



CASA of Pima County Newsletter

CASA of Pima County 2225 E. Ajo Way, Tucson, AZ 85713
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Volume 3, Issue 1

March/April, 2016

CASA Support Council News

SAVE THE DATE!

2016 CASA RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

The CASA Support Council is delighted to once again sponsor the annual CASA Recognition Luncheon. This year it will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. All CASAs can attend for FREE. This is a wonderful opportunity to relax, greet CASAs you already know, and meet and welcome new CASAs, all while enjoying a delicious meal. The Juvenile Court Judges, Attorneys, DCS Case Managers and Court personnel, along with your family and friends are also invited.

One of the key elements of the luncheon will be to acknowledge the extraordinary accomplishments of CASA advocates, award the CASA of the year, the Juvenile Court Judges choice for Advocate of the year, an Attorney of the Year, and DCS Case Manager of the year. We will also have a very interesting speaker. Please "save the date" and look for your invitation and RSVP information soon. This promises to be a very enjoyable event!

Support Council Fundraiser - Raffle for Mustang Shelby 350GT

The Support Council is participating in the 2016 Jim Click Raffle for a FORD Mustang Shelby GT350; this raffle is for 501 (c) (3) organizations in the greater Tucson area. 100% of the money from raffle tickets we sell will go to the CASA Support Council. You could be the lucky winner of this exclusive vehicle, only one of 4300 built. See the inside of the Newsletter for details on how to purchase raffle tickets. Thank you to Jim Click for his on-going support of local charities!!

New Activities for CASA children

Check out the page in the Newsletter on "2016 CASA Support Council Services". We are pleased to be able to provide free tickets to the Renaissance Faire which is being held every weekend through March 27th. Details for obtaining tickets are on the page. Thanks to a CASA request, we now have passes available for Tohono Chul Park. If you would like to request passes for an activity that the Support Council currently does not support, please email us at linda@pimacountycasa.org. We are happy to explore all opportunities.

Program Spotlight by Krissa Ericson

In recent weeks we have had some changes to our staff team and more will be coming in March. Julio Vega is no longer with the CASA program and while it is difficult to replace anyone we are grateful that we were already in the hiring process to fill our 2 new positions which are funded by a grant from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). In March, we will be bringing on 2 CASA Program Coordinators and 1 CASA Program Trainer. It is very exciting to have the opportunity for growth and expansion. I am excited that we will now have someone focused solely on the quality and effectiveness of our trainings being offered to our Peer Coordinators and Advocates.

Please know that your feedback about how we are doing as a staff team is important to each of us here at the court. Please do not hesitate to talk with any of us about how your experience has been as an Advocate or Peer Coordinator. We also like to know what is working for you and what isn't. I have had the opportunity to talk with many of you and I want you to know that I take the information you share to heart. CASA of Pima County can only be effective if our Advocates and Peer Coordinators have the support and resources needed to be the voice for our children in care.

So as we enter in to March, I ask that you join me in giving a warm welcome to our 3 new staff members! I look forward to introducing them to you sometime soon.

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CASA Kudos

- ❖ Welcome to our newest CASA trainees: **Marsha, Paula, Lisa, Mary, Aimee, Rachel, John, Lisa, Roberto, Katie, Julie, Stephen, Ann & Kristina** (not pictured).
- ❖ Congratulations to **CASA Sal Quijada, CASA Sariah Bechtel, CASA Aimee Felix & CASA Katie Espinoza** on being appointed to your first case!



- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Edie Connors** for all the work you did during your January externship.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Andrea Cohn**- In the most recent Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) report they noted, "The board acknowledges the CASA for her diligence in ensuring M.'s needs are met."
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Cecily Crebbs**- In the most recent FCRB report they stated "The Board recognizes the CASA for the notable time and effort she has invested in working with I. relative to the short amount of time I. was not on runaway status."
- ❖ Thank you to **CFS Staff Susana Samborsky and Betsy Colin** for all the ways you support the CASA program from scanning to reviewing petitions - we appreciate your support immensely!
- ❖ Thank you to **Peer Coordinator Judith Meyer** for taking another case with a sibling group.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Rufus Tamayo** for remaining a consistent figure in the life of your CASA youth and helping him get to a permanent placement with his relatives.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Claudia Levin** for being trauma responsive and trauma focused and using that lens to advocate for your CASA siblings.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Lynn Turra** for your support in the CASA office and our recruitment events!
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Edie Connors, Peer Coordinator Amy Hogan, CASA Katie Espinoza, CASA Kristina Aprahamian, CASA Aimee Felix, and CASA Sal Quijada** for helping with numerous recruitment events in January and February!
- ❖ A special thank you to **Co-CASAs Marcia Katz and Arlene Tuller** for your dedicated and heartfelt work on behalf of your CASA child. Your efforts to advocate and support this young person as she is about to age-out of the system are truly appreciated.
- ❖ Congratulations to **CASA Marsha Luttrell** for being recognized, by the Judge, for all of your work on behalf of your CASA children. Marsha was also thanked for her persistent advocacy on behalf of the educational needs of one of the children in her case.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Phyllis Hested** for being that constant, fun and trustworthy adult in your CASA child's life. The child's mother remarked how much the child looks forward to seeing and spending time with Phyllis. Also, a special thank you to Phyllis for her attention to the child's educational needs and now, to the child's amazing accomplishments!!
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Darryle Hardy** for his focused and dedicated work on behalf of your CASA child.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Mary Jacobs** for going the extra mile to support the relative placement when your CASA teen ran away recently. It is evident that the placement sees you as a vital lifeline while they support their grandchildren.
- ❖ The Judge thanked **CASA Mike Treacy** for the time and effort spent supporting R. your CASA teen and for keeping the court informed on the developments of the case.
- ❖ Kudos to **Co-CASAs Aimee Felix and Katie Espinoza** for their thoughtful enthusiasm and for "hitting the ground running" on their new cases!!
- ❖ Deep appreciation for **CASA Peer Coordinators Mary Ann Martin, Roger Pinkstaff, Cynthia Dean and Bonnie Lawrie-Higgins**. Your teamwork and the knowledge, wisdom, insight, humor and dedication they provide to our CASA advocates is invaluable.



- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Susan Barrable** for your ongoing support of your CASA teen and your positive portrayal of what some would consider a challenging case.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Steve Lautenschlaeger** for your considerable work on 2 teen cases.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Joe Gootter** for putting in a lot of time with his CASA teen when his placement disrupted.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Jim Steinman** for passing on information for a CASA recruiting opportunity (Leads Unlimited).
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Terry Bernier** for being a consistent, calm, and stable presence for your CASA teen.
- ❖ Kudos to **Peer Coordinator Judith Meyer** for supporting your last case through to permanency and adoption by Grandma!
- ❖ Congrats to **CASA Jan Hutchinson** for your work in getting to permanency. Congrats on your first case ending in Adoption!
- ❖ Kudos to **Co-CASAs Len and Jane Spitzer** for being sensitive to the needs of your CASA teen and allowing him to establish some independence as he approaches his 18th Birthday!
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Annette Weneck** for passing along a resource (RE: Care Portal).
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Pam Flint** – the Judge complimented you on your informative court report.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Mary Vermeer** for your happy ending to a difficult case. Thank you for your persistence to see permanency achieved. The foster parents are grateful for everything you have done.
- ❖ Thank you **CASA Stephen Johnson** for all your hard work on your case. Stephen received praise from the Judge, attorney, St. Nicks, and Foster placement.
- ❖ Kudos to **Co-CASAs Art and Jan Hoffman** who received praise by FCRB for their commitment to their CASA kids.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Liz Root** who was praised by FCRB for a detailed report and commitment to her CASA kid.
- ❖ Special thanks to **Peer Coordinator Ellen Werts** for all your help and encouragement of our advocates, it is greatly appreciated!
- ❖ Congrats to **CASA Tina Muraski, CASA Caroline Champagne and CASA Jackie Leahy** for starting your first cases!
- ❖ Kudos to **Peer Coordinator Amy Hogan** for not giving up on therapy for your CASA kids and finding creative alternative solutions.
- ❖ A Child's attorney was pleased to know **CASA Ceci Rivera** is assigned to her case!
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Monica Ayon** for making sound recommendations and working well with all the parties on your case.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Tami Danze** for really trying to push that therapy begin for your CASA child.
- ❖ Thank you to **Peer Coordinator Sharon Dely & Co-CASA Alex Dely** for supporting your CASA kid from a distance.
- ❖ Special thanks to **Peer Coordinator Susie McClinton** for your dedication to keeping communication open from a different state so your CASA child can find permanency.
- ❖ A big thank you to **Peer Coordinator Marion Pickens** for your eagerness to help new CASAs get started!

