

CASA for Children, Inc. Annual Report 2008-2009



The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program exists for the sole purpose of advocating for the best interests of abused and neglected children when they become involved in the juvenile court system.

Our vision is for each child to have a safe, permanent and nurturing home. Our mission is to recruit, screen, train and support community volunteers to advocate for the “best interests” of children involved in deprived juvenile cases in Muskogee and Wagoner Counties.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Four Advocates and three Staff attended Oklahoma CASA conference.
- Provided educational training for advocates with 5 Brown Bag Lunches.
- Staff are members of and collaborate with:
 - Muskogee Child Abuse Prevention Task Force
 - Muskogee Interagency Council
 - District Child Death Review Board
 - Wagoner Family Services
 - Wagoner Multi Disciplinary Team
 - Wagoner Post Adjudication Board
 - Oklahoma CASA Association
 - National CASA Association



CASA Statistics 2008

223 Children Served - 119 Female, 104 Male

<u>Age</u>		
Birth to 5	87	39 %
6 to 11	71	32 %
12 to 17	61	27 %

<u>Ethnicity</u>		
African American	44	20 %
Bi-Racial	10	4 %
Caucasian	92	41 %

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, Inc.

18 & above	4	2 %	Latino	15	7 %
			Native American	62	28 %

Total Number of Children whose cases were closed: 124

Cases closed for the following reasons:

▪ Adopted	19	15%
▪ Placed w/ legal guardians	26	21%
▪ Returned to family	63	51%
▪ Case Transferred	12	10%
▪ Turned 18 years of age	4	3%

72 Assigned Advocates - 55 Female, 17 Male

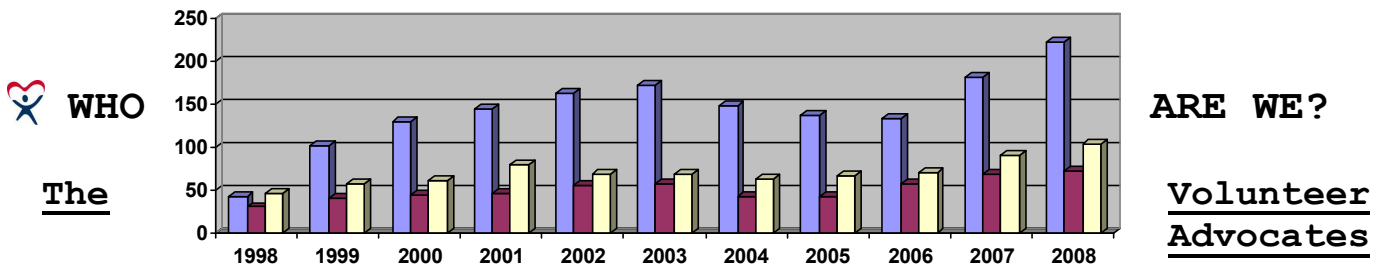
<u>Age</u>		
20-29	5	7 %
30-39	8	11 %
40-49	14	19 %
50-59	17	24 %
60 and over	28	39 %

<u>Employment Status</u>		
Full Time	32	44 %
Not Employed	8	11 %
Part Time	8	11 %
Retired	18	25 %
Student	4	6 %
Disabled	2	3 %

<u>Educational Level</u>		
College	21	28.4%
High School	17	23 %
Post Graduate	16	21.6%
Some College	20	27 %

<u>Ethnicity</u>		
African American	7	10 %
Caucasian	52	72 %
Latino	3	4 %
Native American	10	14 %

Children/Advocates/Cases 1998-2008



The Board of Directors, the children are thankful for the unselfish contribution of time and effort of the following volunteer advocates:

Muskogee County

Stan Anthis
Pat Ashcraft
Donna Ausmus
Eric Blackwood
Janey Boydston
Diana Bruns

Helen Bumgarner
Rick Cardwell
Linda Clark
Barbara
Clinkenbeard
Don Coy

Charlotte Crank
Beth Cruzen
Carol Edmonds
Amy Everett
Win Fulbright
John Galluzzi

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, Inc.

Kim Hayes
Anne Henry
April Herrera
Lawrence Jones
Beverly Knight
Shelby Lester
Helen Moorer
Kim Murphy
Darzella Newton

JoAnn Perry
Calvin Rock

Judith Schevers
Winona Scott
Tiffany Scrapper
Richard Smart
Linda Smith
Miriam Sommers

Sharon Starr
Donna Thornton
Sheryl Thygesen
Angel Tillman
Anita Weibel
Diana White
Sheila Yandell

Wagoner County

David Atchison
Leah Bevan
Dawn Marie Burns
Jane Cochran
Kris Cook
Jennifer Dearmon
Jill Elliott

Andy Eursery
Frankie Greer
Clarice Holder
Carolyn Jones
Glenn Lawhorn
Cheryl McCorcle
Nancy Medlin
Randy Patterson

Coralee Poteet
Carol Rose
Donna Sasser
David Steele
Tammy Steelman
Jana Van Horn
Kaye Wilson
Betty Wofford

The Advocate

"This is not about rescue, so as to feel good when the child lights up with a smile. This is not about the comfort of compassion. This is hard work, struggling with ripped families and children in clouds of pain, anger dancing round their hearts in the turmoil of a world made crazy. This is caring, yes, but also what is just, what should be demanded. It takes love and a certain measure of courage. And in the simple act of person helping person, it becomes extraordinary."

