



# 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 Party at Golf 'n Stuff

The Support Council would like to thank all of the CASAs who brought their kiddos to the party on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We had a very large turnout, and for once, the weather was great. The kiddos got to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what was on their wish list. Santa's elf painted their cute little faces. They got to drive the bumper boats and cars, play laser tag, and video games. Kudos to the brave CASAs who rode in the bumper boats and got soaked in the process!! Of course, the pizza and cookies were a big hit, too. Finally, each child got to pick out a teddy bear that spoke to him/her. All in all it was a fun day for the kiddos, as well as for the CASAs. For those who did not attend, there are still some teddy bears left. Please contact Krissa or your CASA Program Coordinator. A special thanks to Krissa Ericson and her staff, who facilitated the RSVPs, as well as helped out at the party. We appreciate your support.

Also, some of you asked about taking your CASA children to Golf 'n Stuff during the year. YES, we do have an agreement with them, and encourage you to take them there any time of the year, for free. All you need to do is show your CASA badge and let the fun begin!!

### New CASAs

We welcome you to our CASA family. Please visit our website at [pimacountycasa.org](http://pimacountycasa.org) to check out the free and low cost activities available to you, as well as the reimbursement forms for mileage and outings.

### Goodbye 2015, Welcome 2016!!

The Support Council continued in 2015 to provide passes to Reid Park Zoo, Golf 'n Stuff, the Funtasticks and other activities. We also provided some new activities for CASAs and their kiddos, including passes to the Children's Museum, the Mini-Time Machine Museum, the Arizona Desert Museum and tickets to the Tucson Symphony Orchestra's "Magic of Christmas" performances. We are eager to do more, so please feel free to send your suggestions to us.

We wish all the CASAs and the CASA Program Staff a very happy holiday season and best wishes for a great 2016! The Support Council is looking forward to serving the needs of abused and neglected children in Pima County. Thank you for being our partner in this effort.

## Pima County Staff Spotlight – Krissa Ericson

Well to tell you a little bit about me, I guess I would start by saying that I have had the pleasure of living on both coasts (California & Connecticut) as well as spending a majority of my



"growing up" years in the Midwest (Wisconsin & Minnesota). I earned my bachelor's degree and master's degree in social work while living in Minnesota. People always encouraged me to be a teacher but I wanted variety in my career and found social work would offer me many

opportunities to serve in different capacities. My first social work job was as a live-in Residential Counselor (a.k.a. group home staff) for an agency in California. I spent 1 ½ years in that position but after not being supported enough to continue to face the challenges of working with teens addicted to drugs, I left. Early on in my social work career I learned the importance of self-care!

Since then I've worked with survivors of domestic abuse for 5 years and served as a school social worker for 3 years before my husband and I moved to Arizona. I was very fortunate to get a position at Pima County Juvenile Court shortly after coming to Tucson and was grateful to be offered the position of CASA Program Supervisor in January of 2014. I truly enjoy the challenges and rewards this position brings.

When I'm not at work I enjoy spending time with my husband John as well as our family & friends. John and I *love* to travel and I'm excited to plan our next adventure - we haven't decide where to go yet! I also enjoy being outdoors, running and taking pictures of nature. Thank you for choosing to serve alongside me as we strive to help our children grow into healthy and happy adults!

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## CASA Kudos

- ❖ Welcome to our newest CASA trainees, **Sariah, Aimee, Maggie, Jackie, Nathan, Janet, Gabrielle, Rosalie, Sal & Jim!** It's exciting to end the year with 2 strong training classes!



