

CASA Connections

FALL 2019 EDITION



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA by the Lakes

**THERE COMES A
TIME WHEN EVERY
SUPERHERO MUST
HANG UP THEIR
CAPE....**

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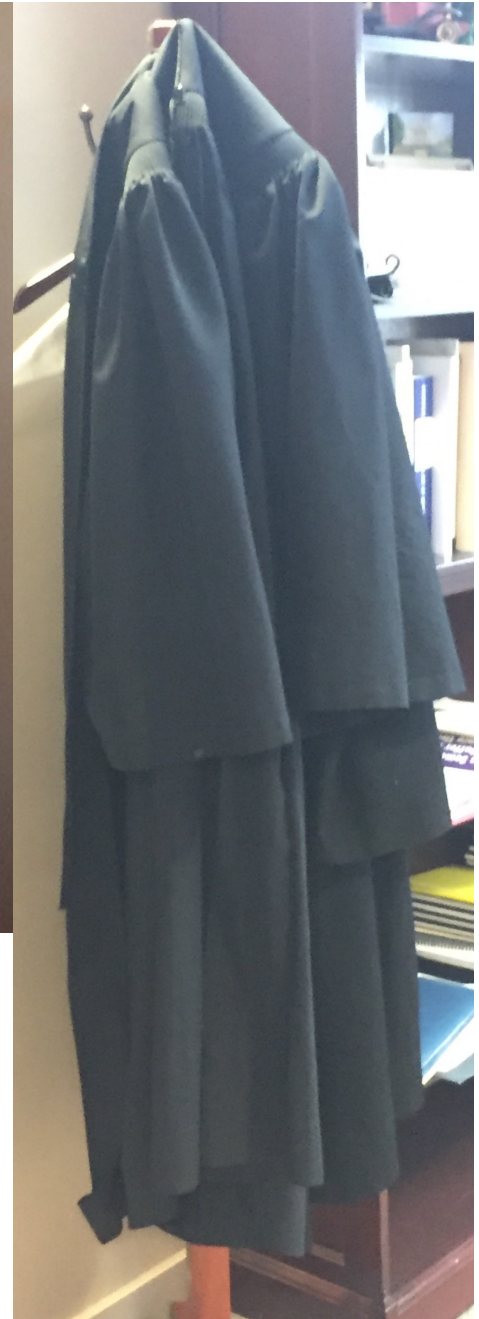
*Superhero Spotlight—Rob
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There comes a time in every heroes life where they have to hang up their capes and let someone else come and take the reigns. Every time a beloved superhero retires, there is always a strong mix of emotions. Many people are sad and cannot think of a world without them while at the same time, are filled with great joy of all the great memories that flood back of how amazing the hero was at their job.

Today, we also feel these things as we say goodbye to one of the greatest heroes CASA by the Lakes and all of Calloway and Marshall county has ever had.

Judge Rob Mattingly is retiring from his position as the Family Court Judge for Calloway and Marshall county this November. CASA by the Lakes has had the honor of working

with Judge Mattingly since our inception and he has always been thankful and understanding of the importance of CASA by the Lakes.

Many of our volunteers have worked with him for several years and they all are grateful for the hard work he has accomplished in his years as a family court judge. We have all recognized his dedication to a job that sometimes can be thankless and we appreciate and respect him for what he has done for our community.

“Judge Mattingly will be truly missed. He has shown respect and trust in CASA and I have always felt that if what CASA reported was for the best he would agree with it and if not, I always felt he knew best. He always made this CASA feel that what we are

doing is important and therefore, made me want to do my best. CASA also knows what a stressful job he has and we wish him the best!” volunteer Jackie Kennedy said.

On behalf of everyone at CASA by the Lakes, thank you for all you have done Judge Mattingly.

CASA at a Glance

Check out these numbers for 2019 so far!

Active Volunteers

42

Children Served

175

Children Currently Serving

96

Cases Closed

79

Superhero Training

Superheroes aren't born— they're made.

All of our CASA volunteers go through extensive training so that they are able to serve the children of our community with the highest level of confidence. When someone signs up to be a CASA, they first go through 30 hours of training before being assigned a case (20 hours in class + 10 hours of home study). Then, they must additionally complete 12 hours of training every year. That's just one small part of what makes our volunteers superheroes!

