



The Gist

Volunteer Newsletter



February 2015

CASA of the Pikes Peak Region
A Member of the National CASA Association

Volume 11, Number 2

- Leadership Transition Update
- New CASA Staff
- A New Home for The Hanger
- Birthdays
- Fostering Futures
- Train the Facilitator
- More Birthdays!
- Court Report Tutoring
- Support Group
- Closed Cases
- Assigned Cases
- KPC Respite Center
- Exploring Diversity
- Inside/Out Youth Services
- CASA Staff #'s
- 15th Annual LOH Event
- One Church, One Child
- SEPT Contacts
- CFIT Volunteers
- Teen Program Volunteers

CASA Leadership Transition Update

It was recently announced that longtime CASA Executive Director, Trudy Strewler-Hodges, will be leaving CASA on March 31st to become the CEO of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation. This is a great opportunity for Trudy and we wish her well. We are all appreciative of the work Trudy has done and recognize that she has built a strong organization which is well-positioned to move forward to meet our goal of serving all children in need of a CASA by the year 2020.

It is now the responsibility of the CASA Board of Directors (BOD) to find and hire a new executive director. A search committee has been formed and has posted a job announcement locally, statewide and through the National CASA network. The search, screening and interview process will take several months. Former CASA programs director Mittie Pedraza will serve as interim executive director until the new leader is fully on board.

The Board has also created a transition committee to facilitate the transition and to support CASA's volunteers, staff, donors, and BOD through the transition to new leadership. CASA volunteer, Michele Strub-Heer, is the volunteer liaison on the BOD and is on the transition committee. If you have any questions or suggestions about the transition process, please leave a message for Michele with Lena Ruiz at 447-9898, ext. 1000 or lenar@casapp.org.



CASA Welcomes Two New Staff Members

The SEPT program welcomes Emily Rome to the team as the Volunteer Liaison. Emily has worked in the non-profit realm for 10+ years and has extensive experience in the dynamics of domestic violence. Emily is a part-time employee with flexible hours to accommodate the training needs of SEPT volunteers.



The D&N team welcomes Catherine Sidor as the D&N Program Assistant. Catherine comes to CASA with a wealth of knowledge and skill sets in supportive roles. She began with CASA in December of 2014. If you need clerical assistance on your D&N case, you may contact Catherine at catherines@casappr.org or 447-9898, ext. 1014.

Please join us in welcoming Emily and Catherine to the CASA team!

CASA Seeks New Home for The Hanger

For nearly two years, CASA has benefited from a generous property owner who donated downtown retail space, located at 110 E. Boulder Street, to house The Hanger, a store and educational space for foster teens. CASA was recently informed the space has now been leased and The Hanger must vacate by May 1st, or sooner. We're putting the call out for your assistance in finding a new home for The Hanger store.

CASA is seeking a donated space with the following features:

- Retail (preferred) or commercial space.
- At least 2,000 square feet.
- Centrally located, near a bus line.
- CASA will pay all overhead costs.
- Donated space is a tax write off and can lower insurance rates for property owners.

The Hanger is a volunteer-driven project designed to fulfill the need for clothing and personal items for local teens who are victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence living in the foster care system. Foster teens are able to "shop" for donated clothes and accessories, free of charge. Teens have the opportunity to help operate the store, providing them with valuable work experience. While working in the store, teens are mentored and coached by adult volunteers and go through a complete hiring and training process. CASA has also partnered with local organizations to provide life skills workshops and other opportunities for personal and professional growth for teens.

If you are a property owner, or know of one, who would be willing to donate space to The Hanger, please contact Jane Hegstrom at 719-475-0623 or JaneHegstrom@comcast.net.



