

Brittany Bayo

 bbayo@casamercer.org>

March CASA Volunteer Newsletter

CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties <staff@casamercer.org>

Thu, Mar 30, 2017 at 6:28 PM

Reply-To: staff@casamercer.org
To: bbayo@casamercer.org



CASA FOR CHILDREN OF MERCER AND BURLINGTON COUNTIES TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PR

March 30, 2017 CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties

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(Pictured above are Simone Jarvis (left) and Quiana Gleaves.)

Welcome to our new CASA Staff!

From Executive Director Katherine Carmichael, M.S. Ed., MSW, LMSW:

It gives me great pleasure to announce the recent arrival of three new team members at CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties.

Brittany Bayo joined CASA as our Administrative Assistant on February 13th. Brittany comes to us from Community News Services, LLC where she served as Administrative Coordinator. Brittany holds two Associate degrees from Mercer County Community College in Business Administration and International Business. She is currently pursuing her B.A. in Human Resource Management and Organizational Management at Thomas Edison State University. In addition to her diverse administrative experience, Brittany brings an on-going commitment to volunteer service. She has served as an Advocate in Mercer County for more than a year and will continue in this role. Brittany has also served on the Mercer County

<u>Lisa Oros</u>
<u>Renee Paci</u>
<u>Ines Ramirez</u>
<u>Teri Triano-Davis</u>

Like Us on Facebook!









HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY!

Advocates:

Alex Chandler
Lacresha Riddle
Eileen Stokley
Daniel Reynolds
Maureen Rupert
Mary Quinn
Wendy Girer
Nancy Sobin
Patricia Lamb
Jeffrey Albert

Staff:

Jillian Bonacci Laura Fitzgerald



<u>April is National Child Abuse</u> Prevention Month!

Visit National CASA or The Children's Bureau for more information.

Advocate Committee of the Board since the committee's inception in September 2016. However, Brittany's commitment to her community goes far beyond her service as a CASA. She has tutored adult ESL at The English School at Westminster Presbyterian Church for the past two years. While at MCCC Brittany served as both president and the state vice president for the Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda. In this leadership role she coordinated many blood drives for the NJ Blood Center and supported campaigns for the March of Dimes, Salvation and the American Heart Association.

About joining CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties Brittany shared "Joining the team at CASA as a staff member is incredibly rewarding. I am able to take my professional experience to help support a cause I already believe in wholeheartedly. I am excited to move forward with the rest of the CASA team to reach our goal of helping more children."

Brittany can be reached at bbayo@casamercer.org and at (609) 434-0050. She will be based in the Ewing Office and her normal work hours will be Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm.

Simone Jarvis joined CASA as an Advocate Supervisor on February 27th. Simone was most recently the Visual Manager and Volunteer Coordinator at the Target store in Burlington. While at Target, Simon was responsible for her store's volunteer program. Target strongly encourages employee participation in monthly volunteer projects and under Simone's leadership the monthly volunteer participation more than doubled. Simone was successful at increasing her store's volunteer numbers by involving more than just the management team in the monthly volunteer efforts. She accomplished this by talking with staff and creating projects that they found rewarding. Simone was recognized for her achievement with the Target "Bullseye Volunteer Hero Award" for the entire North East Region for her positive impact on the Burlington community.

Simone holds a B.A. in Marketing from the Art Institute of Philadelphia. She will be pursuing her Masters in social work this fall at Rutgers School of Social Work. Simone like Brittany first came to CASA as an advocate and will continue to serve as an advocate in Burlington County. In addition to volunteering with CASA she has volunteered as a Production Assistant with Beyond Expectations a local nonprofit that provides teens with marketable life skills through hands on media education and service leadership and as an Annual Team Captain for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer with the American Cancer Society.

When asked about her transition from volunteer Advocate to an Advocate Supervisor Simone says that "Being a part of CASA is honestly my dream job, I wanted to be in a position to learn about helping all children receive equal access to everything they deserve. My passion has become my 9-5."

Simone can be reached at sjarvis@casamercer.org and at (609) 265-2222. She will be based in the Mt. Holly office and her normal work hours will be Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm.

