hall-Dawson CASA Program Director, and Juvenile Judge Peggy Walker represented the Georgia CASA Board. Other Theta models were Susie Hall and Virginia Hopkins. A very special model was Jamal Jones, son of Georgia CASA Staff Associate Joyce Jones.

Four trip packages were raffled off: AirTran tickets along with destination packages to New York, San Francisco and a VIP stay in Washington, D.C.



Several models at the Luncheon & Fashion Show

Thanks to the strong support of the Georgia CASA Board and the Greater Atlanta Kappa Alpha Theta Alumni, the event was sold out; the guests had a good time; and \$65,000 was raised to provide services to the 43 CASA programs across the state. *Plan to join us next year on March 15th for another good time for a good cause!*

Georgia Legislative Session Wrap-up

The Georgia General Assembly ended the 2005 legislative session on March 31st. Below are highlights from the session that are most relevant to CASA.

Governor Perdue signed the following bills into law:

- ◆ **House Bill 10** - Creates the offense of female genital mutilation with a penalty of imprisonment of five to 20 years.
- ◆ **House Bill 180** - Permits the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) to conduct "name only" background checks of relatives being considered as placement resources for children entering foster care. Traditional fingerprint checks must still be submitted within 15 days.
- ◆ **House Bill 195** - Requires juvenile courts to hear termination of parental rights (TPR) cases within 90 days of the filing of a TPR petition and to decide these cases within 30 days of the conclusion of the hearing. Both requirements have a "just cause" exception.
- ◆ **House Bill 212** - Requires Guardians Ad Litem (GALs) to have pre-appointment training prior to representing children in juvenile court. The training must be administered or approved by the Office of the Child Advocate, while an exemption is granted to GALs in practice for three or more years and who demonstrate proficiency in child representation.
- ◆ **House Bill 272** - Codifies the Foster Child Education Grant, which provides financial resources to foster children and those adopted at age 14 and older for post-secondary education expenses such as tuition, room and board, books, fees and a basic health insurance policy.
- ◆ **Senate Resolution 161** - Creates a study committee to recommend revisions to the juvenile code so as to create a less cumbersome and unwieldy code and suggest appropriate substantive changes.

The following bills are held over until next year:

- ◆ **House Bill 192** - Provides that local victim assistance funds collected by the courts shall be paid directly to the county governing authority or the district attorney.
- ◆ **House Bill 605** - Creates caseload limits of 12 for Child Protective Services (CPS) workers, 17 for placement staff and a worker to supervisor ratio no greater than five to one.
- ◆ **House Resolution 300** - Encourages child advocates and DHR to meet to discuss best practices in child welfare and a possible Foster Children's Bill of Rights.

The House and Senate passed the following state fiscal year 2006 budget.

(The Governor does have line-item veto power to strike specific items in the budget.)

FY2006 Budget Appropriations

- \$5,399,000 to begin hiring 500 CPS staff to reduce CPS caseloads
- \$3.5 million reduction in costs associated with temporary labor, hiring and training by reducing caseworker turnover
- \$401,871 for a 4% salary supplement for CPS staff in high-growth counties with high caseloads
- \$275,597 for a 5% salary increase for ongoing CPS workers
- \$600,000 for training veteran CPS and foster care workers and supervisors
- \$1,000,000 for local training hubs using Department of Technical and Adult Education facilities
- \$3.5 million reduction achieved by streamlining the foster care assessment instrument and process for out-of-home placement for children
- \$2,000,000 to increase the family foster care per diem rates
- \$477,149 to recruit and retain additional foster and adoptive homes
- \$1,300,000 to increase reimbursement rates to DHR and Department of Juvenile Justice providers of level four to six care for children

For additional information about the Georgia legislative session, visit www.legis.state.ga.us

CASA Success Story

In the Atlanta area, Katie* and Kasey* – ages two and one – were living in a van with their mother and grandmother, where drug deals were being made from the back of the van. The sisters had been sexually abused and were afraid of everyone. As a result of the situation, Katie and Kasey were developmentally delayed, malnourished and medically neglected.

