



CASA E-News
CASA of Shawnee County
www.casaofshawneecounty.org
May 2011



***DO YOU LIKE TO GOLF OR
KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP
RAISE MONEY FOR CASA OF
SHAWNEE COUNTY?***



**Third-Annual CASA Champions
Golf Tournament**

DON'T MISS IT!

Monday, May 23, 2011

Shawnee Golf Club

- 4-Golfer Scramble
- Lunch and Drinks
- Contests on Every Hole!
- \$95/golfer or \$360/foursome

For more information, go to

www.casaofshawneecounty.org/events

or contact the CASA office!

*Interested in helping to sponsor the
CASA Champion Golf Tournament?*

*Contact Ashley Charest at (785) 224-8547 or
acharest@woodsland.com.*

**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING CASA OF
SHAWNEE COUNTY!**

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER
ON APRIL 12TH
RAISED \$2,600!

and

OUR VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION RECEPTION
WAS A SUCCESS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
2011 AWARD WINNERS:

"Friend of CASA":

Sharon Boranyak

CASA of the Year:

Jan Stegelman

CASA Rookie of the Year:

Deb Wiley

CRB Member of the Year:

Carolyn Litwin

CRB Rookie of the Year:

Kaitée Purdon

CASA Staff Updates:

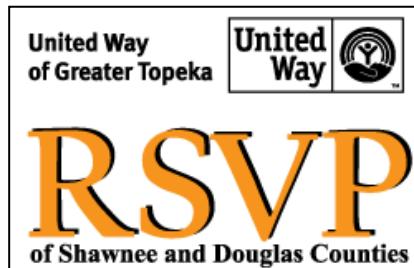
Congratulations to our MSW Intern, Santa Bonaparte, who will be graduating from Washburn University on May 14th with her Master of Social Work degree!

Congratulations to our Volunteer Recruiter, Kaitee Purdon! She will be leaving CASA to return to school. Best of Luck Kaitee!

Our wonderful CASA/CRB Volunteer Becky Bodine will be the new Volunteer Recruiter as of May 24th. (Read more about Becky in this month's Volunteer Spotlight, below.) Welcome, Becky!

For all volunteers 55 years and older:

Join RSVP today for FREE benefits as a volunteer with CASA of Shawnee County!



The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) engages older adults in Shawnee and Douglas

Counties to serve in their communities. RSVP serves as a one-stop clearinghouse to connect volunteers with meaningful volunteer work. As an RSVP member, you will receive benefits such as mileage reimbursements, supplemental insurance, invitations to social events and updates on volunteers needs in your community. *And...if you don't need the money from your mileage reimbursement, you can donate your check to CASA!*



Enrollment is free and only takes a few minutes. For more information or to enroll please visit: <http://www.unitedwaytopeka.org/volunteer/rsvp> and click on the blue button, "Apply to be a volunteer." For other questions, please contact the Director of Volunteer Engagement, Tom Baumgartner, at 785-228-5113 or tom.baumgartner@unitedwaytopeka.org.

Happy Mother's Day
May 8th



Happy Birthday!

The below volunteers and staff will be celebrating a birthday this month:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Georgia DeVader | Sue Edwards |
| Penny Fell | Rhonda Lammers |
| Al Lei | Carolyn Litwin |
| Judy Schlink | Mary Thomas |



Welcome to Our New CASA Volunteers Trained in April!

Jean Harper
Kristi Miller
Becki Pierce
Cynthia Smith

SAVE THE DATES:

- **CASA 25th Anniversary GALA: 9/28/11**
- **Theta Book Brunch: 10/8/11**
- **Holiday Homes Tour: 11/18-11/20/11**

Celebrate! May is...

Mental Health Awareness Month
National Military Appreciation Month
South Asian Heritage Month
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
Older Americans Month

SRS Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-922-5330

or <http://www.srs.ks.gov/Pages/HotlineNumbers.aspx>

Summer Lunch Bunch Schedule

May 13, 2011: Wayne French is a parent's attorney in Division 10. He will present on the role of the parent's attorney in CINC cases.

June 10, 2011: Judge Mitchell will be our guest speaker, presenting about his role in CINC cases.

July 8, 2011: Dawn Rouse is with the Office of Judicial Administration. She will present on the legal creation of CASA and subsequent laws, policies and procedures.

August 12, 2011: Shirlon Harris is a Reintegration Team Manager at TFI, Inc. She will present on the current status of foster care in Shawnee County in regards to TFI.

All sessions are from 12-1pm in the large conference room at the CASA office. Feel free to bring your lunch to eat during the presentation.

