

February 2010

Welcome to the new website addition of monthly updates! We hope you find the information helpful and please let us know if there is anything you would like to have included!

The CASA Team began the year with the goal to serve 100% of *our* children in need with a CASA Volunteer in 2010. Alarmingly, the number of maltreated children in our community continues to escalate. In 2009, there were 848 new children suffering from allegations of abuse and neglect. Of these, we were able to assign a CASA guardian to 753 ~ this simply would not have been possible without all your support. We sincerely thank you. To accomplish the 2010 goal of serving 100% of *our* children, we will be reaching out to you more than ever before. We have a lot of recruitment events scheduled throughout the year and 5 training sessions – please let us know if you are interested in helping with these or other activities!

I thought you might be interested in seeing these!

**SSI Changes Rule to Benefit Disabled Youth Leaving Foster Care**

The Social Security Administration has issued new rules that directly apply to disabled youth leaving foster care. Effective immediately, a disabled youth eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) may file an SSI application up to 90 days before federal foster care payments are expected to end. This is an exception to the general rule of accepting an SSI application in the month before the month of eligibility. This policy will aid disabled youth in foster care to make the transition to adult life by helping to ensure that they have income and health benefits in place. View the policy using the link below.

<https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/public/reference.nsf/...>

Pam Robinson sent the following link to us on Child Welfare and Immigration issues – The information is very helpful and easy to navigate.

<http://www.americanhumane.org/protecting-children/programs/child-welfare-migration/immigration-and-child-welfare.html>

We continuously strive to keep the CASA website up to date and provide new additions. Please let me know if there is anything you feel we should add in the upcoming months!

Mark Your Calendars for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteers For Youth conference – Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – You should be receiving a conference brochure in the mail very soon!

Again – Thank you so very much for your support, time and resources. We appreciate all that you do.

Paige