



# CASA of Pima County Newsletter

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

### Holiday Gift Cards for CASA children

The CASA Support Council will provide a holiday gift card for each CASA child; \$25 for age 12 and under; \$50 for age 13 and older. They should arrive at each CASA's home address the week of November 20th. Please ensure the CASA Program has your correct mailing address. We hope you'll enjoy shopping with your CASA child for those special items she/he would like.

### Holiday Party for CASA children

The CASA Support Council is pleased to sponsor the annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 4th from 11am -2pm at Golf 'n Stuff. Advance registration is required. We have enclosed a flyer later in the newsletter. Reservations must be in by November 28th. As usual, there will be a variety of activities, including miniature golf, boat rides, bumper cars, video games and laser tag. Lunch will include pizza, sodas and cookies. Oh yes, Santa will stop by and there will be face painting by Santa's elf. Children will be able to select a teddy bear. This is always a fun event for both the children and the CASAs.

### CASA Support Council's Annual Christmas Giving Tree Event

The Support Council will be placing Christmas trees in various supermarkets and business locations, starting a few days after Thanksgiving. This is always a wonderful way for us to spread the message of CASA childrens' unmet needs and to provide the public an opportunity to help us by purchasing retail gift cards.

### Participation in Fry's Community Rewards Program

The Support Council is participating in Fry's Foods Community Rewards Program. Look for the details in the Newsletter on how you can link your Fry's V.I.P. card to us. This is a voluntary and confidential enrollment. We will receive money from Fry's for shopping done in Arizona by participants.

### As 2017 approaches

The Support Council is looking forward to continuing to support the unmet needs of CASA children in Pima County, as well as the CASAs and the CASA of Pima County Program in 2017. Thank you to all of you who have requested new activities and experiences you would like us to provide for your CASA children. Happy Holidays to all!

## CASA of Pima County & VOCA Grants

Good News! In Early October CASA of Pima County found out that our first VOCA grant was renewed for an additional year and we were awarded a second VOCA grant. Both grants continue to help our program grow and be able to provide necessary advocacy skills to child victims of abuse and neglect.

Our Training Coordinator and our 5<sup>th</sup> Program Coordinator Position continue to be fully funded with the VOCA "Advocacy Expansion" Grant and now we will be adding an additional position – CASA Volunteer Screening Coordinator – with our new VOCA "Grow CASA" Grant. This position will help us streamline the process from volunteer application to volunteer pre-service training. We are excited for the growth possibilities this will provide our program.

We are also able to continue our media advertising efforts with the VOCA "Grow CASA" grant. We know that the TV ads have been very beneficial during this past year and believe we will continue to have a heightened presence in our community with this ongoing media campaign.

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## CASA Kudos

❖ Welcome to our newest CASA trainees: **Allison, Brandi, Patty, John, Andrea, Cindy, Ginger, Kehinde, Beverly & Catherine**. Also thank you to all the Judges at Pima County Juvenile Court who support our advocates and to **Judge Langford**, for assisting with our CASA Swearing In. Thank you **Judge Green & Judge Hocuhuli** for your words of encouragements as well.



❖ Congratulations to **CASA Marsha Gary, CASA Susan Martinez-Nagele, CASA Patty Dean, CASA Lesa Jensen and CASA Penny Cheshire** on being appointed to your first case!

- ❖ Thank you to **Judge Jane Butler** for referring people to the CASA program to become advocates!
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Linda Hawke** for taking a new CASA to observe your FCRB.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Tina Aprahamian** for being persistent on your case and trying to keep all parties informed.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Monica Ayon** for being the one constant in your CASA child's life.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Shawna Bohn!** The FCRB is thankful for your involvement on the case.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Albert Carr** for maintaining contact with your CASA teen even after he was returned home.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Barbara Carter** for suggesting Disney on Ice to the Support Council!
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Tami Danze** for staying committed to your CASA teen, even with all the moves that have happened.
- ❖ Kudos to **Peer Coordinator Sharon Dely** for looking for creative solutions to try and locate your CASA teen.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Kaitlin Elodie** for picking up a new case and quickly developing a relationship with your CASA teen.
- ❖ Thank you to **Peer Coordinator Amy Hogan** for all of your work as a peer coordinator supporting CASA advocates and covering appointments for them during the school year.
- ❖ Thank you to **Peer Coordinator & CSCPC President Linda Koral** for getting Disney on Ice tickets for a CASA and their CASA child to enjoy.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Audrey Kulwin** for stepping in as a Co-CASA when a fellow CASA needed some help.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Claudia Levin** for accepting each challenge your cases bring and finding a way to overcome those challenges.
- ❖ Thank you to **Peer Coordinator Susie McClinton** for accepting a new case as a CASA and a new CASA Advocate to support as a Peer Coordinator.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Denise Mouch** for finding a way to bond with her difficult teen.
- ❖ Thank you to the many CASA Advocates who are driving to Phoenix and beyond to check on their CASA child!
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Andrea Cohn** for taking a 2<sup>nd</sup> case after an urgent referral was made for your CASA teen.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Marianne Vivirito** for fighting to maintain contact with her CASA children even though they are placed out of state.



