
ADVOCATE ALLEY

Volume 4, Issue 10

October 2010

No man stands so straight as when he stoops to help a boy. -Knights of Pythagoras

Greetings advocates!

Due to the great success we've seen from our 30-in-30 campaigns, we're proud to announce the new "**Man2Man**" campaign that is going on now. We're on the prowl for more male advocates, as currently only 25% of our advocates are male but 50% of our children are. Please help spread the word about our latest campaign by sharing the flyer at the back of the newsletter. Our **Kick Off** event on **October 9th** is sure to be a great event and is being hosted by former advocate, Bill Sullivan. Former advocate Joe Marasco will be contributing his barbecuing talents and current advocate Matt Jones will speak about his experiences working as a CASA. **Please bring your husbands, brothers, bosses, neighbors, dog groomers, and anyone else you think might be a great CASA advocate!** You can RSVP directly to me by phone or email.

Thank you for all of you who have returned your Continuing Education surveys to me over the past two weeks. All surveys received before the end of this week will still be eligible to receive a prize, so send them in ASAP. Once we compile the results, we will announce our plans for the coming year. We are all responsible for earning 12 hours between September 1, 2010 and August 1, 2011, and I am so pleased to say that some of you are already well on your way to achieving this... What amazing advocates we have!

This month, Vickie Iles will be teaching a class entitled "**The Particulars of Placement**" on **Wednesday, October 20th** from **6pm to 8pm** at the CASA office (don't forget, we've moved!). From the surveys I have reviewed thus far, it seems this is a topic that many of you have interest in learning more about, so it couldn't be more timely! Please RSVP to me if you would like to reserve a spot.

Also, a webinar entitled "**Stronger Outcomes for Foster Youth: Involving Mental Health**" will be hosted by Foster Youth Education and Career Network on **Tuesday, October 12th** from **10am to 11:30am**. Greg Manning, PsyD, a clinical psychologist with extensive experience working in the foster care arena, as well as with government and non-profit community mental health agencies, will discuss improving and integrating mental health status with other services to maximize outcomes for children in foster care. To register, please email Mia Stizzo at mia.stizzo@cfpic.org.

In celebration of 5 years of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) in Monterey County, the Monterey County Health Department, Behavioral Health Division will be hosting a viewing of short films that tell stories of **Hope, Wellness and Resiliency**. The short films highlight the life stories of Monterey County residents: Connie Oliviera, Kontrena McPheter and Ramon Ramirez on **Tuesday, October 5** at the Marina Library 190 Seaside Circle in Marina from **5:30-7:00pm**. This event will count toward CE credit as well.

With gratitude,
Michelle Arnold
Program Manager
CASA of Monterey County

“No Child Forgotten”

**On Dr. Phil 10-1-10
Watch at 3pm on KSBW 8**

Excerpt from www.drphil.com:

There are hundreds of thousands of children in foster care right now. Many are the silent victims of abuse and neglect, spending their entire childhoods being tossed from house to house, slipping through the cracks in the foster care system. Dr. Phil gives a voice to the children who feel thrown away and unloved. Find out how you can help a child in need! And, Cindy and Mick are well-intended parents of adopted sisters, Danielle, 13, and Marie, 11. They say they struggle to parent their oldest daughter, who lies and is very angry.

Dr. Phil gives a powerful demonstration of what it's like for kids in foster care, and what they deal with even after they are placed in a permanent, loving home. Then, meet Stacy, 19, who entered foster care at 10 and endured years of horrific abuse before aging out of the system at 18. She struggles to find resources to help her in college. Dr. Phil has several amazing surprises for the teen! And, Dr. Phil and Robin are national spokespersons for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Learn how to become a CASA and help change a child's life!

Advocate Birthdays



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

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Lisa Barkalow | 10/2 |
| Tina DeMaria | 10/5 |
| Barb Singer | 10/5 |
| Edna Chinn | 10/6 |
| Faith Nava | 10/6 |
| Kathy Ruiz | 10/9 |
| Wendy Grim | 10/10 |
| Sonya Splane-Wilson | 10/21 |
| Racheal Christensen | 10/23 |
| Folkert Siemens | 10/24 |
| John Burdick | 10/27 |
| Rosalie Gray | 10/30 |
| Frank Primrose | 10/31 |

facebook

twitter

myspace.com
a place for friends

A Reminder about Social Networking Sites

This week in dependency court Judge Dauphine declared a "cease and desist" order against a parent for violating the confidentiality of proceedings regarding a child in the Juvenile Dependency system. This mother put information on My Space regarding confidential, legal information regarding her child and the foster parents.

The Judge reminded everyone in court that information on children in the dependency system posted on My Space, Facebook, or any other publication is inappropriate and will be dealt with by the proceedings of law.

