



APRIL 2007

# CASA CHRONICLES

## CASA VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

RCCASA wants to show our appreciation and honor the volunteers our organization depends on daily to represent the abused and neglected children of Richland County.

In our last preliminary survey, RCCASA volunteers reported that they spend an average of five hours a month on their case. This is equivalent to 10 full-time paid staff helping the abused and neglected children of Richland County CASA. RCCASA knows this a low estimate

and aware that our volunteers are so committed to the children they serve that the number of hours spent is irrelevant, but just five hours a month can make a difference in our community.

Please join RCCASA for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship. This a time where RCCASA can give thanks to the volunteers who give their time and energy so generously on behalf of the abused and neglected children in our community. The CASA Volunteer Appre-

ciation Banquet will be held on April 19th at Tronco's at the State Fairgrounds from 6:00-8:30p.m. Please RSVP by Monday April 16th to RCCASA at 803-576-1735.

**WE HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND!!!!!!!!!!!!**



**Richland County  
CASA**

**APRIL 2007**

### **CASA Banquet**

- April 19, 2007
- Tronco's at the State Fairgrounds
- 6:00p.m.-8:30p.m.
- RSVP at 803-576-1735

## **RICHLAND COUNTY CASA WINS NATIONAL CASA 2007 DIVERSITY AWARD!!!!!!**

The National CASA Association will present RCCASA with their *Diversity Leadership Award* at National CASA's 30th Anniversary conference on June 10, 2007 in Orlando, Florida.

Each year, National CASA chooses a program that has pursued diversity initiatives throughout the organization.

Currently, there are over 900 CASA programs throughout the nation and RCCASA is being recognized for it's dedication and commitment to accurately reflect the diversity of Richland County and its efforts to understand and honor the diversity of the children RCCASA represents and the families from which they come from. Richland County CASA was chosen to

facilitate a workshop at the National CASA conference to assist other programs in their diversity efforts.



## RCCASA'S TRAINING VISION FOR 2007

This year, the RCCASA staff will continue to support your role in advocating for children suffering from abuse and neglect. Our vision for 2007 is to continue to update existing training resources and develop new tools that meet the needs of our volunteers. This year you will see continued tapings of the in-services on our website. This is due to an overwhelming response from the survey that indicated that on-line training would be helpful in your role as a volunteer in advocating in the best interest of the children you serve. This new "virtual" training will meet the needs of the volunteers

who want to attend our continuing education but have limited time.

The CASA Chronicle beginning in the summer will highlight a section that addresses common questions and best practices for our volunteers. Also, on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesdays of the month. The CASA staff will be available to meet with you as a panel to discuss issues you may be having on your case.

Finally, RCCASA will work to develop evaluation and assessment tools to gain feedback from

you so that we can continue to improve the delivery and support we offer our volunteers. Our hope is to provide additional surveys to assess training, the court process, and other important areas.

Please do not hesitate to call to schedule a Wednesday meeting or ask a question about an in-service training at 803-576-1731. We want to offer the support and training you need to be successful in your role as a volunteer.

## RCCASA'S WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK

Our website has finally been up-dated and has a new look. The website now has current information, including our new on-line continuing education trainings. You can view our trainings by going to <http://rccasa.org/training.htm>. Visit the training section monthly to view all new training videos or you can subscribe to

CASA's You Tube Channel by visiting <http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=RichlandCountyCASA> and clicking on the subscribe button. When you subscribe to the channel, you will be notified by e-mail every time CASA posts a new video to the web.

If you miss an issue of the CASA

Chronicle, it can be accessed through our website as well as the forms needed in your role as a GAL. Please give us any feedback regarding our website. We hope to continue to improve the website and add the information you may need.. The website can be accessed at [www.rccasa.org](http://www.rccasa.org)

## STAFF CHANGES

On February 16, 2007, Heidi Vaughn left RCCASA to move to Charleston, SC and begin a new and exciting job opportunity. Heidi was a great asset to our organization and will be missed by both staff and our volunteers. To fill Heidi's position, Lela Allen-Haines was promoted to Volunteer manager and James Washington

was promoted from CASA Supervisor to Program Manager. Both Lela and James plan to keep their current volunteers they supervise. When James was promoted, a CASA Supervisor position became vacant and our dearly missed Sharon Dupree has decided to take the position. Previously, Sharon was a CASA Supervisor and also a

program manager. We are grateful for the opportunity to have her re-join our agency. She is very experienced and will be a great resource for our volunteers.

Lela Allen-Haines can be reached at 803-576-1731 and James Washington can be reached at 803-576-1590.

# CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Increasing public awareness of the need to ensure the safety and welfare of children led to the passages of the first Federal Child Protection legislation, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act in 1974. In the early 1980's, Congress recognized the alarming rate at which children continued to be abused and neglected and the need for innovative programs to prevent child abuse and assist parties and families affected by maltreatment. As a result, April was proclaimed the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since

then, Child Abuse and neglect awareness activities have been promoted across the country during April of each year.

In 1989, the Blue Ribbon Campaign to Prevent Child Abuse had its early beginnings. A Virginia grandmother used the blue ribbon to pay tribute to her grandson who died as a result of abuse. She tied a blue



Blue Ribbon Campaign

ribbon to the antenna of her car as a way to remember him and to alert her community to the tragedy of child abuse. The Blue ribbon campaign has since expanded across the country and many wear blue ribbons each April in memory of those who have died as a result of child abuse.

