

Silent voices

Fall 2008

CASA: Giving New Hampshire's Abused Children a Voice in Court.

Dr. Susan Lynch Leads VIP Models

Influential New Hampshire women traded business suits for stunning designs and spring sportswear by Zrinka at the CASA Fashion Show Luncheon on April 4 at Carrabba's Italian Grill, Bedford. Guests traded a day that started with a spring snowstorm for delectable Italian cuisine, the excitement of lavish auction and raffle gifts, and the warmth of friends.

As WMUR TV, ABC-9 newscasters Sean McDonald and Jennifer Vaughn emceed, New Hampshire's First Lady and Honorary Event Chair Dr. Susan Lynch led the runway models. Joining Dr. Lynch and CASA President/CEO Marcia Sink were



Emcees Jennifer Vaughn and Sean McDonald (WMUR-TV9 News Department) yield the microphone to designer Zrinka Orr.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREG WEST PHOTOGRAPHY



Honorary Chair Dr. Susan Lynch and President/CEO Marty Sink survey auction prizes.

other notable women Sylvia Larsen, President of the NH Senate; Teri Norelli, Speaker of the NH House; Cathleen Schmidt, President/CEO of Citizens Bank; Donnalee Lozeau, Mayor of Nashua; Stacey Shaheen Bellabona and Stefany Shaheen, daughters of former NH Governor Jeanne Shaheen.

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Well Worth the Chance

Maybe it's the price of gasoline. Maybe it's a matter of people thinking "greener". Maybe it's even that Segway Personal Transporters (PT) are showing up more in movies, on television shows, and at the Olympics in China. Whatever the reason, CASA of NH is ecstatic about the opportunity to raffle one of the most advanced and exciting forms of transportation – the Segway® i2PT, complete with a commuter accessories package.

For the modest sum of \$50 per ticket, you could win your very own high-tech way to commute, get

around non-drivable places or just have a ton of fun. Only 400 tickets will be sold and the drawing will be held at the CASA Comedy Night on October 17, 2008. The winner does not have to be present – but wouldn't it be great to hear your name called in person?

Tickets may be purchased in person at the CASA office, by phone, mail or on-line at www.casanh.org. Contact Kathy Vachon at 800.626.0622 or kathy@casanh.org for more information. ☒

From Marty's Desk



Moving Right Along!

Yes, it is always a very busy time for CASA of NH. We are constantly moving forward in many different ways; but these past six months, we have been physically moving... a lot! Okay, so here we go with a summation.

As a result of generous contributions from Meredith Village Savings Bank, the Lakes Region division of the NH Charitable Foundation, and one of our long-time private donors, our tiny office in **Plymouth** at the Whole Village Family Resource Center moved into a larger, more private space on the main floor. Our North Country Training and Recruitment Coordinator can now spend more time "in house" dispensing information and interviewing perspective volunteers for that area.

Consistent and faithful supporter Citizens Bank donated amazing space within the bank building in two North Country towns. CASA has, therefore, relocated its **Lancaster** office and now has office and

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CASA of NH is a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation organized in 1989. CASA volunteers advocate in New Hampshire's courts for the best interests of abused and neglected children, so they can grow up in safe, permanent homes.

Silent Voices is the newsletter of CASA of NH, written and edited by staff and designed by Good Idea Design & Marketing Group.

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VIP Models *continued from page 1*

Gratitude is extended to them as well as the following committee women and service providers:

- Mary Jane Bergman, Barbara Coles, Debra Crowley, Sherry Nannis, Dianna Powers, Polly Shumaker, Marcia Sink and Althea Valentine.
- Skip Jackson and his Carrabba's staff;
- Zrinka Orr, fashions;
- Greg West Photography;
- Nate Shumaker, graphic design;
- Ben Franklin Printers;
- Kriss Soterion & Dawn from Kriss Cosmetics;
- Mark Allen for music and sound;
- J.P. Sullivan, sponsorship;
- WMUR, WOKQ, and NH Magazine/NH Business Review for event promotion;
- Donors and purchasers of fabulous auction and raffle gifts.



