

News & Updates from the Cumberland County CASA Program

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Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

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“Judge” Carl Connellan

Carl Connellan was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1932 and came to the United States in 1959 at 27 years of age. Most of his career was in the business field, working for Aer Lingus, Book of the Month Club, and WITF, as well as other corporations. After retirement, he was asked by Judge Guido to become his law clerk. Carl held this position for over 15 years, where he affectionately came to be known as “Judge Carl.” He and his wife, Joanne, who worked in the Cumberland County Adult Probation Office, both retired this spring. Chris Gleeson has been hired to replace Carl as Judge Guido’s new clerk. Carl will be deeply missed around the courthouse, and the CASA Program wants to take this special time to acknowledge the role Carl has played in the success of the Cumberland County CASA Program. Carl was instrumental in the start-up of the Program and has served on the CASA Advisory Board since its inception in 2000. He has attended almost all the CASA swearing-in ceremonies and appreciation brunches that have been held in the past 14 years. Thanks, Carl, for believing in the CASA Program and doing all you could to make it a success here in Cumberland County.



Judge Guido (left) celebrating Carl Connellan’s retirement with him.

CASA Volunteer Spotlight: Pat Carey and Michael Pimental



Pat Carey has been a CASA volunteer since 2005. In that time she has represented 7 children in 2 families. Her first case closed with 2 of the children being adopted and the other 2 aging out of the system after 8 years. She is still actively involved in her second case. In her years with the CASA Program, Pat has not only advocated for children, but she has also assisted with basic training for new volunteers and represented CASA in the community by helping with informational presentations to various organizations. Pat brings a sense of dedication, perseverance, and humor to all that she does. Prior to moving to Carlisle, she retired from teaching English in the Hanover School District. She has also taught English at the college level. Pat continues to support literacy through volunteering for Bosler Library in Carlisle. Recently she sponsored a Bosler Library Name-a-Day which featured the CASA Program.

Michael Pimental became a CASA volunteer in 2006. Since then he has represented 4 children, 3 of whom have been adopted. In addition to advocating for the best interests of his assigned children, Michael regularly presents the CASA concept to Shippensburg University juvenile justice classes. He has developed a PowerPoint presentation that vividly illustrates the work of the CASA volunteer which he has presented to new volunteer trainees as well. Michael is president of Fairlead Coaching, dedicated to assisting companies develop sales teams, managers, and presentations.



The mission of the Cumberland County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program is to assist the court in determining what is in the best interest of abused and/or neglected children whose cases are in the court system. Through objective investigation and observation with the focus on the child assigned, trained CASA volunteers develop and present their recommendations to the court to aid in establishing a safe, permanent and nurturing home in an expeditious manner.

Fourteenth Annual Light of Hope and Swearing-in Ceremony

The Old Courthouse in Carlisle was once again the site of the annual Light of Hope and Swearing-in Ceremony, where 8 new CASA volunteers were sworn-in on March 31 by Judge Guido and Judge Peck. Also recognized were actively assigned CASA volunteers Judy Beskid, Joy Gross, Curt and Vi Nissly, and Sarah Pearce, among others not present, marking their fifth anniversary with the Program. As in the past, both the Dickinson chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta and the Harrisburg Alumnae chapter provided a reception for the evening and presented pansies to the volunteers. Pansies are the official flower of Kappa Alpha Theta that symbolize loving thoughts.



Wendy Hoverter addresses the crowd as Kate Cramer Lawrence (dependency master), Suzanne Flinn (new PA CASA executive director), and Jim Hertzler (Cumberland County commissioner) look on.

One of the highlights of the evening was the Irish step dance by Theta sister and CASA intern, Bri Carrey.

Although not able to be present, both Dennis Hockensmith, retiring Executive Director for PA CASA, and Carl Connellan, Judge Guido's retiring clerk, were recognized for their tireless efforts on behalf of the CASA Program. Commissioner Jim Hertzler presented the Proclamation of Child Abuse Prevention Month for April to Wendy Hoverter, Administrator of Children and Youth Services. Wendy received a standing ovation in recognition of her work on behalf of children in Cumberland County. She, too, will be retiring in the near future, so this was the last Light of Hope where she spoke in her capacity as Administrator of Children and Youth Services.

