



# CASA of Pima County Newsletter

CASA of Pima County 2225 E. Ajo Way, Tucson, AZ 85713  
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## CASA Support Council News

### New CASA Volunteers

The CASA Support Council would like to welcome all the newly appointed CASAs! The Support Council is here to support the unmet needs of your CASA child(ren). If you have any questions about who we are and what we do, please visit our website at [pimacountycasa.org](http://pimacountycasa.org). For further questions, please contact Linda Koral at [linda@pimacountycasa.org](mailto:linda@pimacountycasa.org).

### JC Penney gift cards are still available!

The Support Council has a partnership with the Assistance League of Tucson that provides us with JC Penney gift cards worth \$110, under their nationwide "Operation School Bell" program. The gift cards are to be used for purchasing school clothing, including uniforms, for school aged children. To pick up your card and instruction packet, please contact Krissa Ericson at [krissa.ericson@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:krissa.ericson@pcjcc.pima.gov) or at 724-2069.

### Backpacks – Thanks to Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment!

Thanks to a generous grant from Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment, the Support Council can provide backpacks for all elementary, middle and high school students. They are still available, so if your child needs one, please let your Coordinator know. This grant also allows us to fund school supplies. For school supplies, please fill out a "Special Request" form on our website.

### Reminder – Is your CASA child aging out of the system?

Through the generosity of United Methodist Churches in Tucson, we are pleased to provide \$100 worth of grocery gift cards, cookbooks, and recipes to each CASA child aging out of the system. Please contact CASA Support Council Board Member, Sharon Inorio, on 749-0029 to request your cards.

In closing, enjoy the cooler fall temperatures, hopefully coming soon. Please continue to let us know of new activities and experiences you would like the Support Council to support.

## CASA Safety Day

Mark your calendar!

# CASA Safety Day

Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup>

1:30-4:00 pm

CASA of Pima County is proud to announce our first CASA Safety Day! This day is designed to bring CASA Advocates and CASA Youth together to discuss personal safety.

This year we will have a presentation for our 7 - 11 year olds on Bullying. For our older youth we will be talking about internet safety.

More details to come so check your CASAaz email!



### Inside this Issue:

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## CASA Kudos

- ❖ Welcome to our newest CASA trainees: **Maria, Susan, Alexandra, Barbara, Lisa, Penny, Elizabeth, Carolyn & Lesa**. Also thank you to all the Judges at Pima County Juvenile Court who support our advocates and to **Judge Kettlewell, Judge Butler, Judge Griffin & Judge Hocuhuli** for attending our CASA Swearing In on August 19.
- ❖ Congratulations to **CASA Ann White, and CASA Luke Nagele** on being appointed to your first case!
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Ceci Rivera** for 20 years of service with CASA of Pima County. We greatly appreciate your ongoing commitment to our children in care. Not sure how you manage being an advocate on more than one case while working but we are so grateful for your determination to help our children attain the permanency they deserve. FYI: **CASA Ceci** has supported 44 children during her time as a CASA advocate. We can't thank you enough!
- ❖ Dr. Tobiason wanted to give a BIG KUDOS to **CASA Kathy Anderson** for locating "Joe" and for bringing him to Juvenile Detention! She said because of her efforts that Kathryn was a ROCK STAR 😊
- ❖ DCS Case Worker, Shannon Wilson gave a BIG KUDOS to **CASA Tanya Ivey** and **CASA Caroline Champagne**, she said both were "very good" at being CASAs!
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA John Kazlauskas** for being a consistent presence in the life of SB and spending your Saturday mornings taking him to the YMCA Basketball League.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA/Peer Coordinator Judith Meyer** for navigating some tricky situations with your CASA case over the last 2 months.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Pam Flint** for letting a new CASA observe your FCRB.
- ❖ A special thank you to **CASA Barbara Goldstein** who has remained a consistent and fierce advocate for her CASA child as he continues to deal with all of the changes and challenges in his life.
- ❖ Thank you to the many CASA Advocates who support our teens. Congratulations to the following advocates whose teens recently "aged out" and thank you for supporting them throughout the years. **CASA Annette Weneck, CASA Howie Adams, CASA Teri Hollingsworth, CASA David Dodge, Co-CASA Len & Jane Spitzer, CASA Julie Miller and CASA Dede Wilpizeski**.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Peggy Clark** for letting a new CASA observe your FCRB.
- ❖ Christine Hoekenga: Thank you for letting a new CASA observe her Dependency Review
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA David Dodge** and **CASA Kathy Anderson** for sharing recommendations with CASA staff regarding a movie. Both saw and recommended *Hunt for Wilderpeople* at the Loft Cinemas.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Jan Hutchinson** for feedback and a recommendation on a training opportunity. More details later in this newsletter...
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Kathleen Elsberry** for mentoring a new CASA.
- ❖ In appreciation of **CASA Darryle Hardy**. A few months after reunification, Darryle received a note from his CASA child's mom, letting him know how well her son is doing and thanking



him for his involvement and his role in helping her son return home to her. **Thank you Darryle!**

