

## CASA Glynn Inc. November 2016



### Message from the Director

What do you see in a sunset? Things have been so busy lately, more on that in a bit, that when my son brought this drawing to me it made me pause. It was a wonderful reminder that no matter what happens in a day, it can end beautifully. What a gorgeous way to reset.

***“Sunset is still my favorite color. Rainbow is second.”  
Mattie Stepanek***

As you may have heard CASA Glynn is now serving Camden County. Let me start by saying that the work you are doing is amazing, and is NOT changing. Over the last several months Georgia CASA has been involved in the happenings in Camden County and have been dedicated and determined to support the volunteers and program. In an effort to keep CASA in Camden County viable and in good standings with both Georgia and National CASA, we were asked to oversee the program. I know this sounds like a lot, but I want to assure you that the current active volunteers in Camden County will be serving in Camden County. The current volunteers in Glynn County will still be serving in Glynn County. Your Advocate Coordinators will remain the same. What you are doing and how you are serving your children is remaining just as is.

Register today: The 2016 CASA Jingle All The Way 5K and Fun Run will be held on December 3rd. We are looking for race day volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, email Cary at [casaglynn@casaglynn.org](mailto:casaglynn@casaglynn.org) today. Website: [casajinglealltheway5k.com](http://casajinglealltheway5k.com)

*Cary Greenfield*

**NOTES TO VOLUNTEERS**  
**From Your Advocate Coordinators**

WELCOME to our Fall CASA Training Class who were Sworn In as CASA Volunteers on Wednesday evening, October 19, 2016. It is a very inspiring group of individuals who bring to CASA a wealth of strengths, life experiences and a passion for the well-being of children. But most of all they bring a commitment and dedication that will allow them to advocate for children and make a difference in the lives of those children. Several of them have already taken cases and have "hit the ground running!" We're glad to have them. Please welcome: Sandy Kelly, Donna Garcia, Debby Richardson, Chadricka Johnson, Vendelyn Richardson, and Heather Williams.

We want to thank you for accepting new cases and supporting the children in Glynn County. We currently have a few children that are in need of a CASA Volunteer, and what a great time to take a case. Just in time for the FLETC Secret Santa program. If you would like to accept an additional case, please let us know. A heartfelt note of appreciation for your time and commitment to these children because without you we wouldn't be able to give these children a voice.

**IMPORTANT: Mark your calendars-- FLETC Gift Wish Lists are due in our office on November 15<sup>th</sup>, and the gift presentation is scheduled for December 6th at 2:00 pm. If you have not yet picked up wish list forms, please do so ASAP. Time is running out!**

**Reminders**

1. Monthly reports are due by the end of the month. These reports help with our funding and provides a monthly overview of each case. If you have any questions about the Monthly Report Forms please let us know.
2. Peer Group for December will be attendance at the FLETC Gift Presentation. We hope you will come. It is such a meaningful, special time.

Antoinette and Carmen

## **Information From Your Education Consultant Support Team**

A quality education is key to a child's life-long success. Sadly, children in foster care are at a major disadvantage: 75% of children in foster care perform below grade level; only 15% graduate with a high school diploma; and foster children lose between 4-6 months of academic progress each time a placement changes.

Because a child's academic potential should not be limited by his or her experience in state custody, CASA Georgia hired Dmetria Gibson as Director of Education Advocacy in 2014 and launched a successful pilot Education Advocacy Project. More recently they have encouraged local CASA affiliates to increase the support they provide to their volunteers with school-age foster children. Providing back-up educational expertise to CASA volunteers is important because federal, state, and local education laws, policies, procedures and programs present a very complicated and ever-changing landscape. CASA volunteers may not be aware of available services and may benefit from guidance in navigating local schools to better advocate for their children.

Last spring, CASA/Glynn created a team of Education Consultants (EC's), who are trained CASA volunteers and professional educators. *Joan Boorman* (a CASA for 22 years) is a former Glynn County teacher and principal who currently teaches in the Education Department at CCGA. *Suzi Hassel* (a CASA for 3+ years) taught mathematics in Glynn County for 25 years. Judi Kelley (a CASA for one year) was a director of a program for children with emotional problems for nine school systems in Georgia; and *Mary Schellhorn* (a CASA for two years) was an educational administrator, school board member, and student counselor.

The EC's attended a daylong training program with Ms. Gibson from CASA Georgia, and they will continue their training with her next month. When the EC's began last spring, 109 of the CASA/Glynn children attended school. A review of the case files identified 65 students with educational concerns (ranging from low grades, not performing at grade level, behavioral issues, attendance problems, special education needs). Each of these 65 children (the children with concerns) was assigned to an EC who contacted the CASA to learn more about each student's education challenges and provide guidance, if requested. This fall, the ECs initiated contact with all CASAs with school-age children to introduce themselves and describe the support they are able to provide. Going forward, a child's educational status will be included in CASA monthly reports and in court and panel reports.

If you have not heard from one of our EC's about your school-age foster children, please expect a call or email. If there is a specific educational concern you would like to discuss with an EC, please contact one of them directly. And, if you are an educator and you would like to join the Education Consultant team, please let us know. It would be wonderful to add a few more educators to the group.

### CASA/Glynn Education Consultants

Joan Boorman, jmb31522@gmail.com

Suzi Hassel, suzia119@bellsouth.net

Judi Kelley, judik888@gmail.com

Mary Schellhorn, mary.schellhorn@gmail.com

## Volunteers

Lynette Altman  
Bob Bain  
Nathan Brown  
Wendy Capes  
Gloria Daley  
Susan Dunn  
Patrick Guilfoil  
Richard James  
Leon Jorgensen  
Judi Kelley  
Mary Ellen Long  
Kristen McDougal  
Suzanne Miller  
Nidia Nagakane-Sanchez  
George Ragsdale  
Libby Schauer  
Doreen Sigman  
Marybeth Steilen  
Ron Stokley  
Wayne Thorpe  
Charlotte Zell

Sue Andersson  
Mary Bernardoni  
Bill Bryant  
Lucy Clayton  
Courtney Daniel  
Madeline Gill  
Suzi Hassel  
Rose Mary Jones  
Ron Kalil  
Joyce Landrum  
Larry Meagher  
Allegra McRae  
Amanda Moore  
Loretta Paulk  
Kaitlin Rouh  
Mary Schellhorn  
Mary Smith  
Delores Stephens  
Sandy Strickland  
Annmarie Torrez

Lee Ashmore  
Joan Boorman  
Lynn Bryant  
Sarah Clements  
Lynn Duff  
Jane Goodson  
Amy Houston  
Sister Denise Lonergan  
Paul Kawas  
Brenda Lloyd  
Shornden McCloud  
Rebecca Miller  
Delores Murphy  
Miranda Quinones  
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**Thank You for all you do! You are making a difference!**

***Cary – Antoinette – Carmen – April – Gloria – Gail***