CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
CASA OF THE RIVER REGION

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COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES
CASA

CHRONICLES

WINTER/SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

NAVIGATING GIVING IN 2018

YOUR GIFT IS AN INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN

The new tax law makes changes in how you can deduct charitable giving. Despite the changes, we, at CASA, believe that our donors gift us their money to raise the dignity and improve the livelihoods of abused and neglected children today and in the future.

But, we also believe that with the new law, donors will be still be motivated to give. Why?

The Tax Cuts & Jobs Act doubles the standard deduction for individuals ($12,000) and couples ($24,000). Ideally, this will give donors the chance to increase their charitable giving by having more resources. For itemizers, the limit on cash contributions increased from 50 to 60 percent of adjusted gross income when given to a charity. Donors in higher-income brackets can take advantage of this increase. Lastly, we are optimistic companies will look to donate more of their marketing and charitable dollars to charity.

CASA is positive that its supporters who give $10 or $10,000 will continue to ensure hundreds of vulnerable children will have a voice in the form of a trained CASA volunteer. We strive to maximize donations to support the vision of providing a trained volunteer to every abused and neglected child who needs one. In 2017, CASA served 563 children (almost 100 more than 2016) with 179 volunteers. With 200 children still waiting, we still need the community's support to reach our vision.

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

- Donor-advised funds: Donate money and take a tax deduction in the same year, while paying selected charities over time.
- "Bunching" donations: "Bunch" several years of donations to a donor-advised fund into 1 year; take the tax deduction, while fund pays the gift annually.
- Life Insurance Policy: Dividing charitable giving in a year by redirecting a portion as premium on a policy lets you receive a tax deduction for the current year & endows the charity after you're gone.

Please consult with your financial advisor on the best ways to continue to support your favorite charity.

SAVE THE DATE

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH
Check our Facebook/ Website for updates.
APR 1-30

EMBRACE A CHILD BREAKFAST
Learn about CASA's mission and impact at this year's breakfast, 7:30 a.m. at The Olmsted.
APR 12

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER
Join us at Sawyer Hayes Community Center to celebrate our volunteers.
APR 19

BOURBON BY THE BRIDGE
Save the date for CASA's annual bourbon tasting event at the Waterfront.
JUN 9

IMPACT

BE A VOICE.
BE THE
DIFFERENCE.
BECOME
A CASA.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters:

2018 is a year of new beginnings! We begin the year on a firm foundation from 2017. Last year, we served 563 children with 179 volunteers. This is an increase of almost 100 children from 2016. We had 113 potential volunteers enter trainig, 74 completed and 69 were paired with children (90% increase from 2016). We are also beginning the year with a new Board chair, Ruth Reid. I am excited to work with her to continue our mission of serving abused and neglected children.

We are also optimistic about our financial support in 2018. With the new tax law changes, we anticipate growing support from donors who believe in our mission that every child should have a safe, caring adult they can trust. To make this year a spectacular new beginning, we need your help!

Please tell people you meet about your support of CASA. Invite them to our annual Embrace A Child Breakfast on Thursday, April 12 at The Olmsted. We are always seeking new volunteers so we can support more children who are on the waitlist, which can be 200 on any given day. We also hope you will share with others why you are passionate about financially supporting CASA. We aim to be good stewards of your gifts by ensuring they make an impact on the lives of vulnerable children.

YOU have the power to make a new beginning for the 3,800 children currently in Family Court. I hope you will join us!

Sincerely,

William Myers, JD, MBA

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ruth Reid, Board Chair
Laura Hammer, Vice Chair
Amy Caudill, Development Chair
Heather Metts, Finance Chair
Ashlyn Ackerman, Secretary
Kirk Carter
Emily Digenis
Philip Hawkins
Barbara LaMaster
Michael Leigh
Carol Lomicka
Nora Fitzgerald-Meldrum
Leon Mooneyhan
Tim Nall
Susan Ochs
Abe O'Bryan
Michael O'Connell *(EX-OFFICIO)*
Kellie Sheryak
Jessica Wissing

Breanna and her siblings were in foster care for several months before their grandmother took them in. Breanna's unstable environment and constant change set her back academically. She was in middle school and could barely read, let alone read at grade level. Her CASA was instrumental in getting her the educational resources she needed, including a weekly tutor. Breanna is a quick learner and in a year, she is reading at grade level, making A/B in all her classes and is considering a STEM Architectural program when she starts high school in the fall.