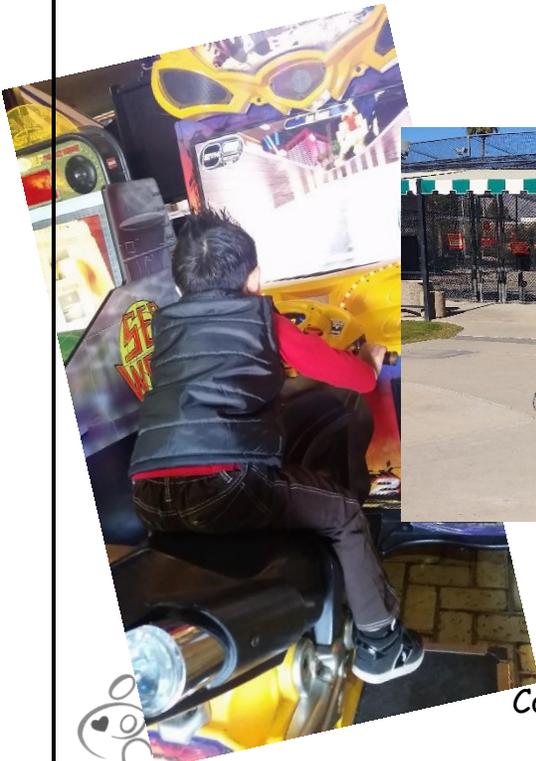
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Amy Hogan & CASA Richard Cook** for attending our Peer Coordinator training and considering the opportunity to support new advocates.
- ❖ A fond farewell to **CASA Susan Haynes!** Thank you for being an amazing CASA advocate who has served 4 children over the last 6 years.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Lucille Boilard-Harkin** and **CASA Irving Berger** for taking another case.
- ❖ Congratulations to **CASA Kathleen Elsberry & CASA Ruthann Wingate** for helping your CASA kiddos reach permanency and helping them find their forever families. Both cases ended in adoption.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Kathy Anderson** for allowing an intern to observe your Dependency Review.
- ❖ Congratulations to **CASA Barb Lauritzen** for helping your CASA kid find permanency through reunification with her mother! Thank you for providing the Judge with all the important information and all your hard work even though the case didn't end like we thought.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Elda Lopez** for bringing 5 of your 6 CASA kiddos to the Holiday Party. Thank you to **CASA Pamela Maloney & Peer Coordinator Mary Ann Martin** for helping Elda & the kids enjoy the party!
- ❖ "The Board Acknowledges the CASA for her dedication to K." Thank you **CASA Peg Chuchro** for your ongoing support of your CASA child and her new relative placement.
- ❖ Judge Rosales wrote "I had **CASA Stephen Lautenschlaeger** on a case in court yesterday. He is fantastic, and all the parties gave him kudos. Thought you should know."
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Richard Cook** for submitting National CASA for Children as a charity to be considered by his employer & leadership team!
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Laura Zaer** for going to all lengths possible in order to communicate with your CASA child. Laura Zaer is taking ASL lessons to help her better serve her hearing impaired child.
- ❖ Congrats to **CASA Pam Coggins** for being assigned to her first case!
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Rufus Tamayo** for working diligently to make sure your CASA teen made it to his relative's home for weekend visits. Thank you for being a team player and keeping the CFT team informed on a weekly basis.
- ❖ Thank you **Peer Coordinator Judith Meyer** for your hard work as a PC and as a CASA!
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Claudia Levin** for helping DCS make appropriate connections so they can arrange a training on serving refugee families.
- ❖ Congrats to **CASA Sarah Gotschall** for your role in supporting the successful ending of first case. The children were returned home and Family Reunification was successfully achieved!



- ❖ FCRB acknowledged **CASA Jennifer Hurely** for her hard work and dedication to her CASA kiddo.
- ❖ A special thank you to **CASA Ardie Banks** for your generous and tireless work on behalf of your CASA child. During a recent court hearing, the child's mother thanked Ardie and called her "an angel". **The Judge mentioned how CASAs provide a wonderful service.**
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Barry Isaacson** for including a quote from your CASA child in the recent court report. The Judge read what the child had to say about his placement wishes, during the court hearing.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Andie Cohn** for keeping your program coordinator & peer coordinator up to date on "happenings" in your case. Thank you for consistently being in contact with the placement and child even though they have moved and being persistent about his therapy getting set up in Phoenix.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Lorna Boon** for her incredibly well-written court reports and for all of her work and insights and knowledge on behalf of her CASA child.
- ❖ A special thank you to **Co-CASAs Ann Shave & Dale Gustafson** for their great teamwork and advocacy on behalf of their CASA children. Ann and Dale have been persistent in advocating for needed therapy, education services, and placement. They are having a positive impact. Also, Ann and Dale received donated toys for the holidays and generously made the toys available so that other children in the child welfare system could receive a gift.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Paul Black** for his persistent and effective advocacy on behalf of his CASA child, as the young man turned 18 years of age. Paul helped to ensure that services and resources will continue to be available to this young adult.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Tanya Ivey** for ensuring your CASA children got to the airport for trip to see their relatives and for your patience waiting in the airport (for 2 hours) until their plane took off!
- ❖ A special thank you to **CASA George Franklin**, who continues to visit his CASA child in another county and continues to be the key team member regarding the child's education. George has remained a constant, trustworthy, and fun adult in this child's life, as the child changed communities, schools, and placements.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Tina Lee** for her dedicated, insightful and hard work. Tina was thanked by the Judge, during a recent court hearing, for her excellent court report and for all that she has done on behalf of the child.
- ❖ Congratulations to **CASA Jay Leutenberg** for taking on his second case.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Mary Jacobs** for persisting on behalf of the relative placement until things were worked out regarding daycare payments.
- ❖ Congratulations to **Co-CASAs Ken Browning & Cynthia Dean** for selecting their first case as Co-CASAs. A special thank you to Ken for quickly engaging with the child's team and in getting to know the CASA child.
- ❖ Congratulations to **CASA Jennifer Andrews** for her selection of and appointment to her first CASA case.
- ❖ Thank you to **Co-CASAs Marcia Katz & Arlene Tuller** for your consistent presence for your CASA Teen. She will be entering "adulthood" better equipped because you have been by her side and advocated for her.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Gina Hale** for thinking outside the box to keep your CASA children placed together while waiting for the ICPC process to unfold.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Jennifer Anderson** for working with the CASA Support Council on getting a scholarship for her young CASA child to attend "music together" classes in the community.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Linda Hawke** for passing on training information that will benefit CASA's.
- ❖ Thank you to **Peer Coordinator Sally Bedrick** for facilitating the Nanini ALERT Teams.
- ❖ Another successful reunification! Congrats to **CASA Diana Minisci** for playing a vital role in helping your case ending in Family Reunification with the father.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Christine Hoekenga** for taking a new CASA to observe your FCRB.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Ida Sandler** for checking on your CASA child at her daycare.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Howie Adams** for investing in your CASA teen through weekly phone calls as well as attending to case related meetings here in Tucson until your CASA teen can move back!