Volunteer Birthdays

January

01-Carlynn C.
 02-Holly T.
 04-Georganne B.
 06-Kelly P.
 06-Nancy T.
 09-Joshua T.
 10-Amand S.
 10-Jennifer B.
 10-Mary T.
 11-Mark M.
 12-Richelle H.
 12-Sydney B.
 15-Michelle H.
 15-Antoinette S.
 16-Sally Z.
 17-Mary Kay R.
 17-Romilly B.
 17-Robin S.
 18-Tonya L.
 18-Heather A.
 20-Nicole P.
 22-Emily K.
 23-Sheila M.
 25-Jasmine S.
 26-Yolo T.
 28-Linda T.
 28-Karlene D.
 28-Melba L.
 31-Tracey S.

Fostering Futures Training

CASA volunteers are helping to improve outcomes for older foster youth through a mentoring initiative called Fostering Futures. This program pairs teens in foster care with a caring adult mentor to help guide and support them during the critical transition to independence.

Fostering Futures is designed to give CASA volunteers an added level of knowledge and skill to advocate on behalf of youth between the ages of 14-21. Training includes an in-depth exploration of topics such as relationship-building with older youth, the “possible selves” concept, working with youth as partners in transition, and independent living planning.

There are two components to the training:

- A self-paced, online component to be completed before March 14, 2015 (approximately 2-4 hours).
- Fostering Futures class for advocates
 Saturday March 14, 2015 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
 Continental breakfast provided. Lunch is on your own.

Register by contacting Kelly at kellyp@casappr.org or by calling 447-9898, ext. 1033.

Please register by 2/27/15.



Train the Facilitator

CASA is looking for volunteers who are interested in co-facilitating our advocacy classes. CASAs in-training appreciate and are enlightened by the volunteer co-facilitators during the core training classes. If you have been active on a D&N case for one year and have a desire to co-facilitate a training class, please contact us.

The class will be held at the CASA office:
 Thursday, February 12th, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

You may register by contacting Kelly at 447-9898, ext. 1033 or kellyp@casappr.org, by Friday, February 6th.



Volunteer Birthdays

February

01-Laura P.
01-Christina T.
04-Trish M.
07-Jean B.
11-Matthew C.
13-Bill L.
14-Gina M.
15-Janet T.
15-Caitlyn B.
17-Mary H.
18-Gayle F.
19-Peter E.
20-Barb J.
23-Stacy C.
25-Robert P.
28-Rebecca K.

Court Report Tutoring

CASA will have staff tutors available to assist advocates in writing and editing their court reports. This opportunity is for advocates who are looking for additional hands-on guidance at any stage in the court report writing process. All experience levels are welcome.

Court Report Tutoring Session

When: Tuesday, March 17th, 9:00 am -12:00 pm

Location: CASA Office

Reserve your spot today by contacting Kelly at kellyp@casappr.org or by calling 447-9898, ext. 1033.

Space is limited to the first 20 participants. Laptops are available upon request.



CASA Support Group

Over the past three years we have held a support group for our advocates and facilitators. Turnout for these groups has been varied, but the conversation has always been stimulating and helpful. The groups are held on different days and times to accommodate everyone's schedules, but evening groups have been least attended.

No matter that the group is referred to as a support group, it is always beneficial for gaining information, suggestions, support and affirmation. Please invest some time to see what this group is about in 2015. It is likely to enhance skills and understanding, and the networking and friendly conversation will make it worth your while.

We hope to see you at the following meetings:

Tuesday, February 24th, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Wednesday, March 26th, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Tuesday, April 21st, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Please RSVP to kellyp@casappr.org or by calling 447-9898, ext. 1033. In case of inclement weather CASA will notify you of cancellations via email.



Recently closed cases:

Tiffany Coles
Leslea DeVelbiss
Fabrizio Labate
Sara Hein
Alicia Kimball
Heather Nelson
Carlos Sanabria
Pieter Traas
Sally Ziegler

Lutheran Family Services' KPC Respite Center

The Lutheran Family Services KPC Respite Center is open again. If you are working with a family who may be in need of short-term, temporary, crisis or planned childcare for infants and young children, they can contact the KPC Center. Please note that the family must have at least one child that is aged six or younger. There is no cost for the parents or guardians.

