

# The Case for CASA

March 2010



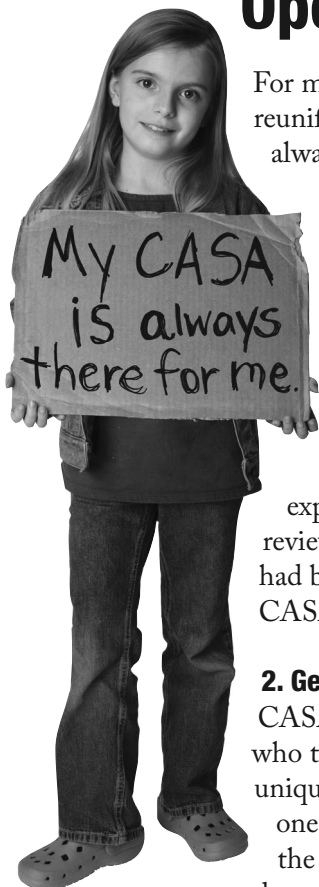
**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION  
A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CASA ASSOCIATION

*This update is provided to keep our partners informed of our progress and to say **thank you for your investment in CASA.***

## Opening Doors: CASA is Key to Successful Adoptions



For most children and families who enter our child protection system, the plan is family reunification. Unfortunately, due to a variety of circumstances, family reunification does not always occur. In those cases, we must develop a different permanent plan. After all, every child is entitled to grow up in a healthy, safe, loving and permanent home. The best way to make that happen when family reunification fails is through adoption. We have seen CASA volunteers impact adoptions in several key ways:

### 1. Thorough Review of the Court File.

One of the first tasks the CASA volunteer must undertake is to review the court file as thoroughly as possible. A case in point is one where CASA volunteers, a husband-and-wife team, were enlisted to advocate for a child who was dying of AIDS. Working with the child's social worker, attorney and doctors, they helped obtain what was considered an experimental treatment which helped prolong the child's life. If that weren't enough, in reviewing the file, the CASA volunteers located a previous prospective adoptive parent who had been discouraged from adopting because of the child's illness. With support from the CASA team, that relationship was renewed, and the child was adopted.

### 2. Getting to Know Everyone Involved in the Child's Life.

CASA volunteers, in the normal course of their duties, have the opportunity to know everyone who touches the life of a child. When that happens—and when individuals understand the unique role of advocacy in children's lives—it often opens doors. During a visit to a child's school, one of our volunteers was asked to meet with the school principal, who shyly inquired whether the child was available for adoption. It turned out that the principal was interested, and she did adopt the child, who has had a very happy life ever since.

### 3. Improving a Child's Stability.

How many times have CASA volunteers been asked to step in because the system seems to be failing and a child's emotional state is spiraling downward? And how many children are losing out on placements with families, being considered "unadoptable"? Time after time, we have seen children become more amenable to services such as counseling after CASA volunteers gain their confidence. When that happens, doors begin to open for that child, including doors of potential adoptive homes.

*By Hon. Michael Nash. To read more about the ways in which CASA volunteers impact adoptions visit [www.casappr.org](http://www.casappr.org).*

## The Light of Hope Shines Brightly

CASA advocate Diana Lynn spent more than a year making sure 14-year-old Alan Atkins and his brother and sister were safe and able to grow up in a loving home. Diana used her skills as an American Sign Language interpreter to communicate with Alan's hearing impaired parents. Now a thriving 18-year-old, Alan is an excellent student, artist, and is preparing for the Navy. Alan and Diana will be the featured speakers at this year's Light of Hope breakfast and luncheon on April 29. We look forward to seeing you there.



10th Annual *Light of Hope*™ Event  
April 29, 2010

Antlers Hilton Hotel

Visit [www.casappr.org](http://www.casappr.org) for more information

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# Leaving a Legacy for a Better World

Lynne Rosiak believes in giving back to her community. This philosophy was surely shaped by her work as a relationship coach through her business, Life Quest Mentoring. We, at CASA, appreciate Lynne's giving and generous spirit. We are honored that she has chosen to give back through CASA and as a member of the Legacy Society.

CASA's Legacy Society was established to recognize special individuals, like Lynne, who have included CASA as a beneficiary in their will, estate plans, gift annuity, IRA, life insurance policy, etc. (regardless of the amount). Each year, members are honored for their special commitment at an intimate reception. It is a wonderful time to meet and share ideas with like-minded, philanthropic community members. We talked to Lynne about her decision to join the Legacy Society...

## Why did you decide to join CASA's Legacy Society?

When I moved to Colorado Springs three years ago, I wanted to get involved in my community and leave a legacy that would offer financial support when I transition. I had heard about CASA and decided that was the organization for me that could best help children who need an advocate. CASA provides caring, supportive assistance that lets the children who have had abusive home environments feel safe and loved - something that every child wants and deserves.

## Why is it important to you to leave a legacy for CASA's future children?

I decided to put CASA in my trust because I love and value children, and feel the children are our future. My intention is to give back to our community and to create a financial legacy that will help to continue CASA's services that make this a better community and a better world for the children.

## Have you found benefits to joining a group like the Legacy Society?

The benefit of being a CASA Legacy Society member is that I feel good inside, because I am leaving a financial legacy that will continue to support all the wonderful services that CASA offers for abused children who have not had loving, family childhood experiences.

**Did you know...**

Less than 8% of all wills settled contain a charitable provision. Imagine the positive impact on our community if everyone made a donation to a favorite non-profit.

For more information, please contact Jill Wright at 447.9898 x1002 or [jillw@casappr.org](mailto:jillw@casappr.org). If you have already included CASA in your will, trust, or other planned gift, please let us know - *and thank you!*

## Make an Investment in CASA and Claim a 50% Tax Credit

**NEW!**

CASA has been approved by the State of Colorado to offer the Child Care Contribution Credit. If you are a Colorado taxpayer, you may be eligible to receive a 50% state tax credit on your monetary gift of \$500 or more to CASA (in addition to your federal income tax deduction). This is a great way to maximize your investment in CASA's children! For information on guidelines, please call Jill Wright, 447-9898 x1002. *Consult your tax advisor to confirm your eligibility and the amount of your tax savings.*

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**Help CASA Conserve**