The Superior Court of New Jersey, Mercer Vicinage Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Details to come

Tuesday May 9th at 5:30pm

The Superior Court of New Jersey, **Burlington Vicinage** Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Carlucci's Waterfront 876 Centerton Road Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Guests are welcome at a charge of \$20 per person, cash only

RSVP no later than May 1st to Suzanne Maffei, 609-518-2596



Cherish the Child Awardee, Tony Baxter

Anthony (Tony) Baxter is a oneof-a-kind person who has made a lifelong commitment to public service in his communities. On February 4th, he reached his 4 year anniversary as a volunteer

Quiana Gleaves joined CASA as an Advocate Supervisor on March 3rd. Wednesday May 2nd at 5:30pm Quiana comes to CASA from New Jersey Mentor where she began as a Community Outreach Worker and served most recently as a Case Manager.

> Quiana holds a Masters in Social Work from Temple University and a B.A. in Social Work from Rutgers University. She brings a broad range of advocacy and child welfare experience.

While at Temple, Quiana completed her clinical internship as a Children's Therapist with New Jersey Mentor. At Rutgers she worked at Newton Street School as a Classroom Aid and interned as a School Social Worker. During her time at Newtown Street School Quiana started and supervised the BackPack Program that provided food and supplies to children in need. Quiana spent a year working in a youth shelter in Newark which provided her with valuable experience with one of our most vulnerable populations.

"I am excited about joining CASA and being able to continue to advocate in the best interest of our youth and learning about the different parties (DCPP, DAG, LG, Defense Attorneys) that are involved, that are all working together to make sure that the children are in the most productive, loving environment" expressed Quiana about her new role.

Quiana can be reached at ggleaves@casamercer.org and at (609) 265-2222. She will be based in the Mt. Holly office and her normal work hours will be Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm.



Laura Fitzgerald, PhD is CASA's New **Director of Training and Evaluation**

I'm thrilled to announce that Laura Fitzgerald, PhD has been promoted from Advocate Supervisor to the newly created Director of Training and Evaluation role at CASA. Laura has been with CASA for over five years as an Advocate Supervisor based in Mt. Holly. She holds a PhD in Counseling Psychology and an MS in Psychology from Walden University in Minneapolis, MN and a BA in Psychology from Rutgers, Camden, NJ.

Prior to CASA, Laura's professional experience also includes serving as a Case Manager with Family Service and Family Preservation Counselor with the Center for Family Services.

for CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties. Since entering the role, he has served 5 different adolescents in foster care. including the youth he works with today. Tony is not afraid to speak up for what is right on the vouth's behalf and has a history of maintaining strong relationships with some of the children he's worked with and who have aged out of the foster care system. For instance, CASA was having difficulty assigning a volunteer to work with a particular youth who had a history of behavioral and anger management issues. Prior to Tony being assigned, the child had experienced 5 different CASA volunteers. However, Tony was in it for the long haul. Not only did he stick with the youth until his case had come to an end, Tony maintained a mentor relationship with them, well into their young adulthood. We truly believe that Tony's dedication to working with this youth helped ensure that the youth continued to thrive, even after leaving foster care.

In October, Tony took a case that seemed to have everything stacked against it. The youth had behavioral concerns and no family connections. He was living in a residential facility outside of Mercer County that would require Tony to drive over 100 miles back and forth for visits. When the case was offered to Tony, he didn't think twice; he took it immediately. Since that first day, Tony has never missed a meeting, phone call, or visit on behalf of the child;

In this role Laura will be responsible for developing, implementing, evaluating and improving our advocate pre-service and in-service training. She will be responsible for restoring our "Graduate Level" series in areas such as Educational Advocacy, Medical Advocacy, Cultural Competency, Mental Health and Fostering Futures Adolescent training. In addition to internal training, Laura will keep all staff and advocates aware of relevant external training opportunities. By having a full-time Director of Training and Evaluation we will be able to greatly increase the number of trainings offered each month in both counties. This will begin with Educational and Medical Advocacy and monthly "Air and Share" Trainings and expand to include monthly motivational, technical and content specific offerings by the fall. The goal of this new position is also to broaden our training initiatives to include offerings open to the public and community stakeholders such as a monthly speaker series on child welfare topics and an annual conference for volunteers.

Laura can be reached at lftzgerald@casamercer.org and at (609) 265-2222. She will divide her time between the Mt. Holly and the Ewing offices.



Renee Paci as CASA's New Program Director

It gives me great pleasure to announce Renee Paci as CASA's new Program Director. Renee holds a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Stockton University and served as CASA's Senior Case Supervisor in Burlington County for nearly two years. In addition to her work with CASA Renee brings over 17 years of diverse child welfare and advocacy experience to her new role.

