
ADVOCATE ALLEY

Volume 3, Issue 3

March 2009

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome. ~Anne Bradstreet

CASA Corner

Greetings Advocates,

A quick reminder to you all that case plans should be completed for each of your children. Your case supervisor has provided you with a template and will assist you in completing this. This working document helps identify the priority issues for each child that will change as the case progresses, meaning, some goals will be met, some approaches will change, some new issues will surface and become new priorities.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if you need any additional support in completing your case plan.

Thank you for all you do,
Michelle Arnold
Recruitment & Training
Coordinator

Event Expressway

- **Gang Violence Panel-** Sat, Feb 28th, 2-4pm
Judge Jim Gray and cultural anthropologist Kathy Mackenzie discuss "How to Prevent Gang Violence" at the Peace Resource Center (1364 Fremont Blvd. in Seaside)
Free to attend, Contact 238-5058 for info
Valid for 2 hours of continuing education!!!

- **CASA Informational Mixer- March 19**

Join us at **Casa Sorrento** at 393 Salinas Street in Salinas at 5:30pm to meet and greet potential new advocates. It's a great opportunity to bring along someone you think might be a great CASA! Please RSVP to Michelle.

- **EVERY MONDAY IN APRIL!!!**

Hula's Island Grill and Tiki Room at 622 Lighthouse Avenue in Monterey is featuring CASA for their monthly **Mahalo Mondays** program! Hula's will give back 10% of their total sales for every Monday in April. So save the date and enjoy great food, fun atmosphere and benefit CASA all at once!

Call 831-655-4852 (HULA) or visit www.hulastiki.com.

Traffic School: Extended Education Opportunities

Salinas Gang Documentary

Date: Wednesday, March 18th
Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Location: CASA Office

Come view a documentary based on the life of a young man from Salinas who was raised to be a gang member and how it affected him and those around him. This documentary also goes into how gangs and organized crime have affected the city of Salinas and other parts of California. A question and answer period will be held after the documentary with a former gang associate.

Peer Review

Date: Wednesday, March 25th
Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Location: CASA Office

RSVP: to Ruben at 455-6800 or ruben@casamonterey.org

Annual Conference

The National CASA Annual Conference provides a unique opportunity to join leading consultants, legal and social service professionals as well as representatives from the entire CASA/GAL network. Through education, training and networking opportunities, attendees discover new ideas and solutions to fortify us as we carry out our service to abused and neglected children.

Who should come to National CASA's multi-disciplinary conference? As one CASA volunteer recently said of people she has encountered in her work, "People who believe that kids count."

2009 National CASA Conference

The 2009 National CASA Conference will be held April 25-28, 2009 in Denver, CO. Registration will open in December 2008. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Email staff@nationalcasa.org to join our email distribution list and be notified about registration information.

Attention Advocates!

An amazing opportunity has presented itself.

Chartwell School, a beautiful, private school in Seaside is offering a scholarship to one of our CASA children.

This scholarship, estimated at about \$20,000, will be awarded to a student who is both dyslexic and gifted. Please note that transportation to and from school will not be provided.

For more information, please contact Kristin Atkins 393-8007
www.chartwell.org



Advocate Avenue



We would like to wish the following advocates a very happy birthday during the month of March...

Dee MacDonald	3/2
Kathy Manley-Coburn	3/11
Scott Koster	3/12
Shawnie McLaughlin	3/12
Lin Blaskovich	3/14
Bob Montgomery	3/15
Jo Greenshields	3/25
Tracy Young	3/25
Judith Gonzalez	3/26
Jo Davis	3/31
Alejandra Rubalcaba	3/31

Tips for Advocates (from CASA's "The Connection" Newsletter)

1. Beware of assumptions. Leave your preconceived notions outside and pay attention to the strengths of the family.
2. There are myths about how various ethnic and socioeconomic groups tend to parent. Be aware of your cultural biases.
3. The fundamental belief governing child welfare policy is that the most desirable place for a child is with the family. Try to avoid thinking that you need to rescue the child from the family.
4. View foster care as a time of healing growth for both the child and the parent so they can come together and be a family again.
5. Don't automatically believe what you read about the case. Learn the facts and develop your own impressions. Go into the home and see what's really going on. Talk to Mom and Dad.
6. Find out who is part of the family's support system. Learn from them what might help the family reunite.
7. The longer a child is out of the home, the lower the chance that reunification will succeed. From day one, start finding ways to help strengthen the family.
8. There is a reason that National CASA standards limit the number of cases you can take at any given time (two unless an exception is justified and documented). Honor that limit so you have time to be there for the children and families you are working with.



New Addition to the CASA Library!

Beyond the Best Interests of the Child
by Joseph Goldstein, Anna Freud and Albert J. Solnit

Valid for 2 hours of continuing education credit

ArtSong Youth is looking for performers and artists to submit their work March 23-28. The upcoming event features dance, spoken word, music, drama, 2D & 3D art of all mediums, and photography. Performance applications are due March 2; visual are due March 13. For additional information visit

www.artsong.org

Upcoming Events

"Mahalo Mondays" at Hula's Island Grill
Every Monday in April

Lighting the Way, The Cotton Club
(Monterey's Major Fundraiser)- April 4th

Heart of CASA (San Benito's Major Fundraiser) - May 22nd

CASA Golf Classic at Pasadera - June 8th

Contact Edna for more information!
455-6800 or edna@casamonterey.org

Congratulations and Welcome, Iota Class!!!

(Sworn in by Judge Curtis on Feb 26th)



From Left to Right:

Michelle Arnold, Sage Kelly, Rannie Boyd, Satina Cooper,
Marguerite Primrose, Frank Primrose, Carlos Ram, Andy Osorno

Not pictured:

Racheal Christiansen, Denise Danaher, Alexandra Ludovina

Lifetime Television Debuts New Film about Foster Care

This morning Rosie O'Donnell was interviewed on Good Morning America. She was there to promote the movie "America" on Lifetime this Saturday evening. The movie is about foster care and the great number of teenagers aging out at 18 with nowhere to go. At the end of the interview, Rosie also called attention to CASA.....Yeah Rosie! She urged people to volunteer for CASA! You can go on line www.abcnews.go.com and see the short interview.

Synopsis: Dr. Maureen Brennan (O'Donnell), a psychiatrist at a youth treatment center, encounters her newest patient, a 16-year-old biracial boy named America. Through their sessions, Dr. Brennan helps America come to terms with his roller-coaster life, which began when he was taken by authorities from his crack-addicted mother and placed into foster care as an infant. Dr. Brennan works to help him open up about his painful past and discover the support and courage he needs to get his life back on track. This emotional story is based on the book *America* by E.R. Frank. (From <http://www.mylifetime.com/on-tv/movies/america>)

For scheduling in your time zone: www.mylifetime.com/on-tv/schedule/daily/2009/2/28/ET