

in this issue >>>

- ➔ *Chili Challenge Success!*
- ➔ *CASA Governance Training*
- ➔ *from the Director*
- ➔ *Opioid Orphans*
- ➔ *Volunteer Spotlight*

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™

Winter
2017



Proudly serving Calloway and Marshall Counties in Kentucky



CASA by the Lakes

Court Appointed Special Advocates For Children

500+

Children were involved in court cases of abuse & neglect in Calloway and Marshall counties 2016:

96

Children were served:

We need your *help* to provide every child with a **CASA!**

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 appt.

casabythelakes.org

CASA Kids

Making a difference, one family at a time!

Our story for this issue is about a 3-year-old little boy, and his parent's dedication to be reunited with him - no matter what obstacles that they faced.

This case opened when mom failed a drug screen. Since she had previous drug related charges, this was a violation of her parole. She was arrested, and her little boy went to live with her sister. Unfortunately, dad also had a history of substance abuse and was also in jail. Both parents had a long road of recovery ahead of them, however, they both were willing to take the steps to maintain sobriety and be reunited as a family.

Mom successfully completed an inpatient rehab program and her supervisor in the program was quoted to say, "Her life has been greatly transformed. She indeed has a bright future ahead of her and is making a difference in so many lives. We are proud of the accomplishments and choices she is making in her life today. We believe she is fully committed to her recovery and parenting her son." Dad was eventually released from jail and immediately began to work a case plan. He also started taking parenting classes with the mother and they both got full-time jobs. While it was up to the parents to put in the work, their CASA was at their side to provide encouragement along the way.

Due to their progress, visitation with their son was gradually increased from unsupervised daytime visits to overnight stays on the weekends. Although the parents decided that it was best both for their sobriety and for their son that they separate, they were able to prove to their CASA that they were willing and able to co-parent successfully. The parents made every effort to show that their son was their main priority and they were committed to their sobriety.

The Judge granted the parents joint custody and their son was successfully returned to them! We're always so happy to hear these stories and we're glad that these parents were dedicated to getting their son back!

2017 CASA Carnival & Chili Challenge

A great time was had by all!

We want to thank all the competitors and community members who came out to enjoy the day of fun. Thank you for helping make this year's event a success!

Mark your calendars! Join us next year on
November 3, 2018



CASA Governance Training

Having a strong Board of Directors is key to having a strong CASA program.

Several of our CASA by the Lakes Board members recently met in Paducah for KY CASA Network (KCN) Governance Training to learn more about making our board a success. The event was presented by the Kentucky Non-Profit Network, and some of the topics of discussion included how to recruit and train board members, resources and developing an action plan.

“We’re looking forward to future collaborations and the growth of our program,” said Dallas Young, President of the CASA by the Lakes Board of Directors. “If you’re interested in serving as a Board Member to lift up abused and neglected children in Calloway and Marshall counties, please contact us at 270-761-0164.”

from the Director >>>

There’s no place like home for the holidays.

As I sit and think about the upcoming holidays, I can’t help but think back to a simpler time. Playing with cousins, baking cookies with grandma, and counting down the days until Christmas. Not a care in the world. Little did I know how fortunate I was. There are so many children, right here in our community, that have not had the opportunity to experience these carefree days. Instead, they are worrying about where their next meal will come from, if they will have a roof over their heads much longer, or if Santa will even remember to come see them this year. Here at CASA by the Lakes, our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to help make a difference in the lives of these very children.

You can help make a difference too!

Let’s work together to spread joy in the lives of these children. This holiday season, choose to give a gift that keeps on giving! Sign up to be a volunteer or choose to partner with us by giving on a regular monthly basis. All children deserve a home for the holidays, filled with love and laughter.

~Angelia Melvin Boyd
Executive Director



Opioid Orphans

How the KY Opioid Crisis Affects Kids

More than 32% of the children removed from their homes cited parental substance use as a contributing factor – the largest increase of reasons for removal since 2015. There are 70,000 children in KY who aren't living with their parents, and our system is overwhelmed.

Child homelessness is also a serious issue. Kentucky has the highest child homeless rate in the nation, largely due to the number of opioid overdoses. More than 31,000 children, nearly 5% of the state's public school students, are living in a homeless shelter, motel or campground, car, outside, or staying with relatives or friends.

The opioid crisis is tearing families apart – but there is something you can do to help. While it's up to the parents to do the hard work of obtaining and maintaining sobriety, CASA volunteers can serve as their cheerleaders to encourage positive choices and directing parents to available resources in the community.

When the parents can't conquer their substance abuse issues, CASA volunteers help keep the court informed and advocate for the child's needs, sometimes advocating for adoption into a loving family. You can help break the cycle of abuse. Be the voice for a child in need. Please call us at 270-761-0164 to learn more.

volunteer spotlight >>>

Sue O'Neill

Sue O' Neill has served as a CASA volunteer for fifteen years, serving 38 children and investing over 1,000 hours! She is truly the definition of dedication, and has exemplified true advocacy for every child she has had.

Sue was recently nominated for the KY Volunteer Advocate of the Year Award, and while she didn't win, she's a winner in our hearts!

When I think about a CASA volunteer that goes above and beyond for the children that they serve, I always think of this volunteer. Sue O' Neill has served as a CASA volunteer for fifteen years. That's right, fifteen years. In those fifteen years, she has served 38 children and has put in over 1,000 volunteer hours! She is truly the definition of dedication, and has exemplified true advocacy for every child she has had.

Sue is one of our most thorough and diligent CASA volunteers, especially when it comes to research and interviewing all parties involved in the case. She talks to each child individually, making sure their voices are heard in court and that their wishes are known. She has helped parents along the way as well, and fortunately has been able to advocate for children to return home, allowing the family to be together again. She has also seen children be adopted by great foster parents and children be allowed to stay permanently with relatives. In all her cases, Sue has advocated for her CASA kids to be placed permanently in a safe and stable home.

We want to thank Sue, and all our volunteers, for their dedication to CASA!

Team CASA

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Board of Directors

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Robin Esau

Tiffany Griffith

Katy Hancock

Danita Smith

Jan Robertson Stogner

Miranda Terry

Eury Tynes

Sindhu Weber





Volunteer

Check out our volunteers Stacey and Jasmine showing off their new T-shirts! To learn how you can get a FREE T-shirt, please call us at 270-761-0164.



CASA by the Lakes
PROVIDES and PROMOTES
COURT APPOINTED VOLUNTEER ADVOCACY
SO THAT EVERY ABUSED AND NEGLECTED
CHILD CAN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
THRIVE IN A *safe, nurturing, and*
permanent home.



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