Breanna, 14 years old

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 12
7:30 AM BREAKFAST | THE OLMSTED

SAVE THE DATE FOR CASA'S ANNUAL
EMBRACE A CHILD

Changemakers come together at this breakfast to give voices to abused and neglected children in our community. Be part of the journey as we share the stories of how our CASA kids found hope during their darkest days.

There is NO cost to attend the breakfast.

Please invite a friend (or 2 or 3) to learn how they can change a life.

RSVP BY APRIL 1 AT
www.casarr.org/embrace-a-child-breakfast

BOURBON BY THE BRIDGE

Guests will have access to a wide variety of distilleries and spirits offering all-you-can-taste pours and cocktails. www.casarr.org/events

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

All volunteers are welcomed to be celebrated at the annual dinner held at Sawyer Hayes Community Center.

CASA 101 INFO

A free one-hour session on the children our volunteers serve, the application process, the training and case support. www.casarr.org/casa101

Rory (4 yrs old), JJ (3 yrs old) and Adam (infant) were placed with their aunt when their parents' volatile relationship came to head. Both parents were addicted and mom had mental health issues. The aunt could not take care of all three kids, so they were moved to a foster home. Despite mom's efforts, she had a psychotic breakdown and continued to self-medicate. The CASA volunteer made sure that all the kids stayed together and they were in safe placements. Three years into their case, their foster mom Bekah was able to adopt them on December 2017. It was a very happy moment for all the kids. Bekah is the only mom they remember. Their CASA and the CASA supervisor were invited to celebrate the adoption.

Kay, CASA Volunteer

IN MEMORIAM (1946-2017) JUDGE RICHARD J. FITZGERALD

CASA of the River Region mourns the passing of honorary Board member Judge Richard J. FitzGerald (or Fitz). Fitz was instrumental in the founding of CASA. A graduate of Manhattan College and Brandeis School of Law, Fitz was appointed to the Juvenile Court bench in 1975 at age 29. He served as Chief Judge for more than 10 years and was a catalyst in creating a unified "family" Court. He served on the bench until his retirement in 2000. Fitz was honored as Judge of the Year by National CASA in 1993 among many other awards. We are grateful for Fitz's role in establishing CASA as well as the care he had for the children of our community.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF LOUISVILLE

DRIVING CHANGE THROUGH STUDY

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF LOUISVILLE

The Community Foundation of Louisville (CFL), in partnership with the Lift a Life Foundation, James Graham Brown Foundation and CFL donors, awarded 28 nonprofits with $463,000 in "capacity-building" grants. CASA was one of the select 28 that were chosen to receive this generous award.

Capacity building grants are intended to go towards developing a nonprofit's operations, building long-term sustainability, improving technology, supporting activities like staff training or strategic planning, and conducting feasibility studies.

The Fund for Louisville grant "will help us determine the impact that CASA makes and how we can tailor programming to help more children," Executive Director William Myers said.

It's the first time in CASA's history that we have the resources to study children's outcome measurements based on a child's development asset profile—strengths, supports and noncognitive factors essential for a child's success in school and life.

CASA will be able to gauge the program's impact through the context of children's own strengths giving us a road map to plan future programming with the goal of increasing positive outcomes.

31,387 # VOLUNTEER HOURS

169,634 TOTAL MILES DRIVEN BY VOLUNTEERS

NEW CHILDREN SERVED **305**

179 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

Total Children Advocated **563**

116 VOLUNTEERS ENTERED TRAINING

Average # of kids waiting for a CASA **113**

CASA VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES ACTIVE JAN 2017-JAN 2018

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

15+ YEARS OF SERVICE

Ashley, James
Bowling, Kathryn
Buechler, Peggy
Drescher, Diane
Norris, Jane
Potts, JoAnn

10 TO 14 YEARS

Lepping, Kathie
Lindsay, Betsy
Olsen, Loretta
Staudter, Lee

5 TO 9 YEARS

Aiple, Susan
Beam, Elizabeth
Beck, Linda
Blevins, Kelli
Bright, Michael
Carroll, Mary
Cummins, Kathy
Dalton, Steve
Finlinson, Sharon
Garner, Carolyn
Garner, Tony
Hubbard, Liz
Ilnick, Linda
Kiesel, John
League, Rebecca
McKinney, Phyllis
Metcalf, Judy
Ohlmann, Vonna
Reichert, Walter
Scott, Rosalind
Shipley-Foster, Dorothy
Shurling, Thomas
Stenger, Robert
Temple, Nick
Voss, Joyce
Waldman, Bobbi
Wittebort, Barbara

