

Your CASA Volunteer Newsletter

CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties <staff@casamercer.org>
Reply-To: staff@casamercer.org
To: lklionsky@casamercer.org

Wed, Sep 7, 2016 at 2:29 PM



September 6, 2016

**CASA for Children of Mercer
and Burlington Counties**

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WELCOME CRYSTAL!

From our E.D., Katherine Carmichael:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Krystal Gold to CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties as our new full-time Case Supervisor with the Mercer Program. Krystal comes to us from the National Association of Social Workers where she served as a Graduate Student Intern.

Krystal holds a Masters of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Rutgers University. She brings a broad range of advocacy and child welfare experience.

Krystal's diverse experience includes serving as a Research Assistant with the New Jersey Child Welfare Training Partnership at Rutgers Institute for Families in New Brunswick and Undergraduate Student Intern with Hunterdon Prevention Resources in Flemington, NJ. She currently serves as the Somerset/Hunterdon County Unit Co-Chair of the National Association of Social Works (NASW)-New Jersey Chapter.

Krystal's professional experience also includes work as a part-time and per diem caseworker with the Resource Center of Somerset in Hillsborough, NJ where she supervised clients and managed the day to day business of a domestic violence shelter. In addition, she designed and implemented a client "Self-Advocacy Guide" with exercises to show clients how to navigate different community systems from a strengths-based perspective.

Krystal can be reached at kgold@casamercer.org and at (609) 434-0050 ext. 107. She will be based in the Ewing Office and her normal work hours will be



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

Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm. Please join me in welcoming Krystal to the CASA team where she begins her role effective September 6, 2016.

Like Us on Facebook!



"As a social worker, I have a passion for social justice and advocacy and hope my experience can really bring something to the table. I truly believe in the work and mission of CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties and look forward to working with and meeting everyone!"
~ Krystal Gold

Krystal will be in touch with all her volunteers soon to schedule a time to connect in person!

THANK YOU!

Very special thanks to **Yasmin Quazilbash** and **Tina Fiumenero** for all their hard work overseeing Kyle's caseload while we searched for Krystal!

PLEASE JOIN US for an OPEN HOUSE!

Monday, September 12, 2016 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Please stop in, enjoy light refreshments and meet the newest addition to our staff, Krystal Gold.

RSVP with your case supervisor, or email Lynn at lkliensky@casamercer.org

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY!

Advocates:

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

LAST CHANCE TO RSVP!

Do you work with a youth between age 14 - 21??
Talk to your case supervisor today about getting them registered to attend the

AGING OUT SEMINAR

Friday, Sept. 9, 2016, 9:30 - 3:00
Rutgers Eco Complex, Bordentown, NJ

Lois Tomsen
Carole Townsend
Sherri vonHahmann
Diane Zelle
Yuki Zhang

[CLICK HERE FOR COMPLETE FLYER!](#)

Questions? Email [Jillian Bonacci](#) or [Ines Ramirez](#)

In Service Training



Drop By, Let's Meet!

Stop in to see Katherine in your local office every other Friday morning. Exchange ideas and get to know one another over coffee and light refreshments!

Schedule for Mercer

Office:

9/16/16: 9:30 am - Noon;

9/30/16: 9:30 am - Noon

And, continuing every other Friday until further notice!

Schedule for

Burlington Office:

9/9/16: 9:30 am - Noon;

9/23/16: 9:30 am - Noon

And, continuing every other Friday, until further notice!

We are looking for a new

**DIRECTOR OF
DEVELOPMENT**

NJFC Scholars Program



Tuesday, 9/20/16, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

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

NJFC Scholars will be here to discuss the program and answer questions. Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS), in partnership with the Dept. of Children and Families (DCF), provides educational assistance for post high school education through the New Jersey Foster Care (NJFC) Scholars Program. Light Supper will be served. **RSVP to your case supervisor or [CLICK HERE](#). ALSO SEE IMPORTANT NJFC INFORMATION IN VOLUNTEER RESOURCES SECTION BELOW!**



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

[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](#)

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.](#)**

One Organization. One Website.

**www.casamercer.org and
www.casaofburlingtoncounty.org
are now at the same address!**

www.casamb.org

Volunteer Resources

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Join ACNJ for the release of it's 2nd Annual Report:

Showing Up Matters: The State of Chronic Absenteeism in New Jersey

With Special Guests:

Honorable Eric E. Jackson, Mayor, City of Trenton

Lucy Feria, Interim Superintendent, Trenton Public Schools

10:30 AM

Hedgepeth/Williams Middle School for the Arts

301 Gladstone Ave., Trenton, NJ

[CLICK HERE to RSVP or to Find out More!](#)

*Three Trainings Offered: **September 8, 19, or 27***

LEARN HOW TO USE NARCAN

Revive Someone Who is Overdosing from Opiates

[CLICK HERE for training locations and times.](#)

Tuesday, October 17, 2016

New Jersey Children's System of Care Statewide Conference

The Impact of Identity: The New Jersey Story

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NJFC SCOLARS 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](#)



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:

Wednesday, September 7, 2016: 10:00 am

Tuesday, September 13, 2016: 5:30 pm

RSVP to Jill at 609-434-0050

BURLINGTON COUNTY INFORMATION SESSIONS:

Tuesday, September 20, 2016: 5:00 pm

Wednesday, September 21, 2016: 10:00 am

RSVP to Harry at 609-265-2222



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. 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!



The poster features a dark blue vertical bar on the left with the word "Stand" in white. To its right, the word "up" is written in a large, black, lowercase font. Below "Stand" and to the left of "up", the words "for a child" are written in a smaller, white, lowercase font. To the right of this graphic, the text "StandUp for a Child 2016 Comedy Event" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below this, the date "October 15, 2016" is written in a larger, bold, blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the text "Look for your invite! Or click HERE to find out more!" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

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

View this newsletter on our website!
www.casamb.org

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View this email **online**.

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

This email was sent to lkionsky@casamercer.org.
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.