- ❖ Congrats to **Peer Coordinator Susie McClinton** for playing a major role in supporting an adoptive placement for a Courtesy Case. We are excited you CASA kids were adopted in November!
- ❖ Congrats to **Peer Coordinator Ellen Werts** for helping your CASA child achieve permanency. Another CASA child has found their forever family and was adopted!
- ❖ Kudos to **Co-CASAs Art & Jan Hoffman** who were described by Judge Wagener as “Super CASAs”.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Shawna Bohn** for providing the Judge with valuable information to help your CASA child transition to her father’s home.
- ❖ Congrats to **CASA Albert Carr** for helping your CASA child find permanency. Thank you for your eagerness to get a second case and help another teen boy achieve permanency.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Audrey Kulwin** for supporting the foster/adoptive placement of one of your CASA children. We are excited she was adopted and is able to stay with her foster sister!
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Judy Chazel** for supporting your CASA teen who has now aged out. Krissa had the opportunity to meet her and she told me “Judy was the only consistent person on my case for the last 4+ years.” Thank you for your continuing support as you help her look for apartments to rent.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Sharon Dely** for finding creative solutions to get her CASA child interested in reading.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Linda Koral** Linda Koral for continuing to support CASAs as part of the support council and as a peer sharing her experiences.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Cecily Crebbs** for enduring the rollercoaster ride of your case. Thank you for being available to your CASA teen.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Claudia Levin** for making sure your CASA teen was able to connect with family over the holiday.
- ❖ Thank you to **CASA Amelia Lobos** for taking on a new case with a teen girl who has very few supports.
- ❖ Thank you to **Peer Coordinator Marion Pickens** for making sure all CASA children have a great holiday.
- ❖ A special thanks to **CASA Jane Swivel** for being with your CASA child through hard times, sudden placement changes and many uncertain circumstances. Thank you for always doing what is right for her and standing up for her.
- ❖ Kudos to **CASA Marianne Vivirito** for keeping your positive attitude even when faced with resistance.



Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Pima County, AZ

## Things to Remember in 2016

1. **DASHBOARD & CASAAZ.GOV EMAIL:** All advocates are strongly encouraged to log in to the Dashboard & CASAaz.gov email on a regular basis. We are sending important announcements and information via the email system and want you to be able to take advantage of all that CASA of Pima County offers!
  - **Remember the Dashboard is our new online case management system.**  
Link: <https://apps.azcourts.gov/Casa/Login.aspx>  
Use this tool to view documents disclosed on your case; enter your case activities such as outings with your CASA child; submit your court report; and account for your training hours throughout the year.
  - **Remember your CASAaz.gov email is for all things CASA.**  
Link: <https://p3plcpnl0711.prod.phx3.secureserver.net:2096/>  
Use this email to communicate with individuals on your CASA case as well as with your Peer Coordinator & Program Coordinator.
  
2. **TRAINING:** All CASA Advocates & Peer Coordinators will complete **12 hours** of training per year. **Four** hours must be completed through in person or interactive training.
  - **Eight** out of the 12 hours can be Independent Study activities. Some examples are:
    1. CASA website Online Trainings ([www.azcasa.org](http://www.azcasa.org) under “Online Training”)
    2. Movies
    3. Books (30 minutes per 50 pages read).
  - **Four** hours must be in person or interactive training. For example:
    1. Monthly Learning Events (MLE)
    2. ALERT Teams, Teen Case Supports, Infant & Toddler Case Supports
    3. CASA Book Club Discussion
    4. Brown Bags
    5. Community Trainings
  - In June of 2015 CASA of Arizona stated that **helping with recruitment activities** could be logged as training hours. For example, 2 hours spent helping with Tucson Meet Yourself will be logged as 2 hours towards your training requirement. Talk to Krissa, Jill or your Program Coordinator if you have questions about this change.

***Don't forget to log your trainings into the Dashboard. This will give you a record and cumulative total of your completed training hours for the year!***

If you attend a **Community Training**, your Coordinator may ask you for the **Certificate or PowerPoint** for this training so it can be documented that it is an appropriate training. The CASA office only receives sign in sheets from **MLE, Brown Bags, ALERT Teams, Teen & Baby Case Supports and CASA Book Club**. \*Due to *space constraints* and other *logistics* some trainings and events will require you to RSVP in advance. Please pay close attention to all announcements.

