



When the best things are not possible, the best may be made of those that are.
- Richard Hooker

RCCASA UPDATES JULY ~ 2010

RCCASA GUARDIANS CONTINUE TO SERVE 100% OF OUR CHILDREN!!

We began 2010 with the goal of ensuring every child in need will receive a CASA volunteer ~ to date, you have met that goal and we thank you. On July 1, 2010, RCCASA volunteers were actively advocating for 480 children. Since January, CASA volunteers have served 315 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.

401 ACTIVE RCCASA GUARDIANS SERVING CHILDREN!!

Congratulations New Guardians and Welcome to the CASA Team!!! The following new guardians participated in the Swearing-In Ceremony performed by the Honorable Leslie K. Riddle on June 24, 2010.
Lauren Acquaviva – Glen Adams – Antwan Aiken – Rowland Alston – Audrey Bright – Gilliam Cannon – Aretha Cooke – James Cooper – Allison Crandle – Latraia Daniel – Christopher Dearing – Demond Elliott – Marchelle Fobbs – Rozalyn Franklin – Candice Grant – Ralphielle Green – Arthur Holmes – Jacqueline Irizarry – Terena Johnson – Gloria King – Catherine Kopiec – Goldie McBride – Jeanette McBride – Scott McCloud – Amelia McKie – Sohan Patel – Langdon Rust – Julianne Scott – Judy Smith-Irvin – Rita Spence



GO CASAA!!!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES ~ PLEASE READ HOW THESE NEW REVISIONS IMPACT OUR WORK, OUR COMMUNITY, AND OUR CHILDREN.

H3800: GALs from the SC GAL Program and Richland County CASA are now mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect under SC Code Ann. Section 63-7-310(A)*

*Note: If the GAL is an attorney who has undergone training by the Program, i.e., the attorney is a volunteer GAL for the GAL Program, (s)he is not a mandated reporter but is encouraged to report pursuant to Section 63-7-310(C). The GAL Program did not ask for this distinction because an attorney who is serving as a GAL through the Program would be represented by a Program attorney. Some legislators were concerned that an attorney who is a GAL Program volunteer could still run the risk of breaching attorney-client confidentiality obligations, even though the individual would not be acting as an attorney. The law does not apply at all to private GALs.

Link: http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess118_2009-2010/prever/3800_20100525.htm

H3779: This bill made changes to S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-7-1620 regarding legal representation of children in child abuse and neglect cases, the requirement of counsel for GAL Program/Richland County CASA volunteers, and the appointment of attorney GALs. Largely speaking, the changes conformed law to practice and added clarifications. Key provisions are:

a) 63-7-1620(1), (2): A child is no longer required to have an attorney, which brings law into conformity with practice. The law now reads that the court "may appoint legal counsel for the child." This would happen in rare circumstances, e.g., when the child is older and has wishes that are at odds with the GAL's recommendations.

b) 63-7-1620(1): GAL Program GALs must have attorney representation. This is already the case because the Program's enabling legislation authorizes volunteer GALs to participate in proceedings "through counsel." (SC Code Ann. Section 63-11-530(C)). It was appropriate to add a reference in S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-7-1620 because the provision addresses legal representation in child abuse and neglect proceedings.

c) 63-7-1620 (1): The bill eliminated all references to attorneys acting as GALs to conform to the November 2009 Supreme Court order on Rule 608 attorney GAL appointments.

Link: http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess118_2009-2010/prever/3779_20100527.htm

Good News Alert: CASA to Be Featured in *Jet* Magazine

A large guest column about the CASA cause, featuring Judge Glenda Hatchett, will appear in *Jet* magazine next week. *Jet*, which provides news and interest-related content for the African American community, is one of the largest national magazines. In addition to *Jet* magazine, a cover story about CASA featuring Judge Hatchett is scheduled to appear in the Chicago-area magazine *N'Digo* this August.

New National CASA Podcast: Advocating for Immigrant Youth, Part One

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)—a form of lawful status available to immigrant youth—is an important consideration in a growing number of CASA cases. In this podcast Susan Schmidt, a consultant for Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services, provides an introduction to SIJS. [Listen to the podcast now.](#)

Effective Program Strategies for Helping Youth Transition to Adulthood

A new factsheet from Child Trends, *What Works for Older Youth During Their Transition to Adulthood: Lessons from Experimental Evaluations of Programs and Interventions*, synthesizes results from experimental evaluations of 31 programs geared towards positively influencing older youth (ages 18 to 25). Researchers examined the effects of programs such as Job Corps, Upward Bound, New Chance, and others to identify strategies that worked across outcomes, as well as promising findings for education, career, reproductive health, and substance use outcomes. The factsheet highlights the following pertinent findings:

- Education and career programs can be effective, especially for low-income youth and for youth targeted early in their transition to adulthood.
- Specific intervention strategies, such as mentoring, case management, and providing child care for young parents, are associated with program success across outcomes.
- Findings have been inconsistent regarding the effectiveness of substance use and reproductive health programs across outcomes for this age group.