This is a reminder that as advocates we must be careful not to divulge any information on our CASA children. It is a violation of the law. We appreciate your compliance with this in order to maintain the integrity of our CASA program.

Any questions can be directed to Michelle Arnold, Program Manager.

Rancho Cielo Drummond Culinary Academy NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Obtain Your High School Diploma
Learn Vocational Culinary Skills
Gain Work Experience While Learning
Job Placement Services
Earn \$ while in School

Applicants must be:

- ⇒ 16 to 25 Years Old
- ⇒ Without a High School Diploma
- ⇒ Low Income
- ⇒ WIA Eligible
- ⇒ Drug Free
- ⇒ Committed to Participate in a 12 Month Program

MISSION:

The Rancho Cielo Drummond Culinary Academy is dedicated to providing youth with an opportunity to gain classroom training, work experience and transferable skills that help them become employable in the culinary and hospitality industry.



Rancho Cielo Youth Campus
Physical:
710 Old Stage Road • Salinas CA, 93908 •
Mailing:
P.O. Box 6948 • Salinas CA, 93912
Phone: (831) 444-3501 Fax: (831) 444-3550
www.ranchocieloyc.org

Submit your application at
Rancho Cielo Youth Campus or
by e-mail:
DrummondCA@ranchocieloyc.org

Applications will be received
until
July 12, 2010 by 3:00 PM

Applicants Must Attend
Mandatory Orientation During
the Week of
July 19, 2010

Program Starts August 2, 2010



The Peter Cicchino Youth Project is currently recruiting LGBTQ youth of color for a unique stipended program to become peer educators. Details are below. The deadline is apparently October 1st, but as we've just received information about it, there may be some leeway.



The Peter Cicchino Youth Project is pleased to announce that our leadership development and peer education initiative, *SAS: Streetwise And Safe*, was a tremendous success last year, and that we are looking forward to offering it again this fall!

To that end, we are **currently recruiting LGBTQ youth (under age 25) of color** who:

- have life experience trading sex for money, shelter, food, drugs, or other survival needs; AND/OR
- have experience with profiling or criminalization in the context of “quality of life” policing and the policing of prostitution and trafficking.

for a unique, stipended program where they will:

- Help develop and disseminate “know your rights with the police” materials tailored to the needs, concerns, and experiences of LGBTQ youth of color, who are often subjects of profiling and policing based on race, gender, gender identity and expression, and involvement – or perceived involvement – in the sex trade;
- Learn to creatively share information about legal rights during encounters with police, with a particular emphasis on the policing of “quality of life” offenses and sex work, as well as gender-specific forms of police misconduct. Participants will also share practical survival strategies grounded in their experience and resilience;

We are asking our allies and community partners to:

- ✓ **assist in identifying youth who would benefit from participating in this groundbreaking project from among your clients, constituents, and members;**
- ✓ **post and/or disseminate the enclosed flyers throughout your organization and networks.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us at (646) 602-5696 or streetwiseandsafe@urbanjustice.org with any questions or for more information about the SAS project – **we look forward to hearing from you with suggested participants by OCTOBER 1st!**

Hello CASA Network,

Success, success!!

I am pleased to announce that the hard work of child advocates across California has paid off!! AB 12 -- the bill that extends federal funding to youth in foster care until age 21 has just become law! Also, 1933 that ensures educational stability for foster youth, and several others...

California CASA, and many CASA programs worked to push these through and we thank you all for your support. More info to come on how to maximize our advocacy for youth, but for now, please see the Governor's press release pasted below or at: <http://dl5.activatedirect.com/fs/distribution:wl/yvcee9xanplikz/z6475ailok17xi/daid/z647ubu1f4fiv6?&c=dlyvcee9xanplikz/z647ubu1f4fiv6&ce=1285872537.c12e27a2e9d056085b490eda0a474a57>

Congratulations,
Phil Ladew
Associate Director
& Legal Director
California CASA Association

Another CE Credit Opportunity!

On **Monday, November 8th**, The John Burton Foundation will host an important day of conversation and training about THP-Plus. A series of workshops will be provided, broken into a policy track and a practice track. Considerable coverage will be provided on newly passed AB 12 and its implications for THP-Plus. To register, click [HERE](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Haley at 415-693-1326 or email her at Hannah@johnburtonfoundation.org.

The Lyceum of Monterey County Upcoming Events

Ostrich Farm Tour

Of the 8,600 species of birds that exist today, the ostrich is the largest. These fascinating birds cannot fly, but are the fastest runners and are 8 feet tall! Come see these incredible creatures as Mr. Mickey Holzman, owner of the Ostrich Farm in Watsonville, showcase his private ranch to you. You will see over 65 ostriches in all stages of life.

