



**Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
Program of Montgomery County**

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The Advocate's Voice

Summer 2013

CASA Casino Night 2013

On Saturday, April 20, 2013 the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program of Montgomery County, Maryland hosted its third annual Casino Night fundraiser at The Universities at Shady Grove. The joyful night included a full spread of delectable hors d'oeuvres, decadent desserts, and drinks. The event also included a silent auction where guests took the opportunity to bid on a wide variety of items, such as local experience packages, nights on the town, wine baskets, jewelry, sports memorabilia, travel, and much more. All auction items were generously donated to the CASA organization by local large and small organizations, individual sponsors, and those interested in making a difference in the lives of our youth.

During a brief intermission, attention focused to the center stage as Barbara Harrison of NBC4 news presented the Barbara Harrison Child Advocacy award, named in her honor, to Judge Katherine D. Savage.



Judge Savage & Barbara Harrison

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**Congratulations to
Our Pre-Service
Training Class
Graduates!**

The award recognizes individuals who make a difference in the lives of children in need and exudes exemplary leadership in child advocacy. Judge Savage represents the caliber of individual commitment to child services that this esteemed award commands.

This year's third annual Casino Night raised over \$40,000. The funds raised through this event will support CASA of Montgomery County in training more volunteers to support additional children in need. CASA of Montgomery County would like to thank its hardworking staff, volunteers, and the amazing children and families that welcome our support. To all those that supported our Casino Night, thank you for your generous support of our fundraising efforts. We hope to see you again next year and feel free to visit our CASA website for more information about our programs, to learn the process of becoming a CASA yourself, and to donate funds in support of our mission and the children of Montgomery County.

A Child Is Waiting

In 2009, Hilary entered the foster care system when her adoptive mother signed a voluntary placement agreement, seeking help from Child Welfare Services for placement of Hilary in a residential treatment center. Hilary was 11 years old at the time and was exhibiting aggressive, out-of-control behavior that her mother could not manage. Over the last few years, Hilary has had multiple placements, including therapeutic foster home placements, hospitalizations, a trial reunification, and several residential placements. Hilary has a history of instability and mental health issues that she's currently being treated for in residential care. At this time, a former foster mother is a potential long-term placement resource for Hilary if a plan of reunification does not work out. Hilary could greatly benefit from the services of a CASA volunteer who could advocate for more consistency and fewer changes. Hilary is familiar with what CASA volunteers do and she's eager to be assigned to a CASA volunteer of her very own.

* name has been changed

Volunteer Spotlight

Erin Band has been the CASA for 4-year-old Paul and 3-year-old Lisa since September 2011. Paul and Lisa first came to the attention of Child Welfare Services in February 2009, after a report was made alleging the neglect of Paul and Lisa by their mother. Child Welfare Services worked with the mother and provide in-home services for the family for about a year. In March 2010, things had not improved and the children were removed from their home and placed in foster care. The children have thrived in their foster home. Ms. Band worked with all the parties on this case toward the goal of reunification with their mother. However, after the children had been in care for over a year with little progress toward reunification being made, Ms. Band advocated for the permanency plan to change to adoption. The plan changed to adoption in September 2012. The mother agreed to have the children adopted by their current foster parents and the adoption took place in June 2013. Paul and Lisa continue to do exceedingly well in their pre-adoptive home and will continue to be able to participate in some visitation their mother.

* name has been changed

Otto Porter, Jr. Signed Basketball Up for Auction!

We have a Georgetown Hoyas Signed Team Basketball in display case up for auction (value \$399). The ball includes the signature of Otto Porter, Jr. who was recently drafted by the Washington Wizards! Bidding starts at \$300 with bid increments of \$25. Interested? Please contact Danielle Verbiest at (301) 340-7458. Bidding closes Friday, July 19th at noon.



Donors Making A Difference

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Lark Claassen

In Honor of Barbara Faigen
Cathy Certner
Steven & Naomi Kline
Fred & Mitra Mamdouhi
Harvey & Wendy Reiter
Allen & Caryn Rich
Stan & Paulette Shulman
Nolan & Rhoda Sklute

*In Honor of Barbara Faigen & Debbie
Redman*
Andrew & Lauren Kline

In Honor of Scott Fass
Peter Raymond

*In Honor of Laura Keefe and her
husband, Chris*
Michaela Johnson

In Honor of Terri McKenna
Donald & Ann Hague

In Honor of Clem Rastatter
Mark & Cindy Aron
Mark & Myra Kovey

In Honor of Judge Savage
Gary & Janice Blum
Frederick & Patricia Evans

In Memory of Marianna Burt
Clerks & Judges of the Circuit Court -
Juvenile Division

In Memory of Kim Justus Herman
Myrna Justus

In Memory of Leon Lunden
Liane Lunden

CASINO NIGHT 2013
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Case Supervisor

Danielle Verbiest
Development & Operations
Manager

Volunteers Needed

Do you know anyone who
might be interested in
volunteering for CASA?
Please let them call the
office. We are always looking
for new volunteers!

Volunteer Anniversaries*

Nine Years	Janet Lee
Eight Years	Kim Showman
Six Years	April Gilbert, Lauren Supplee
Five Years	Sheila Berman, Gail Macleod-Ball
Four Years	Arriell Garner, Elina Garrido Ekwurzel, Aliya Khan, Eileen Murnane, Kathy Ravenscroft
Three Years	Teresa Bailey, Jill Brigati, Sarah Hall, Stephen Kamas, Nita Patel, George Portes, Elizabeth Stefanowicz
Two Years	Sandra-Lynn Berson, Myrna Justus, Meredith Levert, Hiromi Maruyama, Richard Weaver, Mary Zoccola
One Year	Karen Anderson, Jennifer Cardin, Lisa Chen, Carmen Collette, Ann Fedeli, Ethel Levine, Ellin O'Hare, Kimberly Sadelson, Erin Shine

* from date first assigned to a child

CASA Welcomes Our Newest Staff Member

The CASA office would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest full-time case supervisor, Jennifer Kramb. Jennifer's first day at CASA was June 22nd, starting just in time for our summer training. Jennifer comes to CASA with a great deal of child welfare experience. Jennifer has a B.A. degree in sociology/social worker from Mary Baldwin College. Her work experience includes working as a foster care and adoption specialist for Charlottesville Department of Social Services, as a child protective services investigator for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and as a family advocate for The ChildCareGroup, Head Start Delegate Agency in Dallas, TX. In addition to her work experience, Jennifer also interned for a CASA program while in college. We are delighted to have Jennifer join the CASA team!



**MAKING A
Difference**

Our firm proudly supports
CASA and its Casino Night 2013

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To learn more about our Program and how you can make a difference in a child's life, visit us on the web at www.casamontgomery.org

**Upcoming
Pre-Service
Fall 2013**

Saturday, 9/28/13	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday, 9/30/13	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Friday, 10/4/13	8:15 am to 4:30 pm
Wednesday, 10/2/13	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Monday, 10/7/13	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Wednesday, 10/9/13	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Monday, 10/14/13	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
*Wednesday, 10/16/13	6:00 pm to 9:30 pm

*denotes make-up day