REMINDER: CASA and CRB volunteers need 4 hrs. of in-service credit each year to remain certified.

If you have ideas about topics and/or guest speakers for Lunch Bunch, please contact the CASA office: info@shawneecocasa.org.

Mental Health Service Changes!

KANSAS HEALTH SOLUTIONS (KHS)

Kansas Health Solutions is a nonprofit limited liability corporation that manages behavioral health care. The corporation was formed in January 2007 for the initial purpose of contracting with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) to provide a prepaid ambulatory health plan (PAHP) for the mental health needs of Medicaid enrollees. (FY2010 Annual Report)

KHS is the managed care company that administers mental health benefits for the Medicaid/MediKan programs in Kansas. Keep reading for some important changes to KHS policies that will greatly affect foster children and their families, including case planning.

News for CASA/CRB Volunteers:

To control costs, beginning on April 1, 2011, new rules are in place limiting the amount of mental health treatment children/adults will be eligible for with their medical cards. Amounts of allowed sessions/hours are:

| Service per Member | Daily limit | Annual limit |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| Family Therapy | 3 sessions | 40 sessions |
| Group Therapy | 2 sessions | 24 sessions |
| Individual Therapy | 1 session | 14 sessions |
| Psychosocial Rehabilitation | 7 hours | 456 hours |
| Community Psychiatric Support /Treatment | 3 hours | 100 hours |

However, KHS has stated that services could be authorized above these limits if criteria are met for Medical Necessity. Mental health providers (or medical doctors) can file these exception requests. If you have questions about how these changes will affect a specific case, TFI recommends that you contact the mental health provider on the case. More details: <https://www.casaofshawneecounty.org/news> or <https://www.kansashealthsolutions.org/providers/>.

In-Service Training

Suicide: Assessment, Diagnosis, Intervention

Sponsor: Valeo Behavioral Health Care

Date: May 5, 2011, 8:30am-4:15p.m.

Cost: \$70

Topic: Suicidal clients pose fundamental challenges for both professionals working in the field, as well as friends and family members attempting to cope with a loved one in crisis. This workshop addresses the topic of suicide from a multidimensional perspective, identifying risk factors, assessment criteria intervention strategies, and the challenge of secondary trauma for treaters. In the afternoon session, we will review the complicated array of issues that arise with completed suicides. We will examine the clinical, personal, ethical, and legal issues for the clinician, as well as common issues for family and friends. This workshop is designed for all types of helping professionals and lay care givers.

Location: Valeo's Lower Level Conference Center, 330 SW Oakley Avenue, Topeka

Registration: call (785) 233-3687 ext. 3346



Parenting That Heals:
Therapeutic Parenting for Troubled Children

Sponsor: C.A.R.E. Counseling
Date: Friday, May 13th, 9am-4:30pm
Cost: \$100

Topic: This workshop is for parents who want to understand how attachment disorders develops, manage difficult behaviors, help children develop trust, and have a happier family. The focus is to help caregivers develop an atmosphere at home that facilitates healing. The material will be presented in a number of ways – lecture, video, role plays, and group interactions. Professionals are also welcome to attend. Limit 25 participants. Six CEUs are offered. Taught by Mindi Higgins Kessler, Ph.D.

Location: KC Play Institute, 8015 Santa Fe Dr., Overland Park, KS 66204; Phone: (913) 406-3059; denise@kcplay.com

Registration:
<http://www.care-counseling.com/training.php>

The Children's Alliance of Kansas

The Children's Alliance currently offers 1810 different training courses in more than a dozen areas. To see currently-available on-line and classroom trainings, go to the below website and select the Month and Year at the top of the page: http://www.childally.us/childally_web/topeka/courses.php. Course fees range from free to \$50.

<<< *SAVE THE DATE* >>>

35th Annual Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect

Sponsor: Kansas Children's Service League
Date: November 2-4, 2011
Cost: TBA
Topic: TBA
Location: Ramada Inn Downtown, Topeka
Registration: materials available in August at https://www.kcsl.org/training_conference.aspx

Child/CASA Activities

Below is a list of free and reasonably-priced activities you could enjoy with your CASA kids. For more ideas visit:



Topeka Calendar of Events:
http://www.visittopeka.us/quicklinks/events_calendar.php
TPSCL:
<http://www.tscpl.org/kids/>
City of Topeka
<http://www.topeka.org>

Activities at the Topeka Zoo

Contact: 785-368-9180 or www.fotz.org.

Bone Day

Date: 5/4/2011 - 10/26/2011

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Cost: zoo admission

Join us every Wednesday for Bone Day and watch as animal keepers present bones to our big cats!

