

# CLAY COUNTY CASA 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Newsletter for the Clay County Court-Appointed Special Advocates

## THE CASA CONNECTION

On April 3, 2008 the Friends of Clay County CASA held a 25th Anniversary celebration at the Heritage Hall in Liberty, Missouri to honor volunteers for their years of service to the children of Clay County. Judge Welsh and Judge Davis were present and spoke briefly about the CASA Program in Clay County and the great volunteers, who make up the program. Judge Davis presented a plaque to each volunteer in attendance.

The plaques commemorated the hard work, dedication and countless volunteer hours utilized to befriend the children of Clay County and ensure their safety and

well-being. Janet Rogers spoke about the importance of the CASA Program and, specifically the volunteers. Without you there would be no program!

Three foster children, Scott, Stella & Michelle, were present for a panel discussion about the positive experience they have had with their respective CASA volunteer.

Present to receive a plaque were: Ed Bianchina, Curtis Blanc, Jessica Blanton, Peg Bradley, Wendi Bridges, Jim Cleaveland, Suzan Corcione, Lynn Driggers, Joy Elliott, Sharon Fletcher, Julie Graves, Beth Grelinger, Pam Hamerle, Jennine Jones, Mary Libeer, Gerry Luke,

Christie Mullin, Jackie Murtha, Theresa Odneal, Mike Oiler, Debbie Pickett, Jackie Rapp, Kris Roberts, Joletta Rose, Richard Sayles, Laura Schmidt, Nicole Seely, Mim Simpson, Sally Morgan-Smith, Suzie Smith, Paula Venhoff, and Charlene Walczak. This event was catered by Maryann Pfiesser and Catered Elegance

A special thank you goes out to Scott, Stella, Michelle, Judge Welsh, Judge Davis, Joy Elliott, Fond Memories Engraving Company, and Maryann Pfiesser and Catered Elegance.





**BIRTHDAYS**

**January**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Brandas Murphy
- 7<sup>th</sup> Kris Roberts
- 17<sup>th</sup> Wendi Bridges
- 18<sup>th</sup> Janet Nation
- 31<sup>st</sup> Pam Hamerle & Richard Valenta

**February**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Joletta Rose
- 18<sup>th</sup> Mike Oiler
- 28<sup>th</sup> Joy Elliott

**March**

- 13<sup>th</sup> Mary Goldammer
- 25<sup>th</sup> Joe Miller
- 27<sup>th</sup> Keri Brewer

**April**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Brock Farris
- 7<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Broughton
- 15<sup>th</sup> Leslie Strickland

**May**

- 4th Karen Gibson & Mary Libeer
- 18th Sharon Fletcher
- 19th Laura Schmidt
- 23rd Jackie Rapp
- 24th Erica Venancio

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

# Judge Davis takes over Juvenile Matters in Clay County

On February 6, 2008, the Honorable Judge Elizabeth Davis was sworn in as a Circuit Judge of the Clay County Family Court. She filled the spot vacated by the Honorable Judge James Welsh who accepted a job with the Western District Court of Appeals in October 2007.

Previously she was employed by the Clay County Family Court as an Associate Judge.

Congratulations Judge Davis! We look forward to working for you and with the children of Clay County to ensure their safety and well-being.

## GRADUATION 2008

The 2007-2008 school year is creeping to a close and the following CASA kids (or kids who have had a CASA in the past) have graduated from

high school: Amie Graham, Kenny Denney, Jared Loney, Cameron Evans, Angela Watson, and James Rutledge.

Amie Graham graduated from Ruskin High School. Kenny Denny graduated from Kirksville High School. Jared Loney graduated from Bolivar High School.

Cameron Evans graduated from Liberty High School. Angela

Watson graduated from Winnetonka High School. James Rutledge graduated from Lake Mary Center in Paola, Kansas.

Way to Go!!!!!!!!!! Congratulations to all of them!



## MAY IS FOSTER CARE MONTH

According to the National CASA website ([NationalCASA.org](http://NationalCASA.org)), Foster Care Month originated in 1988 through the efforts of the National Foster Parent Association.

The main focus of

the early efforts was appreciation and recognition of the tremendous contributions of foster parents nationwide. Today, Foster Care Month is national

organizations working to raise awareness and remind us of the hundreds of in our country thousands of children who need loving families and safe homes. For more information go to the National CASA website.

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Missouri Child Abuse and

Neglect Hotline: (800)392-3738



## JUST A REMINDER...

☺ The next AFCC Lunch and Learn topic is Autism 101 and is set for Wednesday, June 4, 2008 from 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. at Sonnenschein, Nath and Rosenthal LLP, 4520 Main Street, 9th Floor, American Century Towers, Kansas City, MO. Parking is available on the side of the building. Bring your own lunch. Soda, water and coffee will be provided by the Autism Alliance of Greater KC. If you are interested in attending this free program, please call the CASA Office to let us know you will be attending.

☺ Upcoming In-Service training is set for: **Tuesday, June 17, 2008.** The topic will be on IEP's and 504 Plans, what they are, who qualifies for those programs, why and other basic information.

Please remember the training starts at 5:30 P.M.

☺ 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 **July 17, 2008.** You are welcome to attend these meetings.

☺ The 2008 Missouri CASA Conference is coming up in October 2008. We will let you know the dates as soon as we know the dates!

☺ 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.

☺ 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 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).

# MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH!!! GET INVOLVED!

Go to the website  
[fostercaremonth.org](http://fostercaremonth.org)  
to learn more.

