



"Commitment to quality is a commitment to the children we serve"



"It only takes one person to make a difference."

Richland County CASA has 300 Volunteers making a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children in our community!!!!



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

"We worry what a child will become tomorrow yet we forget that he is someone today".



Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.





Reflections on our Blessings-2006!

"Celebrating The Solutions", the theme for National CASA's 2007 Conference, captures our sentiments as we reflect upon another year of rich blessings. *CASA* celebrates **YOU** and we are ever so grateful for the service you provide to the children of Richland County. **THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!**

January

- *CASA* began the year by presenting County Council with a map illustrating the numbers of children *CASA* Guardians served from each of the Honorable Council Member's district.
- *CASA* Quarterback's kicked off a year of successful male recruitment by a gathering sponsored by South Carolina Community Bank. Over 40 male guardians attended the spectacular event and were presented with appreciation gifts from *CASA* Board of Directors.
- *CASA* partners with Midlands Tech College and is granted permission to teach Report Writing at the University for all Pre-Service Trainings!
- Pre-Service Training Class complete.
- Judge Riddle swears in new *CASA* Guardian's ad Litem
- In-Service from Kathy Cain dealing with issues of Mental Illness.

February

- *CASA* presents workshop to Richland County Foster Parent Association regarding the "Role of the Guardian".
- 2 In-Service Continuing Education Seminars
- Valentine's Day Fund Raiser

March

- "Breakfast of Champions" - *CASA* Quarterbacks convene
- Richland Revealed interviews guardians for Television Show
- *CASA* Quarterback event hosted by South Carolina Bank & Trust.
- *CASA* challenges DSS to 1st Bowling Event.
- In-Service RC Community Action Team Presents "Methamphetamines in our Community".
- Lipscomb Family Foundation sponsors funds for *CASA* staff to attend National *CASA* Conference in San Diego, CA.
- *CASA* collaborates with Prevent Child Abuse to plan activities for April Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- *CASA* participates in consortium sponsored by DJJ.
- Pre-Service Training
- Judge Riddle Swears In new GAL's

April - Volunteer Appreciation Month

- Volunteer Appreciation Banquet
- PCA/DSS/*CASA* - Walkathon and Teddy Bear Drive
- USC Law School sponsors 1st annual Chili Cook-off for *CASA*
- Statewide Volunteer Conference / All Day In-Service - Midlands Technical College
- In-Service James Washington Presents "Communicating with Children".
- Blue Ribbons distributed symbolic of Child Abuse Awareness Month.
- *CASA* & DSS fellowship for another bowling challenge!

May - Foster Care Awareness Month

- Wilbur Smith Associates partners with CASA by hosting a breakfast to increase employee awareness on Child Abuse & Neglect Issues, recruitment and fund development.
- CASA participates at Richland County DSS Foster Parent Appreciation Banquet.
- CASA Quarterbacks hosted by Wilbur Smith Associates.
- CASA participates at Black Expo.
- Pre-Service Training begins.
- In-Service Beth DeHart Presents "Human Communication".
- In-Service DSS Presents "Difference between Intake, Assessment and Foster Care Sectors of DSS".

June

- CASA / DSS Staff Retreat - Collaborative Work Day.
- Richland County wins All American City Award - CASA's Minority Recruitment Successes spotlighted as one of the three top community initiatives
- Judge Riddle Swears In new GAL's
- CASA hosts Minority Recruitment Lunch
- CASA's For CASA begins at Parade of Homes
- In-Service Taron Davis Presents "Children's Law Office Resources".
- In-Service DSS Presents "ABC Vouchers & Resources Available".

July

- CASA conducts workshop for USC Law School.
- CASA presents award to Richland County Administration for All American City Award.
- CASA receives Central Carolina Community Foundation Grant for Diversity Recruitment.
- In-Service Dr. Mark Harari Presents "Psychologicals for Children".
- In-Service Jackie Gadsden Presents "There's Room, Inc.".
- Pre-Service Training

August

- CASA conducts Guardian Diversity Recruitment Presentation for SC Association of Counties.
- In-Service Dr. Gullledge presents "Dealing with Grief"
- In-Service Jackie Slicer from RC Sheriff's Department presents "Criminal Aspects"
- Judge Riddle Swears In new GAL (2 ceremonies!)
- CASA Quarterbacks hosted by Damon's - Over 75 people attended event!
- CASA partners with Palmetto Health
- CASA host CCCF meeting

September

- Judge Riddle Swears In new GAL's
- In-Service - Missing and Exploited Children
- CASA sponsors Celebrity Luncheon at Damon's Restaurant
- In-Service - Youth Advocates Program Presents Program Resources
- CASA / DSS gather for Bowling Challenge
- CASA presents CASA coffee mugs to County Council
- Richland County wins Woodrow Wilson Award from Chamber of Commerce - CASA's Minority Recruitment spotlighted as one of community's top three initiatives.