Don't forget to complete the 2015 CASA Program Annual Assessment! If you were trained in 2015 or served as a CASA in 2015, please follow this link and complete the survey! Your feedback is important. Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CASAAssessment2015>



Why CASA?

By CASA Joseph Gootter

I became a CASA 15 years ago. I remember seeing an ad asking for volunteers to work with children to have a positive effect on their lives. Like many others in the CASA volunteer program, I had spent most of my community time raising money for worthwhile charities and was looking to seek other areas that might prove to be rewarding.

Becoming a CASA sounded interesting since I always liked working with children and felt that it would be wonderful to help a child in their developmental stages. I was assigned to my first case, a young girl (8 years old) and worked with her for over a year. The girl's father was deceased and the mother had many social problems and could not properly raise the child. Fortunately, the paternal grandmother was very involved, raised the child and eventually adopted her. More on that later...

I was very impressed by the workings of our judicial system. The Judges were professional in every aspect that one would expect: fair, understanding and respectful of all parties. That did it for me. Since I started with CASA, I have had a total of 6 cases: supporting 3 girls and 3 boys.

Being a CASA has many sides to it. Becoming involved with various parties, such as relatives of the child teachers, attorneys etc.; maintaining contact with the child; being available to attend team meetings and court appearances; submitting reports on a timely basis and most of all showing a sincere desire to help the child in every way possible are vital to the program. It can be frustrating and disappointing at times, but also very fulfilling when the CASA sees positive results from their hard work.

Some of my cases reached permanency (i.e. adoption) in a relatively short period of time while others have taken longer to complete. The last case took 5 years before the adoption was finalized but it seems the average in my experience is about 2 years.

When a CASA does get involved with the family, a feeling of trust and friendship develops, which is rewarding on its own. I personally try and keep in contact with the child and family after permanency is achieved. A simple phone call goes a long way and I believe it builds a solid reputation for the CASA program.

The following pages include the letters from Alysia, one of my CASA kids and her grandmother Yolanda.



Jan 21, 2016

My Name is Alyssa Padilla. I am 16 yrs old. I have know Mr. Joe Gooder for most of my life. He has spent many birthdays and holidays with us throughout the years. Recently he was even at my 15th debut. Even in more sorrowful times. when my Brother passed away he was there for me and my family. I consider Mr. Gooder to be a part of my family and look at him like a grand father. He treats me like one of his own, just like a grand daughter. Many people have come into my life but I'm most thankful to him and Casa for always being there for me and my family in our time of need. His kindness exceeds all expectations and goes over and beyond his call of duty. He's made a big difference in our lives. In my life he can never be replaced.

Sincere Thanks

Alyssa Padilla



①

To Whom it may concern: Jan 21/2016

My name is Yolanda Ortiz. I have known Mr. Joe Goeder for over ten years.

Throughout those years Mr. Goeder has always been there for me and my two grandkids ~~in~~ Alyssa and Ernesto Padilla in our time of need. We are very thankful to Casa for bringing Mr. Goeder into our lives. He's been there at every mile stone, trial, and tribulation our family has faced. He's been a good role model and father figure in mine and my Grandchildren's lives. He continues to be involved in our lives and he makes every





effort to be there for us.

In all we are indebted to Mr. Gooder for his kind and loving heart. We sincerely thank him for all he does for there is no price you could put on his kindness. We hope this letter ~~can~~ shows but a small part of what he means to us and other children and families.

Sincerely
Yolanda T. Ortiz



We kicked off 2016 with our Years of Service Potluck. A great time was had by all!

