

March 2010

Greetings Friends!

Richland County recently adopted a strategic plan identifying their mission, vision, and values - Their mission is:

**Richland County**  
**Bringing Citizens and Government Together**  
**MISSION**

Richland County Government is dedicated to providing services that are accessible to all residents and improve the quality of life in our community.

In reviewing the County's mission statement, I cannot help but reflect on CASA volunteers who selflessly give of your time and resources to improve the quality of life in our community. We thank you.

**Please welcome new staff ~ Tina Thomas and Adrienne Kelish join the CASA TEAM!!!**

Recent studies indicate incidents of child abuse have declined. That is great news!!! Unfortunately, this is not the case for Richland County as the numbers of maltreated children in our community continue to increase. In January and February 2010, CASA volunteers were assigned to advocate on behalf of 126 new children in need of protective services. With your continued support, our goal will be to assign a CASA volunteer to 100% of our children in need in 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS NEW GUARDIANS!!!!!! 31 new CASA volunteers completed training in January and participated in the Swearing-In Ceremony performed by the Honorable Leslie K. Riddle on February 4, 2010. The following information was extracted from our data base - CASA now has over 400 volunteer advocates - THANK YOU!!!

**Demographics of All Volunteers**  
**(by sworn dates and discharged dates during date range)**

3/2/2010 to 3/2/2010

Age				Educational Level			
Under 21	0	0.0%	(Unknown)	3	0.7%		
21-29	127	30.6%	College	148	35.7%		
30-39	94	22.7%	GED	1	0.2%		
40-49	83	20.0%	High School	13	3.1%		
50-59	67	16.1%	Middle School	2	0.5%		
60 and over	43	10.4%	Other	1	0.2%		
(Unknown)	1	0.2%	Post-Graduate	178	42.9%		
			Some College	69	16.6%		
<b>Average Volunteer Age:</b>	40.2						

Employment Status			Gender		
(Unknown)	13	3.1%	F	306	73.7%
Full Time	298	71.8%	M	109	26.3%
Not Employed	29	7.0%			
Part Time	14	3.4%			
Part Time/ Student	1	0.2%			
receptionist	1	0.2%			
Retired	21	5.1%			
Student	38	9.2%			

  

Ethnicity			Primary Language		
African American	207	49.9%	(Unknown)	12	2.9%
Asian American	6	1.4%	English	401	96.6%
Bi-racial	1	0.2%	Igbo	1	0.2%
Caucasian	195	47.0%	Other	1	0.2%
Hispanic	4	1.0%			
Korean American	1	0.2%			
Other	1	0.2%			

**415 volunteers for above date range**

**CHECK OUT THIS RESOURCE –  
Video on Working Together to Prevent Child Abuse**

"Circles of Caring," a video from Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia, demonstrates that everyone can play a role in preventing child abuse. The Circles of Caring concept is based on research from the Center for the Study of Social Policy's Strengthening Families Initiative, which identifies several protective factors linked to reduced occurrences of child abuse and neglect. The video explains how individuals, groups, and communities can form the following Circles of Caring to support child development and prevent abuse:

**Knowledge of parenting and child development.** Ensure that parents are educated about the stages of child development. Parent education programs, improved parenting skills, and parent information are part of this circle.

- **Parental resilience.** Reach out to parents, particularly during difficult times. Community programs such as in-home family education and parent support groups are part of this circle.
- **Social connections.** Be a supportive friend or helpful neighbor, get parents involved in local groups so that they can build relationships with each other, and connect with parents online through social networks and email.
- **Social and emotional development of children.** Support children's social and emotional skills and help them to express their feelings and needs effectively. Quality early care and education programs, trusted family members, and mentors are part of this circle and can help to strengthen communication and bonds among children, parents, and other adults.
- **Concrete supports in times of need.** Help parents during difficult times, especially through community services, donations, and volunteering.

The "Circles of Caring" video is available on YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=e\\_GozRIDJzs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_GozRIDJzs)

**Smart Summers, Strong Kids – The South Carolina Department of Social Services released a directory of Summer Camp information for children in foster care. Please chat with CASA staff if you would like to receive a copy of this directory!!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS ~ Lots of Activity at the CASA Office ~ We do hope you can join us!!**

**Standing Invitation to join the CASA Staff for their monthly staff meetings held the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 in the CASA Office.**

<b>March 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>New Pre-Service Training begins – 2020 Hampton Street</b>
<b>March 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Volunteers For Youth Conference – Midlands Tech/Airport</b>
<b>March 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Children’s Law Center – CASA trains at conference</b>
<b>April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Annual Chili Cook-Off – USC Law School</b>
<b>April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>In-Service – Gail Ricks from Growing Home</b>
<b>April 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CASA Delegation to NCASA Conference</b>
<b>April 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Volunteer Appreciation Event</b>
<b>May 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>In-Service – Sherry Lewis from Sexual Trauma Serving the Midlands</b>

**National CASA Conference ~ April 16<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Atlanta, GA  
Please let the CASA staff know if we can help anyone with conference registration!!!!!!!!!!!!**