Thirtieth Class, Spring 2015

Gail Chiodo, a native of Pittsburgh, earned her J.D. degree from Pitt Law School where she also served as senior editor of the *Journal of Law and Commerce*, after having graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a dual major in philosophy and criminology. Gail worked over twenty years in criminal law in Berks County, having served on both sides of the aisle, as a prosecutor and then defense attorney. In her later years she concentrated in appellate advocacy. She has also served as a law clerk to both a state trial-level judge and a federal appellate judge in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit. Gail moved to Cumberland County with her family several years ago and currently



Seated: Susan Kalmar (CASA Volunteer who assisted with training), Heidi Parke, Sue Wooley. Standing: Denise Hoffman, Gail Chiodo, Julie McKain, Katitia Marietta, Mary Miluski, and Diana Sheppard.

enjoys teaching paralegal courses in the Harrisburg area. She also enjoys the outdoors including jogging, tennis, and golf, as well as every few years or so, skydiving back in Pittsburgh, having taken her first jump while attending IUP.

Denise Hoffman grew up in central PA and currently lives in Enola with her husband, Bob, and their exchange student/daughter, Macarena. Macarena was an exchange student with Denise two years ago in high school and last year came back to live with them while attending Messiah College, majoring in Pre-Med. Denise and her husband have a blended family of six grown children and four grandchildren. Her husband is a retired Chief Master Sergeant (Air Force) and currently works for PA State Troopers as a Facilities Manager. Denise works full-time as a Parent Ambassador for the University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, Child Welfare Resource Center. She believes that her work and knowledge of the child welfare system will assist her with her volunteer work with the CASA program. Denise is an energetic, engaging and fun person to be around. As a former foster care youth, she is passionate about the work and has a personal interest in seeing that children and youth find permanency as quickly as possible. Denise is also a Philadelphia Eagles football fan and enjoys Sunday football with her family and friends.

Katitia Marietta grew up all over the East Coast as a result of her family being in the military. She currently lives in Camp Hill, PA. Katitia is a friendly, funny, and outgoing woman who comes from a large family with whom she is still very close. She is the oldest of a mixed group of nine children. They are now spread throughout the United States, but they all still keep in touch. In her spare time, Katitia likes to read, watch movies (particularly foreign films with subtitles), and spend time at home with her husband. Katitia enjoys trying new foods (particularly spicy ones), and appreciates all types of different music. She enjoys traveling and learning about different cultures and loves meeting new people.

Julie McKain grew up in the small town of Ridgway, PA. She has been a resident of Carlisle, PA since 1977 when she became a student at Dickinson College. After graduating from Dickinson College, Julie entered the Dickinson School of Law. She was a deputy district attorney for Dauphin County for 2 years and then joined her husband Chuck in the investment industry in 1990 in order to have the flexibility to start a family. For about 4 years, Julie was a Guardian *ad Litem* for Cumberland County. She earned a M.S. in Psychology from Shippensburg University in 2006. After working together for 26 years, Julie and her husband retired from Morgan Stanley on June 30, 2014. They have 2 sons; Chuck Jr., age 25, and John, age 21. Chuck graduated from Carnegie Mellon in 2012 and works in Madison, Wisconsin. John is a junior at West Chester University. Julie enjoys oil painting, exercising, reading and spending time with family and friends.

