



A quarterly publication for Richland County CASA Volunteers

August 2006

# The CASA Chronicle

## MEET OUR TEAM!!!!



Top row left to right) **Melissa Bowman (Administrative Assistant)**, **Pam Byrd (CASA Supervisor)**, **James Washington (CASA Supervisor)**, **Heidi Vaughn (Volunteer Manager)**, **Nichole Metts (CASA Supervisor)**, **Vicki Raven (Court Manager)**, **Sandra Green (Data Entry)**, **Lela Allen-Haines (Program Manager)**, **Shawn Harmon (CASA Attorney)**

(Bottom row)- **Cameron Runyon (Director of Development and Public Information)**, **Paige Jones (Executive Director)**.

**Not Shown-Hope Gossett (CASA Supervisor)**. Formerly known as Hope Brown  
**CONGRATULATIONS!!!!** She was on her honeymoon when this picture was taken.

**Special points of interest:**

- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.

## Lead Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. Newsletters can be a great way to market your product or service, and also create credibility and build your organization's identity among peers, members, employees, or vendors.

First, determine the audience of the newsletter. This could be anyone who might benefit from the information it contains, for example, employees or people interested in purchasing a product or requesting your service.

You can compile a mailing list from business reply cards, customer information sheets, business cards collected at trade shows, or mem-

bership lists. You might consider purchasing a mailing list from a company.

If you explore the Publisher catalog, you will find many publications that match the style of your newsletter.

Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help deter-

mine how frequently you publish the newsletter and its length. It's recommended that you publish your newsletter at least quarterly so that it's considered a consistent source of information. Your customers or employees will look forward to its arrival.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

## Secondary Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Your headline is an important part of the newsletter and should be considered carefully.

In a few words, it should accurately represent the contents of the story and draw readers into the story. Develop the headline before you write the story. This way, the headline will help you

keep the story focused.

Examples of possible headlines include Product Wins Industry Award, New Product Can Save You Time!, Membership Drive Exceeds Goals, and New Office Opens Near You.

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## CASAS FOR CASA

This year for the fourth consecutive year Richland County CASA participated in the annual Parade of Homes. This year our volunteers, with the assistance of the Richland County sheriff's Department, built our playhouse. CASAS for CASA is an opportunity for CASA to heighten the public awareness regarding the abused and neglected children of Richland County. The event also helps se-

cure new volunteers and supporters to assist CASA's efforts in providing services to abused and neglected children. This year we raised \$7,000. MANY THANKS TO THE HOME BUILDER'S ASSOCIATION WHO FACILITATES THIS OPPORTUNITY EACH YEAR!!!!!!



**"You can't control where abused children come from but you can have something to do with where they end up."**

### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

The month of April was not only child abuse prevention month but also Volunteer appreciation month. Each of your CASA staff members wanted to give something of themselves to all of you who work so hard throughout the year in advocating for the children that they serve. The CASA team utilized

their talents which included singing, laughter, and the designing of the awards to make the evening memorable for the volunteers!!!

CONGRATULATIONS DEIRDRE STOGDILL!!!! OUR CASA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!!!!

Deirdre and husband, Richard, left.



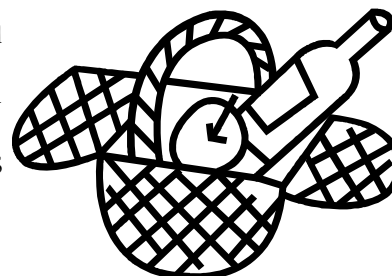
### DSS AND CASA STAFF RETREAT

Both DSS and CASA recognize that when the relationship between the two agencies is good and both agencies have the ability to agree to disagree, goals are achieved more rapidly and the children in our cases are served better. On June 30th, DSS and CASA met to work on bridging the gap between the two agencies through activities that

worked with CASA and DSS to build relationships between DSS workers and CASA staff and improve their communication skills.

CASA and DSS had a day with food, fun and laughter. DSS

and CASA will continue to work together to build working collaborative relationships.



