



CASAEP.ORG

SUMMER/FALL 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  
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Martinsburg, WV 25401  
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vickey@casaep.org  
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or info@casaep.org



## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear CASA-EP Family:

Noted philosopher Immanuel Kant once said “It’s not God’s will merely that we should be happy, but that we should make ourselves happy.” Now you might ask: What in the world do Kant’s concepts have to do with anything going on at CASA-EP? Well, if you agree with this particular thought, you might also subscribe to the idea that we, as individuals and especially collectively, can in fact accomplish great things when we put our minds and hearts to it. It is an honor for me to report that this is exactly the spirit here at CASA-EP. We believe, even as the economy continues to take its toll on our funding, that we have the ability to “make” our organization stronger, and to help to bring some degree of happiness to the children and families we serve, as well as to the whole of our community.

I think this point is evidenced by efforts like our CASA-EP Run of the Flamingos. Looking back on last year’s Flamingos event, I know now that something much bigger than a fundraiser made its way across our neighborhoods and business communities. And while by most measures it was a successful event financially, it was, in my opinion, a social/human success too. Imagine the smiles that pushed past the upsets and trials of a long hard day to appear on the faces of countless people as they made their way home and saw a flock of those pink, plastic, wire-legged creatures; or the surprise and wonder that lit up a child’s face as they headed off to school and came face-to-face with a flock for the first time. Still further, and not to be discounted, imagine the fun and joy involved with sending a flock of flamingos to an unsuspecting friend.

Upon further reflection it’s also clear that more than one or two people went out and, with a child’s heart, moved flamingos around or even looked for them when they somehow strayed off their courses. We often talked about these acts of kindness and support here in the office. And we couldn’t help noticing the buzz and light-heartedness that seemed to pour out of anything that had to do with the flamingos. I think it’s fair to say that the flamingos came to represent much more than simple lawn ornaments. And I hope they’ll have an even bigger impact over the course of their second annual run.

Yes, **the Flamingos are coming!** And we invite you join us in this year’s “Save a Child—Adopt a Flock” effort. Programmatically this means that each time a flock is moved from one location to another and/or whenever an organization or business sponsors a flock CASA-EP receives a donation. As you might guess, in these uncertain financial times this is important and is directly associated with our ability to keep the program running. You might also guess that sooner rather than later of course, we hope to be able to provide every child removed from his/her home as a result of child abuse and/or neglect with a CASA volunteer advocate.

Again, with respect to the program, you should know that while we are committed to developing and implementing bold, new and creative ideas around fund-raising, our ultimate aim is to find safe and permanent homes for children who have been the victims of child

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**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

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*Executive Director*

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*Volunteer Coordinator*



# Who Can Be a CASA Volunteer?

Who can be a volunteer? A mother, a father, a grandmother, a grandfather, a bus driver, a college student, a clerk, a college dean, a cashier, a teacher, an assistant—Anyone who is patient, loving, intuitive, understanding and most importantly, anyone who has a strong desire to help the helpless. If you have a yearning to reach out and hold a child’s hand through what can be, in the eyes of the child, a daunting, never-ending journey through the legal system then you might well be a wonderful CASA Volunteer. I have seen the most genuine people walk through the door here at the CASA office. From their initial inquiry, through completion of the training and, finally, to their first case assignment, they have given 100% of themselves. I have repeatedly seen love and selflessness supersede time constraints, financial barriers, race, gender and even matters of politics to reach out and touch the lives of abused and neglected children here in the Eastern Panhandle. I have seen the impossible become possible. I have seen a network of people from all walks of life, advocate for these little ones and pull together in such a way that it takes my breath away....again and again. In my tenure at CASA-EP I’ve seen beauty in its simplest form – art. The art of love.

Who can be a CASA Volunteer? You can.

We invite and encourage all who are interested to contact us for information on becoming a CASA volunteer. We soon will have enough applicants to begin a new class as well as an Independent Study group. The children are waiting for you!

S. A. Valentine, Volunteer Coordinator

<b>April – June 2009</b>	
Volunteers Trained	7
Active Volunteers	38
Children Served	122
New Volunteer Applicants	10

## Thank You ROCK 09 Donors

### ROCK 09 Corporate Donors

Atasia Spa	Grove Consulting	Russell, Pike & Nelson
BCT	IanThom Foundation	Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church
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Charles Town Lodge #948	MarketLab, Inc.	Trinity House Thrift Shop
Charles Town Racetrack	Medicap Pharmacy	

### ROCK 09 Individual Contributors

Tamara Albright	Phillip Hill	Phyllis Shade
C. Amores	Daisy Hite	Dolores Shirley
Erwin & Yvonne Asam	Daniel Householder	Alyssa Sloan
Sharyn Beckley	Catherine Irwin	Cliff & Val Smith
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Sandra DuPaul	Debbie Mitchem	Linda Warehime
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Gwen Frazee	J.D. Parr	Peter Yates
Mary Ann Hamilton	Joan Piemme	Carolyn Zdziera
Euphemia Hammer	Fred Porter, Jr.	
Jason Heffner	John Rice	

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)



▲ Children are ready to help stamp out domestic violence - Carole Ergin Unity Walk 2008



▲ Sunnyside - ROCK 2009



▶ Future Advocate, Ajia, relaxes with good food at the 2009 Luxury Raffle



▲ The flamingos are coming the flamingos are coming! 2008



▲ Jim Holland & Joan Piemne-ROCK 2009



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**Letter from the Executive Director**  
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abuse and/or neglect. We (collectively—to include you) must work to effectively reach this goal because national studies tell us that children with CASA volunteers are less likely to re-enter the foster care system once placed; experience fewer temporary placements; and have access to more of the services they (and their families) need.

Importantly then, it’s probably reasonable to suspect that a child who is moved into a safe and permanent home will more likely flourish and become an adult who will dare to believe that he/she can, and in fact “should make” him/herself happy. And as a result, without much more effort than participating in a flamingo fund-raiser for a small non-profit, those well-grounded, happy human beings will surely make someone else happy too.

Embrace the flamingos—they’re larger and much more beautiful than they appear.

Peace Be With You  
Vickey M. Wilcher, Executive Director

**CASA-EP Volunteers: Every Day Heroes**

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