KPC Respite Center is available to give parents a break when they need it the most!

For more information go to www.kpcrespitecenter.org or call their 24-hour line at 719-634-5439 for either planned or crisis child care.

Exploring Diversity

The Exploring Diversity luncheon series has resumed! Bring your own lunch and enjoy two hours of diversity training. No RSVP or pre-registration is required.

Date: February 13, 2015

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Place: Terry Harris Judicial Building, 270 S. Tejon Street, Division J

Topic: Domestic Violence and Same Sex Couples

Re-



Recently assigned cases:

Erin Bowie
Jennifer Brown
Mark Buzzetta
Paula Ernst
Jason Giddens
Hilary LaBarre
Richard Larson
Iris Marin
Renee Olmstead
Laura Peeters
Jan Rennie
Mireida Salazar

Inside/Out Youth Services

Inside/Out Youth Services is the only organization in El Paso County serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning youth. They serve youth ages 13-22.

Inside, they have a safe and accepting space for youth to fully express themselves. Out in the community, they provide training for educators, counselors and even bus drivers on how to keep all students safe.

The weekly programs are:

Monday / Tuesday / Thursday 3:30 -7:00 pm

Wednesday 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Friday 3:30-7:30 pm

The last Saturday of every month is a themed party from 10:00 pm -12:00 am. For more information visit their website at www.insideoutys.org or call 719-328-1056.

CASA Staff Contacts:

Ext. Name

- 1031-Adam Biddle
- 1042-Amanda Lunday
- 1018-Angela Komar
- 1015-Angela Rose
- 719-338-8741 Berkeley Davis
- 1051-CFIT
- 1014-Catherine Sidor
- 1030-Crystal Karr
- 1011-D&N Emergency Line
- 1009-Deb Cline
- 1020-Emily Rome
- 1012-Gina James
- 1037-Janet Stoddard
- 1023-Jennifer McKee
- 1032-Jill McCormick
- 1053-Jillian Wiker
- 1027-Karen Hughes
- 1006-Karri Baker
- 1016-Kate Clark
- 1033-Kelly Peterschmidt
- 1028-Kristeen O'Donnell
- 1026-Laura Speer
- 1000-Lena Ruiz
- 1024-Lois Gracz
- 1017-Marah Armijo
- 1035-Maegan Brundage
- 1008-RoseMary Jaramillo
- 1003-Roz Beall
- 719-314-5008:
- SEPT Cancellations
- 1007-Terry Dickman
- 1005-Tracy Sellars
- 1002-Trish St. John
- 1004-Trudy Strewler Hodges
- 1013-Yvette Griego

**15th Annual Light of Hope Fundraiser
April 30, 2015
Antlers Hilton Hotel**

CASA is holding its 15th Annual Light of Hope Fundraiser on Thursday, April 30, 2015 at the Antlers Hilton Hotel in downtown Colorado Springs. This is our premier fundraising event of the year with over 1,400 attendees at our breakfast and luncheon event combined. This event raises awareness about child abuse and general operating funds, which allows CASA to continue operating its four programs specifically designed to help children of abuse and neglect.

We are currently in need of table captains. The goal of a table captain is to fill a table of 10, including you, at either the breakfast or luncheon event with guests who want to learn more about CASA and are willing to consider making a contribution to support CASA's work in the Pikes Peak Region.

If you would like to be a table captain or know of someone who would like to be, please contact Karri Baker, Resource Development Coordinator, at 719-447-9898, ext. 1006 for more details.

**Thank You to One Church, One Child and Local
Businesses for Their Support**

CASA would like to thank Calvary Worship Center for their generous \$1500 donation which will help our One Church, One Child fund. Worship communities are able to help CASA ensure a safe and permanent home for a local child by donating to provide advocacy services to a child in the Pikes Peak Region.

If you would like to invite CASA to speak to your church, please contact Kate in the Resource Development Department at 447-9898, ext. 1016 or katec@casappr.org to learn how, together, we can support more children.

