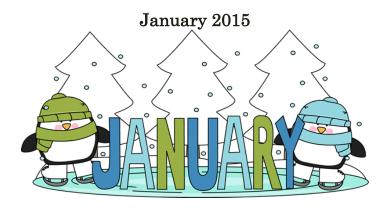
CASA Glynn Inc.



Message from the Director

And they all lived happily ever after! Isn't this what fairy tales are made of? Most of us have heard the story of Aurora in Sleeping Beauty. The evil Queen Maleficent casts a spell on her and only true love could save her. At least that was the way I knew the story. There were the good guys. There were the bad guys. No, this isn't a shameless plug for Disney, though many of you know I do love Disney. This is about how all of that changed for me one night in a desperate plea to keep my youngest happy during family movie night. The movie of choice was called Maleficent, a new age spin on Sleeping Beauty and the evil Queen. What I thought would be a carefree, family friendly movie turned into much more for me. This movie focused on the Queen more than it focused on the Princess. I began to see a different story. Not one in which there were only a good guy and a bad guy. One that opened my eyes to look a bit deeper. Why was Maleficent so evil, and could she be redeemed? In the end, I liked the "bad" guy. WHAT? It was hard to reconcile what had always been. Sounds like a silly response to an even sillier Hollywood movie. The bottom line for me was that, though a few exist, there are really not many bad guys in this world. There are bad actions, and misunderstood decisions. Thusly, I have challenged myself this year to always look deeper. The likelihood is that there are redeeming qualities in most, and if I take the time to look deeper, to see them, than a truer picture of the story is told. Happily ever after doesn't exist, but happily looking deeper for understanding, acceptance, and compassion can. Thank you for being such an example of this in the real life work of CASA. I know it can be hard to see things more clearly because it means letting it in a bit deeper into your heart.

Cary Greenfield

NOTES TO VOLUNTEERS From Your Advocate Coordinators

Happy 2015 to you all! I hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready for a fresh start in 2015. Thank you all for all of the hard work that each of you put into your cases last year! It was certainly a year of change and transition for all of us but I feel like you all rose to the challenge which in turn greatly assisted us in rising to the challenge as well; challenges that included many new cases, the new law that went into effect in January 2014, and multiple changes in staffing. I would like to personally thank all of you for hanging in there with us throughout these many changes while continuing to advocate for your children in a tireless and professional manner! We could not do this without you!

Here are some reminders about upcoming events/necessary housekeeping items:

- If you were unable to attend the FLETC Gift Presentation in December and sign a new 2015 VOCA contract, please stop by the office and do so the next time you are in the area. This is vital to continuing the grant funding we receive.
- Don't forget that part of your training includes 12 hours of in-service training throughout the year. We offer Peer Groups monthly (2nd Tuesday of each month from 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m.) The next Peer Group meeting will be here at the CASA office on Tuesday, February 10th so mark your calendars.
- Our next CASA Training Class will be starting in February so if you know of someone who is interested, please have them contact the office and we will be happy to send them an application packet. Orientation is on February 10th so time is of the essence!
- Monthly Reports are due in to your Advocate Coordinator by the end of each month and are very important to us for many reasons. Without these monthly updates, we are in the dark about where your case stands. They are also very important in that a great deal of our grant funding comes from the time and mileage you record when working on your cases.
- We have both some new cases and some Custody Evaluations that need CASA's so if you're interested, please let us know and we'll be happy to get you appointed to one of those cases. I am always amazed at the response we get to our pleas and how generous you are with your time and your compassion!

Last but certainly not least, please welcome our new Advocate Coordinator, Antoinette Gant, who assumed that position on January 5th. She has "hit the ground running" and has been a wonderful addition to our staff! If you have not met her yet, please take the time to give her a call or stop by and introduce yourself. We are so fortunate to have her working with us and excited to see what 2015 has in store for our new "Team"! I would like to close with a quote from one of my favorites, Fred Rogers. I think he must have been speaking of you, our amazing CASA's!

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes." — <u>Fred Rogers</u>

Tracy Cramer and Antoinette Gant

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Thank You for all you do! You are making a difference!

<u>Cary - Tracy - Antoinette -- Stephanie -- Gloria</u>