- Mercedes Lawry

Staff

Executive Director - Kathryn Eaton
Advocate Manager - Susie Hendrickson
Administrative Assistant - Sarah Turner
Wagoner Case Manager - Darla Goforth

Officers and Directors

Mike Hewitt, Pres.
Earl Parker, 1st V.P.
Mary Ann Couch, 2nd V.P.
Nancy Hurley, Sec.
Jay Akard, Treas.

Leigh Ann Mathews
Helen Bumgarner
Phyllis Coplan
Carl Kelly
Norman Satterfield

Kimbra Scott
Johnny Teehee
Paula Wilburn
Al Stevens

Our Board of Directors meets the second Friday of every other month. Meeting months are June, August, October, December, February and April. The public is always welcome.

This past year we lost one of our founding board members and long time supporter, Fanne Lu Yaffe. She will be greatly missed.

OUR FUNDING

Fundraisers and Events

"Day of Giving" community campaign \$16,656
Wagoner County "Playhouse Project" \$ 4,638
(A huge "Thank You" to all who support our fundraisers both financially and with their time and talents!)

Grants (annual renewal required)

VOCA (Victims of Crime) DAC	\$25,247
Attorney General's office (State)	\$30,681
DHS (Temp. Aid to Needy Families)	\$ 9,429
Lake Area United Way	\$14,115

Additional Community Contributors

Bank of Oklahoma
Exchange Club of Muskogee
Franklin Graphics
Glover Construction
Grace Episcopal
Kirschner Foundation
Service League of Muskogee



"Thomas and his sister were sexually abused by their mother's boyfriend. Although they were separated in foster care, their CASA volunteer made sure they could see each other often until they could safely return to their mother's care."

Many other organizations, businesses and individuals give to our program both financially and with their time and talents. We could not continue our work without the commitment and support of those who believe in our mission!

OUR EXPENDITURES

CASA must meet an annual budget of over \$124,000 for the 2009-2010 year. Since unpaid advocates do the actual work with the children, the major expenditures are for program administration. Staff consists of an Executive Director, an Advocate Manager, a part-time Case Manager and part-time Administrative Assistant.

Staff supports the work of volunteer advocates in a number of ways including supervision, training, preparation of court reports, standing in for advocates in court as needed and assisting on cases when an advocate is not available.

Instructors for training are CASA staff and professionals who volunteer their time. The cost for the initial training of each advocate is approximately \$250 plus any mileage expenses for the advocates who travel more than 20 miles roundtrip. Other expenses consist of office rent, supplies, liability insurance, financial accounting and communication costs. We also reimburse advocates, if requested, and staff for case work mileage and toll calls.

A special thanks to those advocates who donated their mileage reimbursement to CASA this past year. The value of the miles and hours that our advocates donated in 2008 was more than \$25,000.

A copy of the entire budget is available upon request. Also available are copies of our annual audit conducted by our certified public accountant and Internal Revenue Service tax return Form 990.

GOALS FOR NEXT YEAR

The goal of our CASA program in 2009-2010 is to provide volunteer advocates for the estimated 200 children that will be part of new cases of abuse and neglect in Muskogee and Wagoner Counties next year. To meet this goal, it will be necessary to provide advocate trainings and support personnel for the purpose of maintaining an active pool of 65 - 85 advocates. We are working towards hiring a new part-time Case Manager for Muskogee County to maintain an adequate supervisor/advocate ratio.

The weak economy caused a reduction in our 2008-2009 fundraising efforts. Adequate base funding from federal, state and local governments will continue to require efforts from staff and board members. We will work with the Oklahoma CASA Association, the National CASA Association and our local communities to educate our citizens, legislators and local governments to the need for and the benefits of having Court Appointed Special Advocates available in each county of our state.

Respectfully submitted, June 20, 2009

Mike Hewitt,
President, Board of Directors

Kathryn Eaton
Executive Director



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www.csaok.org



CONTRIBUTE to CASA

*Yes, I want to help victims of child abuse
and neglect in our community.*

Enclosed is my gift in the amount of: \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

I would like to make my gift in honor or memory of:

Please send a gift acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Street _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Mail to:

CASA for Children, Inc.

PO Box 1274, Muskogee, OK 74402