## *in this issue >>>*


- *Chili Challenge*
- *Website Updated*
- *from the Director*
- *New Office*
- *Welcome New Staff*


CASA is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by making sure a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving family.

I am for the child™

**Fall 2017**

***Proudly serving Calloway and Marshall Counties in Kentucky***

# CASA by the Lakes

## Court Appointed Special Advocates For Children

## *upcoming dates >>>*

- **September 14 @ 6:30**
  Board Meeting - Calloway
- **September 21 @ 6:00**
  Informational Session-Marshall
- **September 28 @ 6:00**
  Volunteer Pot Luck @ Andrea's
- **October 14**
  CASA Carnival & Chili Challenge

## *locations >>>*

**Calloway Co.**
1003 Poplar Street
Murray, KY 42071
**270-761-0164**

*Office Hours:*
Mon-Fri 8-4

**Marshall Co.**
1101 Main St. Suite 210
Benton, KY 42025
270-387-0063

*Office Hours*:
Mon-Thurs 8:30-3:30 or by appointment

**casabythelakes.org**

# *CASA Kids*

*Making a difference, one family at a time!*

*Four siblings were living with their mother and their mother's boyfriend before being removed. Unfortunately, due to domestic violence and substance abuse, the family dynamic began to fall apart.*

Mom's boyfriend began to use illegal substances and started to become aggressive toward the mother. One night, while being under the influence, he even pointed a loaded gun at the 16-year-old's head, threatening to take her life and anyone else who threatened to call the police. He was arrested, and the children went to live with their aunt and uncle. The children loved their aunt & uncle, but they desperately wanted to be with mom or grandmother.

After CASA became involved, the volunteer could see that they were unhappy living where they were. The grandmother's home was safe, and the kids voiced to the volunteer that that's where they wanted to be. CASA fought in court for the children to be placed with grandmother.

Not all of our stories have a happy ending, but we're thankful these kids were able to go home!

Fortunately, the Judge also felt it would be in the children's best interest. Once being placed with their grandmother, the children were clearly happier and were more at ease, even opening up more to the CASA about their lives.

This story has a happy story with the parents, too. Mom received counseling, maintained a job, and was very motivated to get her children back. Her boyfriend is in a long-term substance abuse program, making leaps and bound in progress. The children visited every week, and eventually the Judge gave custody back to the mother, allowing all four children to go back home. The kids are extremely happy and, most importantly, are in a SAFE home. The volunteer encouraged the mother along the way and advocated for the children. We're so glad that this story has a happy ending!

***upcoming events>>>***

# 2017 Annual *CASA Carnival & Chili Challenge*

**Love chili?** Who doesn't? You won't want to miss the 2017 Annual Chili Challenge held at Mike Miller Park in Draffenville! Join us from 10 – 2 on October 14 for a day of family fun and a delicious bowl of homemade chili. Chili will be served to the public starting at noon for a $5 suggested donation.

**Feeling Competitive?**

Prove you have the best chili around for just $35 per team if you sign up before Oct. 6. Teams are asked to bring two crock pots of chili and any toppings they wish to provide.

Enter the Cornhole Tournament for only $25 per team of two until the Early Bird Deadline of Oct. 6.

**Family Fun!**

Our event is growing! This year we're adding carnival games for kids of all ages. We'll also have a bouncy house and petting zoo!

For more info, check out our website at:
http://casabythelakes.org/2017-chili-challenge/

www.

## casabythelakes.org

**We've updated our website!**

We're excited to announce that we are providing readers with more information about what CASA does, as well as in depth info regarding volunteering. To help streamline the process, we now offer the volunteer application as a downloadable document.

Check back often - we plan to add details on upcoming events, information on how to get involved with CASA, and provide resources for our current volunteers.

As always, we'll continue to provide an easy way to donate via the website.

***from the Director >>>***

# *If not you, then who?*

As an elementary school teacher, it was not unusual to see a child that was touched by abuse or neglect. I tried to bring clothes and snacks for some but always felt that I was just putting a band aid on a gaping wound. After many tears and prayers, I decided to leave the school system in search for a way to do more for those precious, helpless souls. I believe strongly that CASA was the opportunity I was looking for. We work directly with the very children my heart went out to daily. Along with our volunteers, we work tirelessly for a better tomorrow for the children in our community. So many children are suffering, from no cause of their own, right before our eyes.

