



CASA of the Eastern Panhandle, Inc.

CASAEP.ORG

FALL 2008



At **CASA**, we believe that every abused child deserves a safe and permanent home. Toward that end, we recruit and train community volunteers to be Court Appointed Special Advocates for abused and neglected children. **CASA** of the Eastern Panhandle (**CASA-EP**) is an independent non-profit program that serves children who have been removed from their homes in Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties. **CASA** volunteers advocate on behalf of abused and neglected children within the court system, and make sure that the voices of these children are heard.

CASA-EP currently has 48 trained volunteers, and has provided services to nearly 250 children in the Eastern Panhandle.

For more information on how you can help **CASA** help abused and neglected children, contact us at:

CASA

of the Eastern Panhandle, Inc.

229 East Martin Street
Suite 100
Martinsburg, WV 25401
304.263.5100
vickey@casaep.org
shawn@casaep.org
or info@casaep.org



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear CASA-EP Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. As for us here at CASA, much has happened since our last newsletter. Without sugar-coating things or conversely being overly macabre, I am pleased to report that for the most part all is well.

For instance, in early summer, Kelly, Shawn and I attended the National CASA Association's Annual Conference in Washington, DC. The conference provided each of us an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other CASA representatives from across the country. We came away from those meetings with a collective renewed sense of focus, and a stoked passion for working to accomplish the CASA mission. Consequently, we have re-doubled our efforts to share and spread our concentrated attention and fervor through exploring and initiating new ideas.

Speaking of new ideas, I suspect it was hard for any of you to miss all the flamingo activity about town over the summer. The brain-child of our illustrious president, Leslie Crabill, the invasion of the pink plastic birds was a fund-raising effort that moved away from some of the more traditional models and opened the way for broader participation. We received .50 cent donations, \$500.00 donations and many donations between the two; including, and perhaps one of the most important: the donation of time and interest from all those people who took a moment to stop, think, and talk about CASA. And we sincerely, deeply appreciate them all.

As I mentioned, much has gone well for us. The Annual ROCK (Ride On for CASA Kids) went off without a hitch—even in the pouring rain. And as I write to you, we're preparing, working with Dana and Kevin Knowles, Charles and Carol Preston and Carolyn Zdziera, for the First Annual Carole Ergin Unity Walk. This event will benefit CASA-EP and Community Alternative to Violence: two organizations Carole Ergin was very much involved with and to which she dedicated much of herself. I look forward to the walk and to those in coming years in part because they will serve as a time for us to remember and honor Carole; and also because I believe she would have liked the idea.

Yes, even in this uncertain economy, we're managing, through some very frugal and deliberate spending practices and of course, your help, to continue our work with some degree of success. Going forward, we'll apply a variety of outreach and volunteer recruitment solutions so that we move closer to reaching our goal of securing and maintaining enough volunteers to serve every child removed from his/her home. We'll tap new resources for support and continue to heighten our grassroots and community awareness efforts as well. As a result of Kelly's heeding the call of another cause and deciding to leave her position as CASA-EP Volunteer Coordinator, we will also soon be restructuring the office so that we maximize the efficient and effective use of each staff member's skill sets.



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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

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Vickey M. Wilcher
Executive Director

Shawn A. Valentine
Volunteer Coordinator



Letter from the Executive Director

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As we balance the need to grow the program with the realities of economic and social strains so many of us must now face, it's comforting to know that you still find ways to be supportive. Please know that we are keenly aware of the fact that without you my brief report regarding our current status would not likely be as positive. Thank you. I look forward to our continued work together.

Peace Be With You
Vickey M. Wilcher, Executive Director

A Message from the President



Thank you so much for helping to make the CASA-EP Run of the Flamingos a success. There were flamingos in neighborhoods, businesses and even feathery flamingo pens in the hands of attorneys, accountants and bankers. Put another way, community support has been overwhelming.

It is now time for the flamingos to return home to the CASA-EP Office 229 East Martin Street. So, if you have a flock or know where one is located, call the office at 304.263.5100. But don't be discouraged, the flamingos can still be ordered for special events: birthdays, anniversaries, retirements, etc.—just call the CASA-EP office and the flamingos will be delivered to your guest of honor.