In 2015 CASA Advocates & Peer Coordinators in Pima County

Donated 21,300 Hours & Drove 192,700 Miles

In service to our children in care!



*Years of Service Dinner
January 2016*



Court Appointed Special Advocates
Pima County, AZ



Best for Babies

More than 40 percent of children in out of home care in Arizona are five years of age or younger, according to the most recent report released by the Department of Child Safety. That is very concerning for child development experts.

Mary Warren, a CASA and Coordinator with Best for Babies, said research has shown Arizona children under the age of 1 year come into the system more than any other age group, stay in the system longer and often come back more often into the system after being reunified with their parents. That's a lot of disruption for a child to endure while their brains are developing at such a rapid rate. Abuse and neglect during the early years of life can have permanent effects if not addressed effectively.

"Lots of times CASAs say 'What can you do with a baby?'" Warren said. "There is so much that can be done with a baby. Most of it involves developing a relationship with whoever is taking care of this baby. That could be the foster parents, the bio parents, child care providers, and medical folks. Whoever is involved in the care-taking for this child, the CASA has a unique opportunity to develop a relationship with that person to help provide early childhood information, advocate for appropriate services, connect with community resources--all to help this child to get off to a healthy social and emotional start to be successful in school and in life."

Best for Babies is a statewide program that works with stakeholders in all jurisdictions to increase knowledge of the unique needs of young children exposed to trauma. Best for Babies also provides resources and training for CASA advocates.

The goals of Best for Babies are to increase the shared knowledge within the child welfare system and community resources about the unique needs of maltreated infants and toddlers in order to improve outcomes through coordination and collaboration. Best for Babies has helped to set up court teams in several counties to bring stakeholders together once a month to learn about each other, share resources and brainstorm solutions to concerns.

Best for Babies also hosts a seminar once a year in February. This year's Sally Campbell Memorial Best for Babies Seminar was held Feb. 26, 2016 at Arizona State University and featured Fred Wulczyn, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow at the Chapin Hall Center for Children and Sarah Buel, J.D, of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law Arizona State University. We had several advocates who attended and look forward to hearing what they learned!



Dashboard & CASAaz.gov Email “News”

Have you found yourself wondering where your case disclosures are? Don't forget to look for them on the Dashboard. In the column marked Files you will see a book icon. See picture below:

0 New Alerts 1 New Message Send message to coordinator Tasks: Mileage Log Training Log Contact Log				
Cases				
JD Number	Files	Hearing Date	Court Report Due	FCRB Date
JD (01)				
		Create Court Report		Create Contact Entry

Follow CASA of Pima County on Facebook & Twitter to stay up to date on local, statewide and National Child Welfare News.



<https://www.facebook.com/casaofpimacounty>



<https://twitter.com/CASAPimaCounty>

We strongly encourage you to log into the Dashboard and your CASAaz email on a weekly basis. You just never know what exciting news is waiting for you. The CASA Program Staff including your Peer Coordinators look forward to reading your case updates & activities so update the contact logs often! Please use these tools to make your work as a CASA easier.

Don't hesitate to call our CASA office if you are having trouble with the email or Dashboard. If you'd like a 1:1 session to help you navigate these tools on your own equipment – that's an option as well!

2016 Computer Training Dates & Times:

Tuesday March 15, 2016 4:00pm – 6:00pm – Juvenile Court
Friday April 1, 2016 9:30 am – 11:30am – Juvenile Court
Monday April 18, 2016 3:30pm – 5:00pm – Juvenile Court



Announcements

March & April Training Events:

Sat. March 12, 2016

9:00am – 3:00pm

Abrams Building

CASA Day of Training

Wed. March 16, 2016

3:00 – 5:00pm

Juvenile Court Training Center

**Topic – Adverse Childhood Experience
Study – (ACE Study)**

Tues. April 19, 2016

3:00 – 5:00pm

Juvenile Court Training Center

Topic – To Be Confirmed



Pima County CASA Advocate Oath

I, (INSERT NAME), AM A CASA ADVOCATE!

I AM DEDICATED TO MY CASA CHILD &

I WILL ADVOCATE FOR THEIR BEST INTEREST.

