

# CASA. Connections

Spring 2020 EDITION



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

CASA by the Lakes



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*COVID –19 is the number one thing on everyone’s mind lately. The whole world has been brought to a screeching halt by this global pandemic.*

*This virus has hit close to home for us, as people in our local communities have even tested positive. CASA by the Lakes postponed our annual Superhero Gala fundraiser to a later date. The CASA staff is now working from home and family court has postponed hearings*

*due to the virus.*

*Social distancing is being implemented around the nation and these guidelines and recommendations are affecting the children in our communities. Children are unable to go to school and must be taught from home. They cannot socialize with their peers in-person and they are spending much more time at home.*

*As for the parents of these children, they are experiencing new challenges and stresses. Uncertainty, social isolation, job loss, reduction in wages, and potentially inadequate food and shelter are struggles that some parents are facing during this time. Child abuse and neglect will not*

*disappear during this pandemic. Children who were already in abusive or neglectful situations before COVID-19 struck are now likely with their abusers even more.*

*CASA by the Lakes is still working hard to ensure the children in our communities will have someone in their corner during this time. CASA volunteers are visiting their CASA kids through phone calls or video calls and are working to make sure their safety and needs are being met. CASA by the Lakes is still here and so are the children who need us most. Thank you for your support during these uncertain times.*

# Superhero Spotlight



In this Superhero spotlight, CASA would like to recognize Chris Biggers! Chris is the newest member of the CASA by the Lakes family and staff. Chris took on the role as one of our Advocate Coordinators and has been doing a phenomenal job!

Chris graduated from Murray State University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Physical Education. He is a native Kentuckian who was born and raised in Graves County. Chris retired from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) after working there for over 28 years. When he is not working, Chris likes to attend church events, watch sports on television and attend sporting events.

Bringing his knowledge and experience from working at DJJ, Chris offers CASA volunteers years of experience in working with children. We are blessed to have Chris as a member of our team and are forever grateful for the work that he does!

## Important Superhero Gala Update!!!

*DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WE MUST UNFORTUNATELY POSTPONE THE FRIENDS OF CASA SUPERHERO GALA FOR THE SAFETY OF THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY.*

*WE WILL BE RESCHEDULING THE EVENT FOR A LATER DATE. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO STAY UP TO DATE ON ALL THINGS CASA, FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS AND OUR WEBSITE!!!*

**IMPORTANT  
MESSAGE**



### FACEBOOK

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CASABYTHELAKES](https://www.facebook.com/CASABYTHELAKES)

### INSTAGRAM

[HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/CASABYTHELAKES](https://www.instagram.com/CASABYTHELAKES)

### WEBSITE

[CASABYTHELAKES.ORG](https://casabythelakes.org)



# CASA Moment: One Child's Hero

The following poem was written by a CASA volunteer:

I really didn't understand why I stood before a judge and why people I did not know talked about things that were difficult and painful to hear. I was embarrassed, intimidated, humiliated and afraid.

I didn't understand why I felt unloved, unwanted or unworthy. It was too painful to confront the reasons why I cried myself to sleep most nights. There seemed to be no one I could trust or tell. I wondered if anyone really did care.

There's a lot I didn't understand, and still I ponder a lot of "whys" and "what ifs". I now know that many of my questions may never be answered. Perhaps I'll never know. And maybe it's better this way.

But this I do know: I now go to bed each night with a happy heart. I am no longer afraid to close my eyes in sleep. I am safe and I am loved. And I dare to dream of a happy future.

The adult I shall become remains to be seen. You may never read my name in print, see my face on television, or read a book I've written. But you can be assured of this: You came into my life when I had no hope or dreams for anything more than what I was enduring at the time. You helped to change my future.

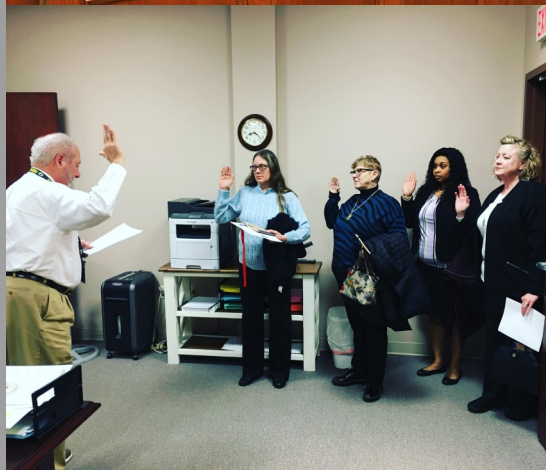
What I am today, whatever I shall become - you will always be a part of me--because you cared enough to get involved in my life! Thank you my CASA - my hero!

## New Year, New Faces

Since the new year has started, we have had a strong growth in the number of new volunteers as well as some new faces on our Board of Directors! Thank you to all of our new board members and volunteers who are helping to change a child's story!

Top Photo: Bailey Crossley, Joseph Taylor, Judith Kendall, Board Member Ashley Ellis, and Jennifer Holcomb

Bottom Photo: Laura Brewerton, Angela Klein, Board Member Charde' Hudspeth, and Deborah Knight



## April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

FIND TOOLS, TIPS, AND RESOURCES AT  
[WWW.CHILDWELFARE.GOV/PREVENTIONMONTH](http://WWW.CHILDWELFARE.GOV/PREVENTIONMONTH)



## CASA at a Glance

Check out these numbers from last year!

**Children Served**

**193**

**Volunteer Hours**

**1314**

And 2020 is off to a strong start!

**Active Volunteers**

**48**

**Children Served**

**100**

## Contact During COVID

**Email us!**

**Executive Director**

[casaprmurray@gmail.com](mailto:casaprmurray@gmail.com)

**Advocate Coordinators**

[casafundmurray@gmail.com](mailto:casafundmurray@gmail.com)

[cbiggers.casa@gmail.com](mailto:cbiggers.casa@gmail.com)

**Program Assistant**

[Jpage.casa@gmail.com](mailto:Jpage.casa@gmail.com)