Models with Zrinka (left to right): Donnalee Lozeau, Marty Sink, Sylvia Larsen, Zrinka Orr, Susan Lynch, Cathy Schmidt, Teri Norelli, Stefany Shaheen, and Stacey Shaheen Bellabona.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREG WEST PHOTOGRAPHY

CASA Launches Twentieth Year

With the conclusion of the 2008 fiscal year, CASA of NH has now begun its twentieth year of providing compassionate and professional advocacy for victimized children. To date, we have represented over 6,941 children on 4,653 cases; but our mission is far from realized.

A mixture of business and celebration marked the Annual Meeting on June 10th as CASA volunteers were thanked for their generosity of time and spirit, milestone anniversaries were acknowledged (see sidebar), and a new class of CASA/GALs was sworn in by Concord District Court Judge Gerald Boyle. Two amazing young adults who benefitted from CASA when they were

children spoke: Alonzo Portluck from Boston, who was featured in the outreach videos from National CASA; and Castava Leonard, from NH, who subsequently fostered her own brother while she attended college.

Both speakers emphasized the huge difference CASA volunteers make in the lives of victimized children. Castava talked about how critical her CASA/GAL had been while she was in placement and Alonzo charged guests "not to give up on these boys and girls – you have no idea what you mean to them".

CASA's Board of Directors conducted a shift in governance as some good friends cycled off and others stepped into leadership



Guest Speaker Alonzo Portluck

roles. Sincere thanks go to the following outstanding individuals for their years of service which concluded during fiscal year '08: Jacqueline Gadsden, Jay Kahn, Dean Kenney, Polly Shumaker, and Tim Murray. *See sidebar for officers and directors for fiscal year 2009.* ☑



CASA Celebrates GAL Milestones and Office Support

FIFTEEN YEARS:
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Marc Clement
Fred Hurwitz
David Minnis

TEN YEARS:
Cindee Carter
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Colleen Kershaw
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Sharon Sykas

FIVE YEARS:
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Joyce Dempsey
Bruce Ferguson
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Don Gangemi
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Comedy Nights Sizzle

Last year's theme "Comedy Night for CASA of NH in Hollywood Style" set the stage to raise over \$40,000 for CASA's operating budget. News Anchor/CASA Board member Tiffany Eddy emceed masterfully and Boston comedians Jim Colliton and Kevin Knox served up the humor as partying guests ate and laughed heartily. Many used the red carpet opportunity to dress up, adding sparkle and glamour to the festivity.

Volunteer Special Events Coordinator Joann Neumann has announced that the theme for the October 17, 2008 event will be "A Night of Comedy in James Bond 007 Style". Back by popular demand, comedian Jim Colliton will shake things up and a silent auction will stir guests to open their wallets for fabulous gifts. The spy venue will be created at St. Joseph's Regional Jr. High School in Manchester with hors d'oeuvres and desserts to seduce sophisticated palates and comedy that would make even the starched Miss Moneypenny guffaw. *You Only Live Twice*, so get in the spirit by dressing in theme or formal/semi-formal attire.

Contact (603) 626-4600 or events@casanh.org for sponsorship opportunities, information, and ticket purchase. The sell-out fundraiser will be *For Your Eyes Only* if you buy your tickets in time (\$75 per person). ☒



Local "stars" walk the Red Carpet (l to r): Marty Sink, Steve and Kit Reno, and Suzy Parker

Please...Speak Up!

We heard a story about one foster child who had a CASA volunteer and another in the same home who didn't. The foster mom explained what a difference it made to have the CASA involved – more services for the child were identified and captured; better initiative was taken to move the case along to a superior resolution; the case just "seemed more hopeful" according to the foster mom. But what about the child who didn't have the CASA/GAL?

Our goal is for each and every victimized child to have a CASA advocate and that can't happen without many more caring adults giving up about fifteen hours a month.