Fun Club

Date: 5/6/2011

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Cost: \$2 plus zoo admission

Held the first Friday of every month, Fun Club is designed for preschool age children and features a story time and craft. Come visit us at the zoo!

Activities at the Mulvane Art Museum

Contact: 670-1124 or www.washburn.edu/Mulvane

Art Lab Family & Community Day

Date: 5/7/2011

Time: 1 - 4 p.m.

Cost: Free

Art Lab Family & Community Day will be about Home on the Range in celebration of Kansas 150th. Create works of art that feature Kansas State Symbols such as Buffalo, Sunflowers, Western Meadowlarks, Honeybee, Ornate Box Turtles and More!



Other Community Activities

Touch-A-Truck

Date: 5/5/2011

Time: 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Blaisdell Pool Parking Lot, 635 SW Gage Blvd.

Cost: Free

Contact: 785-368-2448

This event is a special event for preschool children. Children will be allowed to climb on, play in and honk horns of various vehicles. Why do plan on bringing a sack lunch and enjoy the beauty of historic Gage Park. Please pre-register.

Emergency Services Showcase

Date: 5/7/2011

Time: 1 - 4 p.m.

Location: Garfield Park, 1600 NE Quincy

Cost: Free

Contact: Jodi Sturgeon 785-845-5021,

www.esstopeka.org

The 5th Annual Emergency Services showcase is a free event for the family that educates the community about our emergency agencies. There will be fire trucks, ambulances, police cars, and much more.

Tractors, Trucks and More!

Date: 5/13/2011

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Shawnee North Community Center, 300 NE 43rd Street

Cost: Free

Contact: 785-286-0676

Come and see the big trucks, tractors, and trailers. Get out here and enjoy the machinery!

Free planetarium viewing sessions

Date: 5/17/2011

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Stoffer Science Hall, 17th & Mulvane, Washburn University

Cost: Free

Contact: 785-670-2264

Take a sightseeing trip on the solar system. Limited to 50 people.

Kansas 150th Armed Forces Celebration

Date: 6/4/2011 - 6/5/2011

Time: TBA

Location: Forbes Field

Cost: Free admission at National Guard Museum; Combat Air Museum regular admission

Contact: (785) 862-1020 and (785) 862-3303;

<http://www.kansas150forbes.net/>

Activities, split between the Kansas National Guard Museum and the Combat Air Museum at Forbes Field, will include a parade, civil war and WWII military re-enactments, static aircraft displays, fly-ins (both civilian and military), car shows, hot air balloon, fire truck, amateur radio, radio-controlled models, rocket-launching, and sky-diving demonstrations. Concessions will be available at both Museums. There will be plenty to see and do for families.

Marina Luau Bash

Date: 6/4/2011

Time: 6 - 10 p.m.

Location: Lake Shawnee Marina, 29th & West Edge Road

Contact: Nikki 785-291-2612

Marina Luau Bash will include discounted paddle boating from 6 - 7:45 p.m., free luau games from 7 - 8 p.m., free live music from 8 - 10 p.m., and concessions available for purchase. Best dressed Hawaiian attire receives a prize!

FREE Events at the Library:

Sing, Move & Learn [3-5 years and their families]

Learn how to use music, movement and books to connect with your child and promote playful learning. Cosponsored by ERC Resource & Referral and Early Reading First.

Registration required. Call ERC at 785-357-5171.

■ Story Zone

Wed May 4 6:30-7:30 pm

Zoo Animals Live [all ages]

Meet some of the Topeka Zoo's animal residents up close as wildlife rehabilitators help you separate animal fact from fiction.

■ Story Zone

Thu May 5 3:45-4:30 pm

Parents and Kids Together [all ages]

Learn about the ABCs of fun in the sun and learn how to choose your cover for sun safety. Make a necklace or bracelet with color-changing UV beads that detect ultraviolet light. Sing songs and read stories about sun and shade play. Children of all ages attend with a parent or caregiver.

■ Lingo Story Room 121
Sat May 7 10:00–11:00 am

No Couch Potatoes Needed [11–18 years]

Physical Therapist Natalie Sykes leads you in stress-relieving aerobics, martial arts or meditative exercises.

Learn to make healthy snacks at each program.

■ The Edge
Thu May 12, 26 3:30–4:30 pm

School Readiness Roundup [3–5 years]

Bring your preschooler and participate in fun activities that help prepare your child for kindergarten. This program is cosponsored by Capital Area Smart Start and ERC Resource & Referral.

Registration required. Call 785-580-4565.