3. **CONTACT ENTRIES ON DASHBOARD:** All advocates are required to submit a contact log every month. With our new online case management system, advocates are encouraged to enter case activities (contacts) on an ongoing basis. If you enter your activities throughout each week



you will be all set come the last day of the month. If needed, a contact log can be completed on a word document and sent into the CASA office but this is only done on a case by case basis. Please talk with your Program Coordinator. These entries & logs are due to the CASA office by the **1<sup>st</sup> of the following month**. **It is very important to have everything submitted by the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the following month because the CASA office has to submit reports containing that information by certain deadlines.**

- CASA Advocates are to document **all contacts** with **all parties** on the case, including the CASA Coordinator. Document your phone calls, emails and even times you just leave a voice message! Document your outings or visits with your CASA child as well as your attendance at meetings and trainings.
- CASA Advocates will submit contact logs until there **case is dismissed** by the Judge. (Ex: Case is dismissed on November 2<sup>nd</sup>; the volunteer will still need to submit this log on December 1<sup>st</sup>).
- Once the CASA **picks up there case file**, they will start to document case activity on their contact logs.

4. **COURT REPORTS:** CASA Advocates will submit their court reports **TWO weeks prior** to the hearing. **Court reports will be submitted for ALL Dependency Reviews & Permanency Hearings.**

- Court Reports should be entered into the online case management system, the Dashboard.
- For editing purposes, court reports **can be emailed** to your Peer Coordinator and Program Coordinator **using your CASAaz.gov email address.**
- If your **COURT REPORT** is **submitted late**, it may not be processed and submitted to the court. You also might not be called upon by the Judge for your thoughts/ideas. **It cannot be EMPHASIZED enough as to how critical this requirement is to the Judges, the CASA Program, to your Coordinator and to the CASA children.**

5. **ADVOCATE & PEER/PROGRAM COORDINATOR CONTACT:** At minimum we ask that personal contact between CASA Advocates & Coordinators is ***once a month***. We anticipate it will be more regular. This is an important way for CASA Advocates to update Coordinators on their cases as well as meeting our CASA State Program requirement.

- To remain active/not assigned (such as working on a special project), an advocate must complete **3 hours of organized program activities per month** (and meet other active advocate requirements, including training hours).
- Advocates participating in **SPECIAL PROJECTS** must have **regular** contact on these projects & **submit a contact log every month**. This is a requirement per the State of Arizona CASA program. (Ex: Educational Consultant, ALERT Team Facilitator, CASA Support Council, etc.).
- To remain **inactive and not be exited** from the CASA program, an advocate must complete 12 hours of in-service annually. It is also State policy that a CASA Advocate cannot be inactive for longer than **six months**.
- If a CASA Advocate has not been on a case for **a year or longer**, then the CASA is required to complete the CASA Flex Training or CASA Advocacy Academy (CAA), in its entirety as a refresher.
- **If you do not maintain contact with the program we may be required to exit you from the program, based on guidelines set by the state CASA Office. So please stay in touch!**



6. **COURT HEARINGS**: Notify your Coordinator if you cannot attend so they can try to attend in your absence or notify the Judge.
7. **FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD (FCRB)**: It is important for the CASA Advocate to attend the FCRB, however, if you cannot attend, please be prepared to submit a statement by:
- **Phone: #388-4300**
  - **Fax: # (602) 307-1220**
  - **Email: [FCRBT@courts.az.gov](mailto:FCRBT@courts.az.gov)** - CASA of Pima County requires that you **only use your CASAaz.gov email** to submit emailed statements.
  - **All statements should be received four days prior to the scheduled review date.**
8. **CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM (CFT) Meetings**: It's very important for CASA Advocates to attend monthly CFT meetings. It's a great opportunity to get updates on the case plan tasks, placement, behavioral concerns, medical concerns, education needs, visitation, etc. Most importantly it gives the CASA the opportunity to provide case input to the team.
- Notify your Coordinator if you cannot attend so they can try to attend in your absence.
9. **FILE AUDIT: Ongoing Certification Statement and fingerprints** must be done every **two years**; this document must be notarized. You are also required to submit proof of your **automobile insurance every year**.
10. **CONFIDENTIALITY**: Everything case related and/or related to the case you are assigned is **confidential**. Please talk with your CASA Peer Coordinator and Program Coordinator about confidentiality and sharing case information with any parties; specifically sending/receiving email messages.
- In June of 2015 CASA of Arizona released CASA specific government email to eliminate some of these extra barriers for our CASA advocates. If you have not attended a computer training – contact your Coordinator to get in to an upcoming class! Please remember there are many folks involved in a case and not everyone is an official party to the case. Your Coordinator will assist you in maneuvering through the aspects of confidentiality.
11. **REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS: Outings & Mileage** reimbursement requests are to be done on the **CASA Support Council Website**: <http://pimacountycasa.org/casa-links/current-casa-forms>
- Reimbursements are to be submitted monthly to the Support Council, but they can also be submitted in **three month increments**. (Ex: October, November, & December). Support Council will not go back **more than 3 months** from the date of expenditure.
  - **SPECIAL REQUESTS**: Please contact your CASA Coordinator prior to submitting a special request.
  - **OPERATION SCHOOL BELL**: In partnership with the CASA Support Council, the Assistance League of Tucson has provided our program with some clothing vouchers for our school age children. *Contact your Program Coordinator* if you have a child that needs clothes.
  - **TUTORING**: CASA Support Council will no longer be providing funds for tutoring.
  - **Arizona Friends of Foster Care (AFFC)** will fund a variety of activities and items for your CASA child. The AFFC website has a list of items that they award money for, such as tutoring, school pictures, bikes and more. For Tutoring, AFFC website has a 12-week



funding periods with renewals up to one year. You will need to identify the tutor you would like. The AFFC website is: <http://www.affcf.org>