CASA encourages the rich tapestry of our volunteer pool and recruits in many ways.

Each One, Reach One – This campaign of current volunteers reaching out to people in their networks yields well-suited candidates. Referrals from current volunteers are high.

One Hundred Men for 100 Children – Men serve key roles in human services where there are typically more women volunteers. The effort to recruit more men comes primarily because so many victimized boys and girls have not had good male role models in their lives. Compassionate men who volunteer to help, protect, and speak up for young victims send a powerful message about responsibility. Retired men, in particular, find that CASA volunteerism demands a high level of involvement that adds challenge and meaning to their lives. If you know of a group who would like a speaker or know of an individual, business or group who would sponsor a pre-meeting event where we

could share the initiative, please contact Marjorie Waters at CASA. Women get credit not only for stepping in to volunteer, but also for urging good men to do the same!

Former GALs re-activated after taking a hiatus – Life-demands ebb and flow and we are always glad to welcome back alumni. An abbreviated training will allow them to return quickly or they can select the full training.

Calling Retired Educators – About 15% of our GALs were educators and have great instincts and insights to share.

Independent Study Training – A very exciting option will take place at the gorgeous Sunset Hill House Inn in Sugar Hill (www.sunsethillhouse.com). Innkeeper Nancy Henderson is becoming a CASA/GAL and will host the training on the heels of the foliage season. Talk about perks!

Two other Independent Study Trainings – North Conway and Plymouth – will be held this fall to make schedules easier for North Country trainees.

CASA Plant Stake Project – Fifty thousand plant stakes were distributed in nursery plants to point gardeners toward our website.

Open House in Colebrook – CASA welcomed people to 104 Main Street to encourage interaction and volunteerism. The hard reality of the North Country is that there is expansive territory, sparse population, and economic challenges...but the same need for adults to speak for children as everywhere else. We are grateful to Citizens Bank, NH Charitable Foundation and the Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund for their support. ☒

Marty's Desk

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training accommodations space in **Colebrook** and **Berlin**.

In **Dover**, we are temporarily housed in the old Goss Manufacturing Building, but hold on...yet another relocation is imminent, location to be announced! Thanks to CASA Board member Frank Rich for helping us with these challenging moves.

And, finally, **Manchester**. For more than sixteen years we resided snugly, but quite happily, at 44 Walnut Street in a house we rented from the Boys and Girls Club. We have now crossed the Merrimack and are about to embark on a significant undertaking. For those of you familiar with the West Side and the former St. Patrick complex — church, school and rectory — CASA will be renovating the rectory building and it will become our *permanent* home. Thanks to John Alberico and his incredibly generous support of CASA, our future looks bright.

It's going to be a lot of hard work, but we are excited about what it will ultimately offer in terms of appropriate office and training spaces for staff and volunteers. You will be hearing much more about this endeavor as it unfolds. For the time being, we are living in the St. Patrick school building at 138 Coolidge Street.

The work continues to grow the capacity of the organization so we can reach every abused and neglected child in the state of New Hampshire. Now, as always, your partnership in the mission is vital. As CASA stretches to meet the needs, we're counting on that collaboration to continue.

— Marty

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Special thanks from CASA

Donations received from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

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by Keith Harrison
Susan Meagher by
David and Ellen Meagher
Paul and Adeline
Meagher
The Becker Family
by Dorothy and Raymond
Johnson

IN MEMORY OF

Armand & Dorothy Roux
by Louise Hart
Audrey McArdle by
William and Sara York
U.S. Postal Office -
Downtown Manchester
Carolyn Lowrey
by Elizabeth Hamlin-
Morin & Jeffrey Morin
Constance R. Cross
by Elisabeth S. Cross
Donnie Leclerc
by Diane Gagne