- ❖ Special thanks to **CASA Ardie Banks** for your remarkable work on behalf of your CASA child and for accepting the recent court appointment as your child's educational surrogate parent.
- ❖ Congratulations to **CASA Jeff Tye** for his hard and insightful work and for being recognized by the Judge for his informative court report!!
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Dayle Lansman** and **CASA Lisa McDaniel** for 'hitting the ground running' on your first CASA cases.
- ❖ A special thank you to **CASA Maggie Johnson** for your wonderful and skilled work with your CASA children. Maggie, you have engaged the children in new learnings and have creatively supported their social and emotional skills while at the same time being determined to make sure they have the necessary educational and therapeutic resources.
- ❖ A special thank you to **CASA Pat Cables**. You are clearly becoming the child's trustworthy constant adult. She has advocated for needed resources, has provided her child with new fun experiences, and has really been a wise and understanding support to her child during transition times and disappointing moments in her life.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Pam Coggins** who has become a valued and respected member of her child's team. Pam has also continued to spend good time with her child and now also takes her to and from an important support group that the child would otherwise not be able to attend.
- ❖ A special thank you to our much appreciated CASA peer coordinators; Roger Pinkstaff, Mary Ann Martin, Cynthia Dean and Bonnie Lawrie-Higgins. It is so rewarding to know the wisdom, experience, and empathy shared with the CASA advocates you work with. Thank you for your dedication and being so nimble during times of change and new learnings.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Albert Carr** for arranging sibling visits for your CASA child.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Julie Wesley** – the Foster Care Review Board thanked for her support on this case.
- ❖ The child's attorney thanks **CASA Monica Ayon** for your support. Monica also received a Thank You from her CASA child for a new backpack.
- ❖ Thank you to the **CASA Support Council for Pima County, Inc.** and **Board Member/CASA Eloise Williams** for providing brand new backpacks for our CASA children.
- ❖ Congrats to **CASA Shawna Bohn** for your efforts to help bring permanency to your CASA child. The case successfully ended with reunification and she is already looking for a new one!
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Caroline Champagne** for sending letters to your CASA child as a creative means of maintaining communication.
- ❖ The DCS case manager expressed gratitude for **CASA Tami Danze** and for your help with your CASA child.
- ❖ Kudos to **Co-CASAs Sharon and Alex Dely** for staying committed to your CASA teen through the years, placements, and case managers.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Rosalie Greenfield** for establishing a wonderful relationship with your CASA child.
- ❖ Thank you to **Peer Coordinator Amy Hogan** for your support of several advocates in addition to providing excellent advocacy on your case.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Mary Hudson** for staying involved in your CASA Case even while out of town.
- ❖ Welcome back and thank you to **CASA Kaitlin Elodie** for becoming a CASA again and taking on a challenging case.



- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Tina Aprahamian** for your tenacity to stick with your case even though communication has not been easy.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Monica Baltazar** for rolling with the waves on a difficult case.
- ❖ Thank you to **Peer Coordinator Linda Koral** for becoming a PC and helping new **CASA Anne White** select her first case.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Audrey Kulwin** for helping provide transportation to and from camp for her CASA child.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Liz Root** for fighting through numerous obstacles and for advocating for your CASA child no matter what.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Jane Swivel** for sticking with your CASA child.
- ❖ Congrats to **CASA Mary Vermeer** for helping your CASA child find permanency in a new forever family. Her case successfully ended in adoption.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Marianne Vivirito** for maintaining contact with her CASA children even though they are out of state.
- ❖ During a Dependency Review Hearing, Judge Rosales stated that he found **CASA Steve Lautenschlaeger's** report to be very thorough and on point for identifying the child's major concerns. During that same review, the youth's attorney GAL noted that she was most impressed with CASA Steve's work on this case.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Linda Sherrill** and **CASA Kathy Herrera** for each taking a second case.
- ❖ The Foster Care Review Board acknowledges **CASA Jim Steinman** for being a consistent support to S. and spending quality time with him.
- ❖ Thank you to **Shelia Pessingua and Juan Carrizosa** with PCJCC Probation Department for providing training to our advocates on gangs and probation.
- ❖ During a Dependency Review, Judge Jane Butler thanked **CASA Linda Sherrill** for her advocacy and for her detailed court report.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Mike Treacy** for having patience with developments on your case and riding the waves of change with professionalism.
- ❖ A special thank you to **CASA Conny Swacha** for all of her dedicated work on behalf of her CASA child. Conny's child was reunified with her mother. The Department of Child Safety thanked Conny for her involvement in the case. The Judge recognized Conny, her recommendations, and her offer of support to the child and the mother.
- ❖ Fond farewell and thank you to **CASA Sister Mary Ann** for 17 years of service with CASA of Pima County. We will miss you!



## CASA of Pima County Operational Review Report

**Our Review Score was 96%!**

Read more on the next page...

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Pima County, AZ



Every couple of years our CASA program is reviewed by the Administrative Office of The Court (AOC), Court Improvement unit which is within the Supreme Court. The intent of this review is to help us maintain compliance with the policies established by CASA of Arizona. The review highlights what we as a collective group – Advocates, Peer Coordinators & CASA Staff – are doing well. It also helps us find the areas of where we can improve and enhance our service to you, to the court and especially to our children in care.

