



THE CASA CONNECTION

UPCOMING 1ST ANNUAL CARDINALS FOR CASA HOMECOMING 5K RUN

Julie Graves, CASA, has worked diligently to bring William Jewel College and Clay County CASA together in the 1st Annual Cardinals for CASA Homecoming 5K Run on Saturday, October 11, 2008. For those who don't run, there will also be a 1 mile Fun Run/Walk. Race packets can be picked up at 8:00 A.M. the day of the event. The race will begin at 9:00 A.M. and take place on the Cardinals

Cross Country Course on the William Jewel Campus. The 1 mile Run/Walk begins at 10:00 A.M.

This is a fundraising event. A portion of entrance fees will be donated to the Clay County CASA Program. The registration fee is \$25.00 per person. Participants will receive a t-shirt and overall winners will be recognized at the Homecoming Football game

where the William Jewel Cardinals will go up against the Baker Wildcats at Noon that day.

Volunteers are needed to help make this event successful. Please get the word out and invite others to join us on October 11, 2008. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact either Janet Rogers or Carole Shost at (816) 736-8400.

THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN CAMPAIGN



According to the National CASA website, the goal of the Forgotten Children Campaign is to increase the number of children served by CASA volunteers. National CASA kicked off the campaign with an exhibit in Washington D.C. in May in an effort to draw public attention to forgotten children. For one workweek, each day CASA staff, volunteers and supporters placed 850 life-size displays of foster children at the Washington Monument.

These displays represented the 850 children who enter the foster care system each day. By the end of the week, 4250 displays stood in front of the Washington Monument, representing the children who entered foster care that week. Each child display held a placard with a message and a call to action (such as "My CASA is always there for me", "Foster children should be seen and heard" etc.). Six versions of the child displays

illustrated the diversity of children in foster care. The campaign will continue for a year, helping to raise awareness on a local level for CASA programs across the nation. The overall goal is to help raise \$2.9 million that will go to fund local program growth and sustainability. Ultimately, National CASA hopes to use these funds to help provide a caring volunteer advocate to an additional 75,000 abused and neglected children.



BIRTHDAYS

June

- 1st Ed Bianchina
- 2nd Paula Venhoff
- 9th Nancy Pierce
- 12th Christie & Debbie
Mullins Pickett
- 13th Jim Cleaveland
- 26th Kelly Paterson

July

- 2nd Susan Corcione
- 12th Heather Morris
- 26th Julie Graves

August

- 5th Beth Grelinger
- 26th Charlene Walczak

September

- 1st Sheila Merrill
- 5th Pam Hon
- 6th Crystal & Suzie
Polsgrove Smith
- 10th Michelle Slankard
- 11th Susan Blaser
- 21st Jennine & Gerry
Jones Luke
- 26th Ginene Costello
- 28th Krista Lopez
- 29th Peg Bradley
- 26th Charlene Walczak
- 30th Leanna Howsden

(Birthdays continued on next page)

JUDGE ROBERT KENNETH ELLIOTT'S LEGACY LIVES ON

On September 12, 2007, Judge R. Kenneth Elliott went to be with the Lord. According to his obituary, he served as a judge in Division II of the 7th Judicial Circuit of Missouri (in Clay County, MO.) for 33 years. He was appointed as judge of the newly formed Division II by Governor James T. Blair in March of 1958. He won his election that year and served from 1958 until mandatory retirement at 70 years of age in 1991. He was the juvenile judge for 28 of those years. He was known as a fair but demanding judge. He had a deep respect for the judicial system and for the people he served. He was a lifelong student of the law, and sought to wisely apply it in every case. During the three decades he served as judge, he had a positive effect on the lives of countless Clay County citizens,

especially the young lives he helped in juvenile court. He always worked to improve the juvenile justice system. He was a former president of the National Juvenile Judges Association, and he led the drive in the 1970's to acquire the first Clay County juvenile facility to keep young people separate from adult detainees. In 1996, after his retirement, the current juvenile facility was erected and named in his honor, The R. Kenneth Elliott Children's Justice Center. In 2003 he received the first Alexander Doniphan Community Service Award in Clay County. It was noted that "his great vision, coupled with his love for people and commitment to justice, made him an ideal recipient for this award." Judge Elliott was described as "a paragon of professionalism and human decency." He was instrumental in developing the CASA Program in Clay County, MO. He will be missed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We are in the planning stages of having a Christmas party for the foster children again this year. It will be held Sunday, December 7, 2008 from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at Our Lady of Mercy. This is the same place it was held last year. We need volunteers to help make the event fun and successful. If you can help the day of the party or have ideas for the party, please contact Joy Elliott at (816) 799-6349 or jelliott2008@gmail.com.

Debbie Pickett is organizing the Christmas gifts for foster children again this year. The employees of Kohl's (with thanks to CASA, Suzan Corcione) and GEHA Insurance Company (with thanks to Board Member Eileen

Hutchinson) have agreed to sponsor several of the foster children. Hallmark Cards, Inc. has given us a donation of \$1000 again to buy Christmas gifts for foster children. Thank you also to CASA Kris Roberts, who acquired a donation from her husband's company, LG Barcus and Sons, LLC and to CASA Wendi Bridges, who acquired a donation from her employer, Davis, Bethune & Jones, LLC to help buy Christmas gifts. The KCP&L Red Bag Program also agreed to adopt some of our children under 13 years of age. We will need some CASA's to help with Christmas shopping using donated funds. If this is something you can help with, please contact Debbie Pickett at (816) 792-1971 or (816) 516-5955.

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Missouri Child Abuse and

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JUST A REMINDER...

☺ The next AFCC Lunch and Learn topic is "Domestic Violence Differentiation and Family Court: Tensions, Terminology and Collaboration" and is set for Wednesday, **October 1, 2008** from 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the R. Kenneth Elliott Children's Justice Center, 351 E. Kansas, Liberty, MO. Bring your own lunch. 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, October 21, 2008**. The topic will be about parents who use children as messengers; pain games that parents play that put kids in the middle & create loyalty conflicts. We also have training scheduled for **Monday, November 17, 2008**. The topic will be about drug screens and hair follicle testing. Please remember the training starts at 5:30 P.M. and dinner is provided.

☺ 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 **November 13, 2008**. You are welcome to attend these meetings.

☺ The 2008 Missouri CASA Conference will be held **October 16 and 17, 2008**. If you have not already contacted Janet Rogers stating an interest in attending, it will be an out-of-pocket expense.

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

BIRTHDAYS

(Continued)

October

14th Lee Simpson

17th Ronda Reems

27th Stacy Hodge

28th Beth Gray

November

1st Curtis Blanc

4th Nicole Seely

11th Jackie Murtha

17th Jessica Blanton

18th Sally Morgan-Smith

22nd Mark Nelson

30th Mim Simpson

December

4th Christina & Steve
Legault Stark

15th Richard Sayles

30th Lynn Driggers

31st Theresa & Peggy
Odneal Probst

