



CASAEP.ORG

SPRING 2009



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 38 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
kathy@casaep.org
or info@casaep.org



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear CASA-EP Friends,

When I last wrote to you, the economy was noticeably unpleasant for us here at CASA-EP, but with your help and a bit of belt tightening, we are managing. Now, as I'm sure you know, the financial situation in the country, at state and local levels, and certainly in the non-profit arena has taken a turn for the worse. What you may not know is what that means for us here in the Eastern Panhandle with respect to the children and families we serve.

I am a strong believer in the idea that information is power and that the informed community is a more active community. So, in our quest to keep you engaged I will always share whatever pertinent information I come across. Accordingly, I recently learned that **WORKFORCE** West Virginia (WV) reported that in December 2008, unemployment rates in Morgan (5.5%) and Berkeley (5.7%) Counties were “worse than average” when compared to the state’s rate; and that Jefferson County’s rate was equal to the state’s rate of 4.4%. It’s also been suggested that West Virginia’s jobless rate could nearly double to 9.5% by the last three months of 2009.

You should also know that national organizations like our own, National CASA Assn. (NCASAA) and the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) subscribe to the view that when there is a down turn in the economy, maltreatment of children goes up. In fact, Judge Glenda Hatchett, Spokeswoman for NCASAA, reported that “Case histories indicate that the stresses of families already struggling with financial difficulty can be exacerbated by recession, resulting in higher levels of child abuse and neglect that can potentially result in children being placed in the care of the state as foster children. On the other hand, budget cuts limit or eliminate altogether programs designed to help children in foster care and their families.”

Still further, Linda Spears, Vice President, of the CWLA, added that, along these same lines, “History and experience tell us when the economy is bad and unemployment rises, children don’t do well. There are so many unknowns, but I would venture to guess that we’re about to see one of the larger increases in child abuse cases since the drug epidemic increases in the 1990s.”

I believe these statements along with data around our community’s unemployment rates, other socio-economic challenges and the growing number of neglected and abused children already coming into contact with the WV foster care system as victims—in 2005: 24.9 out of every 1,000 children in WV versus 12.1 children per 1,000 of the national child population—are important because they highlight the current and the foreseeable need for CASA-EP.

(continued on page 2)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leslie Crabill
President

Alyssa Sloan
Vice President

Charles Lawson
Treasurer

Gina Miller
Secretary

Carol Asam

Deborah Barthlow

David Didden, M.D.

Jim Holland

Kara Kline-Gibson

Phyllis LeTart

Samantha C. Muncy

Rhea Peavler

Joan Piemme

Kathy Santa Barbara

Dolores Shirley

Robin Zanotti, ACFRE

STAFF

Vickey M. Wilcher
Executive Director

Shawn A. Valentine
Volunteer Coordinator

Kathy Olson
Volunteer Coordinator

Letter from the Executive Director

(continued from page 1)

I also believe, in fact I'm certain, that while the immediate road ahead may not make for an easy journey, if we keep focused and stay bound to the commitment to work together we can and will reach our ultimate goal of recruiting and sustaining a complement of volunteers so that we are able to serve every child removed from his/her home as a result of child abuse and neglect.

Well, I've shared quite a bit of information with you, and of course, we'll keep you posted as we receive more here in the office. But what's important now, is what you might do with this new information. It's our hope that you'll allow it to motivate you to ratchet up your efforts if you are already involved, or join us if you are not yet a member of the CASA-EP community—we look forward to working with you.

Peace Be with You
Vickey M. Wilcher, Executive Director

Thank You Annual Campaign Donors

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, volunteer caseworkers, and especially the children and families we serve, thank you so much for your most generous donation to our first Annual Campaign Drive.

Your support will help us in our continuing endeavor to find safe and permanent homes for the neglected and abused children we serve; and will help to ensure that their best interests are represented in the courts and throughout the foster care system.

In sum, your support of our effort is critical, and we're certain that with your help, we will surely be instrumental in changing, if not saving, the lives of many of our most vulnerable children.

Again, thank you very much. And please know that we will work hard to ensure that the donation you have given will be put to its absolute best use.

From the President
Leslie Crabill

Annual Campaign Donors

Business Donors	Individual Donors	Individual Donors
Burke Shultz	Sarah Metzbower	Ann Harkins
Caperton Furniture	Edward Crosbie	Diana Coe
Eastern Panhandle Pediatrics	Joann Barrio	Neta M. Clayton
CB Pennington, Inc.	William J. Powell	John D. and Sharon Rockefeller
	Margaret Biggs	Rebecca Speight
	Hannah Geffert	E. Ross and Pamela Curtis

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

CASA Kids ▼



▲
*Leslie Crabill, Joan Piemne,
Judge Gina Groh & Phyllis LeTart*



▲ *Judge Gray Silver, III, Susan T., Kathy O.,
Anthony H. & Eugene M.*



▲ *Maggie*



▲ *Tom & Ayleashua*



229 East Martin Street
Suite 100
Martinsburg, WV 25401

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MARTINSBURG, WV
PERMIT NO. 213



May 30, 2009



ROCK is right around the corner. Yes, it's time for the CASA-EP Ride On for CASA Kids annual bike ride. This tri-county ride is a fundraiser for CASA-EP to benefit the neglected and abused children we serve.

The ride will take place on Saturday, May 30, 2009 in Shepherdstown, WV. The day promises to be great fun and features something for everyone. For more information and to register, please visit the **ROCK** website at www.casaside.com; or contact CASA-EP at 304.263.5100.

CASA-EP Volunteers: Every Day Heroes

Kaare A. <i>Martinsburg</i>	Robin G. <i>Hedgesville</i>	Kelly M. <i>M.Frederick, MD</i>	Vincent & Pat S. <i>Hedgesville</i>
Gloria A. <i>Berkeley Springs</i>	Anthony H. <i>Ranson</i>	Allison N. <i>Shepherdstown</i>	Angela T. <i>Hedgesville</i>
Tammy B. <i>Kearneysville</i>	Sandy H. <i>Berkeley Springs</i>	Quincy N. <i>Shepherdstown</i>	Susan T. <i>Charles Town</i>
Sally B. <i>Cacapon</i>	Brenda J. <i>Hedgesville</i>	Tonya U. <i>Bunker Hill</i>	Pamela T. <i>Martinsburg</i>
Daneille C. <i>Frederick, MD</i>	Renee K. <i>Martinsburg</i>	Pat P. <i>Inwood</i>	Anne T. <i>Shepherdstown</i>
Paul D. <i>Hedgesville</i>	John K. <i>Gerrardstown</i>	Tally R. <i>Berkeley Springs</i>	Roxanne W. <i>Kearneysville</i>
Sharon D. <i>Berkeley Springs</i>	Thomas L. <i>Hedgesville</i>	Kathy R. <i>Shepherdstown</i>	Mary Y. <i>Martinsburg</i>
John F. <i>Kearneysville</i>	Jack & Nancy M. <i>Hedgesville</i>	Karen R. <i>Harpers Ferry</i>	Mike T. <i>Martinsburg</i>
Marie F. <i>Hedgesville</i>	William M. <i>Martinsburg</i>	Teddy R. <i>Martinsburg</i>	
Felicia F. <i>Martinsburg</i>	Eugene M. <i>Martinsburg</i>	Joyce R. <i>Charles Town</i>	