- ❖ Thank you to **Peer Coordinator Ellen Werts** for always encouraging the CASAs she supports.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Anne White** - Judge Pratte was appreciative of your verbal update in court.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA ElizaBeth Root** for her commitment to her CASA child.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Leigh Creighton, who** was commended by both Judge Metcalf and his youth's attorney, David Polan, for doing an outstanding work as his youth's CASA.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Alan Dankeworth** for allowing two new CASAs to observe your DR Hearing. You were very encouraging and helpful to these advocates-in-training!
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Rosalie Greenfield**, for allowing two new CASAs to observe one of her DR Hearings. Rosalie was also commended by Judge Metcalf at that same hearing, for her advocacy work for her child.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Carolyn McGorray, CASA Margo Lunsford, CASA Susan Canty, CASA Nina Strausberg, and CASA Kristin Thompson** on your recent appointment to your first case. Hooray!
- ❖ Judge Rosales and Dr. Tobiason commended **Peer Coordinator Steve Lautenschlaeger** for his tireless advocacy for his CASA youth on one case. Steve received a 2<sup>nd</sup> mention by Judge Pratte who thanked him for seeking out and advocating for the best interests of his CASA youth on his second case. Judge Pratte thanks Steve for providing information to the Court, even when the youth did not share his CASA's perspective.
- ❖ Program Coordinator Tricia Keeler would like to thank **Peer Coordinator Marion Pickens** for transitioning over to help with new CASAs, and for tutoring a youth for one of the CASAs whom she supports.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Roberto Estillo** for successfully completing his first court report – early! Judge Green also thanked Roberto for his help with his CASA youth. She noted, “We are very grateful for our CASAs, and it is all volunteer work.”
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA David Dodge** for having a new CASA observe your Dependency Review.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Sarah Gotschall** - “The FCRB acknowledges the CASA for being a great support to her child and for providing thorough reports and updates.”
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA John Swiencicki** for being a strong advocate to make sure your CASA child's medical needs are addressed.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Annette Weneck** for taking two new CASAs to observe your FCRB.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Constance Strickland** for doing a presentation on CASA to your women's group at church.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Jennifer Anderson, CASA Sariah Bechtel, CASA Susan Barrable and Peer Coordinator Ginger Tonkin-Sugimoto** for helping with our VOCA Volunteer Match hours!
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Judy Price** for letting a new CASA observe your FCRB.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Tina Whittemore** for facilitating the Nanini Case Support.

“If we don't stand up  
for children, then we  
don't stand for much.”

- Marian Wright Edelman



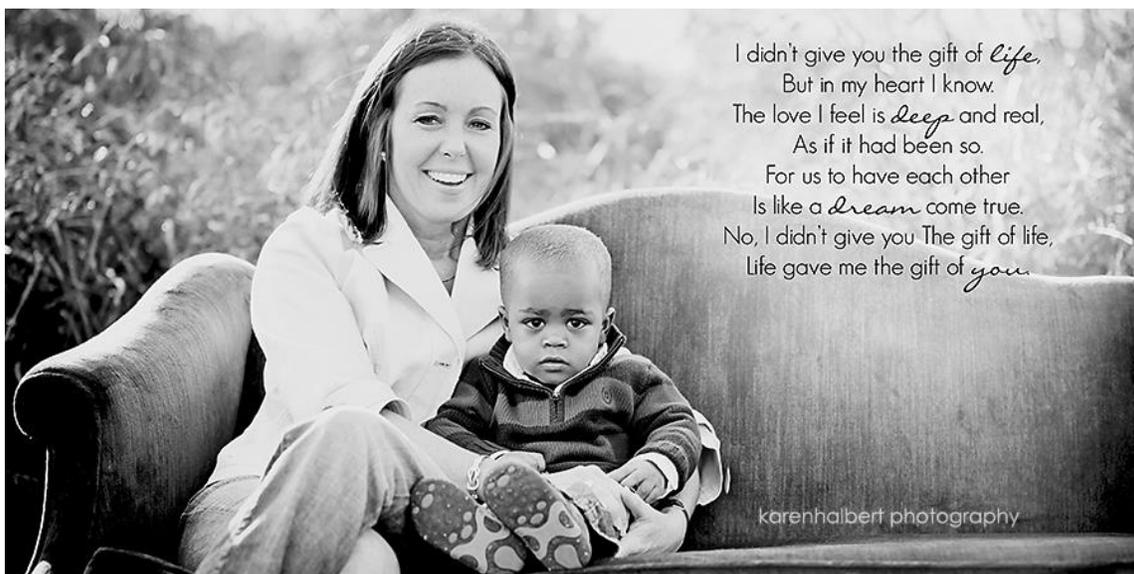
## November is National Adoption Awareness Month

November is a time to celebrate families. Across the nation families are being brought together through National Adoption Day celebrations. National Adoption Day truly is a national effort. The goal is to raise awareness not only of the families who've been made whole through adoption but of the thousands of children still waiting for that opportunity. A coalition of National partners—Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, The Alliance for Children's Rights and Children's Action Network all sponsor National Adoption Day, usually celebrated the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