Do you want to be a Superhero?

Our CASA Volunteer Training Class ends October 22nd and its never to late to sign up for our next training!

For more information on how you can become a superhero for a child in need, head over to www.casabythelakes.org

CASA Moment: Jacq's Story

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Following is an account of how a mother and her child overcame domestic abuse and what advice she would give to anyone going through a similar situation.

I have a child to the man who abused me, he was not abusive before the baby, just insecure. When the baby was born he felt he had a hold over me and began to feel that the baby was taking up 'his time' with me. If the baby woke him at night he would push my head into the wall, and he would scream at the baby if she woke him while she was playing in the morning. I stayed though because I believed that he would change when she got older.

One day she was singing to a show on TV when he snapped out of bed and began screaming at her, I told him to quit it and he flew at me. He hit me hard enough to black both my eyes. All I knew was that I had to stand up for my child. I left him that day and he has not been interested in us since. The same day, I called my mom and then I left him, I was so ashamed as my reason for not telling before was so that

no one would be angry with him. I cancelled my lease and threw him onto the street, then I moved in with my family for six months to recover.

Nowadays, I am studying for my degree, and my daughter is in daycare. I am single and I still don't trust men but being on my own is fantastic and I'm so happy that I left. The biggest change has been in my daughter, she is so strong now and is always happy and singing away to her play school songs.

I know that she was being abused too, and she needs me to be self reliant so that she can rely on me too.

Don't fall into the victim role. When you are being abused you forget that you are the most important person in your life, not some so-called partner in life who wants to run the show alone.

So get up, walk out, start over and don't look back. And to those of you like me with a kid, they may have a right to two parents but they also have the basic human right to be safe, and believe me, an abusive

partner becomes an abusive parent, too.

Unlike Jacq's story, some people never get the courage to leave the grasp of an abusive partner. Many women feel like they are trapped and can't leave for safety reasons even when their children may be in danger. CASA's mission is to ensure the safety of every child in our community even when their parents can't provide it for them on their own, like Jacq did for her child.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship and their children are enduring it as well, speak up, reach out and help change a child's story.

Children who witness domestic violence or are victims of abuse themselves are at serious risk for long-term physical and mental health problems.

CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™



**THE CASA BY THE LAKES 2019
CHILI CHALLENGE AND CORN-
HOLE TOURNAMENT IS HERE!**

Think you have what it takes to cook the best Chili in town? Grab your team and get ready for a cook off!

How are your Cornhole skills? Grab a friend and try putting them to the test in our tournament!

Not interested in competing? Come on out and you and the whole family can grab a bowl of chili and have an evening of family fun!

Suggested Donation: Adults: \$10

Children \$5



**THE
BIG BLUE
GIVEAWAY**

UK FANS CAN'T PASS THIS UP!

At this year's CHILI CHALLENGE we will be giving away 2 UK basketball tickets and a free night stay in a hotel.

You can't win if you don't enter. Go to casabythelakes.org/chili2019. Each chance only costs \$5 and you can get 5 chances for \$20!

We will announce the winner at the Chili Challenge. *(Presence is NOT required to win.)*

**November 9th, 2019 4-7 pm Joe Creason Community
Center Benton, KY**

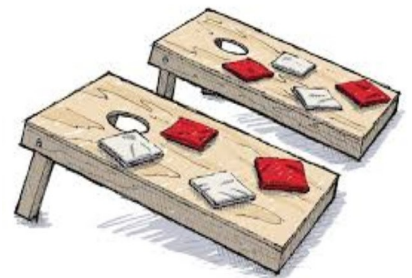
Registration fee per team: \$40 early
bird by October 31st/ \$50 after
Deadline

Prizes will be awarded
to the 1st and 2nd
place team as well as
the Crowd Favorite



Registration fee per team: \$30 early bird
by October 31st/ \$40 after Deadline

Winning team will
receive a set of
Cornhole Boards
made by Marshall
County High School
Carpentry Class



THIS YEARS THEME IS "FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MOVIE"!

Fun Activities Will Include:

- Cake Auction
- Petting Zoo
- Kids Games

For more information on how to sign up to
compete or attendance information,
please go to :

www.casabythelakes.org/chili2019