



THE VOICE

Change a Child's Story™

SUMMER
2019

WIN TICKETS TO THE
2020 MASTERS!
Pg. 9

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings,

I know you've heard the saying multiple times, "It Takes a Village!" It's a powerful message that speaks to a community that contributes to a healthier upbringing of children. In Kane County we have this village - comprised of our schools, counseling centers, health departments, judiciary, nonprofit organizations and the list continues. Together, we are making the connections and bringing together the services and partnerships that exist in our county to raise a child!

CASA Kane County, The Regional Office of Education and the Kane County's State's Attorney came together to create a Mandated Reporting Initiative to educate and enforce "See Something - Say Something" in reporting abuse. Regardless if you are legally a mandated reporter or not - we all have an obligation to report suspicions of abuse or neglect! We should never question picking up the phone and dialing the 1-800-25-ABUSE hotline. You have nothing to lose, but that child has everything to lose. You will see more information on this as cards and flyers are distributed throughout Kane County this month.

With the release of our new education and compliance webpage, I am happy to announce after several years in the making and strategic planning that CASA University is going live. It is a comprehensive platform of learning and compliance for our CASA/GAL volunteers, staff and Board of Directors. It is intended to bring all of our valuable resources, education, compliance and culture together to embrace our child advocacy needs and best interests.

As a donor of this organization you have made possible the learning objectives, technology and finances to triage the support that our 200 plus

CASA/GAL volunteers and staff need. In doing so, you've assisted in bringing the private and public sectors together. All of our volunteers are absolutely remarkable and it has been a privilege to walk alongside them in advocating for more than 500 youth in the foster care system. I'm also proud to share with you that when you hear from our Judges that the reports they read first are from the CASA volunteer, you know we are doing something powerful and life changing. The cases that are assigned to us are quite complex in nature, but with the supervision of the team and the guidance of our staff GAL attorneys, we are able to ensure the right things are being done. The CASA/GAL volunteer makes the visit, gets to know the child down to the color of their eyes. We are the voice that brings that human side in a revolving door of inconsistency for that child who has had their entire life turned upside down with constant new faces and places - except for that CASA/GAL volunteer!

Lastly, as you read this publication and discover all the happenings at CASA in the coming months, we are thrilled to have Chris Norton join us at the Annual Super Heroes Luncheon in the fall. Chris suffered a spinal cord injury while playing football at Luther College in Iowa. The doctors gave Chris a 3% chance of moving anything below his neck again. Four years later, he defied the odds and not only walked across the stage at his college graduation, but a few years after that, walked down the aisle at his wedding. His story has been featured on Good Morning, America, TodayShow.com, NBC Nightly News, CBS, USA Today, and Sports Illustrated. Chris is now a well-respected motivational speaker and speaks at numerous events across the country. Chris's message focuses on the fact that we all face challenges, but our circumstances don't define us—we do. Chris and his wife Emily are both deeply committed to providing a safe, loving home for children in need and have fostered 17 children. Please join us to learn more and be inspired by Chris and the CASA/GAL volunteers serving our children - the Super Heroes!

Fondly,

Gloria Kelley
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kane County Division of Transportation

Carlie Dunteman, Vice Chair
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Roly Orama
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Manish Patel
Liquor 'N' Wine

Vicky Rullo
The Rullo Team of RE/MAX All Pro

Fred Schramm
Schramm Construction Corporation

Michael Trimarco
St. Charles Bank & Trust

Kristi Wano
Calamos Investments

THANK YOU TO OUR MISSION PARTNERS



Roly & Jackie Orama



KELLENBERGER ELECTRIC INC.



Bob & Kathie Schrieber



Michael & Rosalind Lusk



Carl & Lisa Schoedel



Illinois State Conference

Congratulations to our Board Chairman, **Carl Schoedel** (pictured with Gloria Kelley, CASA Executive Director) for being awarded the Illinois CASA Board Member of the Year at the 2019 Illinois CASA State Conference! We are honored to have Carl's unwavering dedication and commitment to the CASA mission.



Volunteer Spotlight

CASA Dave has gone above and beyond for the children he advocates for (he has been a CASA/GAL for seven years and his current case has been open for three years). Although Dave has experienced long drives for child visits and often times faced with challenges from the older youth in his cases, he remains focused on the mission and task at hand. At a recent meeting where the transitional youth in his case was assigned to his fourth DCFS caseworker, the teenage boy smiled and said, "That's okay ... CASA Dave is always there for me."