In 2015, 400 cities across the nation held an Adoption Day event and 4,000 children were adopted. This year more than 4,500 are expected to be finalized during November. Still, more than 100,000 children are still waiting to be adopted from the U.S. foster care system. The average child will wait three years to be adopted. Since 2000 more than 58,500 children have been adopted during National Adoption Day events. National Adoption Day was created to decrease the number of children in foster care by connecting them with a loving, permanent family and to alleviate the backlog of pending adoptions. Research from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in 2012 revealed that there are many families interested in foster care adoption but more needs to be done to motivate those families to act. Prospective parents don't need to be rich, married, own a home, or be of any certain race or religion to adopt.

The day is also a chance to dispel myths about children in foster care. To help with this, organizers are asking participants to share their adoption day stories on social media during the month of November using the hashtag #OneDayProject—to celebrate the one day they became a family.

Adoption Day events are held in several counties in Arizona including Yavapai, Cochise, Pinal, Pima and Maricopa counties. To find an Adoption Day event near you visit [nationaladoptionday.org](http://nationaladoptionday.org).



Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Pima County, AZ



## Department of Child Safety – Permanency Unit

By Allison Hurtado, CASA of Arizona

DCS Permanency Unit focuses on getting kids out of foster care

A new specialized unit at the Department of Child Safety is taking a closer look at cases that have been stalled in the system for too long.

The Permanency Planning Unit, based in Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties, is a team of case workers with low caseloads focusing on making connections for kids who've been in care more than 15 months and who are between the ages of 10 and 16—difficult ages to find placements for. Each case that comes to the unit is completely dissected. The case managers work to locate parents, family members and friends to find solid connections for the child that will last past the age of 18.

“We go all the way back to the beginning,” said Cheryl Burton, permanency supervisor. “We pull up bio mom’s case file and start doing family locates. We do mobility mapping, tree of life, and timelines. We find family members or friends. We go back to old group homes they were in and see if they remember the kids and have any information. A lot of times they’ll say ‘Yeah that kid was here for six months. When they were here there was an Aunt Elizabeth who would come and visit’ and that person somehow fell off the map. We get back in touch with them.”

Burton said a lot of what the unit does is investigative work that the on-going case managers don't have time for. The goal is not only to find permanency for the child but to find support if permanency doesn't happen. Since the unit was formed in February of 2016 they've already had one adoption, transferred two kids to the Young Adult Program and have set up several guardianships.

The cases the unit deals with are often complicated and sometimes may seem uncomfortable to people familiar with the case.

“Because we are going back and finding parents a lot of times CASA advocates may think ‘Wait a minute—their rights were severed--they were addicted to drugs,’” Burton said. “That’s true, but this kid has been in care for seven years now and when we find mom we might find she’s married, has another kid and is doing much better now. A lot of times because that door has been closed people are skeptical... We’ve found when we do make these connections the child’s behavior gets better. They have someone calling them now, sending care packages or even visiting.”

Safety is always a top priority but case managers in the permanency unit are also able to work with kids to make sure they protect themselves too. They try to teach kids to recognize when a situation is not safe and how to reach out to their other connections to help with the problem.



“When they do go back to Cousin Mimi or Mom Suzi if there’s an altercation they know they can call Uncle Rick and go spend the night till they calm down,” Burton said. “You don’t need DCS. You can keep yourself safe.”

The average case load in the permanency unit is just 16 kids. The goal is always to keep the case load under 25. Cases are sent to the unit based on the child’s age and the amount of time they’ve been in care.

“We want advocates to know the department does have a plan, we are working hard and we are finding connections for these children to get them out of care,” Burton said. “We don’t want any child to age out of care.”

## Recent News Articles of Interest from Sept. & Oct. 2016

### ARIZONA CHILD WELFARE IN THE NEWS

Read for CASA training credit!

**AZ: 18,000 Arizona kids are in foster care. Here’s how you can help** azcentral.com – Sept. 4

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-investigations/2016/09/04/arizona-children-foster-care-dcs-cps-what-you-can-do-help/89608576/>

**AZ: Department of Child Safety hits 'pause' button on controversial contracts** The Arizona Republic - Sept 12

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/arizona/2016/09/12/arizona-department-child-safety-delays-parent-training-contracts/90279382/>

**AZ: First Things First applauds grandparents who are raising Arizona's next generation**

Arizona Daily Sun - September 09, 2016

[http://azdailysun.com/news/local/community/first-things-first-applauds-grandparents-who-are-raising-arizona/article\\_16fc819b-55f8-59d7-9a20-5051b27f6816.html](http://azdailysun.com/news/local/community/first-things-first-applauds-grandparents-who-are-raising-arizona/article_16fc819b-55f8-59d7-9a20-5051b27f6816.html)

**AZ: My Turn: The lifeboats for Arizona's abused, neglected kids (Opinion)** azcentral.com – Oct.04

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2016/10/04/kinship-foster-care-arizona/90722824/>