Renee officially began as Program Director February 24th but had been serving as the Interim Supervisor of the Mercer program since February 1st following former Mercer Senior Case Supervisor Farrah Seidler's moving on. In this newly created role Renee is responsible for the implementation and supervision of all Mercer and Burlington program operations including supervision of all full-time and two part-time Advocate Supervisors. She serves as the main program liaison with Mercer County and Burlington County courts as well as Mercer and Burlington DCP&P offices. Having one Director over both county programs supports our goal of unifying the organization. As Senior Case Supervisor in Burlington, Renee has successfully strengthened CASA's relationships with both DCP&P and the CIC Teams. Renee has hit the ground running and has

sometimes driving multiple times per week. In this scenario, he goes above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to advocating for this youth and helping to ensure he has a bright future.

Prior to being a CASA Volunteer, Tony worked in public education for 38 years and served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. In public education, Tony has experience teaching youth in grades all the way from Middle School to College. Tony also served for many years a Vice Principal for a Middle/High School in Massachusetts. During his tenure at the school, he was able to help them reduce their dropout rates, including at one point, to 0%. He has been a tutor, Athletic Director, coach, and mentor for youth in his almost 40 years of service. From his caring, compassionate nature to his lifelong dedication to serving children and their families, please join us at CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties in congratulating Tony Baxter on receiving this prestigious award.



Heather Casparrd, awarded!

already begun working on implementing similar successful collaborations and practices in Mercer.

Renee can be reached at rpaci@casamercer.org and at (609) 265-2222. She will divide her time between the Mt. Holly and the Ewing offices.

Would you like to put a congratulatory line or an ad in our event program?'

Please click <u>here</u> for more information!

Have you bought your tickets to our

Jumpin' Jazz Gala yet?

Click our invitation!

The Burlington County
Coalition for Healthy
Communities recognized
Burlington County CASA,
Heather Casparrd, for her
volunteer work with them.
Heather has been as CASA for
two years and is currently
working on her second case.
Congratulations Heather and
thank you for all your hard
work, you are truly appreciated!

Position Opening!

Would you or someone
you know be interested
in the position of
Communications and
Special Events
Director?

The Communications and Special Events Director is the staff person overseeing Events, Public Relations, Branding and Media Output. All printed and digital externally-facing materials, are either developed or approved through this position and passed through the Executive Director for final approval. It is the responsibility of this position to maintain print material, the internet, and social media content of the highest quality.

For more information and requirements for the position, please visit our website <u>here.</u>



In Service Training





Daytime Air and Share!

Come join us in the Mercer Office for light lunch and to speak about your case. Anything challenging, positive thoughts, or experiences are welcome!

Wednesday, 4/19/17, 12:00 Noon

Mercer Office, 1450 Parkside Ave., Suite 22, Ewing, NJ 08638 RSVP to Laura here

Educational Advocacy Training



Thursday, 4/27/17, 5:30-8:30pm

Jury Assembly Room 49 Rancocas Road, Mt Holly, NJ 08060

Educational Advocacy Training is a mandatory training developed by CASA of New Jersey for all volunteers. <u>If</u>

<u>you had this training previously</u>, there is no need to attend unless you would like a refresher. The course is still the same for now. The primary goal of Educational Advocacy is to ensure that the children's educational needs are being met while they are in out-of-home placement. This may include advocating for services such as tutoring or more in-depth special education needs the child may have.



A special thank you goes out to Ann-Linn Glaser for her extended effort to help recruit volunteers for our program. Ann-Linn, in collaboration with the Moorestown Jewish Association

Newsletter, got our message out to their readers and appeal to anyone they may know who might be interested.

Please be sure to share our information session dates
with friends and colleagues!

April 3rd 10:00am with Harry in the Burlington CASA office.

April 4th 5:00pm with Harry in the Burlington CASA office.

April 19th 5:30pm with Jill in the Mercer CASA office.

April 27th 10:00am with Jill in the Mercer CASA office.

Burlington office address:

100 High Street, Suite 301 Mount Holly, NJ 08060 To RSVP to Harry call (609) 265-2222 or email hcassidy@casamercer.org.

Mercer office address:

1450 Parkside Avenue, Suite 22 Ewing, NJ 08638
To RSVP to Jill call (609) 434-0050 or email jduffy@casamercer.org

Be sure to check out our <u>calendar</u> for all the upcoming events!

Volunteer Resources

The Department of Child Protection and Permanency Annual Burlington County Resource Fair

Thursday, April 27, 2017, from 9:30am- 12:30pm.

Human Services Facility

795 Woodlane Road Westampton, NJ 08060

The purpose of having this event is to give families and other organizations in Burlington County information on the numerous resources available to them throughout our County.

