



# CASA of the Eastern Panhandle, Inc.

CASAEP.ORG

SUMMER 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 45 trained volunteers, and has provided services to more than 224 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  
kelly@casaep.org  
shawn@casaep.org  
or info@casaep.org



## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear CASA-EP Friends,

With food and gas prices soaring, job loss and a generally uncertain economy, it's likely that the maltreatment of children will rise that much more. It's sad but true that often the littlest, most fragile among us are the ones who bear the brunt of so many others' frustrations.

Knowing this, we can better prepare. We can work, even in the face of trying times, applying bold new creative ways to continue to raise the money and recruit the volunteers we need to meet our goal of having a volunteer for every child removed from his or her home here in the Eastern Panhandle. I sincerely believe this and I know I'm joined by Kelly and Shawn, our Volunteer Coordinators, the board of directors and all of our very special volunteers.

Recall the old adage, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." Given the demands today's economy places on us all, here at CASA-EP we understand that these are words that we must now live by in order to fulfill our mission. As a result, I can report to you that we are ratcheting up our outreach efforts, seeking out and approaching new funding sources, and exploring new partnerships with neighboring help agencies so that we might better serve our children and other populations in need. Additionally, the CASA-EP Board of Directors has completed its latest round of recruitment and the installation of four new directors: Dr. David Didden, Mr. Charles Lawson, Ms. Phyllis LeTart, and Ms. Robin Zanotti, ACFRE.

Having the new directors take their seats on the Board at this time speaks volumes to where their hearts and minds are; as they might very easily have opted to wait for better, more prosperous times—when raising money and other resources, a large part of any director's responsibility, might be a bit easier. Further, I am honored and pleased to note that our more veteran directors are ever committed and diligent in their efforts to continue to grow and manage our organization with compassion, great care and courage.

So, organizationally, we feel strong and optimistic about meeting the challenges ahead of us. We know that the volunteers we'll need to recruit and train are within arm's reach and within earshot of our call to action. And we believe that our passion and our willingness to stretch beyond what is immediately comfortable and gratifying will be contagious among the whole of our community.

Humanly, we are driven by the needs of those children we serve. We are keenly aware of the fact that to whom much is given much is required. Consequently, the CASA-EP family is poised, even as times become more and more pressing, to reach as high as the mountain tops of West Virginia to find safe and permanent homes for our children who have been neglected and abused; and to secure whatever other resources they might need.

All we need to make this happen more efficiently and effectively is you—join us; won't you.

Peace Be With You  
*Vickey M. Wilcher, Executive Director*





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leslie Crabill  
*President*

Alyssa Sloan  
*Vice President*

Charles Lawson  
*Treasurer*

Gina Miller  
*Secretary*

Carol Asam  
Deborah Barthlow

Peter Callahan  
Cynthia Cook

Dr. David Didden  
Erdem Ergin

Mary Ann Hamilton  
Jim Holland

Phyllis LeTart  
Andrew Michael

Joan Piemme

Kathy Santa Barbara

Dolores McCauley Shirley

Robin Zanotti

## STAFF

Vickey M. Wilcher  
*Executive Director*

Kelly C. Myers, M.S.S.L.  
*Senior Volunteer Coordinator*

Shawn A. Valentine  
*Asst. Volunteer Coordinator*



## A Message from the President

As many of you know, we here at CASA of the Eastern Panhandle (CASA-EP) have a goal of recruiting and training enough volunteers so that we will be able to serve every neglected and abused child removed from his or home in the Eastern Panhandle. To do that, we need resources of all kinds: money, training materials and so on. And most importantly, we need people who are simply willing to help—volunteers who train to become court appointed advocates of course; but we also need our friends and supporters to help raise money, host events, help in the office; and yes—this is my current personal favorite and immediate project—we need volunteers to work with us on our upcoming for Flamingos for CASA fund raiser.

Flamingos for CASA is a creative and fun way to raise money for, and call attention to, our cause. It's important to me and to my colleagues on the CASA-EP Board of Directors that we engage as much of the community in our work and the joys of our successes as possible. That's why we chose this event as one of our key development efforts. We believe everyone can get involved—young, old, businesses, churches, community groups, and neighbors.

