

CASA Connections

SPRING 2019 EDITION



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA by the Lakes



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Moving on Up

CASA by the Lakes has exciting news: We have moved into new office space in downtown Murray! The new office is located at 407 Poplar Drive (in the old police building).

What a terrific blessing it has been that Mayor Rogers and City Council approved to rent this new space and accommodations to CASA.

CASA's larger office is valuable to our organization's growth plans. The location is ideal in that it keeps us within the heart of the city, close to the courts, and the DCBS office. Best of all, this office provides CASA with greater visibility, easier public access, and enough space for conducting volunteer trainings and public informational meetings. This larger office also provides a visitation room that can be used by the community.

We are enthusiastic about this positive move for CASA and the plans to increase the number of volunteers who advocate for our county's most vulnerable children – those who have been removed from their abusive and/or neglectful homes.

In 2018, Court Appointed Special

Advocate (CASA) volunteers served 174 Calloway and Marshall County children who, by no fault of their own, ended up in an overburdened system. Statistics show that children are entering foster care at increasingly higher rates. It is more important than ever that CASA and our community of volunteers provide strong advocacy for children, so they do not slip through the cracks in this overburdened system.

With the continued support from our community, and the dedicated work of CASA Advocates, we are excited to continue serving the children of Calloway and Marshall Counties and making a positive impact in their lives.

THANK YOU!



The Murray Insurance Agency
Independence Bank

Check out these amazing sponsors who made this year's Superhero Gala possible!

Woodman Life
Woodforest Bank
Woodcrafters
Toyota of Murray
Dwain Taylor Chevrolet
American Legion Post 73
MC Sheriff Dept
Journey Church
Don Thomas
Marshall County Hospital
Heritage Bank
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Dr. Miranda Terry
Shelia Anderson, CPA
Haverstock Insurance
HRH Dumplins
H&H Guns
Murray Electronics
Judge Rob Mattingly
Tiffany Griffith
Linda Avery

Superhero Spotlight

This superhero spotlight is a little bit different than what we normally do. In this edition we are highlighting a very important CASA ally and everyday superhero...

...YOU!



The work that we do at CASA by the Lakes would not be possible without the support we receive every single day from community members like you! At our recent Superhero Gala, because of support from our community, we were able to raise a grand total of \$22, 993! That money will go directly to supporting our Court Appointed Special Advocates and the children they serve.

We cannot possibly express our gratitude enough. This community has shown time and again just how committed they are to the welfare of our children. Thanks to your generosity, CASA by the Lakes will be able to continue recruiting, training, and supervising CASA Volunteers who support the children and families in our community who need it most. Because of your support, we can know that when a child is removed from their home due to abuse and neglect, that a CASA Volunteer will be ready and able to step in and provide a voice for that child in the courtroom. *In this way, you are a SUPERHERO!*

Join the Fight

With great power, comes great responsibility...

... or so the saying goes. But it doesn't take superpowers to be a superhero to a child in need. Believe it or not, you already have what it takes to be a CASA Superhero. You have a heart for children and you have seen the need. You have felt the tug when you heard stories about the children whose lives have been changed because of their CASA Volunteer. You have a voice. Something that so many children who have been removed from their homes have lost.

Will you use your voice to speak up for a child who is facing one of the most confusing and heartbreaking times in their lives? Will you use your voice to comfort that child who is hurt and lonely? Will you use your voice to share their story and make sure they don't get lost in an overburdened foster care system? Will you use your voice to be certain they receive every single resource available to help them? Will you use your voice to be their superhero?

No. It doesn't take superpowers. All it takes is a person willing to speak up.

Our next superhero training will begin in May. We are accepting applications now. So what are you waiting for?

CASA Moment

In January, CASA was assigned to an 11 year old girl, who is all spunk and personality! She speaks her mind, loves to draw, and has lot of friends at school. Her life up to that point had been pretty chaotic; her dad never being a part of her life, and her mom being in and out of her life and living an unstable lifestyle. Her mother had a history of not being financially stable, being in toxic relationships with men, abusing prescription medications, and having mental health issues. Luckily, for this little girl, she had one person that has always been in her life and made sure she was safe. Her mother's ex-husband and father to Kelbie's half-brother, Steven, has been involved with this little girl's life since she was eight months old.

The judge granted him temporary custody and that's when CASA got involved. CASA grew a great relationship with the little girl and listened to her feelings and wants. The little girl pleaded with the CASA to stay with her "dad", Steven. She wanted to stay "home" as she put it. At the end of the case, the Judge followed the CASA's recommendation to grant Steven permanent custody of this little girl. The family was so excited and the CASA was so happy she could be a part of a happy ending.

Important Dates

HANDS

Program Training

Presenter: Nicole Hudson

May 6th @ 6PM

at the Calloway Office

Near Town Recovery Program

Presenter: Jeremy Rose

June 10th @ 6PM

at the Marshall Office