Mary Miluski, originally from Scranton, PA, has lived in the Harrisburg area since graduating with a B.S. in Nursing from Penn State University in 1976. While a student at Penn State, Mary met her husband, Richard and their relationship grew quickly from friendship to love. They were married less than a year after graduation. Mary spent her nursing career working mostly with children in various health care settings and nursing roles. In her personal life, Mary and Richard have been happily married 38 years and still enjoy their weekend date nights. They have 3 sons and a daughter, and the brightest parts of Mary's life are times spent with her husband and children. They have grown into mature, caring and fun loving adults who Mary enjoys and has pride in. She looks forward to family get-togethers which are always lively and enjoyable. Still, Mary has empty time on her hands. She has always needed to be needed and found herself in quite a rut since leaving her career. Working with people, especially children, feels like her calling and brings a special joy to her life that she missed over the past few years. Learning of the CASA program has brought renewed meaning to her life and she is eagerly anticipating her return to making a meaningful contribution to the world. Mary is looking forward to her first case with excitement and yes, a little trepidation. She feels confident that with the support of the CASA program staff, she will become a successful CASA volunteer

Heidi Taylor Parke grew up in the Philippines. Her mother is American and her biological father is Filipino. Her stepdad and mother were missionaries there and so Heidi lived in the Philippines until she was 18 years old. She decided to come to the United States to work on her education. Currently she lives in Mechanicsburg with her husband and 2½-year-old daughter. Heidi is currently unemployed, but enjoys being a stay-at-home mom. Before her daughter was born she worked at Hershey Medical Center, primarily in office administration. Heidi is a very outgoing, positive person who loves meeting new people and making friendships, as well as learning about cultures and traveling. By nature she is not very confrontational and is analytical and organized when it comes to work or projects. Heidi loves being outside, hiking, canoeing, and camping with her family. She also loves music and life in general.

Diana Martini Sheppard has lived in Pennsylvania for 11 years and in the capitol region for 4. She grew up in the capitol region of New York State and lived in the south (Alabama and Georgia) before relocating to Pennsylvania. Diana is the mother of two children, ages 11 and 13, and is unemployed. She is looking for opportunities that may come from the various volunteer positions she has. Diana is a tax preparer for the VITA tax program run by the United Way. Her immediate family likes to take road trips to places they have never been and/or visit with family members across the country. They take time to do that every summer and fall. Diana's general interests revolve around the arts - textile arts like knitting and needlepoint, and musical arts. She is learning to play the ukulele and likes to sing with other people. She also enjoys the literary arts of storytelling and theater.

Sue Wooley followed a long and winding path to her current home in Camp Hill. Her father was a Coast Guard officer and her mother a stay-at-home mom for the most part. They moved about every 3 years along all the U.S. coastlines (except the Great Lakes). In adulthood, Sue continued to roam quite a bit before finally moving from the San Francisco Bay area and settling in the Cumberland Valley about 26 years ago. Sue and her husband moved to Camp Hill from Franklin County in 2012 and enjoy living in such a "walkable" town. Her son, age 22, is in college in Philadelphia. Sue's work experience is as varied as the list of places she has lived. She has been a dog groomer, bookseller, mental health counselor, library assistant, and social worker – but most importantly, a mom. Retired in 2011, Sue now works for a temporary staffing agency as a receptionist and travels with her husband. Between temp jobs and traveling, she enjoys reading, knitting, gardening, and fixing things around the house.

National CASA Recertifies Cumberland County Program

Every four years, the National CASA Association requires each of over 900 programs nationwide to undergo an extensive Quality Assurance self-assessment to maintain national membership. This ensures that each program adheres to the standards they set. In Cumberland County, this self-assessment was recently completed and the certification of compliance received. As National CASA Association states, "The National CASA quality assurance process is very rigorous, and reflects our commitment to ensure every child we serve has the most powerful volunteer advocate working on their behalf. This certification says Cumberland County has demonstrated to us a strong capacity to provide excellent services to the abused and neglected children within their community."

Twenty-ninth Class, Fall 2014



Dependency Hearing Officer Kate Cramer Lawrence, Joyce Raser, Judge Guido, Nancy Nixon, Dewayne Nichols, Dawn Mayko, Kim Kupfer, Judge Masland, and Lisa Donchez.