Here's how it will work: during the week of July 4th we will be flocking the Eastern Panhandle with pink flamingos to raise money for CASA-EP. Individuals, businesses, neighborhoods and organizations will participate by placing flamingos in designated yards of those who have agreed to make a donation to CASA-EP. We will also be selling small, paper pink flamingos at area businesses for \$1.00 and flamingo t-shirts for varying prices. So, you see, it's not a difficult process at all; and can't you just imagine the surprise on a friends face when he or she realizes a flock of flamingos has appeared on their lawn.

I really hope you'll join us in this effort. And remember, "EMBRACE THE FLAMINGO" you won't find a more worthy cause.

For more information or if you have any questions, contact the CASA-EP office at 304.263.5100.



**EMBRACE THE FLAMINGO!**

*Flamingo Kick-off meeting - CASA Board President, Leslie Crabill*

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](http://www.casaep.org)

# Candlelight Vigil/Children's Flag Raising Ceremony April 2008



◀ *Ajia, Pam & Amber*



◀ *Jim Holland & County Commissioner, Steve Tenfel holding candles*



▲ *BACA - Bikers Against Child Abuse*



◀ *Kelly C. Myers, M.S.S.L & William M.*



◀ *Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney, Steve Groh & Berkeley County CPS Supervisor, Jennifer Michael - Swearing in ceremony, March 2008*



▲ *Vickey M. Wilcher, Executive Director, CASA and Willa - Continuing love for children of all ages!*



◀ *Lisa S., Felicia F., Gloria A., Nancy B., Judges Silver, III & Groh - Swearing in ceremony, March 2008*

◀ *Vickey M. Wilcher, Executive Director, CASA & Gina Miller, Millers Electric - Partners In Prevention Volunteer Recognition Breakfast*

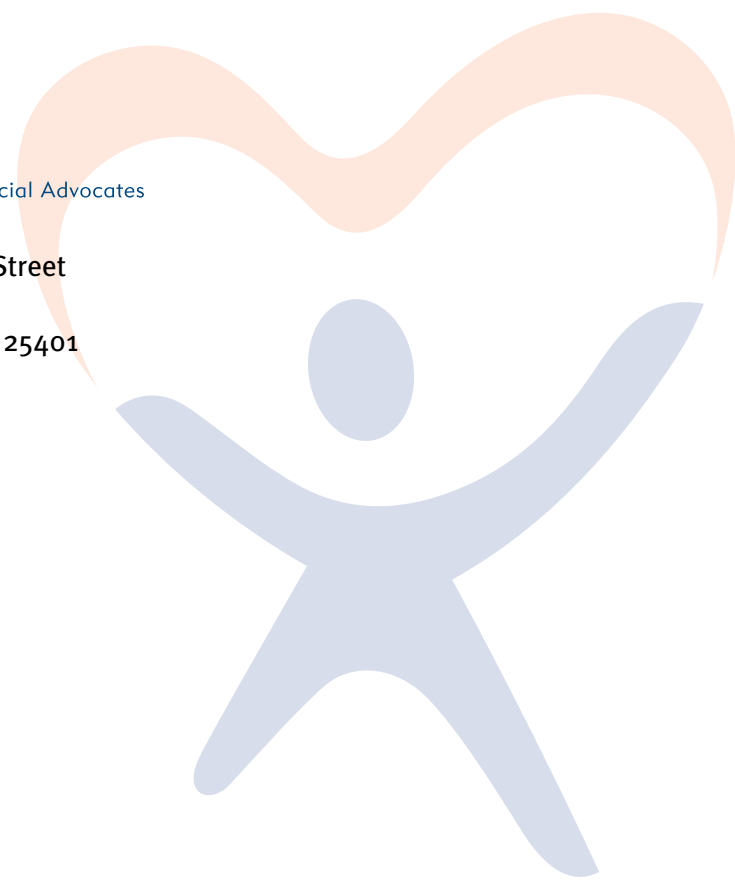


▲ *CASA office - Staff in waiting*



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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.

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