2 TO 4 YEARS

Abbott, Grant
Ackman, Melissa
Allgeier, Rose
Asher, Norm
Barrineau, Hannah
Bruning, Jane
Burke, Marty
Byrne, Jonathan
Byrne, Julie
Carroll, Mike
Dye, Donna
Fister, Terese
Fitzgerald, Annie
Galbraith, LuAnn
Garrett, Ray
Grubbs, Frank
Heick, Mimi
Holder, Tanya
Holland, Carla
Kahloon, Ashley
King, Diane
Lockhart, Dorothy
Magnuson, Julie
Mason, Enid
McWilliams, Joe
Metsker, Scott
Michael, Douglas
Miller, Judy
Miller, Paula
Morris, Julianne
Mullins, John
Ostwalt-Whitefield, Rita
Overall, Vivian
Peariso, Sharon
Pike Sr., Thomas
Radasch, Dolores
Riggs, Carmen
Stroud, Ashley
Thomas, Stephanie
Thompson, Gordon
Tucker, Christina
Watts, Dorothy
Werner, Diane
Woods, Yvonne

1ST YEAR OF SERVICE

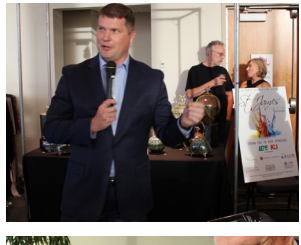
Aaron, Linda
Abell, Nancy
Anna, David
Arbough, Melinda
Arnold, Rhonda
Babcock, Timothy
Bole, Suzette
Bowles, Christine
Bradshaw, Lianne
Brinkman, Dianne
Brown, Dustin
Busse, Suzanne
Caravona, Denise
Cecil, Paige
Clark, Denise
Combs, Tami Jo
Condict, Sue
Conklin, Gary
Crucet, Margaret
De Lap, Barbara
Denson, Shannon
Downey, Carolyn
Drake, Sarah
Duffy, Jenny
Dukes, Doug
Dunbar, Bebe
Durham, Ashley
Ensch, Melissa
Erwin, Judith
Escobedo, Diane
Fries, Paul
Fuller, Jennifer
Gerstle, Margaret
Gillespie, Kimberly
Hale, John
Hart, Patricia
Hedrick, Bethany
Heidel, Justin
Hobbs, Laurie
Hock, Mary
Hounchell, Jamie
Howard, Amy
Howard, Christina
Jarett, Kim
Jones, Cheryl
Jones, Robin
Kang, Kyung
Kelly, Tara
Koch, Rachel
Leyderman, Mariya
Loughran, Sandra
Makowski, Peggy
March, Barbara 'Lynn'
Marquart, Jules
Marti, Mary 'Elise'
Meyer, Patti
Miller, Doreen
Minor, Lauren
Moore, Sonnie
Mudd, Marynan
Normandin, Scott
Ospital, Laura
Phelps, Terri
Phillips, Vicki
Plyman, Jennifer
Pollard, Jennifer
Price, Susan
Roberts, Rita
Rogers, Margaret
Rowe, Alicia
Schuler, Francis
Schulten, Michelle
Schulz, Caroline
Schumer, Joan
Self, Kimberly
Souza, Nancy
Swinney, Heather
Timmerberg, Carissa
Underwood, Nancy
VanArsdale, Therese
Via, Cheryl
VonTrapp, Stephanie
Wagoner, Ruth
Weisbach, Eric
Wesslund, Deborah
Whitaker, James
Willen, Rebecca
Withers, Ashley
Workman, Ashlee
York, Dawn

CASA

PHOTO ALBUM

ST. JAMES PREVIEW PARTY

MUHAMMAD ALI CENTER | OCTOBER 5, 2017



We are so thankful to everyone who supported our CASA events. CASA events support 20 percent of the organization's total budget. Your attendance ensures that we can train volunteers and pair them with as many vulnerable children who need them. Thank you to LG&E-KU, Brown-Forman, Kosair Charities, Adam Jalil Memorial Fund, Stites & Harbison, Bill & Carol Lomicka and Kellie Sheryak for sponsoring. We are also so grateful for the continued support and generosity of all our tables sponsors and guests.

SUPERHERO 5K OCTOBER 25, 2017

MCBRAYER ANGEL TREE NOVEMBER 14, 2017

CHRISTMAS IN THE COURTARD DECEMBER 5, 2017

CYCLEBAR

JANUARY 20, 2018

VIEW ALL EVENT PHOTOS: FACEBOOK.COM/CASARIVERREGION

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CASA OF THE RIVER REGION

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Louisville, KY 40217

Website: CASARiverRegion.org
Phone: (502) 595-4911

Ways to Give:

1 Mail Contribution
2 Give Online
3 Call Us
4 Donate Stock

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