I PLEDGE TO PERFORM THE FOLLOWING DUTIES:

- SEE MY CASA CHILD 1X PER MONTH (AT LEAST)
- SUBMIT MY CONTACT LOGS BY THE 1ST OF THE MONTH
- SUBMIT MY COURT REPORT 2 WEEKS BEFORE THE HEARING
- AND ATTEND COURT TO PROVIDE A VERBAL UPDATE!

I WILL SUPPORT CASA OF PIMA COUNTY BY
REFERRING FRIENDS & FAMILY MEMBERS TO
JOIN OUR TEAM!

Court Appointed Special Advocate
Pima County, AZ

Years of Service Recognition

17 Years

CASA Lucille Boilard-Harkin

11 Years

Co-CASAs Jane & Len Spitzer

10 Years

CASA Diane Minisci

4 Years

CASA David Dodge

CASA Jennifer Hurley

3 Years

CASA Jane Swivel

CASA Alex Dely

CASA Dede Wilpizeski

2 Years

CASA Jennifer Anderson

CASA Colleen Bartell

Peer Coordinator Amy Hogan

CASA Claudia Levin

CASA Denise Mouch

CASA Sally Sumner

CASA Ginger Tonkin-Sugimoto

CASA Arlene Tuller

1 Year

CASA Monica Baltazar

CASA Shawna Bohn

CASA Peg Chuchro

CAS Chris Crook

CASA Terry Bennett

CASA Ken Browning

CASA Edith Connors

CASA Beth Mercaldo

CASA Judy Price

CASA Linda Sherrill



Training Events



CASA Day of Training

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a day of training! You will receive 6 hours of training toward your 12 required hours!

DATE Saturday March 12, 2016

TIME 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (We will start promptly at 9 – sign in starts at 8:30)

RSVP Call or Email Krissa to sign up to attend – 724-2069
Krissa.ericson@pcjcc.pima.gov

LOCATION

This training will be held at:

***Abrams Public Health Center**
 3950 South Country Club Road, Tucson 85714
 Room #1106/1108
 Day of Training Call Krissa's Cell – 860-751-8043

Abrams is conveniently located in southern Tucson off of the I-10, exit 263 (A & B). The Center is on the corner of Country Club and Ajo Way, and parking is free.

PARKING Parking is available in the Public Health Center parking lot.

AGENDA

What CASAs should know: A Panel Presentation

CASA Resource Fair – Information provided by various agencies in Tucson who serve our CASA Children & Youth

Afternoon Presentation TBD



CASA Book Club

CASA Book Club 2016



Book Club Details

The CASA Book club meets every other month to discuss 2 books.

Discussion Group (1) is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the following months -January, March, May, July, September & November.

Discussion Group (2) is held on the 3rd Saturday of the following months – January, March, May, July, September & November.

All advocates are welcome to attend any of the book discussions.

Training Credit is awarded in 2 parts: 1. for reading the book (see credit listed below) and 2. For attending a discussion group (generally the discussion lasts 1.5 hours)

We have copies of the books listed below in our CASA Library here at Juvenile Court – Contact us today to reserve a copy to read for an upcoming discussion!

Book Club Events:

Below are the 2016 Dates & Times.

PCJCC stands for Pima County Juvenile Court and we will meet in the Training Center.

Library refers to our Group (2) location – Woods Memorial Library

BOOK CLUB	DATE/LOCATION
JAN	1/13-PCJCC 5:30pm; 1/23 - Library 10:30am
MAR	3/9 – PCJCC 5:30pm; 3/19 - Library 10:30am
MAY	5/11- PCJCC 5:30pm; 5/21- Library 10:30am
JULY	7/13 – PCJCC 5:30pm; 7/16 – Library 10:30am
SEPT	9/14 – PCJCC 5:30pm; 9/17 – Library 10:30am
NOV	11/2 – PCJCC 5:30pm; 11/5 - Library 10:30am

Dates/Times subject to change but notice will be given in advance!

We ask you to please RSVP to Krissa 2 days prior to the book discussion. If no one RSVP's, the discussion will be canceled or postponed.