In February, 2016, we had 30 Advocate files reviewed in addition to CASA case files and other office processes. There are 19 areas considered in the review and CASA of Pima County received a perfect score of 100% in 12 areas. We had four areas at 98% or higher; leaving just three areas with a score lower than 90%. Great work CASA of Pima County – we are in *substantial compliance!*

We have reviewed the areas that we can improve in and it will continue to be a team effort to improve and maintain our substantial compliance. Here are some ways that Advocates & Peer Coordinators can continue to contribute to our success:

- Advocate Status: Most of you are actively serving the CASA program by managing a case or supporting others as a Peer Coordinator. At times advocates need to take a short break, which we support, but please note that even “inactive” advocates need to complete their 12 hours of training each calendar year. Please continue to communicate with your Program Coordinator and/or Peer Coordinator about your “active/inactive status.” Our goal is to have no more than 10% of our advocate team on inactive status. If you are not ready for another case but want to remain active, just 3 hours a month of CASA “work” can keep you on active status.
- Ongoing Certification (Re-Certification): We are required to re-certify all advocates every 2 years. Please continue to cooperate with our staff team as we request your support with this effort. When you receive a notice or a request, please take it seriously and help us complete this process as promptly as possible.
- Advocate Assessment & Program Assessment: We are required to complete an Advocate Assessment to provide each of you feedback about how you are developing or performing as an advocate. Your program coordinator will facilitate this process so we just ask you to continue to show up ☺. Regarding the Yearly Program Assessment – when you receive the email to complete the assessment, please do so as quickly as possible! This helps our CASA program and the State CASA program develop to meet the needs of our advocates. For the years 2014 and 2015 we had a very low rate of returned assessments and our score in this category was 44% compliant. Please help us raise this score for 2016 and beyond ☺ by completing the survey when it comes out at the beginning of the new year.
- Training hours, contact logs & court reports: Please continue to get 12 hours of ongoing training each year. Please continue to submit your contact entries every month and don’t forget your report is due to the CASA office 2 weeks prior to your hearing.

We cannot thank you enough for the efforts you make on a daily basis to support our children in foster care and to uphold the responsibilities of a CASA Advocate. We know this volunteer position is more complex than most and requires a lot of you. Kudos to helping CASA of Pima County be in substantial compliance; helping us grow; and helping our children see brighter futures!



## CASA of Pima County & Kids at Hope



Greetings CASA of Pima County - I hope to give you some food for thought concerning Kids at Hope & CASA of Pima County. We had a great turn out in July at our day of training where Kenna presented Kids at Hope and we will definitely have more trainings in the future for those who were not able to attend. Below you'll find an introduction to the cultural framework of KAH. There's also a link to a video to hear directly from Chief Treasure Hunter - Rick Miller. As a CASA Advocate you too are a treasure hunter, you just may

not understand what that means right now. Don't worry, you will soon understand and I'm confident you will embrace this role as it relates to your CASA child and all children! So for now here are a few questions and answers to help you begin this journey of understanding -

### All Children Are Capable of Success - No Exceptions!

Sincerely,

Krissa Ericson

Treasure Hunter & CASA Program Supervisor

#### What is Kids at Hope?

Kids at Hope (KAH) is a strategic, cultural framework designed to engage entire communities to support success of all children, no exceptions! It is not a program! It is a cultural framework through which we operate to support our children in achieving their success. KAH is about identifying and involving "the village."

Kids at hope is a shift from viewing children "at risk of falling through the cracks" to "at hope for a successful future."

Kids at Hope began in 1993 with a group of youth development practitioners and has grown to be a nationally recognized strategy that begins with a belief system that demonstrates, *all children are capable of success, No Exceptions* and supports each children's success on their own terms. [Read more about the history of KAH!](#)

#### What is hope?

Hope is the capacity to visit your future (mental time travel to four destinations), return to the present and prepare for the journey.

#### So ALL children are capable of success, what does that mean?

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Pima County, AZ



There are different types of success - Personal, Bureaucratic/Organizational and Cultural. We all have our own definition of what our Personal Success will look like when achieved. In the same way companies define what Bureaucratic Success looks like within the organization which will vary from one company to the next. However, Cultural Success is different.

Cultural success is achieved as a direct result of knowing you contributed to each of life's four major destinations:

- Home & Family
- Hobbies & Recreation
- Community & Service
- Education & Career

"Doesn't it make sense that if you have positive things happening in each of these areas your life should be pretty good?"

Are you starting to see how KAH is an important framework for CASA Advocates? There is a lot more to explain and other great resources for you to understand. For a more in-depth explanation and introduction, you can watch Rick Miller as he presents Kids at Hope via TEDxHerndon - [click here](#). And for more reading visit the website:

<http://kidsathope.org>. Below are quotes from professionals who are embracing KAH as well:

Applying a proven system like Kids at Hope is essential for organizations that work with children to nurture and sustain a culture of collaboration, trust, learning, and high expectations.

- Tom Phillion, Dean Roosevelt University College of Education

Kids at Hope reminds us of why we have dedicated our lives to helping children and provides us a culture of hope and possibility for the children and for us.

- Dr. Robert Maurer, PhD, Associate Clinical Professor at the UCLA School of Medicine, President for the Center of Excellence

Indira Gandhi said, 'if you want to change the world, be that change.' Kids at Hope IS that change. I am with you guys 100 percent."