■ Lingo Story Room 121
Thu May 12 6:30–7:30 pm

Gross Stuff**Duct Tape** [grades 3–6]

You might know that duct tape is like The Force – it has a light side, a dark side, and it holds the universe together. But did you know it also has a gross side? Come to the library right after school to hear all about it and make an indestructible duct tape wallet. Family Zone Wed May 18 3:30–4:30 pm

Gadget Cooking [11–18 years]

Have fun learning to cook with kitchen gadgets. Quesadillas are quick, simple and delicious when you use a quesadilla maker. Sandwiches are fun and tasty when made with a press. Learn about these cool kitchen toys along with some surprises from our staff's cupboard.

■ The Edge
Thu May 19 3:30–5:00 pm

Musical Storytime for Everybody [all ages]

Kyler sings, plays the guitar and reads entertaining books for your family.

■ Story Zone
Fri May 20 10:00–10:30 am

Easy Make & Take [2–6 years]

Today it's all about gardens! Turn everyday objects into cool craft projects. Enjoy stories and ideas to extend your fun at home.

■ Lingo Story Room 121
Sat May 21 10:00–11:00 am

Jelly Bean Jewelry [grades 2–5]

School's out and summer vacation has just begun. Life is sweet. This craft program makes it even sweeter as we make truly tasteful jelly bean jewelry.

■ Marvin Auditorium 101A
Fri May 27 11:30 am–1:00 pm

SRS Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-922-5330

or

<http://www.srs.ks.gov/Pages/HotlineNumbers.aspx>



NEW E-NEWS FEATURE

Volunteer Spotlight: Get to know your fellow volunteers

Each month, we'll be featuring three CINC Advocacy volunteers and a Citizen Review Board volunteer to help our volunteers better get to know one another.



Becky Bodine has been a CASA volunteer since 2007 as well as a member of CRB #2 since Nov. 2010. Starting May 24th, Becky will be our new Volunteer Recruiter, too! The Bodines officially retired from being foster parents in March, after caring for

about 30 children—mostly teenage boys—over the course of 12 years! Becky has been in the Air National Guard for almost 18 years, and is the office manager and part owner of a local pest control business. Nicole Bartell, the CRB Coordinator, says that Becky is an asset to her Board especially with her ability to ask the hard questions of people; she is also very compassionate and enthusiastic about CRB. Becky enjoys that her background enables her to bring a unique view to the cases she works. If she could change Kansas' child welfare system, it would be to decrease bureaucracy and implement consistent policies so that children benefit from the "phenomenal people working for the good of the children in all the various areas," and don't get lost in the System.



Rebecca Brown has been a volunteer **and** an employee with CASA of Shawnee County since Summer 2005, soon after she graduated from Washburn University with a Bachelor of Criminal Justice. Rebecca was born and raised in Topeka and married her high school

sweetheart, Ezra, in 2004. The Browns have two daughters, Kendalyn (4 yrs.) and Kassidy (2 yrs.). Rebecca's favorite things about being a CASA are the one-on-one interactions with the children, and seeing the fruit of her "behind the scenes" work playing out in the children's lives after some consistent and assertive advocacy. Her volunteer/staff supervisor, Sharolyn Dugger, appreciates Rebecca's commitment to the children on her cases and her diligence in balancing being the voice of the children with what is in their best interest—and she keeps meticulous records. If Rebecca could change one thing about the KS child welfare system, it would be to lessen the pressure on the contracting agency to meet objectives, which can make it more difficult for children's individual needs to remain the focus.



Ermilou Bryan is one of our longest-certified CASA volunteer, at 21 years! Ermilou has a degree in music education and taught 4 years in the Springfield, MO, area. She also substituted in the public school system and works in church music. Her husband, Ted, worked for the Frisco and Santa Fe Railroads; after they married he was transferred to Enid and

Tulsa, OK; Chicago, IL; and finally Topeka. They have three children and 8 grandchildren. According to her supervisor, Carole Wright, Ermilou has been incredible in her dedication to CASA. Her biggest strength is how she communicates with other professionals and families: without judging or making people feel threatened, and always with a positive goal in mind. Ermilou appreciates that CASA provides the opportunity to truly make a difference in the life of a child. Ermilou would like to see more consistency for foster children during their time in Care: fewer placement changes, a contracting agency that maintains their contract for a long period of time, and low turnover of agency workers.