Douglas Smiley
by Robert & Mary
Bianchetti
George Bruno's mother and
Francis Shaine
by Charlotte Krentzel
George Troxell
by Barbara & Jeffrey
Troxell
Gertrude M. Jacque by
Richard M. and Sarah G.
Cotter
Gregory H. and Jeannette
P. Gardner
Robert M. and Mary L.
Smith
Nep, LLC
Marilyn and Bruce Soper
Jane Keaveney by
Anonymous friend
Eileen Hemming
Cynthia M. Keaveney
Jim Keaveney
John and Susan Shea
Janet Reis
by Randy Reis
John H. Pramberg, Jr. & James
C. Pramberg, MD
by Noreen Pramberg
John Lynch by
Grace & Paul Bagnall
William and Aline
Blanchette
Paul and Lise Ouellette
Kathryn S. Meehan
by Bob & Cindy Charest
Kay Jauron
by Robert and Sally
Jauron
Kimberley Ryan by
Barbara Keenan
Deborah & Lloyd
Dolleman
Lloyd DeBoer
by Jane and Dale Bangert
Monty Montembeault
by Eva M. Montembeault
Nancy and Daniel
by Frank and Elaine
Mazzuchelli
Norma Ginsburg
by Penny Southwick
Scott Innes
by Susan Seabrook
Susan Morse
by Reginald Morse
Virginia Ressimyer
by Carolyn and Randy
Benthien
Yvette Boulanger
by Dana & Denise Burton

IN-KIND

AAA
Adair Country Inn &
Restaurant
Allegra Print & Imaging
Althea and Bob Valentine
Ann Trainor Domingue
Anne Marie Laney
Bedford Deli
Bedford Village Inn
Ben Franklin Printers

Bugaboo Creek Streak House
Café Noche
Capital Center for the Arts
Capitol Craftsman
Cardin Jewelers
Carrabba's Italian Grill, Bedford
CASA Board, staff & volunteers
Cathleen Schmidt
Citizens Bank
Cobblestone Design
Crowne Plaza, Nashua
Dianna Powers
Donnae Lozeau
Elaine Farmer
Fireside Inn & Suites
Greg West Photography
Highlander Inn &
Conference Center
Homestead/Fratello's
Restaurants
Jennifer Vaughn
Jeremy Nadeau's Subs
Kringle's Toy Box
Kriss Cosmetics
Lindt & Sprungli USA
Lori Costa
Marianne Stillwagon
Mark Allen/Mobile Digital
Sound
Mary-Jane Bergman
Murphy's on the Green
Nate Shumaker
NH Chronicle
NH Magazine/NH Business
Review
Nine Pine Designs, LLC
Parker's Maple Barn & Sugar
House
Patrick's Pub & Eatery
Polly Shumaker
Radisson Hotel
Red Hook Ale Brewery
Robert Legg
Robert Kozlow
Rosa Restaurant
Sally Rocks
Sean McDonald
Stacey Shaheen Bellabona
Staples
Stefany Shaheen
Susan Lynch, MD
Sylvia Larsen
Target Stores
Terie Norelli
TGI Friday's
The Inns & Spa at Mill Falls
Tiffany Eddy
USI New England
Victor & Patricia Collinno
WMUR TV - ABC 9
WOKQ 97.5FM
Wrenn Construction
Yankee Publishing
Zrinka Orr

"This is the miracle that happens every time to those who really live: the more they give, the more they possess."

— Rainer Maria Rilke

Dynamic Volunteer Wins Title

Peg Johnson is many things – a singer, dancer, 2005 magna cum laude graduate from New Hampshire College, and CASA volunteer since 2006. But this 78-year young Londonderry resident is also the recently-crowned Ms. Senior New Hampshire. In declaring August 4, 2008 as *Peg Johnson Day*, Governor Lynch highlighted Ms. Johnson's work for CASA and the Londonderry Senior Center.

In describing what the CASA program means to her, Peg replied "Every time I go to court on behalf of my CASA child I feel that I am making a contribution towards making a child's life better. The day that my CASA child was adopted was so wonderful and one of the most gratifying moments of my life."

