

The Child's Voice CASA CIS Quarterly Newsletter



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"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future."

~ John F. Kennedy



Change A Child's Story

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER!!

Welcome to the first edition of our new quarterly newsletter! Our goal is to stay in touch with our friends and supporters and help you get to know us. We are excited to launch this project and look forward to providing content that is valuable to you. In the newsletter, we will share amazing CASA advocacy stories, child welfare news and program updates, recognize CASA volunteers, educate the community about child abuse and neglect, and provide information about upcoming trainings and events. We want to stay in touch with our friends and supporters and help you get to know us better.



If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, you may unsubscribe at any time. If you would prefer an alternate email for receipt, update your email preference below.

First things first. Let's welcome our new Executive Director!

Meet the Executive Director

In March, CASA CIS Board of Trustees and staff welcomed Lori Battistoni as Executive Director. Lori succeeds Interim Director Pamela Moody, Ph.D.

Long before Lori took on the position of executive director she was advocating for children. As a law student, Lori was involved in research projects regarding child abuse and child victims as witnesses. During her legal career at a Washington, DC law firm, she practiced healthcare law while providing pro bono Guardian ad Litem services to vulnerable children.



Lori's desire to help victimized children remained in her heart and in 2009, she took the Virginia bar and opened her own legal practice so that she could advocate for children who were before the court due to abuse, high conflict custody disputes, and delinquency or truancy issues. After 12 years of working with neglected and abused children in Prince William and surrounding communities, Lori sought a way to make a bigger difference in these children's lives. Taking the lead at CASA was the answer.

In 2010, the Prince William County Bar Association recognized Ms. Battistoni as Guardian ad litem of the year. Ms. Battistoni served as President of the Prince William County Bar Foundation, and Co-Chair of the Beat the Odds Committee, on which she remains active.

Have ideas or recommendations for CASA CIS? Email Lori at: lbattistoni@casacis.org

A Word of Thanks

Dear Friends,

As I have settled into my new position, I have learned of the amazing support CASA CIS has received over the years from our community supporters. I am humbled by your care for our work and am deeply grateful for your generosity. You are the backbone of our efforts. Make no mistake, we could not do the work we do without you.

Our vision is for every child who experiences abuse or neglect in our communities to have the opportunity to thrive in a safe and loving home. The lives and success of children who experience abuse improve when they have a caring, consistent adult in their lives to advocate for them. Working as a Guardian ad Litem over the past 12 years, I personally witnessed the positive impact CASAs have in a child's life. In 2020 alone, we recruited and trained 31 new advocates and provided services to 224 children. These children experienced physical, emotional, and sexual abuse at the hands of trusted adults. With you on our team, we were able to give them a voice and lift them up.

We anticipate a greater need for our services to increase this coming year. Since March of 2020, children have been at home and unable to access safe adults in their communities. Experts predict that as schools reopen, reports of abuse will increase dramatically. To meet this need, we are scheduling several training sessions for new volunteers and have recently increased our staff. Our goal is to be able to serve every abused child in our community. We are forever grateful for your continued support in

reaching our goal.

With my deepest gratitude,

Lori

Meet the Donors

Upcoming Events

The National CASA/GAL Association is driven by the belief that every child who is before the court for abuse and neglect should have a CASA. CASA CIS is committed to expanding our fundraising efforts that will enable us to serve more children in our local community. Here's a few of our upcoming events.



SAVE THE DATE

We are extremely excited to welcome you to the return of our in-person gala benefiting the abused children of our community. Whether this is your first Evening Under the Stars or you've attended all the previous events, we are very much looking forward to seeing you!

The 24th annual Evening Under the Stars will be hosted at the beautiful Fox Chase Manor on the evening of Saturday, September 11, 2021 from 6pm to 11pm. This year's entertainment is by a local favorite, FRINGE BENEFITS! There is no doubt they will get us out on the dance floor. We hope you can join us!

We would like to highlight already purchased Evening Under the Stars sponsors. Interested in sponsoring? Contact Lori at: lbattistoni@casacis.org

Kevin and Barbara Hutto

Alliant Wealth Advisors and John Frisch <https://www.alliantwealthmanassas.com/>

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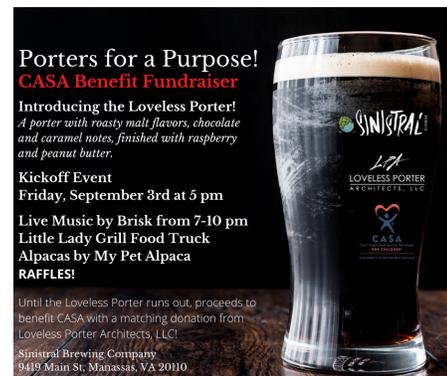
Wind River Chimes <https://windriverchimes.com/>

Purchase
Tickets

Community Fundraisers



MurLarkey Bottle Drive to Benefit CASA **August 13 - 15**, 5% of in-person bottle sales made at MurLarkey store will be donated to CASA. Stop by to support this great cause!



Join us on **Friday, September 3rd** at 5 pm for a CASA Benefit Fundraiser. Sinistral Brewing Company, Loveless Porter Architects and CASA CIS will partner together for a night of fun filled fundraising event.



Eavesdrop Brewery Fundraiser

CASA CIS and Eavesdrop Brewery hosted a fundraiser event July 17th. Staff, volunteers, and the local community enjoyed a day of cornhole, live music by Working Man's Band and great eating by Eugene's sausage and fries.



The event included raffle tickets to win baskets from local businesses including Orlean Market and Pub, KO Distilling, AngelBARS, Mariachi's Tequileria, Okra's Cajun Restaurant, Philadelphia Tavern, Sinistral Brewing Company, Popcorn Monkey, Tabletop Tavern, La Chino Poblano Taqueria, and Eavesdrop Brewery.

We are pleased to announce that we raised over **\$7,700.00!** The event was a huge success.

Calling Volunteers

CASA volunteers are everyday people – teachers, business people, retirees, stay-at-home parents, and grandparents – who are committed to making a difference for children who might otherwise slip through the cracks.

Volunteers provide a fresh perspective to the juvenile court. Their presence in each case ensures that children that are victims of abuse and neglect are safe, protected, and receiving all necessary services to develop and thrive through the uncertainty of their foster care journey in an over-burdened child welfare system.

CASA CIS seeks volunteers who desire to make a difference in the lives of children. We invite you to join our family and make a difference in a child's life – and your own.

Representation matters. Our children deserve CASA volunteers who will advocate for them who share their experiences, backgrounds and understand their cultures. We are making a deliberate effort to recruit Hispanic and Black CASAs/volunteers.

How can you help?

- Attend an info session to learn more
- Share the CASA CIS mission with friends, family and your social networks
- Share the newsletter with others

[Signup for Info Session](#)



Staff and Volunteer Training

CASA CIS will host a CE Workshop on **August 21, 2021** from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. This interactive training will be fun, please plan to attend! As we get closer to the date we will provide additional details.

In addition to receiving 4 CE's for participating, you'll have the chance to meet

your fellow advocates and the opportunity to win beautiful gift baskets.

You can make a life-changing difference as a CASA or GAL volunteer.



Please RSVP to jpolen@casacis.org if you plan to attend.

From the Executive Director:

"We could not do this work without our dedicated and passionate volunteers. I am grateful for each of you who remain committed to making a difference in the lives of children in our community. THANK YOU!"

Thank you for taking the time to read our first newsletter. Please share with others!

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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA CIS

9384-C Forestwood Lane
Manassas, VA 20110
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CASA CIS | 9384-C Forestwood Lane, Manassas, VA 20110

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