- 12. GIFT CARDS:** Are available to all CASA Volunteers for birthdays, Holiday's, special occasions, etc. Please contact *your Program Coordinator* ahead of time so they will have the gift card ready for you to pick up or have it mailed to you.
- 13. ACTIVITIES:** The CASA Support Council for Pima County, Inc. has provided the CASA office with zoo passes, Desert Museum Passes and Children's Museum Passes. Please contact your Program Coordinator to find out how to get a pass! Also watch for updates regarding the work of the CASA Support Council in our bi-monthly newsletters. They are always working hard to provide support to our CASA advocates & CASA children.

## Helpful Articles on the Web

### The Neglected Brain

Below you will find the links to an excellent 4 part series that “explores the crippling, and yet reversible effects of childhood neglect on the brain and life of Danielle Goodwin.” The Editor also notes “Neglect is by far the most common form of child maltreatment. Whether physical or emotional, benign or malicious, it alters the developing brains architecture and circuitry in profound and persistent ways that often lead to physical and behavioral problems throughout life.” We encourage you to read this series to learn more about the effects of neglect on the brain. It uses the personal story of Ms. Goodwin to help us understand what happens to the brain and how we can help “fix” the neglected brain. Training credit available for those who read it and write a summary of how this information can help a CASA advocate better serve their CASA child. (1 hour training credit)

Part 1: <http://crosscut.com/2014/12/the-neglected-brain-1-stacey-solie/>

Part 2: <http://crosscut.com/2014/12/neglected-brain-2-stacey-solie/>

Part 3: <http://crosscut.com/2014/12/fixing-neglected-brain-3-stacey-solie/>

Part 4: <http://crosscut.com/2014/12/neglected-brain-4-stacey-solie/>



## Dashboard & CASAaz.gov Email “News”

**Don't forget to use your CASAaz email to correspond with parties on your case! Check it regularly for important items such as announcements from the CASA office.**

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



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



<https://twitter.com/CASAPimaCounty>

**Fixes, enhancements & upgrades are on their way for the Dashboard. Thank you for your patience with this new system. Remember you can still view files and enter training into your Dashboard but the *contact log & court report* features are under repair – please do not enter new contacts until further notice!**

**We will continue to host computer trainings each month in 2016 – if you need a refresher or want to start using these tools for the first time please plan to attend. If you'd like a 1:1 session to help you navigate these tools on your own equipment – that's an option as well!**

### **2016 Computer Training Dates & Times:**

**Monday January 11, 2016 3:00pm – 5:00pm – Juvenile Court**  
**Friday February 19, 2016 9:00am – 12:00pm – Juvenile Court**  
**Tuesday March 15, 2016 4:00pm – 6:00pm – Juvenile Court**



## Announcements

### January & February Training Events:

**Wed. January 20, 2016**

**3:00 – 5:00pm**

**Juvenile Court Training Center**

**Topic - Foster-Ed Presentation**

**Tues. February 16, 2016**

**3:00 – 5:00pm**

**Juvenile Court Training Center**

**Topic - Testifying in Court**



### 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

#### 11 Years

CASA Linda Koral  
(2/03/2005)

#### 10 Years

CASA Linda Pejchar  
CASA Terri Anderko  
CASA Gloria Olvera  
(2/9/2006)

#### 8 Years

CASA Marcia Katz  
(2/23/2008)

#### 4 Years

CASA Marsha Luttrell  
(2/25/2011)

#### 3 Years

CASA Marianne Vivirito  
(2/13/2013)

#### 2 Years

CASA Liz Bagnocche  
CASA Maureen Enos  
CASA Aspen Menke  
CASA Tina Lee  
CASA Tina Whittemore  
(2/28/2014)

#### 1 Year

CASA Albert Carr  
CASA Bob Simpson  
(1/5/2015)  
CASA Sheryl Brown  
CASA Andie Cohn  
CASA Tanya Ivey  
Co-CASAs Don & Diane Ward  
(2/27/2015)



## Events



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE  
**CASA YEARS OF SERVICE**  
**POTLUCK**

@

THE JUVENILE COURT TRAINING CENTER  
**THURSDAY JANUARY 28, 2016**  
**FROM 5:30 – 7:00 PM**

Come celebrate the years of advocacy you have given to our children!

Dinner will be served at this event—by you!

Please select a dish to bring when you RSVP.

The CASA program will supply all the plates, napkins, cups and silverware.

Spouses & Significant others are welcome to attend with you.

We look forward to a fun evening of good food and celebration!



## Refresher Training for CASAs

**\*SAVE THE DATE\***

**March 12, 2016**  
**9—3pm**

### **WHERE**

**Abrams Building**  
 3950 S. Country Club Road

### **TRAINING TOPICS**

CASA Communication; Panel Presentation;  
**Resources for Teens**; Tips for working with  
 our Tots; and more!

