

CASA Connections

WINTER 2019 EDITION



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA by the Lakes



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community through CASA by the Lakes for more than a decade! CASA Volunteers don't just give their time to these children, they pour out their lives.

Even with all of the wonderful things happening around us, 2018 did bring us some rather unfortunate news. MOLD. The house that the hospital has so graciously let us use as our main office, will not be available to us much longer. This news put us all in hyper-drive. Since CASA by the Lakes has been growing so much in the last few years, the board of directors had already been looking, to no avail, for a more suitable location for quite some time.

Luckily for us, the Mayor's office and the City Council have stepped

in. As reported in the Murray Ledger and Times, they are working with us right now to draft an agreement for CASA by the Lakes to be housed in the former police station.

We are grateful to the Mayor and City Council for seeing the importance of CASA by the Lakes and the work our volunteers do for this community. By stepping in and helping out, they are showing that our community cares about our children and will do everything we can to help those who need it most.

So it's with a renewed vigor that we enter into 2019, ready for more growth and excited about what this year has in store!

2018 was a busy year for CASA by the Lakes. We now have 43 CASA Volunteers who put in more than 1,200 volunteer hours by serving 174 children in our community! That is amazing! There were more than 600 cases of abuse and neglect in our local courts, but these volunteers are making a difference! They truly are superheroes!

At our recent volunteer appreciation banquet we were able to recognize some volunteers who have served the children of this



Superhero Spotlight

Sue O'Neill

It's with heavy hearts that we take a moment to highlight our longest running volunteer, Sue O'Neill. Unfortunately, Susan passed away in December. She had served as a CASA Volunteer for more than 16 years!

Sue was the epitome of a dedicated CASA Volunteer. She impacted the lives of countless children and families. In a world of hurt and confusion, she was able to provide hope and stability to these kids. She listened to their stories and she gave them a voice.

When they thought no one could hear them, Sue dedicated herself to making sure that these kids had someone to stand up for their best interests. Her legacy will live on through the children she served and the other volunteers who follow her example. She will be greatly missed.

10th Annual
Friends of CASA Banquet

April 18, 2019 @ 6PM
Yates Event Center

Tickets are \$30 each or \$50/pair

It's time to begin making plans to attend the 10th Annual Friends of CASA Banquet! As a friend and supporter of CASA, we want to give you plenty of time to plan for this exciting night. We will have music, dinner, a silent auction, and the opportunity to find out exactly what CASA is up to. We are returning to the Yates Center again this year to host this event that has been 10 years in the making!

2019 SILENT AUCTION

Bid. Donate. Support.

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact Nathan Carter at ncarter.casa@gmail.com for more information.

We are currently accepting donations for our silent auction.

Join the Fight

We get it. Not everyone can volunteer to be a CASA. Maybe you already volunteer, or maybe you already work in the foster care system. Whatever the case may be, there are ways to be a CASA superhero without volunteering as an advocate.

CASA by the Lakes hosts several events throughout the year to raise awareness for abused and neglected children in our community. You can join the fight by volunteering for these one-time events. We are always in need of extra hands to make these events a success.

You can also join the fight by sharing our message. CASA by the Lakes is on most forms of social media and could use your support. Every time you share one of our posts with your friends, you are helping to spread our message. Maybe you aren't able to be a CASA, but one of your friends can.

Finally you can join the fight by giving. It costs around \$1,000 per year to provide a CASA to a family. As a non-profit organization, CASA by the Lakes depends on donations from people and businesses in our community just like you.

To find out more information about ways you can "join the fight," visit us online at www.casabythelakes.org.



New Volunteers: Jasmine Hannah, Meghan Keeney, Mary Swartz, and Morgan Adams



New Interns: Heaven Barnett and Mara Hosick



New Staff Member:
Jennifer Wilson

New Volunteer:
Janis Ames

CASA Moment

Savannah was removed from her home when she was 12 years old. For several years already, she had taken on the role of caretaker to her five younger siblings. Savannah's mom was a drug addict. Savannah and her siblings were all placed into separate foster homes and group homes. Savannah began struggling with anxiety because she was so worried about her siblings, not knowing if they were being taken care of.

Finally, thanks to her assigned CASA Volunteer, Savannah was able to receive the counseling and support she needed. She was also able to visit with her siblings again. Now, even though her siblings are living with various relatives around the country, they are all able to stay in touch thanks to the dedicated efforts of the CASA Volunteer.

Savannah now says that she is ready for the future and knows she can handle anything thanks to the relationship she developed with her CASA Volunteer.

CASA at a Glance

Check out these numbers
for 2018!

Active Volunteers

43

Children Served

174

Volunteer Hours

1,235

DNA Cases

604