They were placed in a foster home, and the judge assigned a CASA volunteer to them. The CASA volunteer researched developmental delays and other special needs and was instrumental in coordinating funding and resources to treat Katie and Kasey. The CASA volunteer also helped to make sure the sisters were not “lost” in the system due to several administrative changes during that time.

Katie and Kasey now live with a family that is in the process of adopting them. They are healthy, friendly and developmentally on track.

*Names 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 5,893 CHILDREN**

1,758 ACTIVE CASA VOLUNTEERS served the children in Georgia

290 NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS were sworn in

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

July - December 2004

CASA...

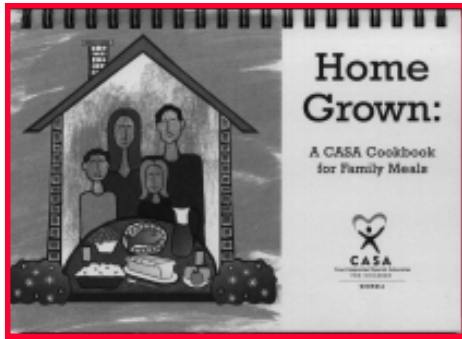
trains volunteers to help abused and neglected children in the juvenile court system.

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.

SPEAK UP FOR A CHILD.

Cook Great Family Meals and Help Support CASA!



Home Grown: A CASA Cookbook for Family Meals is now available! The cookbook includes over 65 recipe contributions from people in the CASA family in Georgia - volunteers, board members and staff. It also includes stories behind the recipes as well as information about CASA.

The inspiration for a CASA cookbook came about when a CASA volunteer in Georgia advocated for a child who had never eaten a meal around the table until she went into foster care as a teenager and became part of a family. The cookbook is a great way to encourage the kind of fellowship and sharing that all children need. Proceeds from cookbook sales go to support the work of CASA volunteers.

*Georgia CASA wishes to thank **Jackson Spalding** (a communications management firm) for contributing design services for the cookbook.*

To get your CASA cookbook for only \$10, visit www.gacasa.org for an order form or call Georgia CASA at 404-874-2888 or 800-251-4012.

Local CASA Programs

Don't forget to order cookbooks at the bulk rate to sell locally as a fundraiser!

Burn Injuries in Child Abuse

Abused children, whom CASA volunteers serve, are the most likely to be burned intentionally. Deliberate injury by burning is often unrecognized, and most victims are under the age of ten with the majority as toddlers. Children may be burned for various reasons, such as a child whose hands are immersed in scalding water as punishment for playing near the stove. Fortunately, intentional burns often leave skin characteristics that can be detected. Young children have thinner skin than adults, and it is therefore destroyed faster and by less heat.

The main types of accidental and nonaccidental burns are scald burns and contact burns. Scald burns are the most common, usually caused by any hot liquid. Tap water is used in most deliberate scald burns, and the depth of the burn is uniform. Contact burns may be caused by flames or hot solid objects and are characterized by extreme depth (for example, touching an iron).

Most physicians classify burns in degrees.

- ◆ *1st degree* - partial thickness burns, such as a sunburn
- ◆ *2nd degree* - partial thickness burns with blisters, where part of skin has been destroyed
- ◆ *3rd degree* - full thickness burns, where full skin is destroyed and treatment is needed
- ◆ *4th degree* - full thickness burns, penetrating deep tissue where immediate treatment is needed

It is important to note that some skin conditions may simulate abuse, including cutaneous (skin) infections, hypersensitivity reactions and marks left by folk remedies (such as in the Asian culture).

Child abuse in the form of burn injuries is a very serious matter. Children will suffer a significant burn in less time than an adult. Even for an adult, significant injury will occur after exposure to 127° for one minute and in two seconds at 150°. While only a medical practitioner can diagnose burn injuries, CASA volunteers can always be aware of the types of burn injuries and look for signs of potential abuse.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice Portable Guides to Investigating Child Abuse

National CASA Conference a Big Success in Atlanta

The National CASA Association held its 24th annual National CASA conference in downtown Atlanta at the Hyatt Regency from April 16th-19th. CASA staff and volunteers from across the state were delighted to welcome attendees from across the country for the event, which was held in Atlanta for the first time. Hosting the conference provided many unique opportunities for CASA staff and volunteers in Georgia, from recommending presenters, activities and entertainment to moderating workshops and meeting the speakers. The location of the conference also made it much easier for many CASA volunteers to attend.