Lisa Donchez comes to CASA from the greater Harrisburg area. Born and raised in the Lehigh Valley, Lisa is a second generation US citizen with all four of her grandparents having emigrated through Ellis Island from Eastern Bloc countries at the turn of the twentieth century. Lisa has spent most of her professional life as a biomedical researcher. As a RN she ran a cardiopulmonary research laboratory for the medical director of the heart transplant program at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. Life changes and the need to provide care for an ailing parent took her from the northeast to Colorado. It was there she met her husband-to-be and his three children, and faced the daunting task of becoming a

blended family. Since May, 2009 she has been working with her husband in activities designed to help their community by creating a business and residential phone directory, publishing a small town newspaper, opening a welcome center, and volunteering at schools and other non-profit organizations. Quoting Lisa, "My take-away is that I champion the opportunity for personal growth. I thrive on following where my curiosities lead me, and I have discovered that even the worst situations can hold gifts for you beyond your wildest expectations."

Kim Kupfer grew up in Baltimore, MD, but has lived in Camp Hill, PA for the past 13 years with her husband and 3 children. Her eldest son, Willie, has special needs due to brain damage from bacterial meningitis. Kim's professional experience includes working with children with autism in the public schools, working as a career counselor at the university level, and working with disadvantaged and homeless youth. Kim feels called to work with children due to her experience of advocating for her son with special needs. She loves to read, knit, watch movies, and spend time with her family.

Dawn Mayko grew up near Hershey, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Harrisburg Area Community College with an Associate Degree in Paralegal Studies. Dawn has worked in the legal field since 1995 with experience ranging from criminal law, family law, and real estate to civil litigation. Dawn spent fifteen years working at the United States Attorney's Office as a Paralegal Specialist and recently has taken on the duties of Public Affairs and Record Management Specialist. Dawn has volunteered with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society where she trained with the organization's team to run half marathons in Pennsylvania, Arizona, and California. She has raised over \$9,000 in funds for the organization and made great friends in the process. Dawn enjoys running, live music, hiking with her dogs, and the emotional rollercoaster of being a fan of the Dallas Cowboys.

Dewayne Nichols grew up in central Pennsylvania, just outside of State College. He was raised in the foster care system out of Clearfield County from the age of 3 until he turned 18 and left for the service. Dewayne spent 8 years as a Military Intelligence officer and decided to settle back in central Pennsylvania with his family after leaving military service. He and his wife started dating in ninth grade and will soon be celebrating their tenth anniversary. They recently had their first child, who will turn 2 in October. They currently live in New Cumberland where Dewayne spends much of his free time concentrating on the massive renovation project that they have taken on with the 3-story Victorian house that they purchased. Since graduating from CASA training, Dewayne has accepted the position of Community Outreach & Educational Facilitator with York County CASA Program.

Nancy Nixon grew up in Rochester, New York, and Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Dickinson College. She has lived in Carlisle for the past 25 years. Prior to that, she lived in Portland, Oregon for 20 years. Her interests include yoga, reading, walking in local and state parks, and spending time with friends and family, including two grandchildren. She lost her partner of 31 years a few years ago and continues to adjust to life as a widow. Nancy is retired and had been a day-care teacher, a welfare caseworker, and a community organizer. She was a foster mother to a teenager and to a young child for four years. These experiences are what attracted her to the CASA program, and she is glad to have this opportunity to work with children and families in distress.

Joyce Raser grew up on a dairy farm in central Pennsylvania. She and her husband live in Dauphin County, where they raised their three children on a mini-farm where they also grew vegetables and amassed a collection of different animals. Joyce retired after having taught secondary English and English as a Second Language for a combined twenty-nine years. She also did clerical work at Hershey Medical Center for six years. Her family, both immediate and extended, is an important part of her life. She enjoys spending time with family and friends as well as reading modern fiction and memoirs, going for walks, and working in her vegetable and flower gardens. Joyce is an optimist who thinks that the world could be a much better place if everyone would exert some effort to help and to be kind to the people around them.

Fall 2014 CASA Swearing-in Ceremony and Appreciation Brunch

The Annual Swearing-in Ceremony and Fall Appreciation Brunch was quite a success, congratulating the hard working volunteers on their commitment to advocate on behalf of children. On November 1, 2014, Kappa Alpha Theta women organized and hosted a brunch for the CASA volunteers in the Stern Great Room on the Dickinson College campus. The theme of the event revolved around mints, with favors thanking those in attendance for their involve"mint", invest"mint", and encourage"mint" to the CASA Program.



