

The Child's Voice CASA CIS Quarterly Newsletter



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Thanks to you.

CHANGE A
CHILD'S STORY.™





On March 1, 2022, 23 new advocates were sworn in...

Those advocates are now serving
46 children: 25 boys and 21 girls



Recognizing Our FY 22 CASA Volunteer Superstars

Every year, the month of April is dedicated to honoring all of the volunteers in our communities, as well as promoting and celebrating volunteerism. CASA CIS was hard at work appreciating our own volunteers by featuring advocates on our social media pages, as well as hosting a combined Volunteer Appreciation/CE Workshop event. Although we deeply appreciate the work every one of our advocates does to further our mission, we wanted to particularly recognize some of the advocates who had gone above and beyond the basic expectations of their CASA duties this fiscal year.

Advocate of the Year - Christy Willis

Christy carries the distinction of having worked cases in all three rural counties: Warren, Rappahannock, and Fauquier. Since becoming a CASA in Fall 2019, Christy has advocated on behalf of the best interests of 10 children who presented with a range of emotional, educational, medical, and developmental special needs -- some severe. Christy is very willing to take on the most complex and difficult cases, including one large sibling group split among multiple placements throughout northern and central Virginia. Until recently, she regularly traveled three hours (six round trip) to see one child. Perhaps Christy's most outstanding quality



is her ability to successfully and positively communicate with everyone involved in the child's life, while also maintaining her objectivity and clarity regarding her unique role.

CASA Ambassador - Caprecia Miller

Caprecia is an incredible advocate to her teenaged CASA kids,



speaking to both of them almost daily on the phone, in addition to her visits. Even while working two cases, Caprecia has found the time to support CASA in additional ways. When she heard we needed donations for raffle baskets, she reached out to her network and brought back over 20 baskets for us to raffle off at various events. She attends most, if not all, of our fundraising events and continues to raise awareness about our organization and our mission in the community. Caprecia also created the first edition of our now quarterly newsletter.

We are so grateful for her support!

Going the Distance - Dawn Saddler

Dawn received the 2021-22 *Going the Distance* Award for her willingness to travel far and wide (hundreds and hundreds of miles this past year alone!) to see her assigned child in multiple placements. But this award also acknowledges her remarkable commitment to the long and winding road toward permanency for this child. Dawn was in the first class of advocates sworn-in by Judge William Sharp when CASA CIS expanded into Warren County in 2018. She has served on this same case for four years and remains a quiet, calm, and steady presence. Dawn will not give up until this young person is safely settled in with his loving, forever family. That family has been identified and, with added supports, there can be a hope-filled future for this child.

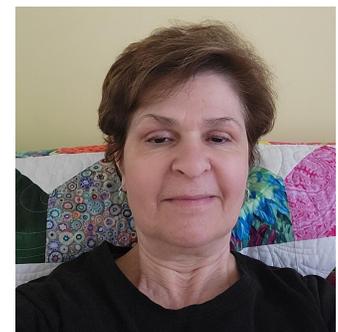


VOCA Superstar - Susan Evers

Part of an advocate's responsibilities is recording their hours, services, and notes into our CASA database. VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) services, in particular, are important for each advocate to record because our grant funding is dependent on those numbers. Susan, who was trained in October 2021, took the time to learn this complicated system and has been meticulous in her documentation. During a recent audit, the auditor raved about Susan's thorough data entry! In addition to the wonderful advocacy she provides on her two cases, Susan's diligence with her data entry provides support that is vital to our organization.

Most Visits - Joan Girardi

Joan has been a dedicated advocate for the past seven years and has served 22 children during her tenure. Joan is currently working two cases with a total of five children -- each child placed in a separate location. This year Joan has received the *Most Visits Award* for her steadfast dedication in seeing each of her children every month. In addition to being a constant, stable adult in the lives of these children, Joan has been making a quilt for the children as an incentive program to help them celebrate their victories in school and behavior, adding a quilt square for each win. Joan has not just fulfilled an obligation to meet with her children monthly but has found ways to make her time with the children impactful.



C.E. Superstar - Julie McWilliams

As part of our ongoing training, our advocates must complete 12 Continuing Education credits each fiscal year. Julie has more than tripled her requirement this year, attending webinars to better understand the specific circumstances in her own case, as well as watching approved documentaries, reading books, and attending workshops and conferences. Her dedication to learning reaches far beyond the requirements of the job, which shows her commitment to both the children she serves, as well as our mission.