- Karina Rice Roberts, Juvenile Probation Officer Cochise County, AZ



# FY 16 CASA of Pima County Stats

## From July 2015 – June 2016



You served **209 Children** in Foster Care!



You donated **18,813 hours** to your CASA children & CASA cases.

You drove **171,502 miles** – that's equivalent to traveling around the earth 6x!



**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

## Recent News Articles of Interest

### ARIZONA CHILD WELFARE IN THE NEWS

[4 ways to make this election year about Arizona Kids](#) – July 9, 2016

[\\$450K in grants awarded to prevent child abuse in Arizona](#) - July 13, 2016

[Attention men: Step 'into the breach' for foster care children \(Opinion\)](#) – July 19, 2016

[Group steps up to help Arizona foster children get the education they deserve](#) - July 27, 2016

[Arizona court rejects tribes appeal in girl's adoption case](#) – August 14, 2016

[Report: Arizona Children Face Social, Economic Challenges](#) – August 19, 2016

[Judge: Families leaving DCS supervision need more help](#) – August 22, 2016

[Becoming A Parent While In Foster Care: Pregnant Teens In DCS Face Many Struggles](#) - August 23, 2016

[Foster care children aging out of Arizona system need transitional help](#) – August 24, 2016

### OTHER CHILD WELFARE ARTICLES

[How can strong communities transform community norms and structures to promote children's safety and well-being](#) – White Paper published July, 2015

[Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: 50-State Profile](#) – Published January, 2016 (You can obtain 1 hour training credit for reading through this document)

[Childhood trauma leads to lifelong chronic illness – so why isn't the medical community helping patients?](#) August, 2016

[Grandfamilies in America: Grand Progress but Challenges Remain](#) – August 25, 2016



## A CASA ANGEL

Farewell to CASA Sister Mary Ann

By CASA Jennifer Anderson

There are many reasons why each of us become a Court Appointed Special Advocate, and each of us possess our own set of talents, life experiences, education, and gifts. Each and every advocate with the Pima County CASA Program is unique, but we all share one goal for the children we advocate for: We are the constant, stable individual for every child and we do our best so they do not fall through the cracks of a challenging Child Welfare System. Sister Mary Ann Rawson has been fulfilling this goal in



Pima County for 17 years, and with great success has been the voice and constant for 16 infants and toddlers. On August 31, 2016, Sister Mary Ann will leave Tucson for Portland, Oregon for an independent/assisted living community.

Sister Mary Ann was born on June 13, 1941 in Tonasket, Washington, and the only daughter of five children. She entered the Sister of The Holy Names of Jesus and Mary in 1963, and took her first vows on February 5, 1966. She recently celebrated her Golden Jubilee Anniversary. She has a Bachelor's of Arts and a Master's Degree in Music Education, and was a classroom music teacher and piano teacher for 25 years. She came to Tucson in 1995 and worked for 15 years as the Chaplain at St.

Joseph's and St. Mary Hospitals, and the Holy Family Center. In early 1999 she saw a television commercial for the Pima County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, and felt "this would be a way for me to stay connected with children, because I missed the kids in the classroom."

When asked if she felt her life experience as a Catholic nun has helped or hindered her ability to successfully advocate for children she said, "I never brought religion into advocacy, because there has been a lot of abuse and judgment in religion. I do not intermingle advocacy and prophesizing." She continued, "I was concerned that people would use my faith, and the fact that I was a nun, as a means of discounting my ability to be a child's voice, and speak for their best interest."

Sister Mary Ann become a CASA advocate on October 30, 1999, and during her time advocating for 16 infants and toddlers on 12 cases, she said her biggest challenge was breaking down the labels placed on these children that professionals (from case managers at the Department of Child Safety, attorneys, therapists), parents, and foster parents put on her 16 children. "I am not labeled, and I am not a labeler, that is how I can do what I do, which is to focus on the child, not their disability. It does not help the child if any of the team members feel sorry for them, or predetermines that their labels are forever."



One of Sister Mary Ann's best attributes as a CASA advocate was her ability to be unbiased, which stems from her personal experience of being labeled. She was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis (a chronic autoimmune disease where the body attacks the synovial fluid in the joints causing inflammation, and deformities) in 1985. From this experience she says it has never defined who she is as a person, or stopped her from being a productive woman.

Sister Mary Ann explained her largest victories while advocating were "if a child was labeled, I determined what therapies and services the child needed, and retaught anyone involved that the child's needs could not be categorized or classified by a word or phrase." She continued, "I felt very strongly that I needed to get that label off the child, otherwise it will stay with them all the way through school and life. No one needs to become the labels people place on them."

Sister Mary Ann was emphatic, "My children are not their disabilities. They are human beings, and need to be addressed as human beings. Each child deserves the respect to be addressed where they are in their life's journey."

As Sister Mary Ann reflected on her CASA children - she still maintains contact with a few of them and their families, - she said she had some very interesting and controversial cases.