**AZ: Child safety director rejects much of auditor general's critique** Capitol Media Services – Oct. 03

<http://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2016/10/03/auditors-suggest-steps-to-improve-child-placement-process/>

**AZ: Fired child safety workers want wrongful firing suit revived** Associated Press – Oct. 20

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/news/crime/article/Fired-child-safety-workers-want-wrongful-firing-9985405.php>

**AZ: My Turn: We were there for kids. The Department of Child Safety wasn't (Opinion)**

AZ Central – Oct. 24

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2016/10/24/departement-child-safety-anybody-home/92421176/>

**AZ: Vision of one-stop shop to encourage more AZ foster parents in works (Includes video)**

KPHO/KTVK – Oct.27

<http://www.cbs5az.com/story/33492967/vision-of-one-stop-shop-to-encourage-more-az-foster-parents-in-works>

### OTHER CHILD WELFARE ARTICLES

**What Kids Wish Their Teachers Knew** – The New York Times, Aug. 31



[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/31/well/family/what-kids-wish-their-teachers-knew.html?smid=fb-nytimes&smtyp=cur&\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/31/well/family/what-kids-wish-their-teachers-knew.html?smid=fb-nytimes&smtyp=cur&_r=2)

**How Trauma Hijacks learning - a memo from a four year old** Sept 19

<http://www.childhoodtrauma.org.au/2016/september/how-trauma-hijacks-learning>

**US: Is U.S. Opioid Crisis Straining State Child Welfare Systems?** Youth Today – Sept.30.

<http://youthtoday.org/2016/09/is-u-s-opioid-crisis-straining-state-child-welfare-systems/>

**US: Senate adjourns without passing child welfare bill; ABA had warned of funds cut** ABA Journal – Sept. 30

[http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/senate\\_adjourns\\_without\\_passing\\_child\\_welfare\\_bill\\_aba\\_had\\_warned\\_of\\_funds](http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/senate_adjourns_without_passing_child_welfare_bill_aba_had_warned_of_funds)

**This doctor pioneered a way to treat stress in children, a startling source of future disease**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2016/10/06/this-doctor-discovered-a-way-to-treat-a-startling-source-of-disease-in-children-stress/?postshare=2251475946651664&tid=ss\\_mail](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2016/10/06/this-doctor-discovered-a-way-to-treat-a-startling-source-of-disease-in-children-stress/?postshare=2251475946651664&tid=ss_mail)

**MA: AG's Office and the Boston Casa Program to Launch Pilot Program to Support Youth Aging out of Foster Care (Press release)** Office of the Attorney General of Massachusetts – Oct.04

<http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2016/ags-office-and-the-boston-casa-program-to-launch-pilot-program-to-support-youth-aging-out-of-foster-care.html>

**US: It's Time to Really Pay Foster Parents (Opinion)** The Chronicle of Social Change – Oct. 06.

<https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/blogger-co-op/pay-foster-parents/21534>

**US: Lessons for Child Welfare from the Tales of Wells Fargo (Opinion)** Youth Today – Oct. 06

<http://youthtoday.org/2016/10/lessons-for-child-welfare-from-the-tales-of-wells-fargo/>

**US: Foster Youth Bring Their Priorities to Capitol Hill (Includes video)** Youth Today – Oct. 24

<http://youthtoday.org/2016/10/foster-youth-bring-priorities-to-capitol-hill/>

**US: Studying the effects of incarceration on women and their families** Phys.org – Oct.24

<http://phys.org/news/2016-10-effects-incarceration-women-families.html>

**US: Keep Your Baby Safe Asleep: AAP Guidelines to Prevent SIDS** Prevent Child Abuse America Blog

Oct. 25 <http://preventchildabuse.org/latest-activity/keeping-baby-safe-sleeping-aap-guidelines-prevent-sids/>

**US: How Are States Using Welfare Funding? Often, Not to Help People Work.** Governing – Oct.26

<http://www.governing.com/topics/health-human-services/gov-welfare-work-state-spending.html>

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Tucson Meet Yourself was a success once again and we appreciate all who helped us with our CASA/FCRB Booth.





## Holiday Party for CASA Children

### Presented by the CASA Support Council

**When:** Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11am - 2pm

**Where:** Golf n' Stuff, 6503 E. Tanque Verde

**Activities:** Miniature golf, boats, bumper cars, 20 tokens to play video games and laser tag. Santa and his magical elf will stop by on their way to the North Pole to distribute candy and gifts. Pizza, sodas, and cookies will be served.

RSVP by November 28th to using the following link:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4ba4ac28abff2-20161/>

Or email Krissa – [Krissa.ericson@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:Krissa.ericson@pcjcc.pima.gov)



## Training Highlights – Cenpatico Integrated Care

A review of a training presented to CASAs in June 2016

By CASA Jennifer Anderson

CENPATICO INTEGRATED CARE: "EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES...INSPIRING HOPE."

