

# CASA CONNECTION

Winter 2008 Court Appointed Special Advocates Serving Muskogee & Wagoner Counties

## Meet CASA's Newest Advocates



Back Row: Beverly Knight, Jim Wilcoxon, Donna Johnson, Mary Hammons, David Atchison  
Front Row: Tammy Steelman, Clarice Holder, Calvin Rock, Donna Ausmus, Frankie Greer



Back Row: Cheryl McCorcle, Leah Bevan, Lindsay Glass, Miriam Sommers, Diana Bruns  
Front Row: Donna Thornton, Kristi Cramer-Woods, Sheila Yandell, Kim Murphy

**David Atchison** is a police officer at VA Medical Center and a Reserve Deputy for Wagoner Co Sheriff. He is a member of Trinity Masonic Lodge, Tulsa Scottish Rite, American Legion Post 15.

**Clarice Holder** lives in Porter and is a member of York Street Christian Church. She also volunteers with the Red Cross Blood Drive. She enjoys gardening, reading, and crafts.

**Donna Ausmus** volunteers with MPS Reading Interventionist. She is a member of Muskogee Garden Club, York St Christian Church, Retired Teachers and enjoys reading, traveling, and music.

**Tammy Steelman** lives in Wagoner and has 3 children and 3 grandchildren. She enjoys yard work and housecleaning. She wants to work with children who need help.

**Frankie Greer** retired RN after 27 years. She lives in Porter and enjoys sewing and gardening. She is a member of York St Christian Church and volunteers with the Red Cross.

**Donna Johnson** is a student at TCC/NSU. She works at Head Start. She is a member of Boulevard Christian Church and enjoys spending her time with her children and volunteering with Special Olympics.

**Jim Wilcoxon** has been an attorney in Muskogee for 25 years. He enjoys golf and old boats and his family. He is a member of the yacht club.

**Beverly Knight** lives in Muskogee and is retired from MRMC. She is involved with the Bus Ministry and teaches Sunday School at her church. She has been married 46 years and has 2 grown children.

**Calvin Rock** lives in Muskogee where he enjoys fishing, golfing and his grandkids. He is also the co-founder of PFLAG in Muskogee.

**Kris Cook** is a retired corporate attorney. She enjoys reading, TV and politics. Married 27 yrs with 3 children.

**Sheila Yandell** is retired and has time to care for her great grandchildren. She lives in Muskogee and enjoys craft shows.

**Donna Thornton** resides in Muskogee and is a substitute teacher in Muskogee. She is a member of the Red Hat Society and enjoys reading, pets, and dance.

**Miriam Sommers** is also a volunteer for Kids Space/Report Rape Program. She enjoys reading, gardening, and her children's sports. Miriam and her husband Joe own Twisted Joes in Arrowhead Mall.

**Tiffany Scrapper** has lived in Muskogee area for 25 years. She enjoys traveling, meeting new people and shopping. She is a member of NSU Psych Club.

**Kim Murphy** is the owner of Splash and Dazzle in Muskogee. She has been a foster parent for DHS and enjoys camping and scrapbooking.

**Kristi Cramer-Woods** is a full time student at Bacone College studying Criminal Justice. She is employed by Applebee's and enjoys softball, children, and music.

**Stan Anthis** has lived in Muskogee for 28 years with his wife and 4 children. He is employed as a pension administrator by Frank Werntz and Associates. He enjoys carpentry, sports and Boy Scouts.

**Diana Bruns** is a Chair person, Associate Professor at Bacone College, Director Criminal Justice. She enjoys exercise, running, writing and children.

**Leah Bevan** has retired from Tulsa University. She enjoys gardening, reading and involvement in her church.

**Cheryl McCorcle** lives in Coweta with her husband and 3 children. She home schools her children and is a part-time bus driver. She is also proficient in sign language.

**Lindsay Glass** is a student at Bacone studying Criminal Justice. She enjoys softball, boardgames, and children. She is the reigning Miss Cherokee Nation.

## Kirschner and CASA Establish Pat Acebo Endowment Fund

In 2005, the Kirschner Trusts established a \$10,000 matching grant for CASA in honor of Pat Acebo, retired executive director. With the help of local businesses and organizations we were able to raise the matching funds and have now created CASA for Children permanent endowment funds at Communities Foundation of Oklahoma and Tulsa Community Foundation. This investment will help insure the sustainability and future growth of our program which can be so difficult for non-profits. Our sincere thanks go to the Kirschner Trusts for their faith and commitment to our program and the investment they have made in the future of all CASA kids.