In her reflection, she spoke about the time she located her CASA child who had been abducted, and convinced the parents that their child would be safe at the Casa de los Niños shelter. She met them there at midnight. "Because the CASA Program was very different then, it was expected that advocates do all the field work when they received their case. We didn't go to CPS, Child Protective Services (now DCS, Department of Child Safety) to meet with the case manager to gather the case files, we went out to each agency and gathered the information, for example, the Tucson Police Department, hospitals, and behavioral health. Not only were we information gatherers we were also detectives, and we helped CPS case managers."

In the hallows of the CASA Program there are stories of Sister Mary Ann, who in the early years was known to hand-out and hang fliers, and knock on neighborhood doors, all for the benefit of her CASA children.

She said, "My first training in Phoenix in 1999 was very crowded and impersonal." Sister Mary Ann met a fellow Pima County advocate at this CASA training, with whom she has stayed in contact with through the last 17 years. Susan Hirsch and Sister Mary Ann have been CASA confidants and friends speaking daily and meeting often. "Susan Hirsch and I met at our first training. We have become close friends, and have helped each other during the rough times in each of our cases. We like getting coffee, and lunch together."

Susan Hirsch said, "I met Mary Ann at our first CASA training in Phoenix in 1999. She has been a friend and the best CASA support I have ever had. We got together frequently to discuss our cases, and she gave me wonderful advise about handling issues when I was having a hard time. We complained, compared and laughed together. I will miss her."

When asked how the CASA Program has changed, Sister Mary Ann said, "I took six months off in 2008, and completed a second training before starting another case, and the rules and guidelines for



advocates had changed, significantly. Specifically, court reports became more stringent and the time frame for deadlines became more rigid. I have had four CASA Program Coordinators during my 17 years, and Nicole Stockett has been a very strong communicator. At first, I was overwhelmed with all the emails and trying the new way to write a court report. She was helpful for me with this change in court report writing. As a CASA Coordinator she was more involved than any of my previous coordinators.”

Another addition for CASAs, Sister Mary Ann said, was a support group for advocates who had babies, and it was initially called The Baby Brigade. The CASA support group has had a name change to Infant Toddler Case Support. Since Sister Mary Ann was an advocate for infants and toddlers she attended the case support group monthly, which is facilitated by CASA Program Coordinator, Christa Coxall.

Christa Coxall said, “Sister Mary Ann attended the case support regularly and always had a great sense of humor. She had no fear, and her main goal was to advocate for what was best for the children she supported. Her last case was difficult and a nail bitter, but she stuck with it.”

In consensus with everyone who knows Sister Mary Ann, Christa Coxall said, “she is pretty amazing, and will be missed!”

CASA Advocate, CASA Support Council President, and Peer Coordinator, Linda Koral said, “I’ve known Sister Mary Ann for over 10 years, primarily through her participation in The Baby Brigade, now the Infant Toddler Case Support. She has always been thorough in researching her cases and passionate in advocating for the children’s best interests. A number of her past cases were ‘over the top’ in challenges, due to the complexity of the issues and the various players involved. This did not stop Sister Mary Ann from pushing forward to assertively advocate for what was best for her CASA children. The fact that she has been a CASA for 17 years is very impressive! She will be missed. I wish her the very best in Oregon!”

CASA Advocate, and Peer Coordinator, Amy Hogan, also a regular to the Infant Toddler Case Support group said, “I was impressed with how calm Sister Mary Ann was during the craziness of her last case. She is inspiring to me, her strength, her independence and how proactive she has been.”

Sister Mary Ann’s last two cases lasted two years, and concluded at the end of April and May 2016. In both cases the children were adopted. However, the case that concluded in April was contentious, because she was advocating for her CASA child to be adopted by kin. “My last case was really bad...sometimes, as advocates we do everything we can for our child, and it does not go the way we recommend.” Sister continued, “When circumstances with the child called for more physically activity, I was fortunate to gain a Co-CASA, Barbara Lauritzen.”

Barbara Lauritzen was appointed as the Co-CASA in October 2015. She said, “I had the privilege to work as a Co-CASA with Sister Mary Ann. What started out as a necessity for both of us, resulted in me having tremendous respect and admiration for her. I quickly realized that Sister Mary Ann had strong opinions and was not afraid to express them. The concern, love and dedication she had for our little one was truly amazing to watch. She always kept the best interest of the child at the forefront.”

“In other words,” Lauritzen said, “if you messed with Sister, watch out! She taught me so much and I am truly blessed to have been able to work beside her. I will always call her my friend.”



Jennifer Anderson, a fellow CASA Advocate, has learned a great deal from Sister Mary Ann. Anderson believes Sister Mary Ann is a woman who possesses the qualities that are attributed to an angel: Inner beauty, purity, and kindness. Anderson said, "Sister Mary Ann is a woman who has consistently shown by her thoughts and actions that she respects all life, shows unbiased opinions for the parents of the babies she has advocated for, and has consistently put the best interest of these children first. She has unfailingly walked the walk of giving respect. In my opinion, she is a living angel, with virtues that inspire me."

When asked to share words of wisdom with her fellow CASA advocates, Sister Mary Ann sat back, took a sip of her coffee, and then spoke, "Just know...whatever each one of my fellow CASAs do for your children, you cannot control every situation or the outcome. For our children, it is a drama that may never end. Walk with them at this period of time in their lives. Listen. Focus on the child. But, please, focus too on the parents when needed. Encourage the parents, and connect them with other healthy people. If the parents are supported well then they are more apt to succeed, and the outcome for the child is happiness."