**Link to sign-up & RSVP will be sent to your  
 email mid-January.**

**All Advocates  
 are invited!**

### **RSVP Required**

Lunch will be provided so  
 we need you to RSVP!

The last day to sign up is  
 March 9, 2016

**6 hours training  
 credit**

This will be a great oppor-  
 tunity to finish 6 of your  
 12 required training cred-  
 its for 2015!



## CASA Book Club

Day & Time	Book	Location
Wed. January 13, 2016 5:30 – 7pm	<i>To the end of June</i> By Cris Beam	Juvenile Court Training Center
Sat. January 23, 2016 10:30 - Noon	<i>One Small Boat</i> Kathy Harrison	Wood Memorial Library
Wed. March 9, 2016 5:30 – 7pm	<i>Three Little Words</i> By Ashley Rhodes-Courter	Juvenile Court Training Center
Sat. March 19, 2016 10:30 - Noon	<i>To the end of June</i> By Cris Beam	Wood Memorial Library

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! Contact Krissa with any questions – [Krissa.ericson@pcicc.pima.gov](mailto:Krissa.ericson@pcicc.pima.gov) or 724-2069.

## CASA Case Support & ALERT Team Meetings

- ❖ Infant & Toddlers Case Support: **Jan. 21, 2016** from **2:00 – 4:00pm** Martha Cooper Library  
**Feb. 2016** from **TBD** Martha Cooper Library
  - Facilitator: Christa – [Christa.coxall@pcicc.pima.gov](mailto:Christa.coxall@pcicc.pima.gov)
- ❖ ALERT Team in Green Valley (AT): **Monday Jan. 11, 2016** from **9:30 – 11:30am**
  - Facilitator: Peer Coordinator Cynthia Dean – [cdean@casaaz.gov](mailto:cdean@casaaz.gov)
- ❖ Teen Case Support: **Friday Jan. 22, 2016** from **3:00 – 5:00pm** at Martha Cooper Library
  - Facilitator: Nicole – [Nicole.stockett@pcicc.pima.gov](mailto:Nicole.stockett@pcicc.pima.gov)
- ❖ ALERT Team @ Sandra's (AT): **Monday Feb. 8, 2016** from **2:00-4:00pm**
  - Location: Sandra's Home - Contact Sandra for address
  - Facilitator: Peer Coordinator Sandra Rohen- [srohen@casaaz.gov](mailto:srohen@casaaz.gov)
- ❖ ALERT Team @ Nanini Library (AT): **February 2, 2016** from **5:00 – 7:00pm**
  - Facilitator: Peer Coordinator Sally Bedrick – [sbedrick@casaaz.gov](mailto:sbedrick@casaaz.gov)
- ❖ ALERT Team @ Wilmot Library (AT): **Thursday Feb. 25, 2016** from **3:00 – 5:00PM**
  - Facilitator: Nicole [Nicole.stockett@pcicc.pima.gov](mailto:Nicole.stockett@pcicc.pima.gov)
- ❖ ALERT Team in Vail: **Starting up in early 2016** – watch your email for date/time & location
  - Facilitator: Peer Coordinator Amy Hogan – [ahogan@casaaz.gov](mailto:ahogan@casaaz.gov)



Case Support & ALERT Team Meetings are a great opportunity to get support on your case and offer support to a fellow CASA advocate. Try one out soon!!



## CASA Support Council Thanks 2015 Supporters & Partners!!!

**The Support Council provided a substantial amount of services to the CASA children, CASA advocates, and the CASA of Pima County Program in 2015. We are sincerely grateful for the contributions of these supporters and partners who helped make it possible.**

- Thank you to the **Assistance League of Tucson** for providing JC Penney gift cards to buy clothing for school aged CASA children, as part of their “Operation School Bell” program.
- Thanks to **Kim Wilson of the YMCA** for providing us Triangle Y Summer Camperships. We had more CASA children attending than in the past and they reported their favorite things were swimming, hiking, and horseback riding.
- Thanks to the **Kappa Alpha Theta sorority at U of A**. They had numerous fund-raising events throughout 2015 and also volunteered at several events. We appreciate them so much!
- Thank you to the **Tucson Symphony Orchestra** for donating 10 tickets to each of their “Magic of Christmas” concerts. Our CASA kiddos enjoyed the singing, dancing and had fun.
- Thank you to **Alma Quesada, a private citizen**, who donated 40 plush Christmas blankets for our CASA kiddos. The Infant Toddler group grabbed a lot of these, but there are a few left.
- Thank you to the **Office of the Senior VP of Health Sciences at U of A** for selecting our CASA teens as their Christmas charity. The teens received gift cards and lots of goodies!!
- Thank you to **Geico Insurance** for donating duffel bags from sweetcases.org. These were hand decorated by employees and were filled with blankets, coloring books, crayons, etc. These will be a very useful item for our kiddos’ belongings.
- Thank you to **Bashas and Safeway** retail stores for allowing us to place Christmas giving trees in their stores. These are the primary resources for the gift cards we use throughout the year.
- Thank you to **Dimon Sanders and her family** for helping us put up Christmas trees and assisting at the Support Council sponsored Holiday Party for CASA children. We appreciate you helping the little kiddos on the rides, too!!
- Thank you to **Golf ‘n Stuff** for providing a great holiday party, including Santa and his Elf. CASAs can also take their kiddos there for free (show your badge) during the rest of the year.
- Thank you to **Funtasticks** for providing us discounted packages so our CASAs can take children there throughout the year.
- Thank you to the **Children’s Museum** for their generous discounted community membership. Our CASAs can show their badge and get free admission every day they are open, up to 4 adults and 2 children.
- Thank you to the **Arizona Desert Museum** for donating passes for our CASA children.
- Thank you to the **Mini-Time Machine Museum** for giving us a grant for free admission for 100 kiddos, through December. They have a wonderful Christmas program! Check it out!
- Thank you to **Reid Park Zoo** for a discounted membership to provide passes for our kiddos.
- Thank you to the **Arizona Friends of Foster Children** for providing services that the Support Council does not provide (e.g. tutoring).
- Thank you to **Fry’s Community Rewards Program**, where linking your VIP card to us provides quarterly donations.
- Thank you to **Krissa Ericson and the CASA Program Staff** for all their support!!
- Thank you to our **volunteer CASA Support Council Board Members** who tirelessly worked to enrich the lives of our precious CASA children.
- Thank you to **the individuals and families who made donations** throughout the year. We are so grateful that you share our passion for helping the abused and neglected children in Pima County!