Reading List:

January



Group (1)

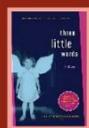
To the End of June
Cris Beam
3 hrs. reading credit



Group (2)

One Small Boat
Kathy Harrison
2 hrs. reading credit

March

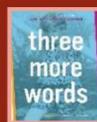


Three Little Words
Ashley Rhodes-Courter
3 hrs. reading credit



To the End of June
Cris Beam
3 hrs. reading credit

May

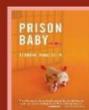


Three More Words
Ashley Rhodes-Courter
3 hrs. reading credit

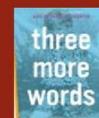


Three Little Words
Ashley Rhodes-Courter
3 hrs. reading credit

July



Prison Baby: A Memoir
Deborah Jiang-Stein
2 hrs. reading credit



Three More Words
Ashley Rhodes-Courter
3 hrs. reading credit

CASA Case Support Meetings

- ❖ **Infant & Toddlers Case Support: Thursday March 24, 2016 from 1:00 – 3:00pm**
 - Location: Martha Cooper Library
 - Facilitator: Christa – Christa.coxall@pcjcc.pima.gov
- ❖ **Ages 6 – 11 Case Support: Tuesday March 29, 2016 from 1:00– 3:00pm**
Tuesday April 19, 2016 from 1:00 – 3:00pm
 - Location: Quincie Douglas Library
 - Facilitator: Christa – christa.coxall@pcjcc.pima.gov
- ❖ **Teen Case Support: Thursday March 17, 2016 from 3:00 – 5:00pm**
 - Location: Martha Cooper Library
 - Facilitator: Nicole – Nicole.stockett@pcjcc.pima.gov
- ❖ **CASA Case Support in Sahuarita/GV: Monday March 21, 2016 from 9:30 – 11:30am**
 - Location: The Good Shepherd UCC 17750 S. La Canada Drive
 - Facilitator: Peer Coordinator Cynthia Dean – cdean@casaaz.gov
- ❖ **CASA Case Support @ Sandra's: April 11, 2016 from 2:00-4:00pm**
 - Location: Sandra's Home - Contact Sandra for address
 - Facilitator: Peer Coordinator Sandra Rohen- srohen@casaaz.gov
- ❖ **CASA Case Support @ Nanini Library: Monday March 4, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00pm**
 - Location: Nanini Library 7300 N. Shannon Rd
 - Facilitator: CASA Tina Whittemore – dwhittemore@casaaz.gov
- ❖ **CASA Case Support @ Wilmot Library: Thursday April 28, 2016 from 3:00 – 5:00PM**
 - Location: Wilmot Library 30 N. Wilmot Road
 - Facilitator: Nicole Nicole.stockett@pcjcc.pima.gov
- ❖ **CASA Case Support in Vail: Monday March 28, 2016 from 5:30 – 7:30pm**
 - Location: Grace Fellowship Office/"The Box" 13300 E. Colossal Cave Rd.
 - Facilitator: Peer Coordinator Amy Hogan – ahogan@casaaz.gov

As one of our Facilitators said it "Please join us if you can, to share, help others, & seek help from others. Packets (*information from the CASA Team*) will be available, and, you will receive 2 training hours for attending."

All Case Support Meetings are open to all CASA advocates.
 Try one out soon!!



CASA Support Council for Pima County

Save
the
Date

CASA RECOGNITION
LUNCHEON 2016



**Honoring
Our CASA
Advocates**

When: April 21, 2016

Where: Tucson Scottish Rite

More details to follow with a formal invitation



Sponsored by CASA Support Council of Pima County



More News from the CASA Support Council for Pima County

2016 CASA Support Council Fundraiser

You Could Win A 2016 Ford Mustang Shelby GT350!



WHAT: The Jim Click Automotive Team is presenting a new **2016 Ford Mustang Shelby GT350** to be raffled off by 501(c) (3) organizations in the Greater Tucson region.