Sister Mary Ann continued, "Please, try not to label. Please, try not to judge. Everyone feels. The child feels the loss. The parents feel the loss, and often the circumstances with family members are generational, and they are not able to cope. Meaning, their parenting skills are off kilter. Often times they are the result of being judged, labeled 'no good' to begin with. And, please remember, people can change. The person next to me deserves as much respect as I deserve. If you, as the child's CASA advocate, can bring about consistency in the child's life, the child will come along."

She concluded, "For all of us advocates, it is important to keep a sense of humor. Our children's lives are filled with pain. In your personal lives, try and find humor. Look for the comical side of situations in your lives, to laugh and smile often."

## THANK YOU Triangle Y Camp & CASA Support Council

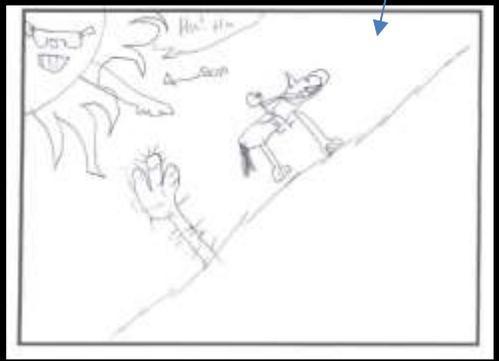
Many memories were made at camp this summer. Here are a few pictures to prove it:



"My favriot (sic) thing about the triangle Y camp is horseback riding Jesus/Manny"  
Boy age 11



My favorite thing about Triangle Y camp is "swimming and jumping off the side." My favorite activity "new friends"  
Girl age 9



"My Favorite things @camp was the thrill of the high ropes and the zip lines, the love of the horses and the excitement of going to a dance with a date (omg!)"  
Girl age 16

## Announcements

### Thank you to the Arizona Lottery!

**CASA of Pima County was awarded a \$1,500 Community Sponsorship to help us celebrate our Advocates and their Years of Service. We will be hosting our annual Years of Service Recognition Event in January of 2017. We are grateful for this sponsorship to help us throw a great event for Advocates and their families as well as other CASA Supporters! Watch for more details to come in the Next newsletter.**

Thank you!



### 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 1<sup>ST</sup> 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 Advocates  
Pima County, AZ

### Years of Service Recognition

#### 20 Years

CASA Ceci Rivera (9/1996)

#### 17 Years

CASA Kathleen Elsberry (9/1999)

CASA Sister Mary Ann Rawson (10/1999)

#### 15 Years

CASA Eloise Williams (9/2001)

Peer Coordinator Roger Pinkstaff (10/2001)

#### 14 Years

CASA Irving Berger (9/2002)

#### 13 Years

Peer Coordinator Marion Pickens (10/2003)

#### 11 Years

Peer Coordinator Robyn Kessler

Peer Coordinator Judith Meyer  
(9/2005)

#### 7 Years

CASA Rufus Tamayo (9/2009)

#### 6 Years

CASA Elda Lopez (9/2010)

#### 3 Years

CASA Susan Barrable

CASA Jan Hutchinson  
(9/2013)

CASA Audrey Kulwin

CASA Lori Taylor  
(10/2013)

#### 2 Years

CASA Ardie Banks

CASA George Franklin

CASA Steve Lautenschlaeger

CASA Robin Rosenthal

CASA Mike Treacy

(10/2014)

#### 1 Year

CASA Kathy Herrera (10/2015)



## Training Opportunities

### Training Opportunities in the Tucson Community:



YMCA OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Find a Y ▾ Membership ▾ Child Care ▾ Programs ▾ Giving ▾ About ▾

## FREE STEWARDS OF CHILDREN TRAINING

HOME / EVENTS / FREE STEWARDS OF CHILDREN TRAINING

### JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

YMCA of Southern Arizona and Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona are offering a FREE Stewards of Children child sexual abuse training that's open to the public!

YMCA of Southern Arizona and Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona encourage all individuals and organizations to play a role in making southern Arizona a better place for children and families. Together we can prevent child sexual abuse by ensuring that adults have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly.

Sign up today to take this FREE training, which typically has a cost of \$10 per person, and join the movement to END child sexual abuse.



Below is a list of dates, times and locations of the upcoming free Stewards of Children trainings.

**9/28/16 6-8pm** at Girl Scouts 4300 E Broadway Blvd.

[Please register here.](#)

**10/11/16 6:30-8:30pm** at Girl Scouts Hacienda Program Center 3101 N Sabino Canyon Rd

[Please register here.](#)

**11/2/16 5:30-7:30pm** at Girl Scouts 4300 E Broadway Blvd.

[Please register here.](#)

**1/27/17 5:30-7:30 pm** at Girl Scouts 4300 E Broadway Blvd.

[Please register here.](#)

### Monthly Training Event with CASA of Pima County:

#### September Learning Event: Sex Trafficking

September 28, 2016 3:00pm - 5:00pm @ Juvenile Court Training Center

RSVP to Jania - [Jania.wright@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:Jania.wright@pcjcc.pima.gov)

#### October Learning Event: Understanding IEPs & 504s

October 18, 2016 3:00pm - 5:00pm @ Juvenile Court Training Center

RSVP to Jania - [Jania.wright@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:Jania.wright@pcjcc.pima.gov)



Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Pima County, AZ



## CASAaz Dashboard Training

Come learn how to use our online Case Management System & CASAaz email!