October

- CASA presents workshop to USC Children's Advocacy Law Society.
- CASA partners with USC Law School to design Pre-Service training for Law Students.
- Judge Riddle Swears In new GAL's.
- CASA participates at Zion Cannon Baptist Church Health Fair
- In-Service Palmetto Health presents Free Medical Services Available
- In-Service - A Better Way presents "Project Gang Out
- Pre-Service Training
- CASA participates in Citizen's Review Panel Retreat

November

- CASA selected to direct national workshop on Successful Male Recruitment for National CASA in Orlando, Florida 2007
- CASA hosts Re-engagement Luncheon for guardians
- CASA Staff treats County Council to Thanksgiving Feast
- CASA launches Survey for continuous quality improvement.
- In-Service Sharon Oody from Social Security Office Presents "Benefits"!
- In-Service Dr. Larry Bergmann Presents Program from Post Trauma Resources.
- CASA Website Updated - Donations Online now available
- Christmas Tree Opportunity Drawing

December

- Annual Toy Drive
- Holiday Cheer at South Carolina Bank and Trust
- Barnes & Noble Gift Wrap Events
- CASA hosts Appreciation Lunch for DSS employees - over 100 people attend!
- Lipscomb Family Foundation awards CASA a training grant to attend NCASA 2007 Conference
- In-Service Nurturing Center Presents Services & Resources

As you can see, it was a wonderful year - 81 new guardians were trained in 2006! CASA volunteer advocates participated in 2,794 court proceedings serving 1,378 children during the year

- You Are Amazing! We applaud all of you for your dedication and support to our community. With sincere gratitude, we thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS BRIAN SCOTT!!!!

Our own CASA volunteers has published his first book. His book will be in local book stores soon. Brian writes about his experiences driving an eighteen wheel truck across country.

Currently, Brian is working for Richland County and also writing. Brian not only has the time to be a valuable employee for Richland County, a successful writer, but also a great volunteer for Richland County CASA. Brian has been a volunteer with CASA since September 2005, and we are very grateful to have an individual serving the abused and neglected children of Richland County.



CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Thank you Colonial Life, St. Thomas Moore, Roofing Supply Co., Richland County Sheriff's Dept and Planning Dept., USC, and Probate Court.

Our Christmas Drive for gifts for abused and neglected children was a huge success this year. Richland County CASA wanted to give our CASA volunteers the opportunity to pick out presents for their children this year. Our volunteers know their children best and on December 5th, volunteers had the opportunity to come in and pick

out gifts for the children in their cases. Volunteers were able to pick out gifts all the way up until Christmas. Gifts were available for all ages.

The comments we received from volunteers were overwhelmingly positive.

"This year I was able to get presents for all the children in my case. There was something available for everyone"

"The children were so excited. They stated that they never had a

Christmas before. "The grandparents who are caring for the children were so grateful. They are trying to raise five children on fixed incomes



Shown above shopping for their casa children is Elizabeth Halbing and Eric Green!!!

On left-Our CASA Superviosr, Hope Gossett in awe of the presents donated to the children.

HOLIDAY GATHERING

On December 13, 2006, South Carolina Bank and Trust hosted CASA's Holiday Gathering. It was a celebration of food, drink, and fellowship. CASA is so blessed to have such great volunteers.

Thank you South Carolina Bank and Trust for hosting the Christmas festivities. It was great time had by all!



Jack
Bonniville
&
Steve
Schar
On the left

Shown above Cassandra Evans, Sharon Johnson, Shambra Garvin and friends enjoying the holiday festivities.



Richland County
Court Appointed Special Advocates
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STATE VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

Save the Date!!!! On March 16, 2007, the second annual “*Volunteers for Youth Conference: Sharing Hearts & Hands*” will be held at the Midlands Technical Conference. This will be a great conference with both valuable information and the opportunity to network with other volunteers across the state. The cost is \$5.00 and limited to 200 volunteers. Registration brochures will be mailed out in February and send in your registration as soon as possible because there is 200 person limit.

IN-SERVICE TRAININGS

Feb. 9th 12:00P.M.-1:00P.M. Domestic Abuse Center
Feb. 20 5:30-6:30P.M. Bonita Strait-DSS: Independent Living for Foster Care
March 9th 12:00P.M.-1:00P.M. Tracey McDaniel, DSS Foster Care Licensing
March 16th ALL DAY Volunteer Conference
April 13th 12:00P.M.-1:00P.M. Cooperative Ministries
April 24th 5:30P.M.-6:30P.M. DSS Prentice Percell Intake and Assessment

NEWSLETTERS NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE. SEND IN ANY IDEAS OR THOUGHTS YOU WANT TO SHARE FOR APRIL CASA CHRONICLES BY MARCH 2, 2007