The conference got off to a great start at the Opening Luncheon as former CASA child Meagan Stegall shared her story with the crowd. She told how, with the help of her CASA volunteer, Linda Stacy of the DeKalb County CASA Program, she and her sisters were able to get out of foster care and into the home of a caring relative. It was an inspiring tale of the huge difference one person can make. The keynote speaker for the luncheon was Judge Glenda Hatchett, of the television show *Judge Hatchett*. A former Fulton County juvenile court judge and National CASA spokesperson, Judge Hatchett inspired the crowd with her unique and powerful speech. It was the perfect opening session, as it got all those present excited and ready for a fantastic conference.

The conference boasted many outstanding presenters from Georgia, such as Douglas County Juvenile Court Judge and Georgia CASA Board member Peggy Walker and Director of the Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic Karen Worthington. Due to the wide variety of workshops offered, many conference participants found it difficult to choose which workshop to attend. Georgia favorite Naomi Haines Griffith closed the conference with her inspiring and heartfelt words and sent everyone off feeling renewed and revitalized to bring even greater advocacy to children across the country. It was an exciting opportunity for Georgia to host the National CASA Conference, one that everyone would certainly welcome again!

CASA Promoted During April National Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month Provides Prime Opportunities for Public Awareness

Each April, CASA programs throughout the state are encouraged to hold events and/or to participate in activities to promote the awareness of the CASA organization in local communities. Some events held by programs this year were candlelight ceremonies, a lunch & learn session and a motorcycle ride. Various activities by programs included radio and TV interviews about CASA and local businesses donating a percentage of their sales to CASA.

Georgia CASA helped to support programs throughout the month in various ways:

A judge's **Op-Ed (Opposite Editorial) template**, endorsing the CASA program, was provided for programs to ask their judge to submit to local papers.

A **statewide email** was sent to CASA supporters to encourage them to tell friends and family about CASA and/or to make a donation to CASA.

A **statement stuffer template** was provided to programs to use in local utility bills to recruit additional CASA volunteers.

Several TV stations in Atlanta hosted CASA guests during April in conjunction with the National CASA conference in Atlanta. Representatives from Fulton County CASA were on UPN's *Focus Atlanta*. Judge Glenda Hatchett, spokesperson for National CASA, and Marcia Sink, Board President of National CASA, were featured on FOX5's *Good Day Atlanta* morning show. In addition, Marcia Sink and Duaine Hathaway, Georgia CASA Executive Director, were guests on WSB's *People 2 People* community affairs show.



Overall, the month of April was very successful in spreading the word about CASA in order to recruit more CASA volunteers and increase donations to CASA.

Educational Advocacy for Youth in Foster Care

The Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic at
Emory University School of Law

Foster children often repeat a grade and are twice as likely as the rest of the school population to drop out before graduation...

...when compared to the general school population, children in foster care:

- have poorer attendance rates,
- are less likely to perform at grade level,
- are more likely to have behavior and discipline problems,
- are more likely to be assigned to special education classes and
- are less likely to attend college.

By their very involvement with the foster care system, the youth for whom we are advocating have already faced challenges in their past. Without a quality education, what hopes do they have to build better futures?

The good news is that CASA volunteers can make a real difference in educational success starting with some very simple tasks.

1. Pay attention

The most important thing you can do is also the most basic – **Pay Attention**. No adult involved in the foster care system wants children to do poorly in school; they often just do not think about school very much. Many foster children report the only time their caseworkers, CASA



volunteers, judges or lawyers paid attention to how they were doing in school was when they were misbehaving or failing to attend, and sometimes, not even then. School is forgotten or treated as a side issue as the adults worry about protecting children, finding them new homes or transferring

them if a placement does not work out. Education planning should be a part of the initial discussions about placement when a child enters care and whenever placement changes. If there is nothing in the case plan about education, ask!