As a pageant contestant, Peg was eligible to apply for the Louise J. Konze Award. Focusing on her commitment to serving children as a CASA/Guardian ad Litem, Peg has submitted an essay and CASA has added its letter of recommendation. Three prizes will be awarded to the winners' volunteer organizations – 1st place \$10,000, 2nd place \$5,000 and 3rd place \$3,000.

Peg's CASA/GAL Supervisor Kathleen McArdle commented, "I am so proud of Peg. She is a beautiful, gracious lady and the children of New Hampshire are fortunate to have her as their advocate. As Peg heads for Atlantic City in October to compete for the national title, she will take our best collective wishes with her." ❧



Peg Johnson flashes winning smile as Ms. Senior New Hampshire.

CASA Volunteer Facilitates Gift

Bridget Egan-Cardin has been a CASA/GAL for ten years, but also much more. She understands that even a volunteer-based nonprofit needs substantial funding to operate. As a passionate supporter of the organization she loves, she seems to always have her antennae up for our wellbeing.

In 2002, she pointed us to Campagne Associates who was seeking a nonprofit partner to receive a cash gift as a result of the software company's selection as Small Business of the Year. We submitted a proposal and Campagne selected CASA to win \$10,000.

Recently, Bridget – an employee of the NH-based company RiverStone Resources, LLC – passed the news that it was in a position to contribute a charitable gift and was reviewing funding requests. She suggested we apply.

CASA extends gratitude to RiverStone for its considerable leadership gift of \$40,000 toward hiring an additional GAL Supervisor to co-manage cases. Sincere thanks to an outstanding volunteer who has been our advocate, as well. Bridget sets a fabulous example. ❧



GOT mail?

Snail-Mail and E-Mail

Connecting with our constituency is our privilege. From time to time, however, it is good stewardship to identify those who prefer to read *Silent Voices* on-line or no longer wish to receive it. It is also good to use the most time-efficient and cost-effective ways to communicate. Often, this means email. Please give us your email address — and add speakup@casanh.org to your "safe senders list" — so we can reroute more of our postage and telephone budgets to directly helping children. If you want to be removed from our mailing list you may use the same email address for that.

NEWS TO INSPIRE

- **King of the Clubs Pool Tournament:** EJ Johnson and Sons of the American Legion Post 27 in Londonderry again chose to help children by giving their record-breaking proceeds to CASA.
- Preferring to use its operating monies for program, CASA has always relied on donations for outfitting its offices; but that can often mean outdated, well-worn, and mismatched furniture and equipment. NH-based insurance company **USI New England** recently contributed a bountiful quantity of handsome office furniture to CASA. Enormous thanks to President Don Lewis and his staff. What a morale booster!
- Made in NH Expo was, again, a great success for many reasons: Volunteers **Annette and Will Boucher** did a tremendous job coordinating logistics for the CASA booth; **Whoop It Up** – a whoopee pie company in the adjacent booth raffled off an extra large whoopee pie and donated \$151 to CASA; and many attendees stopped to ask questions about CASA's work. But the trophy goes to **Alex Ray and The Common Man Restaurant staff** who, yet again, contributed proceeds from the sale of their delectable crab cakes and Caesar salads – a whopping \$7,300! No wonder we're crazy about The C-Man.
- **Uncanoonuc Mt. Perennials**, a nursery in Goffstown that specializes in low-maintenance perennials, roses, flowering vines, berry bushes, and lots more designated June 28th as "CASA Day". Twenty-five percent of their sales on that day – \$1,000 – was donated to CASA so we can *GrowCASA!*
- **Owen Parker**, who just completed the fifth grade at Alton Central School, recently won an essay contest called *Millionaire for a Day* sponsored by Profile Bank. Each student "planned a fundraiser" for a nonprofit of their choice and Owen chose CASA. A donation of \$250 was made by the bank to CASA in honor of Owen and we honor this fine young man, as well. Thanks, Owen.