CASA Angels - Donna Gumbin, Barbara Hutto, and Cindy Lee

Our *CASA Angels* have not only proven themselves to be incredible advocates, but they've supported our program in other important but less publicly recognized ways. They've either linked us up with donors, become donors themselves, or connected us with resources that have helped our organization grow. One of our *Angels* provided aid to a family that would not otherwise have had a Christmas this year. We are not only grateful for their support, but also touched that they are as passionate about serving these families as we are. We couldn't do it without them.



2022 Volunteer Appreciation/Continuing Education Workshop

For this year's Continuing Education Workshop, we decided to go "back to basics." We covered the elements of good report writing; had a great discussion on professional boundaries, with advocate participation; and watched a video on diversity, followed by small group discussions on the vital role diversity plays in our work. Because of the nature of the work we do, confidentiality is key. Connecting with other advocates for these important discussions not only inspires critical thinking, but also gives them an outlet and builds comradery. In addition to the workshop, we took time to recognize some of our CASAs for their outstanding efforts this year. The award winners were presented with a gift and some kind words by our Executive Director and their supervisor.



A special thanks to **Wind River Chimes** for their generous donation of beautiful wind chimes for our award winners. And thank you, once again, to **PATH Foundation** for use of their amazing space.

Our 25th Annual Evening Under the Stars

A GALA TO SUPPORT COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES, CHILDREN'S INTERVENTION SERVICES

Our 25th Annual
Evening Under the Stars



Friday, September 16, 2022
5:30-11 p.m.

Westfields Marriott
14750 Conference Center Dr, Chantilly, VA 20151

Live entertainment by **ATTRACTION**
check them out at
www.samhillbands.com/bands/attraction

Block of 25 reduced rate rooms available
thru 8/18/22:
<https://book.passkey.com/e/50315114>

We are extremely excited to announce that this year's 25th Annual Evening Under the Stars is being held on September 16, 2022, at **Westfields Marriott**. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails and our silent auction. After the dancing ends, you can move into our large hospitality room with an outdoor patio to sip your own refreshments and share some time together. We have a block of 25 rooms reserved at a reduced rate, so act fast if you would like to take advantage of this offer.

Click on the links below for ticket and sponsorship information, room reservations, and to check out the phenomenal band we chose for the evening.

Purchase your tickets or sponsorships [HERE](#)

Reserve your room [HERE](#)

View the band [HERE](#)

We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events

2ND ANNUAL PINTS FOR A PURPOSE! CASA BENEFIT FUNDRAISER

**Saturday, May 21st
Noon to 7 PM
Rain date June 25th**

Featuring

**24 taps to choose from (craft
beer, wine, cider, hard seltzer,
and non-alcoholic options)**

**Family-friendly,
dog-friendly event!**

**Rent-A-Cornhole
(donate to play)**

**Live Music by
Working Man's Band**

**Eugene's Sausage and Fries
Raffle tickets to win baskets!**



7223 Centreville Rd, Ste 115, Manassas, VA 20111

2ND ANNUAL PORTERS FOR A PURPOSE! CASA BENEFIT FUNDRAISER

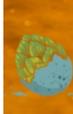
Irving Pale Ale (IPA) vs. The Loveless Porter

Quickest beer to
sell out wins!

Both firms will match beer
sales with the loser donating
another \$1,000 to CASA!

Kick off event
First Friday August 5 at 5 PM

Live Music by 8 Track Jones
from 7-10 pm - Food Truck
RAFFLES!

 **SINISTRAL**
BREWING



THE
IRVING
LAW FIRM

LPA
LOVELESS PORTER
ARCHITECTS, LLC

Sinistral Brewing Company 9419 Main St, Manassas, VA 20110

Recent Community Support



On April 30 and May 1, 2022, Philip Carter Winery partnered with CASA CIS for their High on the Hog Craft Beverage & BBQ Festival by donating half of their sale proceeds to our organization. It was a beautiful weekend for community support! Thank you, PC Winery!



On May 15, 2022, Old Bridge Chamber Orchestra and CASA CIS held a very special concert, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting CASA CIS. The event began with OBCO's presentation of some of John Williams's most celebrated movie music masterpieces and ended with a family-friendly after party featuring live band karaoke!

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

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