



"If our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever."

[Kofi Annan](#)

RCCASA UPDATES JUNE 2010

RCCASA GUARDIANS SERVE 100% OF OUR CHILDREN!!

As many of you know, we began 2010 with the goal of ensuring a CASA volunteer was appointed for 100% of the children in need. Since January, CASA volunteers have advocated on behalf of 784 children. Volunteers have served 256 new children entering the system - this simply would not be possible without you. The number of new children in need of advocacy continues to increase, while services and resources for *our kids* continue to dwindle. While it is heartbreaking to see the number of children in need, we are grateful CASA Volunteers are here to help. THANK YOU ~ for all you do.

425 ACTIVE RCCASA GUARDIANS SERVING CHILDREN!!

Congratulations to our new volunteers: Jeanette McBride ~ Goldie McBride ~ Gilliam Cannon ~ Shelia Williams ~ Chiquota McCloud-Scott. These outstanding new volunteers recently completed CASA's innovative Lunch & Learn Guardian Training for Courthouse Staff.

NEWS FLASH - Be on the lookout for CASA Mail!!! We are in the process of updating Criminal Records checks for all volunteers and will be sending you information very soon.

RCCASA, one of 12 organizations across the nation, has been selected to participate in a National Resiliency Project through the University of Texas.

JUNE VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!!!!
MATTHEW PERKINS



Matthew Perkins has been a CASA volunteer since 2005 and has been appointed to represent 23 children to date! Often referred to as a star CASA Quarterback, Matthew has been instrumental in recruiting additional male guardians to the program. In addition to providing stellar child advocacy, Matthew generously gives of himself and resources for all CASA projects. Matthew also serves on the CASA Board of Directors and has accepted the position of Board Chair for FY 10-11. He frequently attends training for new volunteers, mentors new volunteers, and makes the best BBQ in South Carolina!!! Matthew is a wonderful person who richly gives of himself. His passion for child well-being is unmatched. Matthew has been instrumental in forging heightened relationships between CASA and Richland County DSS. He is frequently called upon to grill and help with various DSS projects. Matthew is an ambassador for CASA and child advocacy. THANK YOU MATTHEW ~ FOR ALL YOU DO!!!!!!

RCCASA's First Annual Sadie Hawkins Day Event Was A Tremendous Success!! Thank you for all you did to help us with the gathering and for sharing the CASA Story with so many!! Check out the line-up of a few of our Quarterbacks!!!



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 5, 2010 ~ Richland County Park & Rec Community Fair,
Meadow Lake Park

June 8, 2010 ~ Volunteer Pre-Service Training begins

June 23, 2010 ~ Volunteer Advisory Council meeting

June 24, 2010 ~ Swearing-In Ceremony for new volunteers

August 27, 2010 ~ CASA Quarterback Breakfast of Champions

May 31, 2010

New Law Limits Time in Foster Care

Sanford signs bill aimed at improving adoption process



South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford signed the legislation S.1172 on Tuesday, May 25, 2010, a bill which focuses in speeding up and improving the process transitioning children in foster care into permanent adoptive homes, the Office of the Governor announced.

The bill is a result of direct recommendation by the Governor's Children in Foster Care and Adoption Services Task Force, a group created in 2007. This organization identifies ways to improve the efficiency and quality of the state's foster care and adoption processes.

It will also put less emphasis on keeping birth families together, in cases where the parents are substance abusers or mentally ill.

"I think (this is) a very significant step forward with regards to the adoption process in South Carolina," Sanford said. "Foundational to the larger notion of quality of life is this notion of a home for every child."

"Children do better in permanent homes and that is what everybody wants for these children," said Dr. Kathleen Hayes, director of the S.C. Department of Social Services (DSS). "The children we saw today here (at the bill signing) are in adoptive homes. They're the success stories. We want every child in foster care to be able to get into that ... adoptive home."

Hayes said the legislation will allow the state to terminate parental rights more quickly in some cases.

"There are parameters put in place that we can't just sit back and wait a little longer and wait a little longer ... until everything works out," she said. "Even though these are complex and difficult decisions, there's a very clear definition of how long we can take before that decision has to be made and the beneficiary of that will be the child." There are more than 5,000 children living in foster care in South Carolina.

Last year, there were more than 500 adoptions in the state and officials said they hope the new law will increase that number.

RESOURCES

Tips for Youth in Foster Care

The Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center (FCARC) has produced a series of tip sheets for youth in foster care. The sheets are three to four pages in length in easy-to-print PDF format and include links to book, online, and other resources. Among the titles are:

- Seeing A Mental Health Therapist
- Bullying Hurts Everyone
- Coping With Anger
- You Are Not Alone: The Sad Truth About Having A Parent in Prison
- Keys to Independence: Finding Your First Apartment
- Your Voice Matters: Speaking Out by Speaking Up (Youth Advocacy)
- Sharing Your Story
- Is This Love? Teen Dating Violence
- How to Ace Your Job Interview
- Tips for Filling Out a Job Application Form
- Financial Aid Awareness Assistance and Resources
- Who Am I? Exploring Your Sexuality
- Life Books: A Creative and Fun Way to Express Yourself
- How Career Assessments Can Help You Make School and Career Choices
- Earning a GED or HSED

FCARC is a project of Adoption Resources of Wisconsin, Inc., Anu Family Services, and St. Aemilian-Lakeside, Inc., in partnership with the Wisconsin Department Children and Families. FCARC staff welcome suggestions for future tip sheets. Access their current list:

www.wifostercareandadoption.org/snav/248/page.htm

Thank You For All You Do



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CASA Supervisor
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CASA Supervisor
CASA Supervisor
Public Relations Specialist
CASA Attorney
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