

CASA CONNECTION

Winter 2009 Court Appointed Special Advocates Serving Muskogee & Wagoner

Meet CASA's Newest Advocates



Rick Cardwell, Jill Elliott, Lawrence Jones and Jana Van Horn

Rick Cardwell is a native Oklahoman and lives in Fort Gibson. He is retired. Rick has worked with the Red Cross and taught CPR. He enjoys fishing, hunting, woodworking and travel.

Jill Elliott is retired from Met Life and is a homemaker. She lives in Coweta. Jill is an active member of her church and has participated in the United Way Day of Caring. She enjoys reading, sports and is learning to sew and quilt.

Lawrence Jones is retired from the military. He is married and the father of teenage twin boys. Lawrence earned his masters degree at the University of Oklahoma.

Jana Van Horn lives in Coweta and teaches school for the Wagoner Public Schools. She is a certified FEMA Volunteer and enjoys her dogs and is active with her children's sports.



TIME AND MILES

Thank you to all our volunteers who diligently turn in time and miles every month. In 2008 you volunteered a total of 4,353 hours and traveled 13,738 miles. The hours and mileage donated is used as "matching funds" for our grants and is very important to us!

New Volunteer Training

March 2, 3, 5,
9, 10 and 12, 2009
5 pm to 9 pm

Location to be announced

918-686-8199

Check our website

www.casaok.org

Statistics for Calendar Year 2008

72 assigned Volunteers

<u>Age</u>		<u>Ethnicity</u>	
21-29	5	African American	7
30-39	8	Caucasian	52
40-49	14	Latino	3
50-59	17	Native American	10
60 +	28		

223 Children Served

<u>Age</u>		<u>Ethnicity</u>	
Birth to 5	87	African American	44
6 to 11	71	Bi-Racial	10
12 to 17	61	Caucasian	92
18 +	4	Latino	15
		Native American	62

Number of Deprived Petitions filed by District Attorney's Office

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Muskogee	68	81	113	128
Wagoner	47	47	51	39

CASA Playhouse Project



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) constructed a full-size playhouse to raise funds and awareness of the CASA program in Wagoner County. This is the fourth year for the CASA Playhouse Project.

The house, valued at more than \$2,500, is an 8 foot by 8 foot rustic cabin. The cabin was won by Jerry and Helen Henningsen of Coweta.

Pictured above from left to right are Charlotte Swenson, Century21/Wagoner Properties, winners Jerry and Helen Henningsen, Darla Goforth, Wagoner CASA Case Manager, and Jeanne Portello of Century 21. On the porch are the Henningsen's grandchildren Keelie and Lane Kannady.

We wish to thank all those who built our playhouse and supplied the building materials. We would also like to thank Irene Dressler of BenchMark Real Estate for allowing us to display the playhouse in Coweta and for helping us sell tickets, in addition to 1st National Bank of Coweta.

We appreciate everyone who purchased tickets and made donations, making this years Playhouse Project a huge success.

Playhouse Sponsors

Primary Sponsors

Wagoner County Abstract Co.
Century 21, Wagoner Properties

Supporting Sponsors

First National Bank of Coweta
BenchMark Real Estate * UNARCO

Contributing Sponsors

Judge & Mrs. Darrell Shephard
Wagoner Elks Lodge * Wagoner Rotary Club
Family of Judge H. Dale Cook
LeBarge Pipe & Steel * Walls Family Dentistry
St. James Episcopal Church
Charlie's Chicken * Pizza Hut
Lannom State Farm Ins. * Aaron Hartman, DDS

Thank You!

From the children, volunteers, board of directors and staff of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program to the following contributors in our "Day of Giving" Campaign

Acme Reese Air
Advantage Controls
Judge & Mrs. Tom Alford
Stan Anthis
Archer Cleaners
Armstrong Bank
Mr. & Mrs. John Ausmus
Bank of Oklahoma
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Blair
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Boies
Bethany Bowline, C.P.A.
Janey Boydston
Bradley Funeral Home
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bradley
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d Salon
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Eastside Animal Hospital
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Max Eversole
EZ Check Cashers
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Farmer
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First National Bank
Judge & Mrs. Bart Fite
Dr. Gary Flusche, O.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Shane Frix
G & M Development
Gaddy's Drug
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Gage
Georgia-Pacific
Green Country Mortgage
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Green
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hall
Hayes Law Office