2. Minimize school transfers

At least one study suggests it takes a child from four to six months to recover academically from the disruption of changing schools. Changes in foster care residence often mean a change of school as well. Do not assume that a

change in placement requires a change in school. Many courts are now making it a priority to keep children in their present school when they enter care and even if they experience multiple placements. Find out: Is the new caregiver willing to transport the child? Is the child still residing in the same school district, and does the school district have a school of choice program? Is this a special education child who is already receiving some sort of transportation support? Raise the issue with the case manager.

3. Communicate high expectations

Ask children about their homework and report cards. Studies of older youth in foster care show they often have high educational aspirations, and they resent the fact that more is not expected of them. So, expect more than “passing” grades. Encourage them to think about vocational programs and college. Let them know there may be funding available. Finally, encourage participation in extra-curricular school activities – participation is associated with higher academic achievement.

4. Attend parent/teacher conferences

This is one of the easiest points of entry into a child’s school life. Crucial information can be gained from teachers that you can then share with the caseworkers or incorporate into your recommendations to the court.



Additional Resources

- Foster Children & Education: How you can create a positive educational experience for the foster child. A publication of the Vera Institute of Justice. Available at http://www.vera.org/publication_pdf/241_452.pdf.
- Education for Foster Children: Removing barriers to academic success. From the University of California, Berkeley. Available at <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/bassc/pdfs/EDUfc.pdf>.
- Make a Difference in a Child’s Life: A manual for helping children and youth get what they need in school. From the TeamChild and Casey Family programs. Available from the Washington State CASA office at <http://www.washingtonstatecasa.org/resources/edad.htm>.

Meet the New Georgia CASA Board Members

Claudia Avallone, retired human resources specialist who resides in Atlanta

Vic Ayres, Chief Information Officer with the American Cancer Society in Atlanta

Humberto Garcia-Sjogrim, Project Manager for World of Coke in Atlanta

Steve Gill, Program Coordinator of Gwinnett County CASA in Lawrenceville

Rebecca Gupta, Guardian Ad Litem attorney in Atlanta

Bernadette Hartfield, Associate Professor of Law at Georgia State University School of Law in Atlanta

Lori Muggridge, Executive Director of Ocmulgee CASA, Inc. in Milledgeville

Mia Redd, Manager of Community Affairs with CARE in Atlanta

Avery Tucker, employed in finance with The Southern Company in Atlanta

Georgia CASA Receives Above & Beyond Award

At the Promoting Safe & Stable Families (PSSF) 2005 Symposium this spring, **Georgia CASA** was honored with the *Above & Beyond Award* in recognition of unwavering advocacy for children and continued efforts in the field of child welfare in Georgia. A program of the Georgia Department of Human Resources, PSSF grants are currently received by 13 affiliate CASA programs in the state. The award is a testimony to the valued performance of those programs.

Program Highlights

Congratulations to **The Laurens County CASA, Inc. (Dublin)** program, led by Sherri Howard, Executive Director. The program received the *You Make the Difference* award from the Promoting Safe & Stable Families program of the Georgia Department of Human Resources for its dedication and innovative approach to providing services to Georgia's children and families.

In April, the **DeKalb County CASA Program (Avondale Estates)** joined the Emory University Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta to host a Hawaiian Luau Picnic for CASA volunteers, board members, staff, CASA kids, foster parents, court personnel and other CASA collaborative partners. The picnic included great food, games, crafts and dancing. It was such a well-attended event that it has led to plans for the Thetas and DeKalb CASA to collaborate and host a similar event next year. CASA is the national philanthropy of the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority.



Emory Kappa Alpha Thetas host DeKalb County CASA Picnic

Since October 2003, **CASA of Troup County (LaGrange)** has coordinated an ongoing suitcase donation project for foster children in Troup County. The CASA program disseminates information about the project throughout the community, and many generous donors have given suitcases that go to foster children as they move from home to home or to simply have a suitcase of their own if they go on a trip. Previously, many children only had plastic trash bags to use for their belongings. To date, the CASA program has donated over 130 suitcases to foster children.