Kathy Busch has been a CASA volunteer since 1999. She also has been active on the Board of Directors and served as president for five years. She has been active in raising money, especially through the Homes for the Holidays Tour the past several years. She says, "I find that being a CASA is

a meaningful way of helping kids who are out of their homes and in the middle of the foster care system. So often, these kids need an adult they can trust, someone who's going to be around through the good and the bad—for the long haul. I think that's our most valuable role." According to her supervisor, Rebecca Brown, Kathy has been a very dedicated CASA. She has been the only CASA to have a particular case for over 13 years, and throughout this time Kathy has remained very involved, seeing her child a minimum of one time a month. Kathy also went above and beyond and has done emergency transports, assisted in moving the child from placement to placement, coordinated and supervised family visits, and coordinated special therapy appointments for her CASA child. This month celebrates her CASA child's 18th birthday.

Community Spotlight!

Harvesters-Affiliated Agencies in Topeka

Last Updated: 3/1/11

| Food Pantries | Hours | Phone | Contact Person | Location |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Antioch Family Life Center | Mon: 9:00am-12:00pm, Thur: 12:00-2:00pm | 232-1937 | Glenda DuBoise | 1921 SE Indiana |
| Christian Lord Ministries Outreach Services | Mon - Fri: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm | 266-4979 | Teddy Van Vale | 2421 SE California Avenue |
| Fellowship and Faith Ministry Incorporated | Tues - Fri: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, 1:00 -3:00 pm | 354-7262 | Ken Jordan | 708 SE Lime Street |
| Inward Faith Outreach Ministries | Thur: 12:00 - 4:00 pm | 969-3568 | Glenda Wake | 625 Polk Street |
| Let's Help | Mon - Fri: 9:00 - 11:00, 1:00-3:00 | 234-6208 | Shelly Lowery, Dan Revenaugh | 200 S. Kansas |
| Let There Be Light Ministries | 2nd and 4th Monday: 1:00 - 7:00 PM | 230-4659 | Sue Lacey | 1013 SW 6th St. |
| New Hope Food Pantry | 2nd and 4th Monday: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm | | Roma Spear | 404 SW Polk Street |
| Open Arms Outreach Ministries | 4th Sat: 12:00pm - 3:00pm | 232-3463 | Greg Thomas | 1812 SW Van Buren |
| RMI Food Pantry (Randel Ministries) | Tues - Fri: 10:30 am - 2:00 pm | 234-1111 | Roger Randel | 1231 NW Eugene Street |
| Restore at Faith Family Life Centre | Mon, Wed, Fri: 9:30 am - 11:30 am | 286-0429 | Jason Frickey | 3710 NW Topeka Blvd. |
| Shekinah Glory Ministries | Tues, Thurs, Sat | 220-2648 | Samuel Abbott, Roxanne Harris | 635 SW Western |
| Temple of Deliverance Church Bethesda Food Bank | Sat: 12:00 - 2:00 pm | 235-6755 | W.O. Sherrod | 520 SE Norwood Street |
| True Holiness Family Church | Mon:11:30 am; Wed: 6:30 pm | 233-9545 | Theodis Williams | 2020 SE 21st Street |
| Meals: free distributions of hot meals for anyone in need | | | | |
| Let's Help | Mon - Fri: 11:30-1:00; last Sat. of month: 9:30 - 11am brunch | 234-6208 | Shelly Lowery, Dan Revenaugh | 200 S. Kansas |
| Mobile Pantries: monthly distributions of primarily fresh food for anyone in need | | | | |
| Town and Country Christian Church | 1st Thursday of every month: 9:30 am until food runs out | 272-9009 | Joyce Hillmer | Kansas Neurological Institute at 3107 SW 21st St. |
| Central Topeka Turnaround Team | 2nd Tuesday of every month: 9:00 am until food runs out | www.turnaroundteam.org | Delores Smith | Kansas ExpoCentre at 17th/Topeka Blvd. |
| Christian Lord Ministries | 4th Saturday of the month, every other month (5/28, 7/23, etc.) | 266-4979 | Teddy and Anna Van Vale | 2421 SE California Ave |
| RMI Mobile Pantry (Randel Ministries) | 4th Monday of the month: 11:00 am until food runs out (no distribution in Dec.-Feb.) | 234-1111 | Roger Randel | 1231 NW Eugene Street |
| Antioch Family Life Center | Call for dates. Time: 11:00am until food runs out | 232-1937 | Glenda DuBoise | 1921 SE Indiana |



CASA OF SHAWNEE COUNTY

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Website: www.casaofshawneecounty.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/casashawnee

| Staff | Direct # | Email |
|---|-----------------------|--|
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| Jill Sullivan, Administrative Assistant | 215-8277 | jill.sullivan@shawneecocasa.org |
| Nicole Bartell, CRB Coordinator | 233-8200 Ext. 4053 | crb@shawneecourt.org |
| Santa Bonaparte, CINC Intern | 215-8284 | santa.bonaparte@shawneecocasa.org |

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