- Persons must be 21 years of age or older to win this limited edition vehicle.
- The winner will be responsible for all taxes, registration, and travel to claim the vehicle.
- Only 4,300 of these cars were built!!!
- **The approximate value of the Mustang is \$47,000**, but is sure to go up in value over time.
- A maximum of 100,000 tickets will be distributed. Raffle ticket drawing is on December 15, 2016

WHY: The CASA Support Council will get 100% of the money for each raffle tickets we sell.

This is an opportunity to give a unique gift to those special people in your life. A raffle ticket could be just the right gift for birthdays, anniversaries, Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation from U of A, Mustang enthusiasts, etc. And, besides the chance to win this special vehicle, you'll know that your raffle ticket dollars are going to a worthy cause.

HOW TO BUY TICKETS:

- Tickets may be requested online at www.pimacountycasa.org.
- On the HOME page, under "Quicklinks", click on "2016 Ford Mustang Raffle".

**\$25 per ticket
or
5 tickets for
\$100**

Pima County, AZ



Resources provided by the CASA Support Council

Services Available for all CASAs & their CASA children:

1. **Mileage** - \$.15 per mile, effective 2-1-16 (submitted no more than 3 months from expenditure); mileage must be directly associated with duties performed as a CASA.
2. **Outings** - \$25 for CASA and each CASA child **monthly** (aggregate of any # of outings) receipts required (submitted no more than 3 months from expenditure)
3. **Special Requests under \$100 and over \$100** may be submitted on-line for consideration; Priority will be given to "unlicensed kinship placements".
4. **Gift cards for CASA children** – Ages: birth to 11: \$25 for birthday & holiday; Ages 12+: \$50 for birthday & holiday; same amount available for adoption celebration and graduation
5. **CASA Recognition luncheon**- free for CASAs
6. **Holiday party for CASA children**

2016 policies:

1. Requests for clothing for school-age children, whether emergency or regular need, will be accommodated with JC Penney gift cards, available at the CASA office. Priority will be given to non-licensed kinship placements. NOTE: Please contact your DCS case manager first to utilize the clothing allowance available to CASA children.
2. When there is an emergency need for clothing for children under the age of 5, the CASA Coordinator should be contacted & will find out if a gift card or other resources are available. For clothing purchased during outings, CASAs should obtain a JC Penney card in advance, rather than submitting these expenses to the Support Council as "Outing" expenses.
3. Outing requests for payment of admission to activities that the CSCPC provides free admission to will not be paid for. See list below.
4. Birthday parties will not be paid for. Request your child's birthday gift card from your Coordinator.

Below is a current list of FREE activities offered as of March 1, 2016:

For info on days/hours open, go to their website or call them.

Activity	Location	Phone & Website
**= show your CASA badge + = obtain pass from CASA office		
+Arizona Desert Museum	2021 N. Kinney Rd., 85743	883-1380 www.desertmuseum.org
**Children's Museum	Downtown location only 200 S. 6 th Ave., 85701	792-9985 www.childrensmuseum.org
**Funtasticks	221 E. Wetmore Rd., 85705	888-4653 www.funtasticks.com
**Golf N' Stuff	6503 E. Tanque Verde Rd., 85715	296-2366 www.golfnstuff.com
**Mini-Time Machine Museum	4455 E. Camp Lowell, 85712	881-0606 www.theminitimemachine.org
+Reid Park Zoo	3400 Zoo Court, 85716	791-4022 www.reidparkzoo.org
2016 Renaissance Faire Email: linda@pimacountycasa.org with your name & # of tickets needed. NOTE: Kids 13+ need an adult ticket	12601 – U.S. 60, Gold Canyon, AZ 85118 – 7 miles east of Apache Junction on Highway 60	463-2600 www.royalfaires.com
+Tohono Chul Park	7366 North Paseo Del Norte, 85704	742-6455 www.tohonochulpark.org



Does your CASA Teen want to go to Prom?

Teens across the state are preparing for prom in March and April and kids in the foster care system don't need to be the exception. There are several programs across the state that offer free or low-cost resources to help kids get to prom but specifically for kids in foster care there's the Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation.

AFFCF will fund up to \$300 for prom expenses including hair, nails, dress or tux, shoes, dinner, even tickets to the dance. The only catch is the application process.