New CASA volunteer Dawn Mayko, CASA intern Bri Carey, Theta alumnae Marianna Wood, CASA volunteer Mike Pimental, and CASA Advisory Council member, Joe Gaskin, enjoy the brunch provided by Dickinson College Kappa Alpha Theta women.



Keepsake boxes created by Thetas for each volunteer to give to their CASA children.

Anita Brewster, Program Director, and Pam Wysocki, Office Coordinator, shared many kind words expressing the importance of the volunteers' actions and how much they make a difference. Linda Rosenberry, Outreach Coordinator, introduced the newly trained candidates and presented them to be sworn in by Judge Guido who administered the Oath of Office. Judge Masland and Judge Peck then welcomed them to the world of CASA advocacy by presenting them with certificates. The brunch was a wonderful opportunity for volunteers, supporters, County and Court personnel, and Thetas to bond in their common goal of helping the children of Cumberland County.

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Cakes for CASA

Kappa Alpha Theta continues to support the CASA Program, both locally and on the state level. Cakes for CASA, a pancake breakfast held on the Dickinson College campus April 12, benefited PA CASA and was prepared and served by Theta women. Their ongoing relationship for both Cumberland County and PA CASA is a great encouragement to both programs. Shortly after the pancake breakfast, the Theta women created birthday cards for CASA volunteers to give to CASA children.



Sharing a Message of Hope



Eight women from Barnitz and Mt. Zion United Methodist Churches, located near Mount Holly Springs, have established Journey Groups, which encourage them to find a community service project. The group thought working with CASA would be a good way to reach out to children who may not be noticed by a lot of people, even during the holidays. The group decorated Christmas ornaments inscribed with the phrase "You Are Special" to remind the children they are indeed special. The ornaments were made available by the CASA office to all the dependent children served by a CASA volunteer. The ornaments were decorated specifically to brighten the day for children who find themselves in dependency during the Christmas season. Decorating the ornaments also brightened the lives of the women as well. They had a wonderful time working on them, especially knowing the recipients are so deserving.

Program Stats March 2001—June 2015:

- ◆ 196 CASA volunteers have been trained (31 assigned to represent children; over 100 continue in a supportive role)
 - ◆ 403 dependent children have been represented, 28 of whom received Court appointed educational advocacy
 - ◆ 1,305 CASA Reports have been written since 2001, providing additional information to help the Court make decisions
- Of the children represented by CASA volunteers whose cases have closed, 132 returned home, 152 were adopted, and 36 went to live with a permanent legal custodian or a fit and willing relative. 23 children aged out of the system, 1 child died of natural causes and 5 had their cases transferred to other jurisdictions.

CASA Volunteer Joy Gross Shares Experiences



At the 7th Annual PA CASA Golf Tournament on May 15, CASA volunteer Joy Gross was the keynote speaker during lunch, sharing her first experience advocating for a child who today is thriving with her adoptive parents. While it is the policy of the CASA Program that volunteers do not seek to continue a relationship with the children they represent, in this case the child and her new family have reached out to Joy to include her in special events of the child's life.

The golf tournament was held as a fundraiser benefiting PA CASA and was

attended by about 70 golfers in addition to many volunteers and CASA staff. Joy, who is also a licensed auctioneer, donated her services for a short auction which was part of the event. Judge Peck was the top bidder on a quilt made by Kappa Alpha Theta women of Bucknell University. The quilt is designed with games on it so that it becomes an activity blanket for children. Plans are to place it at the Cumberland County Prison for children to enjoy when they visit their incarcerated parents.



CASA Interns Lend a Hand

The CASA Program is privileged to regularly have assistance from college interns. Historically, interns have been students at Dickinson College, Shippensburg University, Penn State—Harrisburg, University of Pittsburgh, Elizabethtown College, Messiah College, University of Delaware, Harrisburg Area Community College, and Central Penn College. Our current interns for Summer 2015 are Michaella Mowers from Shippensburg University and Molly Stettenbauer from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. Following are the reflections of two of our interns from this past semester.



