

Your Latest CASA Volunteer Newsletter

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

Thu, Sep 22, 2016 at 12:21 PM

Reply-To: staff@casamercer.org

To: lklionsky@casamercer.org



CASA FOR CHILDREN OF MERCER AND BURLINGTON COUNTIES VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

September 20, 2016**CASA for Children of Mercer
and Burlington Counties****BOARD OFFICERS**

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September is National Suicide Prevention Month

It is a time when we pay particular attention to helping those who might be in trouble. The danger signs of a potential suicide are seldom as obvious as those with many other emergencies. If you grasp your throat, most people would conclude that you're choking. If a person suffers a stroke, unmistakable signs that something is seriously wrong include a drooping face, inability to lift up both arms, or being incapable of completing a coherent sentence.

Suicides are different. Some victims exhibit few signs that something is amiss. Indeed, a potential suicide candidate might appear to be as normal as everyone else, until the tragedy happens. [READ MORE](#)

SUICIDE PREVENTION STARTS WITH**RECOGNIZING THE WARNING SIGNS**

In Service Training



Renee Paci
Ines Ramirez
Farrah Seidler, MSS, LCSW
Teri Triano-Davis

Like Us on Facebook!



HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY!

Advocates:

Rachel Bissonnette
Amanda Blair-Nichols
Robin Bryant
William Buehrig
Bruce Cestare
Hendricks Davis
Nyjeeah Diggs
Georgia Dupuis
Melanie Fatemi
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Terry O'Neil
Mary Quigley
Race Riccardi
Debbie Romano
Donna Sher
Sue Smithers
Ron Stewart
Angel Terry



Autism....Asperger Syndrome ADD/HD....'Normal'.... ???

What does any of this really mean? And what does it mean in relation to the youth we work with?

Tuesday, 9/27/16, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

*Jury Assembly Room, Burlington County Courthouse
49 Rancocas Road, Mt. Holly, NJ*

We will be featuring Donald Szedga, CEO of Community Interactions, Inc. Mr. Szedga has an extensive background in both teaching and lecturing in the Special Education field. Light supper will be served. **RSVP to your case supervisor or [CLICK HERE](#).**



Daytime Air and Share!

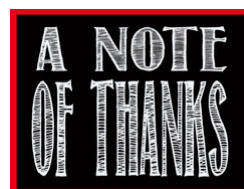
Thursday, 9/29/16, 12:00 Noon

*Mercer Office, 1450 Parkside Ave., Suite 22,
Ewing, NJ*

For this particular air and share, we are inviting one or two advocates who would like to speak to the group about their cases, challenging moments, how they navigated the different systems, success stories, etc..

If any current volunteers would like to speak at this Air and Share, please call 609-434-0050 or email Farrah at: fseidler@casamercer.org

Light lunch will be served. **RSVP to your case supervisor or [CLICK HERE](#).**



Thank you Jason!

by: Teri Triano-Davis

Recently a Mercer County CASA was assigned a case that was recommended to us from the Law Guardian's office. It involved two children -- victims of severe neglect, medically, educationally, emotionally and environmentally.

Last October, the Division Caseworker arrived at the mother's home and explained that due to the results of the psychological evaluation which indicated her inability to parent her children, coupled with the Division's on-going concerns regarding the children's hygiene, unaddressed medical needs, educational needs

Lois Tomsen
Carole Townsend
Sherri vonHahmann
Diane Zelley
Yuki Zhang

and the condition of the home, the Division had decided to remove the children.

The children are doing well in their foster homes presently. After taking on this case, it was observed that a lot of the credit can be given to the Caseworker from the Mercer North Office, Jason Smith. After receiving the case, I reached out to the worker and was greeted with a thoroughly positive response. Jason offered any and all information and welcomed the help of the CASA volunteers on this case. He has dependably returned all phone calls and set up a professional and cooperative team approach to working this case. CASA advocates, Patricia Kirk and Jonas Villegas, have very recently been assigned to this case. Together, I'm sure this stellar team will make a huge difference in this family's life.

I look forward to working with Mr. Smith on this case and on future cases. Thank you Jason!

New Front Door Policy for Ewing Office

Due to an increase in some unsettling activity around our office complex, and for the extra safety of our staff and volunteers, the front door of the Ewing office will be locked before 9:30 am and after 4:00 pm. If you happen to be at the office and find the door locked, just ring the doorbell! Thanks!

