



# The Gist

## Volunteer Newsletter

gist (jɪst) n. : the central idea; essence

January 2015

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

Volume 11, Number 1

- Happy New Year
- All Volunteer In-service
- 25 Faces
- Santa Store
- Holiday Party
- Birthdays
- Support Group
- Closed Cases
- Assigned Cases
- KPC Respite Center
- Exploring Diversity
- Inside/Out Youth Services
- CASA Staff #'s
- SEPT Contacts
- One Church, One Child
- MFCF
- ECOC

**In with the New Year!**  
**On behalf of the entire CASA staff we wish you and yours  
a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!**



### All Volunteer In-Service

Please join the CASA staff for our annual all volunteer in-service.  
Thursday, January 29th, 2015 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Citizen Service Center  
Aspen Point Cafe  
1675 W Garden of the Gods, 80907

Hear from Executive Director, Trudy Strewler Hodges  
Board of Directors Executive Committee on CASAs Succession Plan  
Jason DeaBueno from Aspen Point Crisis Stabilization Unit

This qualifies for two hours of continuing education.

We will be serving a full dinner for this in-service. Your reservation will help to ensure we have enough food and if we have to cancel due to inclement weather we can contact you. Please be so kind and send in your reservation to Kelly at [kellyp@casappr.org](mailto:kellyp@casappr.org) or 447-9898 x1008.



# FACES

As our 25th Anniversary year comes to a close, it has been our great privilege to share stories of some of the people who have lifted the lives of more than 10,000 abused and neglected children in our community. Thank you for sharing in 25 years of serving children in our community.

Catch up with the “25 Faces of CASA” here: [http://www.casappr.org/news/25\\_faces](http://www.casappr.org/news/25_faces)

## The CASA Santa Store

The CASA office was cheerfully bursting at the seams with donations of toys, gifts, and clothes for kids served by CASA. Special thanks to Karen Hilborn who gathered donation and vans full of toys and clothes to stock the store. She spent numerous hours organizing and working on behalf of our CASA children to ensure they had a gift or two under the tree.

Thank you to these local groups for brightening the holidays for children and youth whose lives are in turmoil right now:

Aerospace Corporation  
Antelope Trails Elementary, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class  
Bryan Construction  
Central Bancorp / Johnny Martin's Car Central  
Elena Steiner  
ERA Shields Real Estate, Bill Hurt and Tammy Cockrell  
International Interior Design Assn, Rocky Mtn Chapter  
Toys 4 Tots  
And many individual contributors like you, thank you!



Central Bancorp/Johnny Martin's Car Central; Karen Hilborn, Karen Hughes, Dustin Morgan



Bill Hurt from ERA Shields Real Estate



Members of Aerospace Women's Committee (AWC), organized a toy donation by Aerospace, government and contractor employees. Left to Right: Celia Canaan, Karen Hilborn, Karen Hughes, Connie Myers & Laurie Starr



CASA Shirley Dunbar (L) and Sunni Ball (R) shopping with Karen Hilborn

## What a treat for all!

Thanks to all who joined CASA staff for the Holiday Party. We had a great turnout of volunteers and food. Thanks to all the CASA staff for the wonderful food, and to the Village Christian Church for allowing us to use their facility. We are humbled and grateful that we have such amazing support from our community, our volunteers and staff!





## Volunteer Birthdays

January

See next month

## 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. Reserve your spot today by contacting Kelly at [KellyP@casappr.org](mailto:KellyP@casappr.org) or by calling 447-9898, ext. 1033.

Court Report Tutoring Session

When: February 12, 2015, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: CASA Office

Space is limited. 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:

Wednesday, January 28th, 10:00 – 11:30 am

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

Please RSVP to [kellyp@casappr.org](mailto: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:**

Sunni Ball  
John Dias  
Gayle Felder  
Julie Gantt  
Nicole Hall  
Cathryn Karmondy  
Ernie McIntyre  
Bernie Negron  
Lori Negron  
Mary Stark

## 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](http://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



**Recently assigned cases:**

Erin Bowie  
Susan Staver

## 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 trainings for educators, counselors and even bus drivers on how to keep all students safe.

The weekly programs are:

Mondays, 3:30 - 7:00 pm.

Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

Fridays, 3:30 - 7:30 pm.

For more information visit their website at [www.insideoutys.org](http://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  
1030-Crystal Karr  
1011-D&N Emergency Line  
1009-Deb Cline  
1014-Evelyn Callihan  
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  
1025-Tracy Colligan  
1005-Tracy Sellars  
1002-Trish St. John  
1004-Trudy Strewler Hodges  
1013-Yvette Griego

## Exciting Opportunity for Advocates and Their Youth!

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Educating Children of Color Summit  
Theme: Act Now for *YOUth*

When: Saturday, January 17, 2015, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Where: Colorado College, 14 East Cache La Poudre Street, C/S, CO 80903

Who: High school and undergraduate students, parents, professionals who work with youth

Cost: **FREE** for students and parents. \$25 registration fee for professionals (lunch will be provided).

**Registration is due by Saturday, January 10, 2015.**

Program Summary: Students will learn the skills to be a leader in their community and in their life through engaging workshops. Students have the opportunity to win scholarships, visit a college, and talk to college students. Parents will learn how to instill accountability from their child and their child's school and will learn about the pressures that their children face. Professionals will have the opportunity to rejuvenate their practice and maximize engagement with youth who live in a Hip-hop world.

To Register: Go to the Educating Children of Color website at [www.educatingchildrenofcolor.org](http://www.educatingchildrenofcolor.org). Payment can be submitted by credit card via PayPal or by check. Advocates can register themselves as well as their youth and parents if needed. Students wishing to apply for one of the available scholarships will be redirected after completing the registration form.

## CASA's One Church, One Child Program

Do you belong to a church that might be interested in our One Church, One Child sponsorship program? For only \$2,080 a year, your church can sponsor one CASA child and help him receive the advocacy services he needs, as well as find him a safe and permanent home more quickly. Giving to CASA serves as an effective way to create a legacy for our community and make a difference in a child's life.

Let us know if we may join you to discuss CASA's mission, and how your worship community can help transform a child's future.

Contact Kate Clark [katec@casappr.org](mailto:katec@casappr.org) or 719.447.9898 ext. 1016 to learn more.



## SEPT Contacts

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

### Weekday call:

Monday –  
Jen x1023 or  
314-5008 (cell)

Tuesday –  
Marah x1017 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  
314-5008 (cell)

## 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  
719.337.7462



**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.

**Note:** If you have not received your Christmas Wish, please come to the Hanger on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> to collect it.

### UPCOMING TEEN EVENTS:

#### January Events:

- Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> – Teen Dinner / Training  
Topic: Strategic Planning – Come tell us what activities and events you would like in 2015  
Time: 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Location: Broadmoor Community Church (315 Lake Ave.)
- Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> – Painting Class (Part 1)  
Topic: Come try your hand at painting. Pictures will be actioned off at fund-raiser.  
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Location: Bemis School of Art (818 Pelham Place)
- Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> – Painting Class (Part 2)  
Topic: Finalize your painting. Pictures will be actioned off at the spring fundraiser.  
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Location: Bemis School of Art (818 Pelham Place)

#### February Events:

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

**Learn more at:**

<http://www.casappr.org/news/hanger/>

Email [mfcf@casappr.org](mailto:mfcf@casappr.org)

Call 719-447-9898, ext. 1026