

2006 Annual Report

A Message from the Chair & Executive Director

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Dear Friends of CASA:

We are proud to share our 2006 annual report with you, highlighting our greatest accomplishments and achievements during the past year. Commitment and consistency are cornerstones of our program, and you will notice we continue maintaining the high level of quality you have come to expect from CASA Kane County.

Child abuse and neglect affects us all. Last year alone there were approximately 3,500 reports of child abuse and neglect within Kane County. Thankfully there are people like you who recognize the urgency of this issue and choose to support our program which helps to protect these vulnerable children.

You will discover the following information as you proceed through this report:

- Our 2006 program highlights;
- information describing the children we serve;
- financial statements showing you where we are and where we need to be;
- most importantly, who you are – our donors!

Our organization is very fortunate to be comprised of a dedicated board of directors, staff, CASA volunteers, fundraising friends, community leaders and you! We all play a role in fulfilling our mission to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the Juvenile Court system.

What we do is no easy task, but we do it justifiably with pride and optimism. We know we help to eliminate the fear and uncertainty that an abused and neglected child experiences. We know we make a real difference within our community. Although we cannot eradicate child abuse and neglect, we can impact a child's life by giving them real hope for something greater than they could have ever dreamed.

Our CASA volunteers are described as the conscience of the court room. They make certain the needs and best interests of the child they serve are the court's top priority. Thank you for continuing to join us in this life-changing work, proving what a remarkable difference can be made when we all speak up for a child.

Sincerely,

Michael Fratamico
Chairman

Gloria Bunce
Executive Director

Our Mission

***To advocate for the best interests
of abused and neglected children
within the Juvenile Court system.***

Staff

Gloria Bunce
Executive Director

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Program Specialist

Kathy Furgason
Case Management Coordinator

Lori Higgins
Case Manager

Courtney Laverty
Communications Director

Cathy McCoy
Program Specialist

Debra McQuaid
Director of Advocate Education

Candace Miller
Case Manager

Barry Rose
Business Manager

Amy Vanthournout
Case Manager

Picture of Little Girl
Standing in Courtroom

Our History

National CASA Movement

In 1976, Superior Court Judge David Soukup of Seattle, WA, saw a recurring problem in his courtroom:

“In criminal and civil cases, even though there were always many different points of view, you walked out of the courthouse at the end of the day and you said, ‘I’ve done my best; I can live with this decision.’ But when you’re involved with a child, and you’re trying to decide what to do to facilitate that child’s growth into a mature and happy adult, you don’t feel like you have sufficient information to allow you to make the right decision. You can’t walk away and leave them at the courthouse at 4 o’clock. You wonder, ‘Do I really know everything I should? Is this really right?’”

To ensure he was getting all the facts and the long-term welfare of each child was being represented, Judge Soukup came up with an idea that would change America’s judicial procedure and the lives of almost a million children. He obtained funding to recruit and train community volunteers to step into courtrooms on behalf of the children: the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers.

This unique concept was implemented in Seattle as a pilot program in January 1977. During that first year, the program provided 110 trained CASA volunteers for 498 children in 376 dependency cases.

Today the National CASA Association represents over 950 local CASA programs across the country, including the Virgin Islands. Currently, over 70,000 CASA volunteers serve approximately 280,000 children each year. This year marks the National CASA movement’s 30th anniversary.

CASA Kane County

CASA Kane County was established in 1988 with the mission to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the Kane County Juvenile Court system. That year, a part-time director and two CASA volunteers served seven children.

In 1992, the legal status of CASA volunteers changed from “friends of the court” to Guardian ad Litem. This change has given CASAs a more powerful role in court including the ability to motion a case into court. Recruitment and training of pro bono attorneys to assist CASA volunteers began in 1993.

Since 1999, CASA Kane County has organized a biannual conference to educate the public about preventing and identifying child abuse and maltreatment. The topic of the September 2007 conference will be *Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities*.

In the fall of 2004, CASA Kane County was asked by the Probate Court judge to expand its mandate. CASA volunteers are now appointed to all private guardianship cases. These cases last only one or two months, and there is typically no DCFS involvement.

Today, there are approximately 200 CASA volunteers and 14 pro bono attorneys representing the best interests of over 400 abused and neglected children each year. Last year, CASA Kane County served 467 children.

CASA Kane County will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2008. We hope that you will continue to be a part of our local efforts to bring awareness to the issue of child abuse and neglect, and to ensure that there will always be trained advocates available to represent the needs of these children in court.