Cost: \$25 per family **Date:** Saturday Oct 2 **Time:** 10am-12 pm

Please register at: www.lyceum.org or email at: general@lyceum.org

Call: (831) 372-6098

Family Astro: Moon Mission

In partnership with Hartnell College, the Lyceum is excited to bring you this National Science Foundation Funded program designed to get kids and adults involved. Join Andy Kreyche, Planetarium Educator at Hartnell College who will facilitate the two Saturdays sessions involved in hands on astronomy experiments, observations and discussions. Participate in a creative and educational project about the Earth's moon. These programs will be held at the Ching Planetarium in Salinas.

Cost: \$35 per family **Dates:** October 9th & 23rd **Time:** 10am-12 pm

Please register at: www.lyceum.org or email at: general@lyceum.org

Call: (831) 372-6098

Young Journalist Program w/ the Monterey Herald and KSBW

For all High School students (Grades 9-12) interested in the exciting world of journalism, this program will allow participants to meet local and national journalists and learn from them. This inaugural program meets every Saturday for seven weeks.

Participants must register by October 11th!

Cost: \$25 per student **Dates:** Begins Oct 16th (7 classes total)

Please register at: www.lyceum.org or email at: general@lyceum.org

Call: (831) 372-6098



October 2010 Don't Miss the Fun!

| October | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

Hours:
10-5 Monday-Saturday
(Closed Wednesdays)
12-5 Sunday

Admission:
Adults: \$7.00
Children: \$7.00
Children under 2: Free

Address:
425 Washington Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Phone:
831.649.6444 (phone)
831.649.1304 (fax)

E-mail:
info@mymuseum.org

Website:
www.mymuseum.org

MY Museum Flu Clinic - Saturday, October 2nd 10:00-1:00pm

Is it flu season already? Bring the family to the Museum for our annual flu clinic. In an effort to keep MY Museum clean and safe for everyone, MY Museum and VNA will be co-hosting a flu shot and mist clinic. For only \$30 a person you can get either your flu mist for the kids or a flu shot for yourself! Paperwork will be provided for those who would like to submit to insurance. Flu Vaccine for 18 years and older, Flu Mist for children 2 to 18. Call 649.6444 for your reservation.

Ariel Theater presents School House Rock - Saturday, October 2nd 1:30- 2:00pm
Ariel Theater will be bringing a group of young actors to perform at MY Museum. The monthly performances are in conjunction with Ariel productions at their home theater in Old Town Salinas. Free with admission.

MY Members Only Mornings! - Sunday, October 3rd 11:00-noon

Join us for a special, members only playtime at MY Museum! **Members Only** occurs on the first Sunday of every month.

MY Little Chatterbox: Spanish - Tuesdays, October 5th – 26th 10:30-11:15am

(Ages 3 to 5) Learn Spanish with your little one in this play-group style interactive environment. Play games, sing songs and have fun! **Members only** \$40 for four weeks, sibling \$20. Please call 649.6444 to reserve your spot.

\$2 Tuesday! - Tuesday, October 5th all day

Sponsored by Enterprise Rent-a-Car Foundation

This special priced day is our way of saying "thanks" to Monterey County Residents for all of your support. In an effort to make the Museum accessible to our entire community, \$2 Tuesdays are offered on the first Tuesday of every month to all Monterey County residents. Please bring current identification to verify your residence.

Passport to Play! - Tuesdays, September 14th – November 2nd 9:15-10:00am

Ever wonder what children from the world over learn and experience! Here's a chance to get your Passport to Play stamped at MY Museum! Join us as we travel to 8 countries to learn about their special traditions, language, games and crafts. From Peru to Russia, Cambodia to Egypt, there are so many fun and fascinating facts to learn at MY Museum's Passport to Play home-school class! **Members only** \$20/8 weeks or \$5/class.

MY Music Series - Thursdays, 10-10:30am

Join popular children's musicians every Thursday morning for singing, dancing and more! Free with admission, don't miss it!

Playtime in the Party Room - Thursdays, 2:30-3:30pm

Wish you could play with three pounds of Play-Doh? Feeling like your fingers would like to finger paint? Come to our drop-in play time and check out the day's activity! Fun for all ages and free with admission.

Parenting Workshop: Positive Discipline -

Thursdays, September 16th – October 21st 5:30-7:30pm

Learn how to set limits within your family without negativity with facilitator Kim Biggio. Kim is the Coordinator and Lead Teacher for Lighthouse Preschool and a mother of three. Kim has worked at Parent's Place for over 10 years and has an extensive background in Parent Education. Discover how to guide children to make the right choices from within. \$15/class \$20/couple or \$60 for all classes and \$80/couple. Please call 649.6444 to reserve your spot.