The report also contains a chart that provides detailed information on individual program success across the outcome categories. The authors also offer suggestions for further research, noting that this particular age group is often overlooked because of assumptions that this population is already benefiting from general services available for adults.

The factsheet, by Alena M. Hadley, Kassim Mbwana, and Elizabeth C. Hair, is available on the Child Trends website:

www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2010_03_09_FS_WWOlderYouth.pdf (282 KB)

Family Group Decision Making: A Culturally Responsive Approach

Since its inception, Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) has been widely identified as a promising practice for remediating racial disproportionality and disparities in child welfare.

As a culturally responsive approach, FGDM has been shown to improve outcomes for all children and families. In fact, equity for children and families of color in the child welfare system is a primary motivator for U.S. jurisdictions implementing FGDM today. To learn more, visit the Colorado Disparities Resource Center website, launched by the Children's Division of American Humane, in partnership with the Colorado Department of Human Services Division of Child Welfare, to address longstanding issues of service disparities in child welfare based on race and ethnicity.

<http://www.colodrc.org/>

Adoption Day Breaks Records!

39 adoptions finalized in Sumter Co. from 9am-7pm



On Wednesday June 2, 2010, a record was broken for the number of children adopted in South Carolina in a single day as The Honorable George M. McFaddin, Jr., hosted another **Adoption Day** in Sumter Family Court where he gave the SCDSS an entire court day to finalize adoptions.

The *Bridges Out of Poverty* Model by Tracy Evans

Although the United States is home to countless millionaires, the Children's Defense Fund asserts that a baby is born into poverty every 32 seconds. More than 5.6 million children are in families living at half the poverty level or less. As CASA and GAL staff members, our goal is to promote court-appointed volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children. Our volunteers are trained to act as strong voices acting for the individual needs of these children, giving them the best possible chance at a hopeful future. We cannot ignore the impact poverty can play in weakening a family's resilience and its ability to cope with the inevitable demands and stresses of day-to-day life. This past March, the Court Appointed Juvenile Advocates program in Madison County, AL, sponsored a seminar, *Bridges Out of Poverty*. Its ideas and tools can be used by organizations whose daily work connects them with the lives of people who live in poverty. Through both lecture and group activity, the training uses case studies, analyses, charts and media presentations to examine the causes of poverty. Read the [full article](#).

JULY Volunteer Spotlight COLE MCNAIR



2008

Cole McNair joined the CASA Team in 2008 and has been a vocal CASA advocate since day one!! He has been appointed as the guardian for 9 children and not been without a case since being sworn in as GAL in 2008. BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!!!! Cole has been a avid trainer for RCCASA and participated in all 2009 and 2010 Pre-Service Training for new guardians. Through his passion for education and process efficiency, Cole has been a tremendous asset towards enhancing the CASA website by making application forms available on-line. BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!!!! When Cole was invited to participate on the newly created Volunteer Advisory Council, he embraced the opportunity and eagerly volunteers his time and talents to keep this group on track. Cole serves as the "VAC" secretary and through his leadership, motivated many of the VAC members to help mentor new guardians. Everyone in the June class received a CASA Volunteer Mentor through these efforts. **THANK YOU COLE!!!!!!!**

Upcoming Events

- July 7, 2010 CASA Staff Meeting ~ 9:00 ~ CASA Office
 In-Service ~ 12 Noon / CASA Office ~ Sistercare
- August 4, 2010 CASA Staff Meeting ~ 9:00 ~ CASA Office
 In-Service ~ 12 Noon / CASA / HIV & AIDS Discussion
- August 18, 2010 ~ VAC Meeting - Let us know if you are interested!!

August 27, 2010 ~ CASA Quarterback Breakfast of Champions

September 1, 2010 ~ CASA Staff Meeting ~ 9:00 ~ CASA Office

In-Service ~ 12 Noon / CASA / Babcock Center

September 14, 2010 ~ New GAL Training ~ 2020 Hampton Street

September 30, 2010 ~ Swearing In Ceremony for New GALs

October 6, 2010 ~ CASA Staff Meeting ~ 9:00 ~ CASA Office

In-Service ~ 12 Noon / CASA / Communities In Schools

October 13, 2010 ~ Breakfast With Coach Tanner! - Call CASA for tickets

October 19, 2010 ~ New GAL Training ~ 2020 Hampton Street

Thank you for all you do!!



Missy Bowman Office Manager
James Washington Training Manager
Lela Allen-Haines Volunteer Manger
Vicki Raven Legal Services Manager
Tina Thomas Administrative Assistant
Pam Nipper CASA Supervisor
Hope Gossett CASA Supervisor
Sharon Walker CASA Supervisor
Thomas Clark CASA Supervisor
Heyward Hall CASA Supervisor
Carlton Boyd CASA Supervisor
Adrienne Kelish Public Relations Specialist
Angie Kohl CASA Attorney
Shawn Harmon CASA Attorney