**Linda Koral, President, CASA Support Council**



Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Pima County, AZ



## Reimbursement provided by the CASA Support Council

### CASA Support Council for Pima County, Inc. 2016 Reimbursement Info for CASAs

The Support Council is constantly reviewing its policies and procedures, in light of economic trends and good fiscal sense. Below are a few changes that will be effective January 1, 2016.

#### Mileage Reimbursement

- **As a result of plunging gas prices, mileage incurred in January, 2016, payable in February, 2016, will be paid at the rate of \$.15 per mile.**
- If you submit 3 months of mileage in February (i.e. mileage for November, December and January), the mileage prior to January, 2016 will be paid at the current rate of \$.20 per mile.
- Please remember that mileage can only be submitted for 3 months prior to the date of expenditure, and must be associated with duties performed as a CASA or to benefit the CASA program.
- Mileage should be submitted via the on-line form on our website
- We will continue to monitor gas prices and trends and may change the mileage rate accordingly.

#### Reimbursement for Clothing

- **Requests for clothing for school-age CASA children, whether emergency or regular need, will be accommodated only through JC Penney gift cards, which should be requested from your CASA Program Coordinator. These gift cards are donated by the Assistance League of Tucson to the Support Council. Priority for the JC Penney gift cards will be given to kinship non-licensed foster placements. The only exception will be for clothing that is for a CASA child younger than school age.**
- **Clothing requests that are associated with Outings will also need to use the JC Penney gift cards.**
- If your CASA child is under the age of 5 with an emergency need for clothing– contact your Program Coordinator to discuss the situation and find out about a gift card or other resources available.

#### Gift cards for birthdays, adoptions, etc.

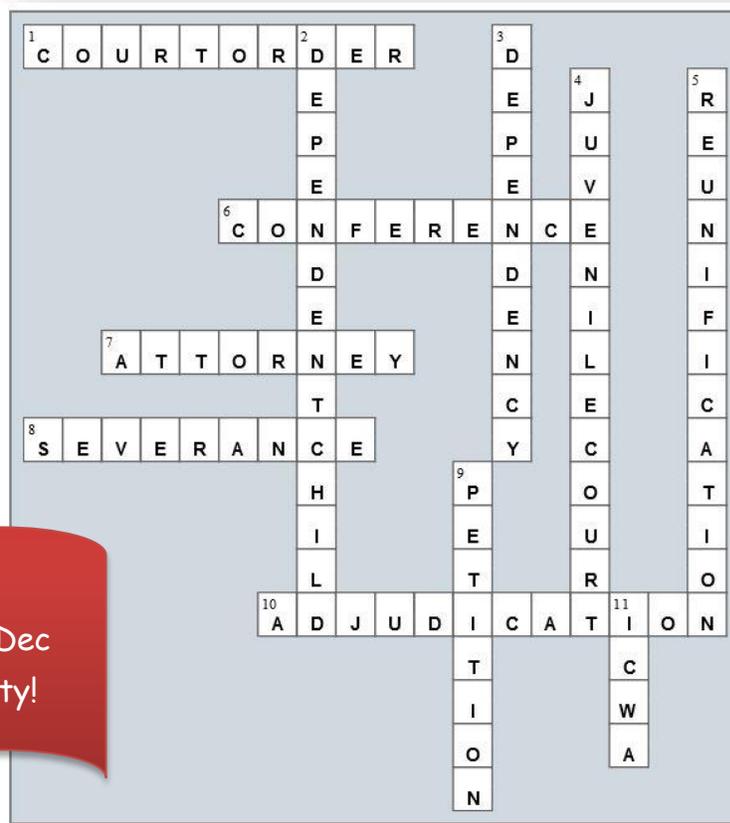
- Please request gift cards for birthdays and other special occasions from your CASA Program Coordinator. The Support Council provides these throughout the year to the CASA Program.