In closing I have to say that working with the community to help support CASA in its efforts is something for us all to be proud of. The children we serve might not otherwise have access to an adult whose sole purpose is to make sure their needs are heard and met. Simply put, if we didn't reach into our hearts and wallets these children might seriously fall through the cracks. I don't want that, and I'm sure you don't either, so please join me in committing to helping whenever you can and to being part of the flamingo run from now on.

July 2008 - September 2008

New Volunteers Assigned 5

Children Served 104

Volunteers Trained 2

We are currently serving only half of the children who have been removed from their homes as a result of abuse and neglect. I hope you'll make a contribution now to help us recruit and train enough volunteers so that all of our littlest victims have advocates—CASA- volunteers—who will stand up for them until they are safe and in permanent homes.

If you would like to support CASA-EP in our effort to find safe and permanent homes for abused and neglected children in the Eastern Panhandle, please use the enclosed envelope to send your tax-deductible gift; or visit our website at www.casaep.org



Everyday Heroes



▲ *ROCK Riders*



▲ *Flamingos,
Board of Directors*

▲ *Flamingos,
Day at the Mall*



▲ *John F. and Vito*



▲ *Flamingos Pay Off!*



▲ *In Service Training*



Applebee's



*Preparing for
Carole Ergin
wity Walk*





229 East Martin Street
Suite 100
Martinsburg, WV 25401

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CASA-EP Volunteers: Every Day Heroes

- One toddler was extremely malnourished and frequently left in the care of a 9 year-old sibling. The child was so enamored of the CASA volunteer assigned to the case, Paul. Whenever the child saw Paul’s supervisor she would shout, “Where’s my Paul? Where’s my Paul!”
- CASA is a nationwide program. In recent news stories, the removal of over 400 children from a religious compound has gained national attention. Michael Piriano, National CASA’s CEO, spearheaded an effort to get CASA volunteers assigned to the children in Texas.
- It is not uncommon for the CASA logo to be recognized all over as symbol for compassion and volunteerism. Many CASA-EP volunteers and staff have been complimented on their work –by complete strangers!—while traveling with bags or wearing shirts bearing the CASA logo.

Kaare A. <i>Martinsburg</i>	Paul D. <i>Hedgesville</i>	John K. <i>Gerrardstown</i>	Karen R. <i>Harpers Ferry</i>
Gloria A. <i>Shepherdstown</i>	Sharon D. <i>Berkeley Springs</i>	Kimberly L. <i>Gerrardstown</i>	Teddy R. <i>Martinsburg</i>
Mary B. <i>Berkeley Springs</i>	John F. <i>Kearneysville</i>	Thomas L. <i>Hedgesville</i>	Joyce R. <i>Charles Town</i>
Tammy B. <i>Kearneysville</i>	Marie F. <i>Hedgesville</i>	Jack & Nancy M. <i>Hedgesville</i>	Vincent & Pat S. <i>Hedgesville</i>
Sally B. <i>Great Cacapon</i>	Felicia F. <i>Martinsburg</i>	William M. <i>Martinsburg</i>	Angela T. <i>Hedgesville</i>
Nancy B. <i>Charles Town</i>	Robin G. <i>Hedgesville</i>	Allison N. <i>Shepherdstown</i>	Pam T. <i>Martinsburg</i>
Frank B. <i>Shenandoah Jct.</i>	Mike H. <i>Great Cacapon</i>	Quincy N. <i>Shepherdstown</i>	Michael T. <i>Martinsburg</i>
Vickie C. <i>Martinsburg</i>	Sandy H. <i>Berkeley Springs</i>	Tonya P. <i>Bunker Hill</i>	Anne T. <i>Shepherdstown</i>
Debra C. <i>Shepherdstown</i>	Serina H. <i>Shepherdstown</i>	Pat P. <i>Inwood</i>	Lois W. <i>Hedgesville</i>
Daneille C. <i>Frederick, MD</i>	Brenda J. <i>Hedgesville</i>	Tally R. <i>Berkeley Springs</i>	Roxanne W. <i>Kearneysville</i>
Lorraine C. <i>Berkeley Springs</i>	Renee K. <i>Martinsburg</i>	Kathy R. <i>Shepherdstown</i>	Tonya U. <i>Inwood</i>