A huge thanks also goes out to Clark Land Surveying owner Rochelle Wright for selecting CASA of the Pikes Peak Region to benefit from her company's success in the past year. Her \$5000 donation is more than the cost of advocacy services for two CASA siblings for one year and it brings us another step closer to our Vision 2020 goal of serving every child, every day by the year 2020.

SEPT Contacts

The following is the list for emergencies during the visit and exchange time:

Weekday call:

Monday –
Marah x1017 or
314-5008 (cell)

Tuesday –
Crystal x1030 or
314-5008 (cell)

Wednesday-
Yvette x1013 or
314-5008 (cell)

Thursday-
Lesley 314-5008 (cell)

Friday-
Kristeen x1028 or
314-5008 (cell)

Weekend call:

Sunday-
Yvette/Leslie
314-5008 (cell)

Wanted: CFIT Volunteers!

What is CFIT you ask? It is the Children and Families in Transition class that CASA facilitates at the courthouse three times a month for divorcing parents that have children. We need volunteers to help with the check-in process. It only requires about 1 ½ hours each time you help.

You do not have to be a current CASA volunteer to assist with this program.

Please contact Angela Rose at angelar@casappr.org or 447-9898, ext. 1015 if you, or someone you know, is interested.

Thank you so much for your consideration!

Become a Teen Program Volunteer

The MFCF has a program that offers foster teens in our community a program twice a month to help them improve their life skills. We need volunteers who would be willing to coordinate one or more of these events per year. This is volunteer should be detail oriented, and can take a project and run with it from start to finish.

Please contact Laura Speer at lauras@casappr.org or 447-9898, ext. 1026 if you or someone you know is interested.



MILTON FOSTER CHILDREN'S FUND

Our Purpose: To enrich the lives of children in foster care throughout the Pikes Peak Region.

We Have Money...



Please Submit Your

MFCF Applications

The Milton Foster Children's Fund (MFCF) provides opportunities that build resiliency, caring and support that are not funded by existing agencies or programs to enrich the lives of children in foster care in El Paso and Teller Counties.

MFCF can provide opportunities such as:

- Music/Sports Lessons or Camps
- Educational Opportunities/Tutoring
- Sports/Special Equipment

The foster parent, case worker or CASA must complete an application. The Allocations Committee meets once per month to review requests.

The Hanger

110 E. Boulder Street
Colorado Springs CO
719 317 2962



Open Saturdays 1:00-4:00 pm

The Hanger is a clothes store for teens in foster care (ages 12-21) living in El Paso or Teller Counties. Teens can choose clothing and accessories free of charge. Teens can also volunteer to work in the store, as well as participate in exclusive parties, field trips and workshops.

UPCOMING TEEN EVENTS

February Events:

- Feb. 8th – Teen Dinner / Training
Topic: Fun with Math
Time: 5:30-7:30 pm
Location: Broadmoor Community Church (315 Lake Ave.)
- Feb. 17th – College Tours
Time: 1:00-4:00 pm
Location: UCCS (1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway); CTU (4435 North Chestnut Street); PPCC-TBD

March Events:

- Mar. 1th – Teen Dinner / Training
Topic: Bike Repair & Bike Tour Mapping
Time: 5:30-7:30 pm
Location: Broadmoor Community Church (315 Lake Ave.)
- Mar. 13th - Open Mic Night (YLAC Event)
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Location: Community Prep School (332 E. Willamette Ave.)
Contact Anjuli at (719) 684-9551 for questions.
- Mar. 29th – EASTER Teen Dinner / Training
Topic: PPWF Youth Job Fair Preparation
Time: 5:00-7:30pm
Location: CTU (4435 North Chestnut Street)

April Events:

- Apr. 10th – Easy / Inexpensive Cooking
Time: 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Location: TBD

Learn more at:

<http://www.casappr.org/news/hanger/>
Email mfcf@casappr.org
Call 719-447-9898, ext. 1026