Monthly training events are offered to CASAs to broaden the advocate's scope of knowledge, relay vital information within the advocate community, and help each advocate navigate within the Pima County child welfare system. On June 1, 2016, Hilary Mahoney, MPH, DCS Liason/Program Specialist, Trauma Informed Care Specialist, and Program Development for CENPATICO provided CASA advocates and program staff with the initial information and tools needed to understand Cenpatico and the changes the insurance company is making to the behavioral health infrastructure.

Ms. Mahoney spoke about the insurance company's services, which are tailored to the child and family, as well as their Arizona Vision statement: In collaboration with the child, family, and others, Arizona will provide accessible behavioral health services to aid children to achieve success in school, live with their families, avoid delinquency, and become stable and productive adults. Services will be tailored to the child and family and provided in the most appropriate setting, in a timely fashion, and in accordance with best practices, while respecting the child and family's cultural heritage.

Ms. Mahoney said, "Though Cenpatico is a part of the state's bureaucracy, we are connected to the state of Arizona, and in a partnership with the court system in 8 Southern Arizona counties. Any child or family within the Foster Care System cannot be put on a wait list for Behavioral Health Services." With this goal in mind, Ms. Mahoney said, "we are a whole team process, with each Cenpatico team member helping to put the family together."

It is important to note that Cenpatico was a part of the Department of Behavioral Health Services; however beginning July 1, 2016, in alignment with their Arizona Vision, treating the whole person and whole health, Cenpatico will be under the state's AHCCCS contract. Ms. Mahoney explained the overview of this contract. Member's choice maximizes each individual's choice on which agency is best suited for them. Mahoney said, "children in the foster care system should go to providers that specialize in their specific diagnosis." Member's choice allows children and parents, through their CFT team and with the help of their Intake Coordination of Care Agency (ICCA) to request specific services from any agency. This open network allows each member to change or add a new provider. Members can request to have a new ICCA if needed. Mahoney said, "the team centered around the child and the family can request for a change of agency and transfer services. The most important addition to this is that a foster parent can call or go to the agency and change services for the child in their care. The change is mandatory and a child cannot be turned away." When speaking about Member's Choice and the 13 contracted agencies, it is mandatory that each request for intake services should be made within 7 days of the CFT, and provider and specialty provider must accept the referral within 7 days of receiving initial request. Mahoney emphasized, "Absolutely no excuses



for this to not occur." She continued to say, "The coordination agency cannot refuse a Rapid Response, and cannot refuse to enroll all persons eligible for Medicaid."

With the insurance company's shift to a whole health approach, Mahoney explained that Cenpatico contracts with NurseWise, a Crisis Intervention Service, that will document all aspects of referrals made, referral changes, crisis intervention and timeliness, DCS Investigator tracking, Rapid Response (RR) completion, engagement of parents, time of first established service, and scheduling of first CFT. In Cenpatico's contracted counties, all crisis lines will be transferred to the Cenpatico Crisis Line/NurseWise, which is available 24/7/365: (888)495-6732. When a crisis presents itself for a child in the Foster Care System and a call is made to the Cenpatico Crisis Line, NurseWise will send out a Crisis Mobile Team to the group home within ONE hour of the phone call. BOOST, which was newly established, is the Crisis Mobile Team for foster families and kinship placement. Ms. Mahoney said, "Cenpatico established the Crisis Mobile Team and BOOST in order to relieve foster and kin placement from having to transport the child in crisis to the Emergency Room and Crisis Center." Mahoney also added that crisis services are available to any person "regardless of benefit or eligibility category."

Ms. Mahoney said, "Court Appointed Special Advocates will play a vital role in requesting new services or change of ICCA by getting the conversation going at CFT meetings. CASAs may also call the Customer Care number at (866)495-6738 or email Ms. Mahoney at DCS@Cenpatico.com to ask specific questions in their attempt to gather information for their child regarding behavioral services."

In addition to the already noted new titles and acronyms, Ms. Mahoney explained some of the other new titles and acronyms assigned to services and team since the transition to Cenpatico. For example, the person previously noted as the Facilitator of the CFT meetings, is now called a Recovery Coach (RC), and will oversee services for the child. The child's RC will have ongoing contact with the child, and Cenpatico, Ms. Mahoney said, "Cenpatico expects the RC to attend court hearings."

There were numerous questions from CASAs regarding children with high needs and Cenpatico's role in making sure these children are not withheld these services. Ms. Mahoney said there are Intake Care and Coordination Agencies (ICCA) that work with the behavioral health team, and DCS case manager to assess if a High Needs Recovery Center is in the child's best interest. A High Needs Recovery Center is a dedicated program with services offered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This is referred to as Wrap Around Services (WAS). Ms. Mahoney said, "when a child receives services from a High Needs Recovery Center they are also assigned a High Needs Recovery Coach, who has a smaller case load and has the time and ability to make sure the child with behavioral high needs gets all the services they need."