**WEAR A BLUE RIBBON IN APRIL!!!!!!**

## NATIONAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT DATA

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data system reported the following:

- Child abuse reported on average every 10 seconds.
- 2.9 millions reported each year.
- An average of more than 4 children die of abuse a day.
- More than 3/4 are younger than 4 years of age.
- Actual incidence of abuse and neglect is estimated to be 3 times greater than the number reported.
- Child abuse occurs at every socio-economic level across ethnical and cultural lines
- within all religions and all levels of education.
- 1/3 of abuse and neglected children will later abuse and neglect their own children.
- 906,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in 2003.

## STATE VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

On Friday, March 16th, 2007, the second annual "Volunteers for Youth Conference: Sharing Hearts and Hands" was a great success. RCCASA was privileged to be able to work collaboratively and in partnership with several other agencies to offer this conference for the volunteers of South Carolina. It was a rainy day, but

volunteers from across the state came to participate in the conference. The SC Bar Foundation assisted in sponsoring the event. We have had such positive feedback regarding the speakers, the lunch, and participants expressing their gratitude for the opportunity to network with other volunteers across the state. Lexington

Medical Center donated all the nice tote bags. Midlands Technical Center donated their facility. We could not have done this without the support of these organizations. We hope to be able to provide this great training opportunity for the volunteers next year.

**Thank you for attending!!!!**

## PEER RECRUITMENT

RCCASA wants to thank our volunteers for the success we have had regarding our recruitment initiatives. RCCASA is very excited about winning the diversity award and being given the privilege to present at the National CASA conference. This honor is contributed to the dedication and commitment our volunteers have in the mission of RCCASA.

The most successful recruitment method has been you, the volunteers bringing in people that you know will do the best job in representing the abused and

neglected children of Richland County. Your ability to express the mission of the agency and tell others of the experience has made our organization successful in finding a diverse volunteer pool to assist the children. It is such a great accomplishment for RCCASA to match a volunteer with a child or a sibling group because RCCASA has volunteers that are not limited to one socioeconomic status, religion, race, culture, gender, or age group. RCCASA has been blessed to have volunteers from every “walk of life”, and RCCASA has

the ability to assign a volunteer to a child who can understand “where the child is coming from” and may share some similarities. RCCASA is doing its best to meet the needs of the child and our agency owes it to our volunteers.

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!  
WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE  
VOLUNTEERS WITH SUCH  
DEEP COMMITMENT!**

## JANUARY 2007 TRAINING CLASS

In January 2007, 29 volunteers participated in our training to be CASA volunteers. This was the largest graduating class in the history of RCCASA. The success was a collaborative effort with RCCASA and the University of South Carolina Law School.

RCCASA hopes to continue to work with USC to provide additional trainings at the University. Many of the students have already taken cases and our forging ahead despite a demanding school schedule and limited time. RCCASA appreciates their commitment to our organization

and looks forward to working with USC in the future.

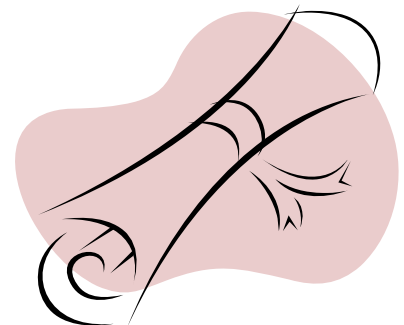


## CONGRATULATIONS DIANA TAYLOR

Diana Taylor has been a CASA volunteer since 1991. Diana has been representing a child for the past eight years who is in long-term foster care due to his special needs. Ms. Taylor has been a dedicated volunteer and recently graduated from Stratford Career Institute. She graduated on November 17, 2006. Ms. Taylor

has been certified as a Wedding Consultant. Ms. Taylor plans to pursue this career; however, she expresses that she likes to work with children and plans to continue her advocacy.

**RCCASA appreciates her long-term commitment to the children she serves.**



# APRIL 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Child Abuse Awareness walk Statehouse	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 CHILI COOKOFF	13 In-service	14
15	16	17	18	19 Volunteer appreciation	20	21
22	23	24 In-Service	25	26	27 child abuse Awareness walk w/DSS	28 CASA WALK
29	30					

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Please call for more detailed information of events.  
803-576-1731

### APRIL

4/12/07-Chili cook off at USC Law school. All proceeds go to CASA.

04/13/07-12:00p.m.-1:00p.m In-service-Cooperative

04/19/07-Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

04/24/07-In-service 5:30p.m.-6:30p.m. Prentis Percell-child welfare intake.

04/27/07 DSS 1 mile walk. Awareness walk

### MAY

05/11/07-In-service 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m.

05/18/07 Black Expo

05/22/07-In-Service

### JUNE

06/10/07-Awards Banquet in Orlando Florida

06/12/07-CASA conducting workshop at National CASA

06/19/07 In-Service

**Richland County CASA**

Richland County CASA  
1701 Main Street, Room 407  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 576-1735

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**CASA Staff List**

- Paige Jones, Executive Director 576-1723
- Cameron Runyan, Development Manager 576-1732
- Lela Allen-Haines Volunteer Manager 576-1731
- Missy Bowman, Administrative Assistant 576-1720
- James Washington, Program Manager 576-1590
- Hope Brown, Supervisor 576-1719
- Vicki Raven, Court Manager 576-1727
- Nicole Metts, Supervisor 576-1591
- Pam Byrd, Supervisor, 576-1729
- Sandra Green-Data entry 576-1728
- Shawn Harmon, Staff Attorney 576-1726
- Please call the main phone at 576-1735 if you are unable to reach the staff.

**Tell Us About It ....**

Hey, it's your newsletter! We want to hear about your ideas, court stories, significant life events, etc.

Please email us anytime at [casa@richlandonline.com](mailto:casa@richlandonline.com)



Member of the  
National Court  
Appointed Special  
Advocates Association