Save the date for 2009 Snowfest

Friday, February 6th. Mark your calendar and start assembling your team! Sponsorship opportunities are available for terrific positive exposure. Contact events@casanh.org for more information.

CASA in the Broader Context

by David Sandberg, Esq.

All of us at CASA of NH – volunteers, staff, Board members – expend extraordinary amounts of time and energy to further the CASA mission of helping abused and neglected children for whom we are appointed Guardian ad Litem (GAL). We usually think of this collective effort as focused on our six hundred court cases from Colebrook to the Seacoast. Although there is much truth to this, participating in other statewide initiatives that seek to improve the lives of NH children, especially those who have been victimized, is also essential.

Three prime examples come to mind: our ongoing involvement with the NH Court Improvement Project, the NH Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Board, and the NH Child Fatality Review Team.

The Court Improvement Project (CIP) is directed by Attorney Kristy Lamont (a former CASA volunteer) and is best known for producing *The Protocols Relative to Abuse and Neglect Cases and Permanency Planning* (Revised 2003). In recent years, the CIP has conducted a series of meetings to address additional ways our child protection system can be improved, particularly in regard to court procedures. CASA staff attends all CIP meetings, thereby providing us a special opportunity to help shape procedures that eventually make their way into our cases.

The NH GAL Board was enacted in 2000 by the Legislature and included CASA as a permanent member of the Board. Similar to our involvement with the CIP, serving as a Board member gives us the opportunity to have substantial input into what became known as the “500” rules which are the practice standards for all GALs in NH, regardless of

case type. Currently, the Board’s principal work bears on training and certifying GALs and reviewing complaints against GALs. To date, almost all the complaints pertain to divorce/custody cases (since the “500” rules became effective last September, there have been no complaints filed against a CASA volunteer).

The NH Child Fatality Team operates under the auspices of the NH Attorney General’s Office, and CASA has been a member of the Team for fifteen years. The multi-disciplinary Team examines selected cases of child deaths in our state that result from non-accidental as well as accidental causes. The Team’s purpose is to identify “systems” the child may have come in contact with (e.g. child protection, mental health, educational), and examine how these systems can be improved to prevent future deaths.

Although our involvement with these and other initiatives draw upon our limited supply of time and energy, it would be difficult to overstate what CASA gains in return. Benefits include: having greater perspective; an ability to assess one’s own organization; developing relationships which subsequently benefit our program in a myriad of ways; having a hand in shaping procedures that govern our day-to-day advocacy for young victims; and knowing where and what the “cutting edge” is in our field.

A final point: these and other external activities that CASA staff participate in are overwhelmingly informed by our volunteers who daily report to us from the field what is and is not working for the children. This is additional evidence of what we always say: *our volunteers are the heart of the CASA program.* ☒

COMMUNITY RECEPTIONS

In local, non-fundraising settings where area judges can share the value of having CASA in their courtrooms, CASA Board, staff and volunteers can mingle with guests to share food and conversation. Thanks to the gracious hosting by friends and poignant narrative by NH judges, the following community receptions educated scores of people. Accolades go to Polly Shumaker, GAL volunteer and former Board member, for her skillful organization.

Colebrook area hosts Jim and Brenda Tibbetts gathered forty to hear The Hon. David King, Administrative Justice of the Probate Courts, and The Hon. James Michalik, from the Coos County Family Division.

Moultonboro area, hosted by Sharon and Will Miller and assisted by Kay Anderson and Kim Prause with retired Judge Willard Martin speaking.

Manchester area, hosted by Charlie and Jaye

Goodwin with The Hon. Gary Hicks, Associate Justice of the NH Supreme Court, and The Hon. John Emery, Special Justice of Manchester District Court, sharing the podium.

Dover area, hosted at Citadel

Communications by WOKQ/Morning Waking Crew friends Mark Erickson and Danielle Carrier with The Hon. Stephen Roberts, Special Justice of Dover District Court, and The Hon. Susan Ashley, Special Justice of Rochester District Court, speaking. Following this reception, attendees were treated to a tour of the radio station.