An additional RC with a lighter case load is also assigned to a child who is admitted to a Brief Intervention Program (BIP), which "is a 7-10 days time-out for the child from their placement or group home to help stabilize them." Ms. Mahoney said, the RC should have all the services



needed in place for a child who is admitted to a BIP. She further explained that if a child between the ages of 10-17 needs to be admitted to a 30-day intensive therapy program, which is called an Assessment and Intervention Center (AIC). Here they will receive a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) and a Psychological Evaluation (PE). Several CASAs at this point asked Ms. Mahoney to explain the AIC facility level differences regarding care. Ms. Maloney stated, "A Level 2 AIC Facility is live-in 24/7 for 30-days and does not have a medical staff." She clarified that it is not a group home setting, but a clinical setting. She continued, "A Level 1 AIC Facility is a live-in 24/7 for 30-days and is the most intensive behavioral health facility. It is a locked down and clinical program with a full medical staff. Each child will have their own doctors."

To close, Ms. Mahoney said she wanted all in attendance to take with them the important facts that no child or family in the child welfare system should be wait listed, turned away for services, not allowed to have numerous services, or turned away from referral of specialty providers. "If the DCS case manager does not make the referral for change, then the passing of Jacobs Law in March 2016, empowers foster parents to take a more active role in the behavioral health process for the children that are in their care. They can call NurseWise for a RR assessment if DCS fails to do so, and if services are not started within 21 days, then foster parents can call Cenpatico Customer Care or AHCCCS with their complaints and concerns."

For more information or other questions, please access Cenpatico Website: <https://www.cenpaticointegratedcareaz.com/>. For full account of Cenpatico's Definitions & Acronyms: Section 19 contact your program coordinator for a PDF to be sent to you.

2016 is coming to an end!

Don't forget to complete and document your 12 hours of training.

Log your hours on the Dashboard Training Log - quick and easy.

Thank you.



## Announcements

### Mark your Calendar –

### *CASA Years of Service Recognition Dinner*

Jan. 26, 2017 5:30pm – 7:00pm

More details to follow regarding this event but you won't want to miss it!

This year's event is being supported by a scholarship through the Arizona Lottery!



### 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 Advocate  
Pima County, AZ

### Years of Service Recognition

#### 12 Years

Peer Coordinator Sandra Rohen  
(11/2004)

#### 9 Years

Peer Coordinator Sharon Dely  
Peer Coordinator Bonnie Lawrie-Higgins  
(11/2007)

#### 4 Years

CASA Tami Danze  
CASA Annette Weneck  
(12/2012)

#### 3 Years

CASA Barbara Goldstein  
CASA Barry Isaacson  
(12/2013)

#### 2 Years

CASA Howie Adams  
CASA Kathy Anderson  
CASA Lorna Boon  
CASA Sarah Gotschall  
CASA Darryle Hardy  
CASA Simrit Khalsa  
CASA Barb Lauritzen  
CASA Lynn Turra  
CASA Laura Zaer  
(12/2014)

#### 1 Year

CASA Sariah Bechtel  
CASA Aimee Felix  
CASA Rosalie Greenfield  
CASA Maggie Johnson  
CASA Jackie Leahy  
CASA Nathan McDonald  
CASA Gabrielle Morlock  
CASA Sal Quijada  
(12/2015)



## Training Opportunities

### Training Opportunities in the Tucson Community:



## Books, Language, and Communication

Join us for a look at how infants and toddlers develop language and communication, and how books can support this process!

**Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**9:00am-11:00am**

**Make Way for Books**

**700 N. Stone Avenue**

**RSVP: [natalia@makewayforbooks.org](mailto:natalia@makewayforbooks.org)**



United Way of Tucson  
and Southern Arizona  
[UnitedWayTucson.org](http://UnitedWayTucson.org)



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**# FIRST THINGS FIRST**



Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Pima County, AZ





## 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.

**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:

## Court Report Refresher

We are offering two sessions for our Court Report Writing Refresher.

Please come join us for one session. We will answer your questions, walk you through the format and help you overcome any challenges you have been having and most of all we will have a good time while we do it together!



#### Session I

**Saturday, November 5, 2015**

**Time: 9:30am – 12:00pm**

**Location: Court Training Center**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2016**

**Time: 2:30-5pm**

**Location: Court Training Center**



Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Pima County, AZ



## 2017 Training Opportunities

### Working with Victims of Sex Trafficking:

A training for CASA volunteers

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This training will incorporate the federal definition of sex trafficking, the similarities and differences between domestic violence and sex trafficking situations, red flags for sex trafficking situations, and types of recruitment and sex traffickers. Scenarios involving youth in child welfare situations will be discussed and an introduction to trauma-informed work with sex trafficking victims including exploring the trauma bond with the sex traffickers.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** The training is designed for CASA volunteers.