Congratulations to **Clayton County CASA Volunteers (Jonesboro) Lovette Bennett** and **Eunice Farris**, who were recognized in May for their outstanding service at the 25th Annual Clayton Volunteer Recognition Program of The United Way of Clayton County.

CASA Resources

Books

Child Welfare Journal of Policy, Practice & Program

March/April 2005

By CWLA

Georgia's Responsibilities Toward Children in Foster Care: A Reference Manual

By Danette Joslyn-Gaul, Esq.

The 5 Life Stages of Nonprofit Organizations

By Judith Sharken Smith, with J. Terence Donovan

Trouble Don't Last Always - When a child becomes a 4-year old parent

By Shane Salter

Videos

Georgia's Forgotten Children (1 hour)

WSB-TV, Atlanta

April 2005 special about the plight of children in Georgia's foster care system

Red Clay & Vinegar: The Health & Hurt of Families (30 minutes)

Life stories of Naomi Haines Griffith's Southern childhood of pains and joys, this video urges us to remember that children are the future

Web Sites

www.childtrends.org

This site provides a wealth of information on child well-being and other research areas; also includes a data bank with the latest national trends and statistics on child well-being

www.civicyouth.org/research/areas/comm_partic.htm

Fact sheets on youth volunteering, including great resource articles about "Time Spent Volunteering" and "How Individuals Begin Volunteering"

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

www.cwresource.org

Site of the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Family Centered Practice; includes "hot topics" and links to many other child welfare sites

www.gaccchildlaw.org

Site of the Georgia Association of Council for Children; includes current information on available resources for child advocates in Georgia as well as various child law resources

www.nationalcasa.org/JudgesPage/Index.htm

Read newsletters on a variety of topics related to judges and the CASA program nationwide; also subscribe to a private area of the site

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

Thanks and a Fond Farewell to Ann Barrett, Georgia CASA Resource Development Director

Ann Barrett retired from the staff of Georgia CASA on June 30th, after working at Georgia CASA for 9 years. She originally served on the Board of Directors from 1992 to 1996. Ann worked in several positions while on staff, most recently as Resource Development Director, and brought a wealth of expertise to the organization. Even though she is retiring, she will continue to do consulting work for Georgia CASA from time to time.

Thank you to Ann for all her years of dedication and service to CASA in Georgia!

Calendar of Events

August 7-12, 2005

The 31st annual **National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) Conference** will take place at the Hilton in downtown Atlanta. The conference is co-hosted by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) of Georgia and the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. Visit www.trynova.org/conference/2005/ for more information.

August 17-19, 2005

Georgia's Office of the Child Advocate will sponsor the **Guardian Ad Litem Conference** in Savannah at the Hyatt Regency. The conference is open to attorneys, GALs and CASA volunteers. For a registration form, visit www.gachildadvocate.org/training.html.

August 22-24, 2005

Training of the Facilitator will take place in Macon for new CASA staff and others who are responsible for facilitating the CASA volunteer pre-service training. Details will be announced in the future.

September 28-30, 2005

The fall **Council of Programs** meeting, for local CASA program directors, will take place at Sea Palms Resort on St. Simons Island, GA. 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 announced in the future.

November 7-9, 2005

The sixth annual **Child Placement Conference**, which Georgia CASA sponsors, will take place in Augusta at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel/Country Suites Riverwalk. For a registration brochure, visit www.gahsc.org/fac/2005/cpcindex2005.html.

October 2005

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

November 2005

National Adoption Month
7-13 World Kindness Week
www.actsofkindness.org
19 National Family Volunteer Day
www.pointsoflight.org/organizations/nfod.cfm

December 2005

5 International Volunteer Day
www.worldvolunteerweb.org/events/ivd/index.htm

April 2-5, 2006

National CASA Annual Conference
Town & Country Hotel
San Diego, California



Georgia CASA
1776 Peachtree Road, NW
Suite 219, South Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

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to continue receiving the
new Georgia CASA
newsletter via email
next year!