## RICHLAND COUNTY ALL AMERICAN CITY

On June 11, 2006, the National Civic League named Richland County one of ten winners of the prestigious All American City Award. The award established in 1949, recognizes communities of all sizes—including neighborhoods, towns, cities, counties, and regions—that have made major progress in addressing the communities needs. Richland County highlighted the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program to the All American jury.

Shelena Tate, a USC theater major, expressed how important her Guardian was in her life when she was taken from an abusive home at the age of 5 years old. She stayed in foster care for 16 years.



Other winners of the 2006 All-American City Award include: Lincoln, California; Longmont, Colorado; Marietta, Georgia; Kansas City, Missouri; Columbus, Ohio; Maumee, Ohio; De Soto, Texas; and Pharr, Texas. Sarasota County, Florida and Richland County were the two counties to win the coveted national award.

## CASA TRAINING LEGEND STARTS CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATION



Jackie Gadsen has announced the opening of *There's Room, Inc.*, which has been a dream of hers for a long time. She now has the opportunity to make her dream come true.

The mission of There's Room, Inc. Supervised Visitation Center is to allow scheduled contact between a Non-Custodial parent and one or

more children in the presence of a neutral third person responsible for facilitating, observing, documenting and seeking to ensure the safety of those involved. The child is able to have safe and fruitful contact with the absent parent without having to be put in the middle of parents' conflicts or other problems.

Jackie Gadsen assists CASA with training new volunteers and we are blessed to have her expertise. She has over 30 years of experience with working with children and families.

## CASA IS STRIVING TO ACHIEVE ITS MISSION

### OUR MISSION:

*To advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in Richland Family Court by providing quality volunteer and legal representation to ensure ever child a safe and permanent, nurturing home.*

**OUR GOALS:** Goal 1: Provide every child a powerful voice in

court. Goal 2: Meet National CASA Association's program standards. Goal 3: Provide an environment for Richland County citizens to realize an exceptional volunteer experience. Goal 4: Increase public awareness around the issues of abuse and neglect and services provided by CASA.

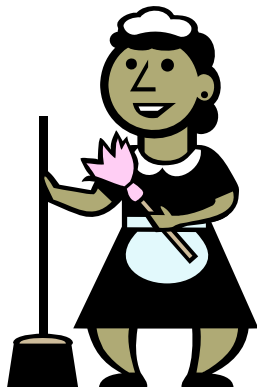
Goal 5: Improve internal operations while focusing on risk management, efficiency, and effectiveness.

**From July 2005-July 2006  
CASA served 888 abused and neglected children.**

**CASA currently has 270 sworn volunteers.**



ATTENTION MALE GUARDIANS  
 YOU ARE INVITED TO KICK OFF THE FOOTBALL  
 SEASON WITH CASA QUARTERBACKS!!!  
 BRING A MALE FRIEND WHO WANTS TO VOLUN-  
 TEER FOR CASA!!!  
 THURSDAY AUGUST 31, 2006 5:30P.M. -7:00P.M. AT  
 DAMONS!  
 CELEBRATE CASA AND STAY TO WATCH THE USC  
 GAMECOCKS TAKE ON THE MISSISSIPPI STATE  
 BULLDOGS!  
 FOOD AND DRINK PROVIDED BETWEEN 5:30P.M.-  
 7:00P.M.



## HOUSEKEEPING AT CASA

**PARKING PERMITS:** If you notice your parking permit fading, please contact Missy at 576-1720. The City of Columbia will issue a parking ticket. Also, please park in the designated areas located on the back of your permit. If you are issued a ticket, CASA will not be able to void it.

**CONTACTING STAFF:** Please call 576-1735, if you are unable to reach a staff member. We want to make sure you are being assisted in your cases and other CASA team members can answer your questions.

**CHRISTMAS 2006:** This year CASA will be trying something new. Due to the increasing number of children coming in and out of foster care and a variety of age groups, CASA will be requesting gift cards for the children so they have the opportunity to pick out what they want. Gift cards are versatile for all age groups. Gift cards can be purchased at a number of Department stores, such as Toys R Us, Walmart, and Target. CASA is unable to efficiently handle the volume of gifts we have received in the past.