**DATE:** Thursday, January 19, 2017

**TIME:** 1:00 pm—4:30 pm

**LOCATION:** Abrams Public Health Center  
3950 S. County Club Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85714

**COST:** FREE

**INSTRUCTORS:** Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, MSW, Ph.D. and Kristen Bracy, MA

**Registration required**—please go to: <https://events.pcaaz.org/events/01-19-17/>

Questions? Contact [Claire@pcaaz.org](mailto:Claire@pcaaz.org)

*Training provided free of charge by Children's Justice Act grant, administered by the Governor's Office for Youth, Faith and Families, provided by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This training was coordinated by Prevent Child Abuse Arizona.*



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Pima County, AZ



# A LOOK AT JACOBS LAW:

Implementation of Timely Behavioral Health Services

## WHEN

January 25, 2017  
10am—12pm

## WHERE

Cenpatico—  
6th Floor Conference Room

333 E. Wetmore, Tucson, AZ 85705

## PRESENTER:

ANIKA ROBINSON—MOTHER, CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN &  
COMMUNITY FOSTER CARE LIAISON WITH AHCCCS

## SUMMARY:

Come hear the firsthand account of the barriers faced by a foster and adoptive mother to care for her children and the law she authored in an effort to bring about changes for thousands of children and families throughout the state of Arizona.

This workshop aims to educate participants about the implementation of House Bill 2442, better known as Jacob's Law. This bill was developed to ensure easier, better access to behavioral health care services for foster and adopted children from Arizona. The primary focus was to ensure that children received timely behavioral and urgent health services while protecting caregivers against allegations from the Department of Child Safety (DCS) due to their children's mental illness.

## WHO:

CASA Advocates,  
Foster/Adoptive Parents,  
Relative &  
Kinship Placements,  
FCRB Volunteers,  
Child Welfare Professionals

## SPACE IS LIMITED:

RSVP Required

## RSVP USING THE FOLLOWING LINK:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-look-at-jacobs-law-implementation-of-timely-behavioral-health-services-tickets-28947527835>

## ANY QUESTIONS ?

Jania Wright

520-724-4579

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

## HOSTED BY: CASA OF PIMA COUNTY



Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Pima County, AZ



## CASAaz Dashboard Training

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

Volunteer Dashboard

Welcome [redacted] [Message Center](#) | [View / Edit My Personal Info](#) | [Address Book](#) | [Change Password](#)

[0 New Alerts](#) | [3 New Messages](#) | [Send message to coordinator](#) | Tasks: [Mileage Log](#) | [Training Log](#) | [Contact Log](#) | [Activity Log](#)

Cases

JD Number	Files	Hearing Date	Court Report Due	FCRB Date
JD				

[Create Court Report](#) [Create Contact Entry](#)

Events [\[add\]](#) [\[view all\]](#) | Training Log [\[more\]](#) | Court Reports

There are no items to view.

Date	Course	Hours
02/16/16	Testifying in Court	2.00
02/11/16	Raising of America	3.50
Yearly Total:		5.50

There are no items to view.

- November 10 - 10am – 12pm
- November 29 – 6pm – 8pm
- December 8 – 10am – 12pm
- December 22 – 3pm – 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 in January 2017! Watch your CASAaz email for the announcement of the book title and the discussion date.

**For Wednesday Book Club – Email Krissa with Questions!**

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

### CASA Saturday Book Club

Our next book to read and discuss will be

*Ask me why I hurt: The Kids Nobody Wants and the Doctor Who Heals Them,*  
by Dr. Randy Christensen.

We will be meeting on **Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, from **10:00 am-11:30 am**, at **Woods Memorial Library, 3455 North 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Tucson, 85719.**

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 Saturday Book Club - Email Tricia to RSVP by Friday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>!**

[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!



## Age Specific CASA Case Support Meetings:

- ❖ **Infant & Toddlers Case Support:** Friday Nov. 18 , 2016 from 1:00 – 3:00pm & Wednesday Dec. 14, 2016 from 12:00 – 2pm (fun lunch meeting)
  - Location: Martha Cooper Library
  - Facilitator: Christa – [Christa.coxall@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:Christa.coxall@pcjcc.pima.gov)
- ❖ **Teen Case Support:** Friday November 18, 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 November 21, 2016  
(9:30am – 11:30am)**

**The Good Shepherd UCC Church**

17750 S. La Canada Drive  
(Sahuarita)

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

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

**Nanini Branch Public Library**

7300 N Shannon Rd

**Facilitator:** Tricia Keeler  
[Patricia.keeler@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:Patricia.keeler@pcjcc.pima.gov)

**Monday, November 28, 2016  
(5:30 – 7:30pm)**

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

\*Contact Amy for address\*

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

**Monday, December 12, 2016  
(2:00 – 4:00 pm)**

**Sandra Rohen's House**

\*Contact Sandra for address\*

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

**December Meeting date TBD**

**Wilmot Library**

530 N. Wilmot Road

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



Attend a Case Support Meeting to  
get CASA Training Credit!



## CASA SUPPORT COUNCIL NEWS



### Thank you to U of A for donating football tickets to us!!

The Support Council is always receptive to suggestions of new and free activities for our CASA children. Thanks to a request from CASA David, we contacted the U of A Community Relations team and were excited to receive 10 free tickets to the UA vs. USC game, donated by an alumni member. What did this experience mean to the CASA children who attended the game?? Here are some of the comments:

**From CASA Alan:** "First, "K" and I thank you for the tickets. This was the first time he had been to a football game. We arrived early and walked around the stadium. He was amazed at its size and the fact that it can seat almost 55,000 people. "K" kept saying that we had great seats and enjoyed watching the teams warm up (especially the place kicker), as well as the band's pre-game performance. When the "Make Noise" signs came on, he enjoyed contributing his share. He cheered when U of A answered the Trojan's early scoring, but thought that the Wildcats had an increasingly hard time stopping them. He really enjoyed the experience."