Please consider joining me in this fight to create a future filled with hope. Together we can make a difference. We all have something to give, whether it be time, talent, or money. If not you, then who? If not now, then when?

*~Angelia Melvin Boyd*
Executive Director

# Check out our New Office!

***Come by and see us!***

We have a new office in Marshall County, located in the old courthouse on the square. Use entrance A and head up to the 2nd floor. Our office is on the right. We're excited to have a space in Marshall Co. where we can provide our families with a beautiful and comfortable area for visitation.

***new staff & volunteers >>>***

Let's give a big, hearty welcome to our new staff & volunteers!

Left to right (top) Samantha Olsen, Andrea Robertson (staff), Stacey West, Jasmine Young, Bettina Ivy, (bottom) Jody Hamby, Brandy Vickers, Laura Hildebrand, Karen Greer, Becca Whitman, and Jalen Williams (not pictured).

## Team CASA

### Staff

**Angelia Melvin Boyd**
*– Executive Director*
casaprmurray@gmail.com

**Kelcy Navrkal**
*– Advocate Coordinator*
casareportsmurray@gmail.com

**Andrea Robertson**
*– Advocate Coordinator*
*– Program Assistant*
casafundmurray@gmail.com

### Board of Directors

Dallas Young – Chair
David Howe – Vice-Chair
Tamara Lambert – Treasurer
Jordon Rudesill – Secretary
Tiffany Carlson
Katrina Coffelt
Ruth James-Daniel
Ryan Dawson
Melissa Durham
Robin Esau
Tiffany Griffith
Katy Hancock
Chrissy Perez
Danita Smith
Jan Robertson Stogner
Miranda Terry
Sindhu Weber

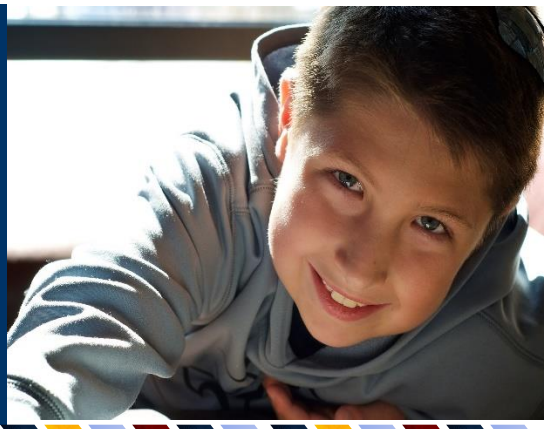
### Volunteers

Christy Bollinger
Mary Burgess
Carolyn Digioia
Janeen Feagin
Louise Foote
Karen Greer
Mirinda Hall
Laura Hildebrand
Kayla Hixon
Carmen Holt
Bettina Ivy
Jackie Kennedy
Elizabeth Lawrence
Jarrod Martin
Sue O'Neill
Callie Richeson
Molly Rogers
Wade Rogers
Ginger Schmidt
Debbie Skinner
Michael Skinner
Brittney Stinnett
Stacey West

## final thoughts...

*We want to thank all our volunteers, interns, board members and members of the community who help to make the world a better place!*

Thank You!



# Can you help?

### Volunteer

*Last year, approximately 500 abuse/neglect petitions were filed in Calloway and Marshall Counties. CASA by the Lakes was able to serve 96 children. We have a long way to go to provide a CASA for each child. If you, or someone you know, would like more information on how to become a CASA, please call 270-761-0164 or visit casabythelakes.org*

### Donate

- ♥ $85/mo will provide a CASA to a family
- ♥ $250/mo will provide a comfort basket to each child
- ♥ $35/mo will provide training for a volunteer
- ♥ $50/mo will provide printing services

*coming soon >>>*

## In The Next Issue

- ➡ *CASA Carnival & Chili Challenge – After Party*
- ➡ *New Volunteer Training Curriculum*

CASA by the Lakes
1003 Poplar Street
Murray, KY 42071

**270-761-0164**
**casabythelakes.org**