**LIGHT OF HOPE:** We are looking for sponsors to assist us with obtaining Lampshades for our Light of Hope event in April of 2007. If you have any ideas, please call Lela Allen-Haines at 576-1731. Hand Middle School Art class has volunteered to paint and decorate the lampshades. We were unable to participate in the event in April of 2006 and want to get an early start.

**CASA'S 25TH YEAR!** In 2008, CASA will celebrate its 25th year. If you want to be a member of the planning committee, please call. Our first meeting will be scheduled in September of 2006.



## LEGAL CORNER

### A Quick Blurb about HIPAA Compliance

The Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”) addresses the use and disclosure of individuals’ health information, referred to as “protected health information” in HIPAA, by entities covered under the Act. Protected health information includes all individually identifiable health information held or transmitted by a covered entity or its business associate, in any form or media. The goal of the Privacy Rule is to ensure that an individuals’ health information is protected while, at the same time, promoting health care and to protect the public’s health and well-being. The Privacy Rule has been in effect since April 2003. The Privacy Rule applies to all “covered entities.” Covered entities include health plans, health care clearinghouses, and any health care provider who transmits health information in connection with certain transactions covered under HIPAA.

The major purpose of the Privacy Rule is to define and limit the circumstances under which an individual’s protected health information may be disclosed by covered entities. Generally, a covered entity may not disclose protected health information unless the individual, or his or her personal representative, authorizes the release in writing, or as otherwise permitted under the Privacy Rule. The Privacy Rule authorizes the disclosure of protected health information without individual authorization where required by law (including by statute, regulation and **court order**). Richland County CASA provides every volunteer Guardian *ad Litem* with an Appointment Order containing language authorizing the release of protected health information by covered entities. A volunteer guardian should contact either myself or his or her supervisor in the rare event that the information is not released by the covered entity. Guardians should also be aware that the safeguards of HIPAA apply to the protected health information they receive and should not be released to any other party or entity.

Please refer to Office for Civil Rights website at [www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa) for additional helpful information about HIPAA.

Please contact Shawn Harmon at 576-1726 if you have any additional questions.

### IMPORTANT DATES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



- Friday, August 11th from 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM: Dr. Delores Gulledge, *C.A.R.E. Team Coordinator* at the Richland County Coroner’s Office will be here to discuss “Grief and loss issues that encompasses more than death.” **CASA OFFICE**
- Tuesday, August 15th from 5:30 PM-6:30 PM: Jackie Slicer of the Richland County Police Dept. will be here to discuss law enforcement’s approach to child abuse and laws concerning child abuse and sexual abuse. **CASA OFFICE.**
- August 21, 2006 Court House Fair.
- Celebrity luncheon will be held on September 14, 2006. Location to be announced.
- On Friday, September 8, 2006, Margaret Frierson from Missing and Exploited children will be here to talk about the new DSS policy on missing children.
- We will be having a Holiday Event this year. Time and location will be announced.
- Beginning September 6, 2006, CASA will begin a new training format for new GALS. It will be held weekly on Wednesdays from 12-1p.m. Please call Heidi Vaughn at 576-1733 if you know of anyone who is interested.

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### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS!!!!



**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Albritton, Veronica  
 Cochran, Valerie  
 Croft, Renay  
 Easler, Erika  
 Jost, Kathryn  
 Lindsey, Caroline  
 Martin, Sterling  
 Menifee, Robert  
 Mitchell, Joseph  
 Oyinbo, Victor  
 Rahman, Trina  
 Robinson, Vandria  
 Starnes, Jennifer  
 Whatley, Sarah

South Carolina Bar Foundation  
 \$21,000  
 South Carolina Bank and Trust  
 \$5,000  
 Wilbur Smith Associates hosted CASA’S QUARTER-  
 BACKS and raised \$1000 for Teddybears!!!!  
 Community Foundation  
 \$10,000