**From CASA David:** "This was the first big sporting event that my CASA child "J" experienced. He was impressed by the stadium and the general game atmosphere. He enjoyed talking about the action, discussing whether the team would pass or run and why teams earned penalties. It was a great experience for him. Thank you for providing the opportunity."

**From CASA Lisa:** "A" and I are so thankful to your donors for the tickets. She was so excited to go. She had never been to a U of A football game before. We had a wonderful day starting with the tailgating activities. I bought her a wristband to do the inflatable activities and the trampoline. I was told by the placement that she was talking about going to the game all week!! She especially loved the fireworks at the beginning and she also said that our seats were awesome. "

### Thank you to Tucson Convention Center for donating tickets to "Disney on Ice"!

We recently received a request from a CASA for tickets to "Disney on Ice" at the Tucson Arena. Here are the comments from CASA Barbara:

"This night was magical for "J" and for me. His eyes were the size of saucers with excitement as he tried to take it all in. The seats were PERFECT – there was absolutely nothing in his way and every Disney character skated to the end of the rink and waived to "J". He danced and waved to every character – Minnie and Mickey Mouse were his favorites. During the second act, he turned to me and said, "this is like a movie and WE'RE IN IT. During the last act (Frozen) he sang AT THE TOP OF HIS LUNGS, every word of "Let it Go". "J's" heart was so full after "Disney on Ice" was over. He very politely asked for an Olaf hat and I couldn't say "no". Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity. I would not have missed it for anything in the world".

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

### \*\*\* RECENT REVISION TO CLAIMING AZ TAX CREDIT DONATIONS \*\*\*

We previously reported that the CASA Support Council for Pima County, Inc. was both a “Qualifying Charitable Organization”, as well as a “Qualifying Foster Care Organization”. Recently the Arizona Department of Revenue made changes to this for all organizations in Arizona that were certified for both designations. While we are no longer a “Qualifying Charitable Organization”. we remain certified at the higher designation, a “Qualifying Foster Care Charitable Organization”.

The “Qualifying Foster Care Charitable Organization” allows the following tax credit amounts:

- Individuals may claim a tax credit up to \$500
- Married couples filing jointly may claim a tax credit up to \$1000
- The legislation signed in May, 2016 provides a retroactive effective date of January 1, 2016 for charitable tax credit donations.
- A charitable tax donation that is made on or before April 15<sup>th</sup> following the close of the taxable year may be applied to either the current or preceding taxable year and is considered to have been made on the last day of that taxable year

Based on the above changes, the CASA Support Council will be revising tax credit information on our website. We will also be revising our tax credit info in our annual appeal letter. Finally, donations do not have to be made all at once. You may contribute throughout the year and receive a tax receipt for each contribution.

Questions may be referred to Linda Koral at [linda@pimacountycasa.org](mailto:linda@pimacountycasa.org).

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### FREE Refurbished Computers Available!!

Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation has refurbished computers available to our CASA children. You need to fill out an application on-line at <http://www.affcf.org/>. These computers are equipped with Windows 10 and Office. You will need to pick them up in Phoenix. This is a wonderful opportunity to get your middle school or high school student a FREE computer. You can call them on 602-252-9445, if you have additional questions.



## Calendar of Events



## NOVEMBER, 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Talk & Tour @ Desert Dove (training full)	3	4	5 Court Report Refresher (session 1) 9:30am @ Court Training Center
6	7	8	9	10	11 Court & CASA office Closed!!	12
13	14	15	16 Peer Coordinator/Team Meeting 1:30pm Court Report Refresher (session 2) 2:30pm @ Court Training Center	17	18 Infant/Toddler Case Support 1-3pm Teen Case Support 3:00 – 5:00pm	19
20	21 Case Support - Sahuarita/ Green Valley 9:30 – 11:30	22	23	24 Court & CASA office Closed!!	25 Court & CASA office Closed!!	26
27	28 Case Support - Vail 5:30 – 7:30pm	29	30			





## DECEMBER, 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Sat. Am Book Club 10:00am Woods Library
4 CASA Holiday Party 11am – 2pm	5 CASA Case Support @ Nanini Library 5:00pm - 7:00	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 CASA Case Support @ Sandra's House 2 pm – 4	13	14 Infant/Toddler Case Support 12 -2pm	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Court & CASA Office Closed	27	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> Sharon Inorio
<b>VP, Programs:</b> Eloise Williams	743-8603	Peter (Bud) Inorio
<b>VP, Governance:</b>		Frederica Leonardo-Torres
<b>Treasurer:</b> Karlene Nelson	591-4841	John Merritt
<b>Secretary:</b> Elda Lopez	269-3061	Jan Webster



Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Pima County, AZ