Tracy Wolf, on right, with Bri Carey, another intern in the CASA Office.

Tracy Wolf, Dickinson College: Being a member of the local Kappa Alpha Theta chapter at Dickinson College, I have been familiar with CASA and their work for a few years. However, even with a prior connection to CASA, I didn't understand how important the organization is, and how much work goes into providing resources to the volunteers, and in turn, to each child that they advocate for. After interning in the CASA office, I learned so much more about dependency court, and how imperative CASA and CASA volunteers are to ensuring that children's best interests are met. I hope that in turn, I can pass some more information on to my Theta chapter so that everyone can be more informed about the purpose of CASA. In addition to my internship, I took a course with a Dauphin County Judge about Juvenile Justice. Reading volunteer reports, observing hearings, participating in training sessions, and even making copies and sending emails was an invaluable experience to see firsthand how the child welfare system works. It allowed me to much better understand my course and contribute to class discussions. After attending a training session where CASA Educational Consultant Sarah Pearce spoke about educational advocacy for children in foster care, I decided to write my final research paper for the course on this topic. I am sad that the semester is over, because I had a great time as a CASA intern, and I hope to one day become a volunteer myself!

Emily Kohler, Shippensburg University: As a CASA intern, I learned that there are many children that need help and are stuck in the system for many faults that are not their own. I learned that the work that is done by CASA is an incredible asset, not only to the court, but to the kids as well. It is a program that every court should have and I wish that they all would. I have found that I would like to continue doing similar work in the future and I hope that another opportunity arises soon. I have changed my mind from wanting to work with criminals to wanting to work with victims to make a difference in their lives.



Cumberland County CASA Program Well Represented

Volunteers from the Cumberland County Program attended the PA CASA State Conference, held June 10 and 11 in Williamsport. Our own volunteer, Kathy Ramper, presented on Foster Parents' Rights and Responsibilities. In addition, Cumberland County Judge Christylee Peck sat on a panel of judges to share from her perspective on many of the topics impacting the children and the work of CASA volunteers.

Here is the "take-away" of volunteer Susan Kalmar from the event:

As I was thinking about what I took from the conference my mind was hijacked by what I discovered about my fellow CASAs. Sandy is an incredibly upbeat person with a wicked sense of humor and a thing for cute doctors. Anita and Pam presumably from having lived in the same womb that was the old CASA office for so many years, communicate without words. It's sort of cool and creepy at the same time. Joy has incredible executive function and I have very little. Judy is a lovely woman and stays up to party with the gang. John would be a great person to carpool with but not on his motorcycle. Peggy has a small appetite unless bacon is involved. Sarah not only cares about kids in Cumberland County, she spends her vacations tutoring kids in India. And last, I can spend two days with a group of wonderful people and have a great time and look forward to next year.

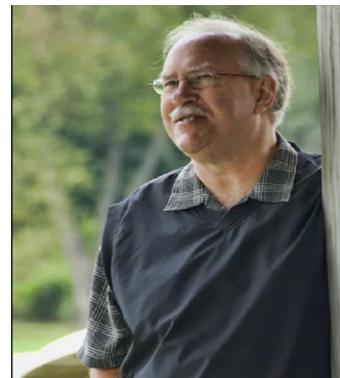


Anita Brewster (Program Director), Judge Christylee Peck, Pam Wysocki (Office Coordinator), Mary Miluski, Sarah Pearce, Joy Gross, John Gilbert, Lori Serratelli (PA CASA Board), Sandy Evans, Judy Beskid, Susan Kalmar, and Clare Garfield (PA CASA Board). Also attending from Cumberland County, but missing from the picture were Kathy Ramper and Peggy Shedden.

A Well Earned Retirement and a New Executive Director for PA CASA

No one will ever know the countless hours and thousands of miles Dennis Hockensmith has put in to the work that goes on behind the scenes in the PA CASA office. PA CASA's mission is "to support and promote court-appointed volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children so they can thrive in safe, permanent homes." That simple statement translates into myriad challenges, managed and overseen by the PA CASA Association—whose staff for the past 13 plus years has been Dennis. While Dennis benefited from the support of National CASA and the PA CASA Board of Directors, he expended enormous amounts of energy developing relationships to promote the CASA mission and to support or build programs. In the years Dennis has served as the Executive Director of the PA CASA Association, the number of programs has more than doubled, with many more programs in the developing stages.