- September 8 - 9-12pm
- September 22 - 3-5pm

Trainings are held in the Juvenile Court Computer Lab. (limit 10 people per class)

RSVP to Jania - [Jania.wright@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:Jania.wright@pcjcc.pima.gov)

## CASA Book Club

**Are you in need of training hours? Do you love to read? Then you will want to join a book club!**

Our next **Wednesday Night Book Club** will be meeting on October 12, from 5:30pm – 7:00pm at Beyond Bread – Speedway & Wilmot Location. We will discuss *Ask me why I hurt: The Kids Nobody Wants* and *the Doctor Who Heals Them*

**Total Training Hours: 2.75 for reading the book, 1.5 for attending and participating in Book Club, for a total of 4.25 training hours.**

**For Wednesday Book Club** - Email Krissa to RSVP, to request a copy of the book or for questions!  
[Krissa.ericson@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:Krissa.ericson@pcjcc.pima.gov)

Our next **Saturday CASA Book Club** will meet on October 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 -11:30 am, at Beyond Bread - 3026 N. Campbell Ave. We will be discussing *Prison Baby: A Memoir*, written by Deborah Jiang-Stein. Please RSVP with Tricia by October 14<sup>th</sup>. Come and join us for a lively discourse and some delicious food.

**Total Training Hours: 2 for reading the book, 1.5 for attending and participating in Book Club, for a total of 3.5 training hours.**

**For Saturday Book Club** - Email Tricia to RSVP, to request a copy of the book or for questions!  
[Patricia.keeler@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:Patricia.keeler@pcjcc.pima.gov)

Note: 2 – 3 Copies of each book are available to check out via the CASA office. Thank you to the CASA Support Council & various advocates who are donating books to our book club!



Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Pima County, AZ



## Age Specific CASA Case Support Meetings:

- ❖ **Infant & Toddlers Case Support:** Tuesday Sept. 20 , 2016 from 1:00 – 3:00pm & Thursday Oct. 20, 2016 from 1:00 – 3:00pm
  - Location: Martha Cooper Library
  - Facilitator: Christa – [Christa.coxall@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:Christa.coxall@pcjcc.pima.gov)
- ❖ **Teen Case Support:** Thursday September 23, 2016 from 3:00 – 5:00pm
  - Location: Martha Cooper Library
  - Facilitator: Nicole – [Nicole.stockett@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:Nicole.stockett@pcjcc.pima.gov)

## General Case Support Meeting Schedule:

**Monday, September 19, 2016**  
(9:30am-11:30am)

**The Good Shepherd UCC Church**

17750 S. La Canada Drive  
(Sahuarita)

**Facilitator:** Peer Coordinator Cynthia Dean  
[cdean@casaaz.gov](mailto:cdean@casaaz.gov)

**Monday, September 26, 2016**  
(5:00-7:00pm)

**Amy Hogan's House (Vail)**

\*Contact Amy for address\*

**Facilitator:** Peer Coordinator Amy Hogan  
[ahogan@casaaz.gov](mailto:ahogan@casaaz.gov)

**Monday, October 3, 2016**  
(5:00-7:00pm)

**Nanini Branch Public Library**

7300 N Shannon Rd

**Facilitator:** CASA Advocate Tina Whittemore  
[dwhittemore@casaaz.gov](mailto:dwhittemore@casaaz.gov)

**Monday, October 10, 2016**  
(2:00 – 4:00 pm)

**Sandra Rohen's House**

\*Contact Sandra for address\*

**Facilitator:** Peer Coordinator Sandra Rohen, 219-2496  
[srohen@casaaz.gov](mailto:srohen@casaaz.gov)

**Thursday, October 27, 2016**

**Wilmot Library**

530 N. Wilmot Road

**Facilitator:** Nicole Stockett  
[Nicole.Stockett@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:Nicole.Stockett@pcjcc.pima.gov)



# CASA SUPPORT COUNCIL NEWS

## GOOD NEWS!

The CASA Support Council for Pima County, Inc. is pleased to announce that it is now an approved Agency under the **Pima County ECAP and the City of Tucson ECAP.**

**What is an ECAP?** ECAP stands for Employee Combined Appeal Program. It provides employees of Pima County and the city of Tucson the opportunity to make donations to approved agencies via payroll deduction or through credit card or debit card.

### Pima County ECAP

#### **When does the 2016-17 program start?**

The 2016-17 kick-off will be held on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at Kino Sports Complex, 2500 E. Ajo Way from 10am – 2pm. The CASA Support Council will be on site to share information on what we do to support abused and neglected children in the Pima County Juvenile Court dependency system.

#### **What can you do to help?**

Please let your friends and family members who are Pima County Employees know about the event and about the opportunity to donate to an organization that makes a difference in our community.