The Mercer County Prosecutor's Office of

Victim Witness Advocacy Resource fair commemorating Crime Victims' Rights Week 2017

Saturday April 8, 2017 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Sacred Heart Church 343 South Broad St. Trenton, NJ 08608

This annual observance affords our office the opportunity to bring communities together and educate the public about victims' rights, protections and services. The fair will provide an excellent opportunity for social service agencies, law enforcement, first responders, faith communities and other organizations to offer resources and information to victims of crime and community members. The event will also serve as a forum for agencies to network and make connections with one another.

Volunteer for Comfort Zone Camp

Volunteer Training is Saturday, April 1st, 9am-3pm KPMG 3 Chestnut Ridge Road Montvale, NJ 07645

A free program for grieving children and teens that provides a free three-day bereavement camp program in Johnsonburg, NJ on May 5-7, 2017 for families who have experienced a loss by suicide of a parent, guardian, or sibling.

This program serves youth ages 7-17, Young Adults ages 18-25 and offers a Parent/Guardian program.

For more information visit their website here.

Comfort Zone Camp One Day Family Program

Saturday, April 1st, 12pm-4pm (lunch included) REED Academy 29 Potash Road, Oakland, NJ 07436

An afternoon filled with fun, connection, and healing for the entire family.

To volunteer for this program, contact Krista Collopy:

973-908-8248 or email kcollopy@comfortzonecamp.org

Burlington County Youth Services Comprehensive Three Year Plan

The Burlington County Youth Services Advisory Council is working on the Comprehensive County Youth Services Three-Year Plan. As part of the plan, focus groups will be held under the points of continuum in Prevention, Diversion, Detention Alternatives, Disposition, and Reentry. The following focus groups will help the YSAC identify needs and gaps in services as well make recommendations for each point of our Youth Services continuum. Also, the recommendation's will lead to YSAC programming for the next three years. The new plan will cover the period from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020.

If anyone is interesting in participating in YSAC focus group or seeking more information, please contact Ric Carpenter at rcarpenter@co.burlington.nj.us or Jim Groff at jgroff@co.burlington.nj.us.

When contacting Ric or Jim, please specify the focus group or groups, you would like to be on. The Focus Groups are scheduled to be held from late April to the end of June.

Important Trainings Available

TODOLO QUE USTED DEBE SABER SOBREIMMIGRACION/ ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IMMIGRATION

Servicios Latinos Invites you to an immigration forum

During this seminar Immigration attorney and Legal accredited representative will inform you the latest information about the immigration laws, who is at risk, how to avoid been a victim of scams, who is eligible to apply for immigration relief, the importance of becoming US citizen and much more. You will also learn about the New Jersey Criminal Justice Reform

"NO SIGNS OF ANY KIND WILL BE PERMITTED IN THIS FORUM" Saturday, April 1, 2017

10:30 am

Grand Market Place (Main Lobby)

43 40 US Route 130

Willingboro, New Jersey 08046

For Information Call: (609) 518-7171 (Everyone is Welcome)

New Jersey Children's System of Care

CSOC Substance Use services.

Formerly the Division of Child Behavioral Health Services, serves children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral health care challenges and their families; children with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families; and, children with substance use challenges and their families. CSOC is committed to providing services based on the needs of the child and family in a family-centered, community-based environment.

For more information, see the included brochure below.



State of New Jersey
Department of Children and Families
Children's System of Care
50 E. State Street, 3rd floor
PO Box 717
Trenton, NJ 08625



Adolescent Substance Use Treatment Services

CSOC is committed to providing services based on the needs of the child and family in a family centered, community-based environment.

NJ Children's System of Care 50 East State St., 3rd floor P.O Box 717 Trenton, NJ 08625 Phone: 609-888-7200 Fax: 609-292-3743 Robin.Federico@dcf.state.nj.us Kelly.Pfeiffer@dcf.state.nj.us The Children's System of Care offers an array of substance use treatment services, including withdrawal management, outpatient, intensive outpatient, partial care, short-term residential and long-term residential. In addition, co-occurring residential treatment services can be accessed through Care Management Organization in your county. For questions about or to access substance use treatment services for youth and young adults (18-19), call the PerformCare 24-hour, toll-free Access Line:

1-877-652-7624

Accessing Services

A parent/legal guardian may contact PerformCare any CSOC contracted service. licensed clinicians complete assessments over the phone, provide referrals and appropriate authorizations. If a youth meets clinical criteria for out of home co-occurring services, he/she will be opened to a Care Management Organization (CMO) from their county. The CMO Care Manager will help with paperwork, coordinate services and support families through the process.