#### New CASAs

- Please review our reimbursement forms on our website, [www.pimacountycasa.org](http://www.pimacountycasa.org). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Treasurer, Karlene Nelson, at [treasurer@pimacountycasa.org](mailto:treasurer@pimacountycasa.org)



## CASA Crossword Puzzle – Dependency Process Answers



Answers to Nov/Dec  
crossword activity!

Across

Down

- The \_\_\_\_\_ gives the CASA access to confidential information without prior approval for purposes of providing information to the juvenile court.
- A child who is adjudicated and has been made a ward of the court.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ case is initiated in juvenile court with the filing of a dependency petition.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ has the authority to hear cases involving children ages birth to 18 years.
- If \_\_\_\_\_ is not possible, a permanent plan must be designed to address other options for a safe, permanent home for the child.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ is often accompanied by a request that the child be made a temporary ward of the court.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ is responsible for giving advice to the client and presenting the best case possible for the client.
- At the \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing the court determines whether there is sufficient grounds to terminate the parent-child relationship.
- A legal term describing the court's determination of legal status.
- The Indian Child Welfare Act is also known as \_\_\_\_\_.



## Calendar of Events



Wishes for 2016 - Joy, Happiness, Health, Trauma Responsive Teams  
 Positive Parenting, Education Success for children, Stable Placements  
 More Children Served, More Advocates, Increased Awareness for CASA,  
 Funding for more CASA Staff Position, Stronger Collaborations

## JANUARY, 2016

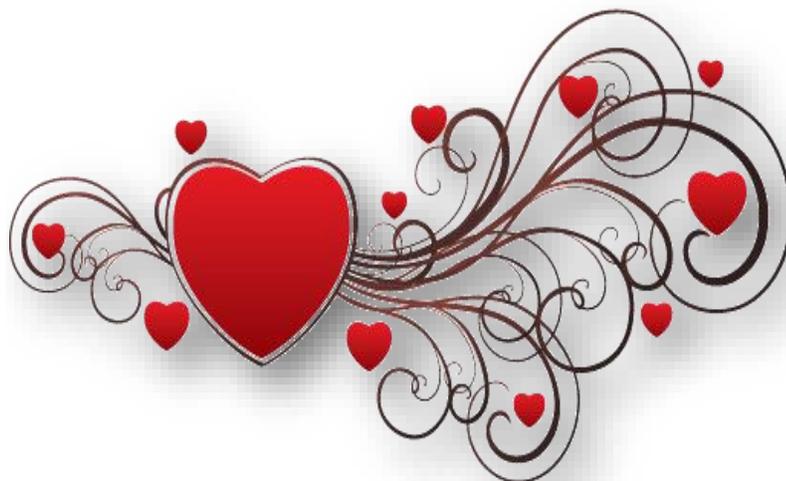
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 <b>CASA OFFICE CLOSED</b>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Green Valley Alert Team Meeting <u>9:30am – 11:30</u> Dashboard Computer Training <u>3pm - 5</u>	12	13 CASA BOOK CLUB <u>5:30pm – 7</u> Training Center	14	15	16
17	18 <b>CASA OFFICE CLOSED</b>	19	20 Peer Coordinator/Staff Meeting <u>1:30pm</u>  Monthly Learning Event <u>3PM-5PM</u> @ Training Center	21 <u>Knowing Who You Are Training</u> <u>8:00 – 4:30</u> @ the Abrams Building Infant/Toddler Case Support <u>2:00pm – 4:00</u>	22  Teen Case Support <u>3:00pm – 5:00</u>	23 CASA BOOK CLUB <u>10:30am – 12:00</u> Woods Lib.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



## Calendar of Events

### Children's Day

Let us lift up the children we love today.  
 Let us lift up the children we've met.  
 Let us lift up the promise in each small heart  
 of the children we don't know yet.  
 Let us lift up the children with families.  
 Let us lift up the children alone.  
 Let us lift up the children with voices strong  
 before all of the children are grown.  
 Let us lift up the children who work in fields  
 and the children at school and play.  
 Let us lift our world's children together.  
 Let us lift up all children.  
 I pray.



© Amy LV

## FEBRUARY, 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Nanini Library ALERT Team 5 – 7pm	3	4	5	6
7	8 ALERT Team Sandra's House 2 pm – 4	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 <b>CASA OFFICE CLOSED</b>	16	17 Peer Coordinator/Staff Meeting 1:30pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Wilmot ALERT Team Meeting 3pm - 5	26	27
28	29					



## 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>

**Program Supervisor:** Krissa Ericson 724-2069      **Coordinators:** Nicole Stockett 724-9240

Christa Coxall 724-9241

**Support Specialists:** Maria Chavez 724-5024

Karen Abman 724-9242

Lupe Ornelas 724-2060

Julio Vega 724-4579

**CASA Recruiter:** Jill LaBrie 724-9238

**CASA Intern:**

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

- Photo Credit to: various CASA Staff
- Special thanks to Linda Koral & Various CASA staff for offering their insight in an effort to develop this great newsletter!

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

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