#### **Will these contributions count towards the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit limits?**

Yes. However, ECAP contributions are processed through the United Way. If donors choose to be acknowledged, they will receive a tax receipt letter from the United Way.



### City of Tucson ECAP

#### **When does the 2016-17 program start?**

The 2016-17 kick-off was held on Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. The CASA Support Council was on site to share information on what we do to support abused and neglected children in the Pima County Juvenile Court dependency system.

#### **What can you do to help?**

Please let your friends and family members who are City of Tucson employees know about the opportunity to donate to an organization that makes a difference in our community.

#### **Will these contributions count towards the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit limits?**

Yes. However, ECAP contributions are processed through the United Way. If donors choose to be acknowledged, they will receive a tax receipt letter from the United Way.

**Thanks in advance for supporting us in this effort!**

## More from the CASA Support Council for Pima County, Inc.

### Sad News - In Memoriam



Pat Caporale, better known as Cap, passed away unexpectedly on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Cap had been a member of the CASA Support Council since 1998. While acting as Program Committee Chair, he loved to come up with entertainment activities to help the CASAs have fun on outings with their CASA children. Cap was instrumental in providing tickets to the children to Sidewinders games; he monitored Funtasticks and Golf 'N Stuff theme parks usage which is free to CASAs and their kids. He often procured discount tickets to the Desert Museum, Reid Park Zoo, and Pima Air and Space Museum. In order for the CASAs to provide holiday gifts for their CASA children, Cap was the architect of the Boards' Christmas tree giving project. Because he was an ardent golfer, he supported the Board's past golf tournament yearly fundraiser. He organized yearly Oktoberfest Dinners donating the proceeds to the Council. Cap never forgot the needs of our CASA children.

Cap demonstrated his dedication to the board and its mission by rarely missing a meeting unless he was traveling or ill. The Council board members will greatly miss his passion and the smile on his face when handing out tokens at our annual holiday party.



Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Pima County, AZ



## Calendar of Events



### SEPTEMBER, 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	<b>CASA office Closed!!</b>	6	Initial PC Training @ Abrams 9 - 3	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	CASA Case Support in Sahuarita/ Green Valley <u>9:30 am – 11:30</u>	20	21	Infant/Toddler Case Support 2:00pm – 4:00	Teen Case Support 3:00pm – 5:00	CASA Safety Day 1:30 – 4:00 Court Training Center
25	CASA Case Support in Vail <u>5:00pm – 7:00</u>	27	28 Monthly Learning Event <u>3pm-5:00</u> @ Court Training Center	29	30	





## OCTOBER, 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 CASA Case Support @ Nanini Library 5:00pm - 7:00	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 CASA Case Support @ Sandra's House 2 pm - 4	11	12 Wed. PM Book Club 5:30pm Beyond Bread (Wilmot)	13	14	15 Sat. Am Book Club 10:00am Beyond Bread (Campbell)
16	17	18 Monthly Learning Event 3PM-5 @ Juvenile Court Training Cntr	19 Peer Coordinator/Staff Meeting 1:30pm	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 CASA BOOK CLUB 5:30pm - 7 Beyond Bread on Speedway/Wilmot	27 CASA Case Support @ Wilmot Library 3pm - 5	28	29
30	31					



## Contact Information

### CASA of Pima County

2225 E. Ajo Way, Tucson AZ 85713

Main Phone Number: (520) 724- 2060 - FAX 724-2211

<http://www.casaofpimacounty.org>

<b>Program Supervisor:</b> Krissa Ericson	724-2069	<b>Coordinators:</b> Nicole Stockett	724-9240
		Christa Coxall	724-9241
<b>Support Specialists:</b> Maria Chavez	724-5024	Karen Abman	724-9242
Lupe Ornelas	724-2060	Adelina Altamirano	724-4516
<b>CASA Recruiter:</b> Jill LaBrie	724-9238	Tricia Keeler	724-2249
<b>CASA Trainer:</b> Jania Wright	724-4579	<b>CASA Intern:</b> Katie Espinoza	724-4589

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

[krissa.ericson@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:krissa.ericson@pcjcc.pima.gov)

**\*\*Check Facebook and Twitter for more stories, events & updates\*\***

[www.facebook.com/casaofpimacounty](http://www.facebook.com/casaofpimacounty)

Twitter: @CASAPimaCounty



#### Front Row:

(Left to Right)

Jania,  
Krissa,  
Christa



#### Back Row:

(Left to right)

Nicole,  
Adelina,  
Jill,  
Karen,  
Maria,  
Lupe,  
Tricia

### CASA Support Council for Pima County, Inc.

P.O. Box 36017, Tucson AZ 85740

Phone Number: (520) 575-5130

[www.pimacountycasa.org](http://www.pimacountycasa.org)

<b>President:</b> Linda Koral	465-4425	<b>Directors:</b> Pat Caporale
<b>VP, Programs:</b> Eloise Williams	743-8603	Peggy Clark
<b>VP, Governance:</b>		Sharon Inorio
<b>Treasurer:</b> Karlene Nelson	591-4841	Peter (Bud) Inorio
<b>Secretary:</b> Elda Lopez	269-3061	Frederica Leonardo-Torres
		John Merritt
		Jan Webster



Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Pima County, AZ