We are looking for a new

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

[CLICK HERE for complete job description!](#)

**If you haven't already, please take a moment to
complete our COMMUNITY AWARENESS SURVEY!**

[CLICK HERE FOR SURVEY](#)

Volunteer Resources

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NJFC SCHOLARS PROGRAM New Jersey Foster Care Scholars

To see more info on:

2016-2017 Application and Deadlines

College Prep Workshops and Upcoming College Fairs

[CLICK HERE](#)

Important Trainings Available

Learn How to Use Narcan

Revive Someone Who is Overdosing from Opiates

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Community Resources!

Hear from more than 20 community agencies who offer useful services
for youth and their families.

Friday, September 30, 2016

12:00 - 3:00 pm Lawrence High School, Lawrenceville

Pre-Registration Required.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a complete list of agencies attending and to RSVP!

Identifying and Managing At-Risk Youth

Conference to provide information about and tools for preventing and
managing at-risk behaviors in youth.

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

8:00 am - 3:30 pm, Robbinsville, NJ

\$40.00 Register by September 27, 2016!

[CLICK HERE](#) for complete agenda and to register.

New Jersey Children's System of Care Statewide Conference

The Impact of Identity: The New Jersey Story

Tuesday, October 17, 2016

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the complete flyer.

Youth Firesetting Prevention Training

2-Day Course Offered

Monday and Tuesday, October 24-25, 2016

Middlesex County Fire Academy, Sayreville, NJ

Space is limited. Registration Deadline: 10/14/16!

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the complete flyer and to register.

Is your child struggling in school?

A **504 accommodation plan** may be available to provide needed help!

A **FREE** workshop focusing on the right to services and accommodations for students with disabilities, special health, and/or emotional-behavioral needs.

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Westville, NJ

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and to register.

Building a Culture of Health in NJ

Conference and Workshops

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

9:00 am to 3:00 pm Pines Manor, Edison, NJ

Space is limited. Registration Deadline: 10/14/16!

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and to register.



Community Outreach Volunteers Needed!

Under the direction of the Mercer and Burlington Advocate Recruiters the "Community Outreach Volunteer" will assist the Advocate Recruiter by bringing the perspective of an active volunteer to the process of recruiting new advocates. The involvement of volunteers in this role extends the ability of the program to reach more community members

and increase community understanding of program needs.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of CASA mission, program and goals a must

- Must be comfortable staffing community booths and speaking to community groups
- Available to travel locally and attend community events
- Training Required
- Availability: Schedule varies

Responsibilities:

- Receive and circulate or distribute CASA flyers and posters in the community.
- Attend community events and volunteer fairs on weekends or evenings, independently or with CASA staff, to promote CASA and encourage new applicants.
- Accompany the Advocate Recruiter to speaking engagements or information sessions as requested.
- Provide feedback and advice to CASA concerning the recruitment of new volunteers and retention of all volunteers by creating methods, strategies and plans.
- When requested, serve on recruitment committees or focus groups to develop long and short term recruitment goals.
- Assist in the redesign of posters and brochures.
- Help to plan and attend volunteer retention and recruitment events.
- Secure speaking engagements and community event participation for CASA.

Interested? Please email [Jill Duffy](#) or [Harry Cassidy](#) for more information!

**Do you know someone
who would make a
great CASA?**

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



MERCER COUNTY INFORMATION SESSIONS:

Thursday, October 13, 2016: 5:30 pm

Thursday, October 20, 2016: 10:00 am

RSVP to Jill at 609-434-0050

BURLINGTON COUNTY INFORMATION SESSIONS:

Tuesday, November 1, 2016, 2016: 5:00 pm

Wednesday, November 2, 2016: 10:00 am



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 or Burlington County offices 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](https://www.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!

Stand
up
for a child

**StandUp for a Child 2016
Comedy Event
October 15, 2016**

**Look for your invite!
Or click [HERE](#) to find out more!**

Moving? Sprucing up for fall?

We're looking for a few furniture items for our offices. If you, your employer, or someone you know has any of the following items they would like to donate, please let us know!

- ♦ Kitchen shelving unit to hold microwave and toaster oven.
- ♦ Small, round table (48" or 60")
- ♦ Large Bookshelf Units

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www.casamb.org

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