

# THE CASA CONNECTION



Newsletter for the Clay County Court-Appointed Special Advocates

January 2008 Volume 2, Issue 1



## **BIRTHDAYS**

### **January**

7<sup>th</sup> Kris Roberts  
17<sup>th</sup> Wendi Bridges  
29<sup>th</sup> Mary Harris  
31<sup>st</sup> Pam Hamerle & Richard Valenta

### **February**

3<sup>rd</sup> Joletta Rose  
17<sup>th</sup> Judy Medley-Alden  
18<sup>th</sup> Angela Gasca & Mike Oiler  
21<sup>st</sup> Jeane Worth  
28<sup>th</sup> Joy Elliott

### **March**

13<sup>th</sup> Mary Goldammer  
25<sup>th</sup> Joe Miller

Happy Birthday to all of you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## JUDGE WELSH LEAVES AFTER 22 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CLAY COUNTY

Judge James E. Welsh accepted a job the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District that existed due to the retirement of Edwin H. Smith. Judge Welsh left his position as a circuit judge on the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (Clay County) and Judge of the Juvenile Division on October 31, 2007. A reception was held in his honor on that date. He will be sorely missed.

The Oath of Office Ceremony occurred on

November 5, 2007. He is the 57<sup>th</sup> Judge appointed to the Appeals Court.

Judge Welsh was named an associate judge in Clay County, Missouri in 1985. In 1988 he was appointed as a circuit judge and took over the job of Judge of the Juvenile Division in 1991. He has served the children of Clay County for the last 16 years and they have benefited greatly from his service. Good Luck, Judge!!!



## THE CASA SKATING PARTY

On November 17, 2007 a skating party for the foster children of Clay County was held at the Northland Rolladium in Liberty, MO.

We had three teenagers, Josh Elliott, Kristen Jensen and Colleen Pickett, who were willing to volunteer their time to help some of the children skate. Joy Elliott also skated with the children. Debbie Pickett, Suzan Corcione and Lynn Driggers also attended the skating party to help us

keep track of the children. Eight children showed up and skated for the two-hour session. Some of them took the one-hour lesson prior to skating. All of the children had a good time and were tired when they left—as were the adults!!



# THE CASA CHRISTMAS PARTY

The CASA Christmas Party for the Foster Children of Clay County was held on December 2, 2007 at Our Lady of Mercy Home in Liberty, Missouri.

We had nine teenagers, Colleen Pickett, Brittany Metacalfe, Kaley McLain, Brooke Perry, Sami Winn, Camrie Nixon, Miranda Meyer, Allie Kline, and Michelle Anderson, who were willing to donate their time to help the foster children make crafts. Others who volunteered their time to make the Christmas Party fun were, Kimalee Carroll, Cole Riffle.

Dylan Riffle, Steve Elliott, Megan Wolkey, Landis Merrill and Jessica Tasetano. A special thank you to Connie and Greg Bell, who helped with check-in and took Santa photos for all the kids; and Eric Post, CASA Board Member, who did every CASA's who helped out include Joy Elliott, Debbie Pickett, Lynn Driggers, Nicole Seely, Sheila Merrill, Kris Roberts, Sally Morgan-Smith, Paula Venhoff, Jackie Rapp, Pam Hamerle, Mark Nelson, Jackie Murtha, Bonnie Broughton, and Pam Hon.



Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!! We could not have done it with out all of you!!!!



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Debbie Pickett has been a CASA for 5 years. She said she has had seven kids that she has helped or is helping through the system. She loves working with children and being a mom.

Debbie has lived in the Kansas City, Missouri area most of her life. She worked at K-Mart in the Men's Department when she was a teenager and met her husband, Andy, there. She said it always bothered her when she saw or heard kids being hit by parents, especially with a belt from her department!! Debbie and Andy have been married 27 years and have three children: Michael (24) a graphic designer and photographer; Stephanie

(21) attends college at Drury University. She will graduate in May 2008 and has already been accepted to the St. Louis University of Medicine for the fall of 2008; and Colleen (17½) who will graduate from Liberty High School in May 2008. She plans on studying pre-med in college.

Debbie is a very organized, detail-oriented person who is very generous. She, not only volunteers as a CASA but also through her church, St. James Catholic Church, in Liberty, MO. She has been instrumental in getting donations and organizing Christmas gifts for foster children for the last two years. She has helped out with events such as: the CASA Skating Party, Christmas Party, Easter Egg Hunt and Light of Hope.

Debbie's favorite place to go is the Lake of the Ozarks so she

can get away and relax. She would like to go to the Grand Canyon and Italy in the future.

Debbie was asked if she could meet one person dead or alive, who would she want it to be? She said she would like to meet Mother Theresa because "I admire what she did with her life."



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Neglect Hotline: (800)392-3738

## JUST A REMINDER...

☺ There is no training scheduled for January 2008. HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

☺ Upcoming In-Service training is set for: Tuesday, **February 19, 2008**. The topic will be on Autism. Please remember the training starts at 5:30 P.M.

☺ Don't forget funds can be requested from the Friends of CASA Board if a child you are working with **needs** something (i.e. cultural activities, swimming fees, sports fees, graduation fees).

☺ If you decide to donate money to the United Way, you can designate it to go to Clay County CASA, and the money will come to us.

☺ There are mileage funds available for 2007-2008. You may fill out a mileage sheet and turn it in to Janet Eddings for reimbursement.

☺ If you have not already provided a copy of your valid driver's license and valid insurance card, please either drop it off, make a copy and mail it, or email it to us.

**Don't  Forget**

☺ The next CASA Training session is scheduled for March and April 2008. If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a CASA in Clay County, please let them know to contact us so we can get an application to them.

☺ The Friends of CASA Board meets the third Thursday every other month at 5:00 P.M. at the Juvenile Office. The next meeting is set for **January 18, 2008**. You are welcome to attend these meetings.