Dennis has often been called on to mitigate crises across Pennsylvania and has strengthened programs by providing training opportunities, regional meetings, phone conferencing, and by keeping the programs connected. In Dennis' years as Executive Director, he has kept PA CASA on course with visionary prowess, with a little help from Board members and many other supporters whom he is quick to lavish praise upon. At the recent PA CASA Conference, Dennis had a send off that should keep him smiling for some time.



Stepping into Dennis' position is Suzanne Flinn, a Pennsylvania native who is glad to be returning to her home state and is excited about the challenge of continuing to grow the PA CASA Program. Suzanne has worked alongside Dennis since February 2015. She is grateful for Dennis's generosity in sharing his time and knowledge as she assumes full responsibility as the new Executive Director of PA CASA.

Prior to accepting the position with PA CASA, Suzanne was a CASA volunteer in Florida and a recruiter for the program during that time. She is a graduate of Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA and has over 15 years of experience leading and developing non-profit organizations. She was privileged to be the Executive Director when the Ronald McDonald House of Southwest Florida was built. She had started as a volunteer with the Hershey, PA House years ago in college and was a board member in Florida when she stepped down to take a financial leadership role with General Electric. Prior to her time with CASA in Florida, she spent 6 years in Georgia with Public Health and worked to establish free clinics for the underserved population. Suzanne also worked for Junior Achievement, Lee We Care and some nonprofit hospitals, all in Florida.



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News and Updates from the Cumberland County CASA Program is published semiannually. Back issues are available upon request or at www.ccpa.net/casa. To be added to or removed from the mailing list, contact the CASA Office at (717) 240-6159 or casa@ccpa.net.

CASA Volunteer Training

**Upcoming training dates:
September 19—October 31, 2015**

To explore becoming an advocate for child victims of abuse and/or neglect in Cumberland County, contact the CASA Office, 240-6159 or casa@ccpa.net. For more information see www.ccpa.net/casa.

Volunteer advocates must—

- be 21 years of age or older,
- be able to successfully pass criminal checks,
- complete 36-40 hours of training, and
- be willing to make at least a 2-year commitment.

Training is held over 5 weeks in Carlisle on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 pm in the spring and on Saturdays from 9 am to 3:30 pm in the fall.

Cumberland County CASA Advisory Council: Lindsay Baird, Esq., Jennifer Bray, Anita Brewster, Dr. Joyce Bylander, Melissa Calvanelli, Carl Connellan, Lisa Erickson-McCarren, Marlene Fuller, Joseph Gas-kin, Lisa M. Grayson, Esq., Lucy Johnston-Walsh, Esq., Robert Kline, Esq., Kathy Kohlhaas, Kate Cramer Lawrence, Esq., Laura Neal, Esq., Wanda Noll, Darlene Orr, Dr. Laura Patterson, Gretchen Petri, Karen Shirey, Erin Smeigh, Cindy Sniscak, Kim Sweger, Monica Swidler, Lisa Verdekal, Jacqueline Verney, Esq., Cindy Villanella, Esq.

Find us on Facebook Cumberland County CASA Program

York County C.A.S.A. Inaugural Children's Fair and Poker Run

July 25, 2015

Children's Fair begins at noon

163 E Market St, Hallam PA

Adults \$2/Kids: FREE

*Games, reptile show, silent auction, raffles,
finger printing, chicken BBQ, etc.*

**All Games, Activities and Food provided
FREE Courtesy of IOMC, Mason Dixon Crew*

Poker Run registration begins at 9:30

Ride begins at noon

100 Arsenal Rd, York PA

Single Rider \$15, Double Rider \$25

**For more info, contact Dewayne Nichols
York Co C.A.S.A. 717-771-9754**



Lift up a child's voice.
A child's life.™