MY Little Chatterbox: Spanish - Fridays, October 8th – October 29th 10:30-11:15am

(Ages 3 to 5) Learn Spanish with your little one in this play-group style interactive environment. Play games and sing songs and have fun! **Members** \$40/sibling \$20, **non-members** \$60/sibling \$30 for four weeks. Please call 649.6444 to reserve your spot.

Playtime in the Party Room - Fridays, 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Did you miss playtime on Thursday? Drop in on Friday morning instead for a second chance at that Play-Doh and a new activity. Free with admission.

Fire Safety Friday - Friday, October 29th 3-5 pm

Stop, Drop & Roll, put on your fire hat and jacket and enjoy all sorts of exciting fire-safety activities! Get to know your local firefighters from Monterey County and check out a real fire engine. Free with the price of admission. Call to sign up 649.6444.

To Become a Member, visit our website at www.mymuseum.org

MY Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization, for information on supporting us please visit to our website - www.mymuseum.org



There are a TON of Halloween activities occurring this month around the county. If you're looking for a festive activity, check out mbykids.com or pick up a copy of their magazine, "Scoop!" It is chock full of options that are low or no cost. We have copies in the office if you'd like to pick one up. Happy haunting!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

INFORMATION TO SHARE

Congressmen Stark and Langevin Announcement Two House Resolutions for Foster Youth Press Release – September 24, 2010

Background – H.R. 6193, the Foster Youth Financial Security Act

Foster children are disproportionately victims of identity theft because their personal information passes through many hands, increasing the chances that someone will open an account in their name or use their Social Security number. H.R. 6193 would require that all foster children have their credit reports reviewed and cleared prior to leaving care. It would also end the use of a child's SSN as an identifier and provide help for older youth in obtaining a driver's license, opening a bank account, and applying for student loans. In addition, the bill would provide financial literacy classes and seed money to set up Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) for foster youth so they leave care with a nest egg to pay for housing, education, and job training.

Background – H.R. 6192, the Foster Children Self Support Act

Many foster youth with physical and mental disabilities and those that have lost a parent are eligible for Social Security benefits. Congressional Research Service estimates that 30,000 foster children are eligible. However, child welfare agencies routinely become the representative payee for foster children's benefits. Once they control a child's benefits, the agencies routinely keep the funds as a revenue source rather than using them in the best interests of the child. According to CRS, over \$150 million in federal benefits, including OASDI benefits that children are entitled to because their deceased parent paid into the Social Security system, are kept by child welfare agencies each year.

H.R. 6192 requires states to use these Social Security benefits for the current and future needs of the child, and not as a revenue source. The legislation would ensure that all eligible foster youth are assisted in applying for Social Security benefits, and would create individual accounts for each eligible child. These accounts would serve as a nest egg for foster youth to use when they leave care, to pay for things such as education, health care, and housing.

Annie E. Casey Foundation Releases 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book (*Philanthropy News Digest July, 2010*)

This latest data report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation provides an analysis of children's issues from poverty, mortality, teen pregnancy, education, and employment for 2008. To download your copy: http://www.aecf.org/%7E/media/Pubs/Initiatives/KIDS%20COUNT/123/2010KidsCountDataBook/AEC197_book_final3.pdf.

RESOURCES FOR YOUTH

Back to School? Get the Career Development Guidebook

Get all the information you need to make the best educational choices in preparation for life after high school and career readiness. Get your copy of the Career Development Guidebook: <http://www.newwaystowork.org/documents/ytatdocuments/CareerDevGuidebookJUNE2009%282%29.pdf>.

Beyond Emancipation: Updated Edition of Resource Guide for Youth in Transition (*From Beyond Emancipation July, 2010*)

The Summer/Fall 2010 Edition of Beyond Emancipation's *Resources for Youth In Transition* is available now. To get your copy: http://www.beyondemancipation.org/downloads/RYT_Summer%202010_Fall%202010.pdf.

The Caregiver's Guide

Looking for resources to help your youth succeed? Get your copy of the "Caregiver's Guide" a composite of resources available to assist you: <http://www.newwaystowork.org/caregiverguide.pdf>.

MAN 2 MAN

Man Up! Be the Difference



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
CASA OF MONTEREY COUNTY

Attend the Man2Man
Kick Off Event!

Saturday, October 9, 2010

Spas on the Bay

305 Amador Ave, Seaside

4:00pm - 6:00pm

BBQ, Wine, Raffles and Information

RSVP - Michelle at CASA

831-455-6800

Sponsors:

- Spas by the Bay
- Espinoza Graphics
- ESPN-630am
- Ventana Vineyards
- BBQ Joe
- Chatterbox Marketing,
Consulting, Public Relations