2006 Program Highlights

A total of **467 children** were served by CASA Kane County in 2006. Thirty-eight new advocates completed training and accepted a case. Our **195 volunteers** contributed over **17,000 hours of service**.

CASA volunteer Erin Blake was recognized as the Doris Hunt Volunteer of the Year. Attorney Patrick Kinnally was named the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year. CASA volunteer Mary Waters was the recipient of the Dottie Lowe Scholarship, allowing her to attend the National CASA Conference in San Diego.

The program offered its first accelerated, evening-only training class which lasted only seven days. Candidates normally attend class for six weeks.

Several community events raised money for the CASA program including 3rd Street Dance & Theatre Academy's *3rd Street Dances for CASA*, Keller Williams-Fox Valley Realty's *Make A Difference Day*, Wildwood Restaurant's Charity Gala, Aquascape Inc.'s *Good Neighbor Gala*, and the Geneva Chamber of Commerce's first annual *Geneva STOMP 5K*.

Two of the county's most popular venues, Pheasant Run Resort and the Kane County Cougars, donated tickets in appreciation of the CASA program. The Kane County Cougars donated 50 tickets allowing the children on our cases to enjoy an afternoon at the ballpark with their families. The Pheasant Run donated 200 tickets to their Main Stage Theater, giving our volunteer advocates and their families an opportunity to relax and socialize.

- 99.5% of children served* did not experience a recurrence of abuse or neglect while under court jurisdiction.
- 93% of children served had the same CASA volunteer throughout 2006.
- **99% of CASA recommendations for placement were accepted by the court.**
- 75% of the volunteer advocates met their ongoing training requirement in 2006. Volunteers are expected to earn 12 hours of continuing education each year.
- 51 hours of continuing education opportunities were offered through the CASA office in 2006.

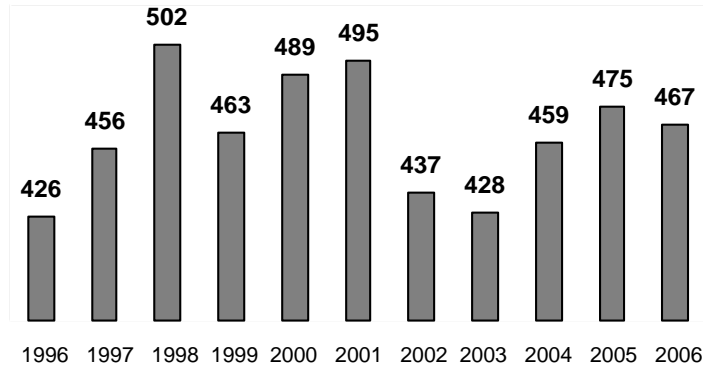
* *Of the 467 children served, 406 were involved in Juvenile Court cases and 61 were involved in Probate Court (private guardianship) cases.*

Picture from the
Fall '06 Swearing in Ceremony

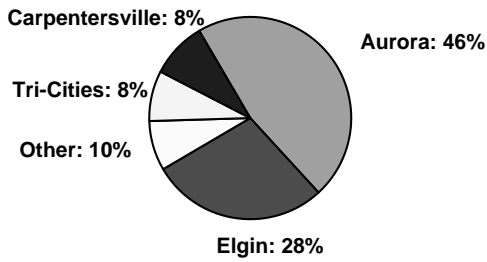
Volunteers are officially sworn in by Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Karen Simpson.

Program Statistics

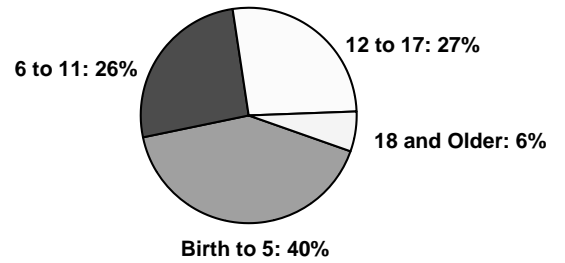
Number of Children Served 1996-2006



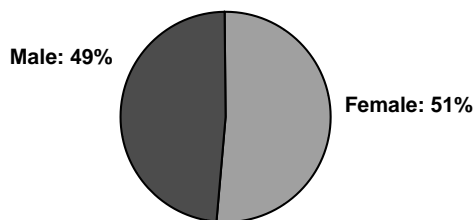
Town of Origin



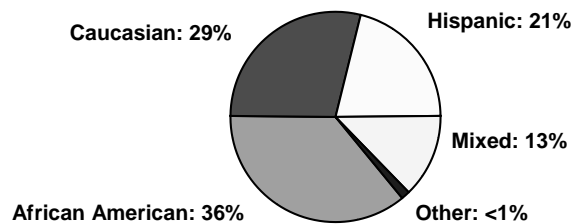
Age



Gender



Ethnicity



Treasurer's Report

Statement of Support and Revenue, Expenses, and Net Assets for the years ending December 31, 2006 and 2005.