CASA of NH rotates its Receptions around the state, so area leaders and citizens can be included. If you or someone you know would like to be invited, email speakup@casanh.org. Learn how to become part of an organization whose goal is for every child in New Hampshire to have what every child deserves – a safe and permanent home. ☒

CASA Classifieds

Last Quarter Opportunities

With the end of the year quickly approaching, now might be a good time to consider a tax-deductible gift to CASA. There are several giving opportunities available.

► **Cash donation** — Your gift can even be made safely on our website, www.casanh.org. You can make a one-time gift or select a monthly credit card option.

► **Matching Gift Program** — Explore your employer’s. Some companies will match your charitable donation dollar-for-dollar.

► **In Honor/Memory of** — Remember someone by giving a gift to CASA in their name.

► **Holiday and Alternative Gift-giving** — Reduce the stress, shopping, and “stuff” by giving the gift of helping a child. Acknowledgement card will be sent to the recipient and a tax letter will be sent to the donor.

► **United Way Campaign** — Designate your United Way contribution to CASA of NH.

► **Stock Gift** — There are several tax advantages to contributing stock instead of cash; please get advice from your accountant.

► **Bequests** — This may be the right time to investigate long-term tax savings and leave a legacy that helps to continue your passionate support for years to come.

► **GoodSearch.com** and **GoodShop.com** will give CASA donations every time CASA supporters search the Internet or shop on-line. For details, just go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=873290>.

Your gift of any size will help provide a powerful voice for victimized children in NH.

HOLIDAY cards



Holiday Wagon by
Elaine Farmer, Londonderry

CASA Cards On-Line

Project Coordinator Bonnie Herrick has announced that designs for the 2008 season may now be viewed in full-color on CASA's website at www.casanh.org and can also be purchased through the same site. She added that "some new systems that we are trying this year should translate into better service for our customers and may pave the way for greater advances next year."

Watch for the full-color brochure that will be sent during September. Those who have questions or wish to order 500+ cards should contact bonnie@casanh.org.

Asked & Answered

– a column to answer readers' questions which can be submitted to speakup@casanh.org

Besides good-will and supporting a good cause, do CASA volunteers get any benefit?

Volunteering as a CASA/GAL is a great way to learn new skills or expand skills that you already have. Forty hours of superior pre-service training, ongoing in-service workshops and speakers offer the equivalent of college-level instruction with practical application. CASA takes ordinary citizens with good commonsense and teaches them everything they need to know to function in the role as a child's Guardian ad Litem – in educational, medical, foster care, and judicial settings – as they gather information and work with the child they represent. Networking with CASA staff and other volunteers; operating as a full-party in the case along with attorneys, social workers, judges; interfacing with everyone involved in the child's life all lend themselves to a rich volunteer experience. CASA/GALs enhance their leadership and teambuilding skills; combat sadness by looking beyond themselves to the satisfaction of helping vulnerable children; and, many of our senior volunteers, in particular, report increased health and vitality.

Is CASA of NH a United Way member?

No, it is not. While CASA recognizes the value of the United Way for many nonprofit organizations, its solicitation guidelines and restrictions do not mesh neatly with CASA's fundraising calendar. Nevertheless, United Way donors can designate CASA as recipient of all or a portion of their contribution – less an administrative fee – and those dollars are then passed on to us.

In His Own Articulate Words

A poem by a former CASA of NH child is being published in *Connections*, the National CASA Association magazine. Read Peter's thoughts, so sensitively "spoken," and know beyond all doubt that CASA makes a phenomenal difference to young victims who are filled with potential.

Dreams

*A day, a hope, a time to be —
a wish, a love, I cannot see
So I try to live – no love, no pain
but now I see it's not sane
So I dream, I love, I hope, I see
the time would come when I can dream
Dream a love that's pure and true
and help me see what life can do
So I try – try to see
try to dream a life for me.*

– PETER L.

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