"The way we usually do business is we write a check to a vendor, mail it to the caregiver and the caregiver signs the child up for the activity," said Kris Jacober, executive director of AFFCF. "We don't have that luxury with prom because kids go all over for stuff."

For prom the funds are reimbursed and not paid up front. Jacober said while that does present a problem in some cases AFFCF will do everything they can to help kids get to prom.

The process is simple. The youth, a caregiver or CASA must apply for the award through the AFFCF website, affcf.org. AFFCF confirms with the youth's caseworker that he/she is a ward of the state. Once that is confirmed the applicant will get an email letting them know the award has been granted. Then, the guardian, CASA or child must purchase what they need up front. Receipts can be submitted to AFFCF for reimbursement up to \$300.

Typically AFFCF appreciates two or three weeks to process an application but Jacober said she has gotten calls from caseworkers who ask for help getting a child to prom the next day.

"She was the case worker so she was able to confirm right away, she collected donations from her office to pay for what they needed and we wrote her a check to reimburse those donations," she said.

It's important for those paying the upfront costs to hold off on purchases until an application is approved. If a dress is purchased before the application is approved the cost cannot be reimbursed.

The application should be filled out online. Jacober said if anyone has questions about the application or the process, the staff and volunteers at AFFCF are ready to answer calls and take questions.

"We try to be customer-friendly around here," Jacober said. "The more kids that get to go to prom, the happier we are."

For more information on grants from AFFCF visit www.affcf.org or call 602-252-9445.

Article & information provided by AFFCF & Allison Hurtado with CASA of Arizona



Calendar of Events

MARCH, 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 CASA BOOK CLUB <u>5:30pm – 7</u> Training Center	10	11	12 CASA Day of Training 9am – 3pm
13	14	15 Dashboard Computer Training <u>4pm - 6</u>	16 Peer Coordinator/Staff Meeting <u>1:30pm</u> Monthly Learning Event <u>3PM-5PM</u> @ Training Center	17	18	19 CASA BOOK CLUB <u>10:30am – 12:00</u> Woods Lib.
20	21 CASA Case Support in Sahuarita/ Green Valley <u>9:30am – 11:30</u>	22	23	24 Infant/Toddler Case Support 2:00pm – 4:00	25	26
27	28 CASA Case Support in Vail 5:30 – 7:30pm	29 Age 6 – 11 Case Support 1:00pm - 3	30	31		



APRIL, 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 CASA Case Support @ Nanini Library 5:00pm - 7:00	5	6	7	8	9 March for Children & Family Fiesta – Reid Park
10	11 CASA Case Support @ Sandra's House 2 pm – 4	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Age 6 – 11 Case Support <u>1:00pm - 3</u> Monthly Learning Event 3PM-5 @ Training Center	20 Peer Coordinator/Staff Meeting <u>1:30pm</u>	21 CASA Recognition Luncheon	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 CASA Case Support @ Wilmot Library 3pm - 5	29	30



**CASA of Pima County will be
At the Fair in April!**

Stop by and say Hi.

Tell your friends to visit too 😊

April 14 – 24th

<http://www.pimacountyfair.com/fair>



Contact Information

CASA of Pima County

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<http://www.casaofpimacounty.org>

Program Supervisor: Krissa Ericson	724-2069	Coordinators: Nicole Stockett	724-9240
		Christa Coxall	724-9241
Support Specialists: Maria Chavez	724-5024	Karen Abman	724-9242
Lupe Ornelas	724-2060	Vacant	724-4579
CASA Recruiter: Jill LaBrie	724-9238	Vacant	soon to be filled!!
CASA Trainer: Vacant	soon to be filled!!	CASA Intern:	724-4589

If you are interested in writing a story or article for this newsletter, contact Krissa Ericson -

krissa.ericson@pcjcc.pima.gov

Check Facebook and Twitter for more stories, events & updates

www.facebook.com/casaofpimacounty

Twitter: @CASAPimaCounty



CASA Support Council for Pima County, Inc.

P.O. Box 36017, Tucson AZ 85740

Phone Number: (520) 575-5130

www.pimacountycasa.org

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		John Merritt
		Jan Webster



Court Appointed Special Advocates
Pima County, AZ