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
<i>Support and Revenue</i>		
Direct Public Support	\$115,084	\$ 69,725
Grants	162,469	118,500
United Way/Community Chest	40,579	51,900
Special Events	79,882	119,369
In-Kind Contributions and Support	539,619	527,955
Sale of CASA Merchandise	5,814	4,182
Earnings on Investments	8,380	3,612
<i>Total Support and Revenue</i>	\$951,827	\$895,243
<i>Expenses</i>		
Program Services	\$798,566	\$773,176
Management and General	50,542	44,637
Fundraising	106,162	83,947
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$955,270	\$901,760
Change in Net Assets	(3,443)	(6,517)
<i>Net Assets</i>		
Balance - beginning of year	\$270,178	\$276,695
Balance - end of year	\$266,735	\$270,178

A copy of the complete audit report is available from the CASA office upon request.

2006 Donations & Grants

Donations received by December 31, 2006

Soukup Leadership Circle ~ \$5,000 +

*Alfred Bersted Foundation
Anonymous
Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
City of Aurora
City of St. Charles
Dellora A. & Lester J. Norris Foundation
DuKane A.B.A.T.E., Inc.
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United Way of Elgin
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Benefactors ~ \$1,000 - \$4,999

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St. Charles Optimist Club
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United Way of Central Kane County
Valley Fire Protection Systems
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Wildwood Charities
Zonta West - Illinois*

Benefactors ~ \$1,000 - \$4,999

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Batavia Mothers Club
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Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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Geneva Community Chest
Geneva Community Mental Health Commission*

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DCFS Children's Justice Grant
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Mr. & Mrs. George Wight
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Wold
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Wray
X Sport Fitness Center
Zano Salon and Day Spa
Mr. & Mrs. Art Zwemke*

In honor of...

*Richard Abrahamson
Julie Beebe
George & Sharon Bergland
Katlyn Bermele
Jeff & Bonnie Childs
Frances Daly
The Jim Daly Family
The Jon Daly Family
The Josh Daly Family
The Mike Daly Family
The Randy Evans Family
John & Charlene Flynn
Ruby Garcia-Palacios
Peg Halladay
Mark & Jodeen Immer
The George Jones Family
Ron Koepl
Virginia Lightfine
Dottie Lowe
Ed & Nancy Malik
Bettyann McQuaid
Debra McQuaid
Anne Meagher
Josie Meagher
Harvey & Candace Miller
Irving Miller
Karen Minnis
Robert & Mary Ann Morrow
John & Caryl Overmeiren
Gunter & Greta Steves
John & Sherry Stoffel
Cynthia Sullivan*

In memory of...

*Irene Arbizzani
Kenneth Buchholz
Rick Carlson
Judge William Ellsworth
Lynn Evanovich
Sandy Gannett
Emma Gunderson
Jack Hallberg
Barbara Holmes
Mary Lou Jenkins
Samantha Joos
Debbie Kenworthy
Jean Kinnally
Ron Kless
Gretchen Koepl
Donna Legacy
Geraldine Malicki
James D. McQuaid, Sr.
Alexander Penny
Peg Sohst
Ethel Young*

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of these lists. If you notice any omissions or inaccuracies, please bring them to our attention by calling the CASA office at 630-232-4484.

**For additional information, visit:
www.casakanecounty.org**

Pro Bono Attorneys

Bill Cherny	Daniel O'Connell
Rick Furgason	Bill Parkhurst
Donald Hubbard	Matthew Perrone, Jr.
Gary Hurt	Richard Petesch
Patrick Kinnally	Charles Radovich
Daniel Klenke	Susan Rogaliner
James Murphy	Jim Skaar

Court Appointed Special Advocate Volunteers

List to be taken from CASAblanca Program.

First names and last initial only.

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Community Partner