Families may also access services directly through one of the CSOC contracted substance use treatment providers listed in this brochure. Providers complete an assessment and submit it to PerformCare. These services may also be accessed through a CMO, MRSS, DCPP and/or juvenile courts f any of these entities are involved with the youth.

Service consideration is based upon the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria, also known as the ASAM patient placement criteria. These decisions are made by Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselors (LCADCs) with appropriate specialized training.

The services are authorized WITHOUT regard to income, private health insurance, or eligibility for Medicaid/NJ

Short Term Medical Withdrawal Management - Detox

New Hope - Marlboro Male & Female

732-946-3030

973-623-7481

Out of Home Providers Co-Occurring - Short Term

New Hope - Marlboro

732-946-3030 Male & Female

Out of Home Providers Co-Occurring - Long Term

Daytop NJ - Pittsgrove 856-358-4111 Daytop NJ - Mendham Male & Female 973-543-5656 Integrity House - Newark Males Only

Newark Renaissance House - Newark 973-623-3386

Straight and Narrow - Paterson 973-345-6000

Contracted Outpatient Providers

Catholic Charities - Trenton	609-396-4557
CPC - Red Bank	732-842-2000
COPE - Montclair	973-783-6655
Daytop - Parsippany	973-539-5764
Family Connections - Orange	973-675-3817
My Father's House Gloucester City	856-742-0900
Genesis Counseling Collingswood	856-858-9314
Newark Renaissance House Newark (provides partial care)	973-623-3386
Seashore Family Services Brick	732-920-2700
SODAT - Woodbury	856-845-6363

TRYIT - Northfield

South Jersey Initiative Fee for Service

Ambulatory Services limited to adolescents residing in any of the eight southern counties: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean and Salem.

Center for Family Services 856-728-0404 856-428-5688 Voorhees **Families Matter** 609-886-8666 First Step Bridgeton

856-451-3727 Genesis Counseling 856-858-9314 Collingswood Camden 856-964-3955 856-596-8007 Legacy Mt. Holly 609-267-1377

Hainesport My Father's House Gloucester City 856-742-0900

856-742-0811 Preferred Behavioral Health Lakewood 732-367-4700

732-323-3664 Seashore Family Services

732-920-2700 SODAT Woodbury 856-845-6363

856-964-5000 Solstice Counseling

609-288-8844

My Friend's House (The Wounded Healer)
Gloucester County 856-669-6900

The Village Wrap Collingswo 856-240-1417

609-645-7700

Do you know someone who would make a great CASA?

Let them know about our upcoming **Information Sessions!**





Important Reminders

Emergency and Activity Bags Available for CASA Children:

Emergency Bags: To be used when a child is in crisis, removed from the home, enters foster care or enters a homeless or domestic violence shelter. Bags are customized by gender (when appropriate) and for the following age groups: Infant, 3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-18.

Activity Bags: Useful as an ice breaker if visiting your child for the first time, or anytime you feel it would benefit him or her. Bags are customized by gender (when appropriate) and for ages 3-5 or 6-8.

The Bag Project Mission: The Bag Project seeks to provide every child in crisis with a high-quality, age-appropriate bag filled with basic necessities and comfort items which they may not otherwise receive.

What's in a Bag: Although children's needs are greater than that which can fit in a bag, a bag filled with necessities and comfort items is a start. It shows them that they matter, and that someone cares. Now they have a few items of their own, and a bag in which to put them. Anupa S. Wijaya, M.S., Executive Director, The Bag Project www.thebagproject.org

We have a complete list of items in each bag.

Please feel free to stop by the Mercer County office to pick one up, or call your case supervisor if you have any questions at all!

Emails for Advocates:

If you would like a CASA email, please let your case supervisor know. The CASA email is run through Gmail so you can access it on any computer or smart phone. @casamercer.org

Shop AmazonSmile.com!

If you do any shopping via Amazon, please access it via Smile.Amazon.com. It's the same shopping, but by designating Court Appointed Special Advocates of Mercer County, Inc. as your charity, they will donate a percentage of your purchase directly to us. It's a donation everytime you make a purchase!

View our website! www.casamb.org

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Manage your preferences | Opt out using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails.
View this email online.

1450 Parkside Ave. Suite 22 Ewing, NJ | 08638 US

This email was sent to bbayo@casamercer.org.

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