Henderson Coffee
Kathy Hewitt, CPA
Hix Air Conditioning
Hometown Hospice
Greg Hoog
Mr. & Mrs. Al Hurley
Ideal Construction
Interstate Properties
Jackson Hewitt Tax Service
Legal Phone Leasing
Locke Law Firm
Love Bottling
Mr. & Mrs. Jim McClure
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Menie
Moffitt, Parker & Co.
Muskogee Bone & Joint
Muskogee Daily Phoenix
Muskogee Dental Group
Mathews Foods
Newell Wood
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Drs. Odom, Coburn &
Richardson
Oklahoma Interpak
Earl Parker
Judge & Mrs. Jim Payne
Prudential Fuller Reality
Shirley Reiner
Mr. & Mrs. Carlile Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Rowsey
Norman Satterfield
Judith Schevers
Mr. & Mrs. Wes Seabolt
Dick Smart
Mr. & Mrs. Ross Staggs
State Farm Ins. David Kolb
Trust Company of Oklahoma
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Walden
Dr. & Mrs. David Wayman
Weatherbee Insurance
Wilcox, Jones & McGrath
Wilcoxon & Wilcoxon
Dr. & Mrs. D. I. Wilkinson
Wright, Stout & Wilburn
Yaffe Companies
Wal-Mart

As a nonprofit organization, the CASA program's mission is to train Community volunteers to serve as advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children. Volunteers help guide the children through the complex court, social service and foster care systems with the goal of ensuring the child's right to safety and permanency in a family.



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA for Children, Inc.

P.O. Box 1274

Muskogee, OK 74402

918-686-8199

918-485-0075

casaforchildren@sbcglobal.net

wagonercasa@windstream.net

www.casaok.org

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Or email

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CASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Officers

Mike Hewitt	President
Earl Parker	1st Vice President
Mary Ann Couch	2nd Vice President
Nancy Hurley	Secretary
Jay Akard	Treasurer

Board of Directors

Kimbra Scott	Al Stevens
Helen Bumgarner	Johnnie Teehee
Phyllis Coplan	Paula Wilburn
Carl Kelley	Susan Randolph
Leigh Ann Mathews	Norman Satterfield

Staff

Kathryn Eaton	Executive Director
Susan Hendrickson	Volunteer Manager
Sarah Turner	Administrative Assistant
Darla Goforth	Case Manager, Wagoner

Juvenile Court Judges

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

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:

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Please clip and mail this form to: CASA for Children,
PO Box 1274, Muskogee, OK 74402

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

Please send a gift acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Street _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Donated by Franklin Graphics

Please put what you want in this space
Thank you!!!

“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 advocates 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 in Muskogee County and we encourage everyone to help us continue our mission by making a contribution.

In Memory

Thank you to our supporters who made contributions to CASA in memory of friends or loved ones in 2008. We will remember those we have lost as we begin a new year.

Clarence Hogan
 Aaron and Nancy Goldman
 Bill and Florence Kennedy
 Richard Matthews
 R. C. (Buster) Roberts
 Phil Runyon
 Fanne Lu Yaffe

Become an Advocate for a child.

Many children travel through our court and foster care system completely alone, with no one whose only job is to help them get the support they need and to fight for their rights. Some children, however, get lucky. They are represented by a court appointed special advocate—volunteers who devote themselves to helping children who cannot help themselves.

*To give a child a CASA is to give them a voice.
 To give them a voice is to give them hope,
 And to give them hope is to give them the*

“Protect with a Check” Returns in 2009



This will be the fourth 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.



Thanks to the Fanne Lu Yaffe Holiday Fund, \$220 was collected and given to two CASA families to help them during the holiday season. One family has 10 children ranging in age from 1 to 16. The second family had two teenage boys. The mother works full time and the father is disabled. Both families were given grocery cards.

Thanks also to the generous employees of the Jackson Hewitt Muskogee office who adopted a CASA family for Christmas. They bought and wrapped presents for the kids. Each child had 9 presents both clothes and toys. The children were two boys age 1 and 5 and a girl age 3. They were also given groceries for a holiday meal.



UPCOMING EVENTS

April -- Child Abuse
Prevention Month

OK CASA Conference-OKC
March 27th

National CASA Conference
Denver, April 25, 26, 27