## Rotary Golf Tournament Benefits CASA

Rotary Club of Muskogee held a charity golf tournament last June and designated CASA as their primary beneficiary. A great time was had as Rotarians and Casa volunteer advocates worked side by side at the tournament. We were awarded \$6000 to be used as part of the match for the Pat Acebo Endowment Fund which was established by the Kirschner Trusts. CASA for Children would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Rotary Club for their generosity and commitment to local non-profits. A special thanks to Randy Menie and Kevin Stewart for their work on the tournament as well as all the local businesses that supported this event.

## “Day of Giving”

“Day of Giving” is designed to give businesses and individuals an opportunity to invest in the future of abused and neglected children. Last year in Muskogee and Wagoner Counties, only 30% of the children named in deprived petitions had a CASA and more advocated are needed. Letters asking for financial contributions have been distributed throughout the community followed by calls from CASA Board Members to answer questions regarding CASA and the “Day of Giving”.

This is our primary source of corporate and private funding and we encourage everyone to help us continue our mission by making a contribution.



[www.casaok.org](http://www.casaok.org)

CASA for Children is so excited to announce our NEW website. Watch for upcoming events, information, links to DHS, OK CASA and National CASA websites. Share with your friends that might be interested in volunteering.



Thanks to the generosity of CASA volunteers, board members, and staff, we were able to assist a CASA family that lost their home in a fire. We purchased a \$500 gift card from Wal-Mart. The CASA volunteer went with the mother to buy Christmas gifts for the four children—ages 16, 14, 11, and 1. We were also able to give the family and additional \$350 gift card for incidentals. Used living room furniture was donated and delivered to the family 3 days before Christmas.

Thanks to all of those who helped make this possible on extremely short notice.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

April -- Childs Abuse  
Prevention Month  
OK CASA Conference-OKC  
April 3-4  
National CASA Conference  
Washington DC, June 7



## CASA Playhouse

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) constructed a full-size playhouse to raise funds and awareness of the CASA program in Wagoner County, located in the Eagle Ridge Institute in Wagoner.

The 8 foot by 11 foot Castle was won by David and Jackie Murray of Wagoner. On Dec. 10th .

The Playhouse was built by donated labor and materials of area craftsmen and business.

Thank you to everyone for all your hard work making this years Playhouse Project a huge success.

## Playhouse Sponsors

Canebrake

Kevin Grover, GMC Inc.

Century 21, Wagoner Properties

First National Bank of Coweta

First United Methodist Men's Group

Wagoner Eye Clinic

Wagoner Rotary Club

Elastomer Specialities

Green Country Trash

Judge H. Dale Cook

First Bank & Trust, Wagoner

Lakeside Dental

LeBarge Pipe & Steel

Max Medlin Memorial Fund

Wagoner Good Neighbor Realty

St. James Episcopal Church

Animal clinic of Wagoner

Dr. Gary Bryant

Primary Eyecare Services

Shipman Funeral

Wagoner Modern cleaners

## Playhouse Suppliers

Spaces, Design and Architecture Inc.

Hughes Lumber

G & M Development

Wagoner Lumber/Ace Hardware

Lowe's

ABC Printing

REMAX Select

Signs for The Times

Sherwin Williams

Love Bottling

Wagoner Wrecker

## Playhouse Builders

Andy Eursery, Wayne Burrows

Bob & Amiee Montgomery,

Ed & Tessie Warren



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

CASA for Children, Inc.

P.O. Box 1274

Muskogee, OK 74402

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[wagonercasa@windstream.net](mailto:wagonercasa@windstream.net)

## New Volunteer Training

Independent Study Edition

**January 28, 2008**

215 State St-4th Floor

Muskogee, OK

918-686-8199

This will be a four night required attendance with outside reading and assignments.



### CASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Jennifer VanBrunt	Case Manager, Wagoner

#### Juvenile Court Judges

District Judge Thomas Alford, Muskogee  
Associate District Judge Darrell Shepherd, Wagoner

## “Protect with a Check” Returns in 2008



This will be the third year for CASA to be listed on the Oklahoma Tax Check-off. Another opportunity for CASA to raise money.

The tax check-off allows Oklahomans to donate to charities when filing their state income tax returns. Last tax season, Oklahomans donated over **\$16,000** to aid programs in the support of volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates.

All of the donations are distributed equally among the CASA programs in Oklahoma. So, when filing your tax returns, donate to help an abused or neglected child. *Protect with a Check!*

If you file your own taxes, remember to check Schedule 511/Line 15 on your state income tax return. If you use a tax preparer, please make your preparer aware of your interest in supporting CASA.

If you have questions please contact CASA for Children at 686-8199 or OK Tax Commission at 405-521-3637.

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