WELCOME OUR NEW *Board Members*



James Chakires

Jim is the Founding/Managing Partner of Apex CPA's and Consultants, and has professional experience in accounting and finance, business contacts and strategic planning. Jim has served on the Chairman's Advisory Panel for CASA Kane County since 2012. He is also a Finance Committee Member for the St. Charles Country Club and has served as a Finance Chair for St. Charles Country Club as well.

Jim lives in Geneva with his wife, Jessie, and their two children Hendrick and Wilhelmina. Jim enjoys spending time with his wife and kids at their cabin in Hayward, Wisconsin. He also likes fast cars.



Kit Dewitt

Kit founded KDI Design, a commercial and senior living furniture dealership/interiors firm, in Geneva, IL in 2004. She is currently the Principal and CEO of KDI Design and has professional experience in facilities management, marketing, event planning, and operations. Kit was recognized as the Fox Valley Entrepreneur of the Year in 2017 and as the 2018 CASA Children's Champion Couple with her husband.

Kit and Jan live in Wayne and have two children, Ginny and Nick and several grandchildren. She enjoys antiquing, planting in her yard, playing with her grandchildren, sewing new quilts and being trackside at an Indy Car Race.



Ryan Fuelling

Ryan is the President and Chief financial Officer for Parent Petroleum and The PRIDE Stores. Prior to his position at Parent Petroleum, Ryan was with BMO Financial as the Senior Vice President & Director of Corporate Banking. Ryan was recently recognized by his company as one of the top 40 under 40 leaders nationally.

Ryan has professional experience in accounting and finance, operations and strategic planning. He served on the Board of Directors for the West Suburban Humane Society and also served as the Treasurer of the Woodmere Homeowners Association. He resides in St. Charles with his wife, Raffaella. Ryan enjoys traveling, the outdoors, spending time with his friends and family and visiting Lake Geneva during the summer months.



Ron Hain

Ron serves as the Kane County Sheriff. He has received five meritorious service awards and two Officer of the Year awards for several successful major crime investigations. Ron has professional experience in administration, education and training, event planning, fundraising, legal, public relations and strategic planning. He is on the board of directors for the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry in Aurora. He is also on the Invest in Aurora Community Advisory Board and the Sugar Grove Corn Boil Events Board.

Ron was born and raised in Kane County and currently lives in Sugar Grove with his wife Amy. They have two children, Mason and Ashlyn. Ron enjoys traveling and exercise.



Michael Lusk

Michael is currently a Business Law Attorney, Managing Member of Lusk Law LLC, in Geneva, IL. He has professional experience in accounting and finance, legal and strategic planning. He serves as a legal advisor to several private company boards.

Michael resides in Geneva with his wife, Rosalind, and has five children, Elena, Emily, Elisabeth, Emma and James. Michael has been a CASA supporter for many years and served on the Holiday Extravaganza committee. He and his wife received the 2019 CASA Annual Auction Honorary Chairperson Recognition. He enjoys sport fishing, yoga, ballroom and swing dancing and fitness training.



Deanna Oliver

Deanna serves as the Assistant Regional Superintendent at the Kane County Regional Office of Education in Geneva, IL. Deanna has also served as a High School Teacher, Assistant Principal, and Principal. She has been employed in the education field for over 27 years and has professional experience in administration, child welfare, marketing, event planning, human resources and facilities management. She has served as a board member for the Workforce Development Board, One Stop Shop, Child Advocacy Center Board and Communities in Schools. She created a foundation to support homeless and at-risk youth called Kane Excellence in Education Partnership. Each year, they support two scholarships, host the spelling bee and fund the Kane County photo contest.

Deanna is a CASA supporter and served on the Chairman's Advisory Panel. Deanna resides in Elburn with her husband, Tom, of 30 years. They have two children, Courtney and Fallon. They also have two dogs, Ozzie and Brody. Deanna is currently writing her dissertation for a doctorate in education leadership which keeps her very busy.



Manish Patel

Manish is the President/CEO of Liquor 'N' Wine, Inc., in St. Charles. He has professional experience in accounting and finance, administration, information technology, operations, strategic planning and child welfare. Manish is on the Rochelle Retail Advisory Board and on the board of Jhoole, which is a not for profit organization that employs and assists abused and neglected females in underdeveloped area of India. He also served for three years on the Genoa Chamber of Commerce.

Manish has been an ambassador and supporter of CASA for many years. He resides in West Chicago with his wife, Deepali Amin, and has two children, Maahi and Ish. Manish enjoys traveling, hiking, golf, learning, photography, bird watching, socializing and community work.



Kristi Wano

Kristi is the Vice President and Senior Wealth Advisor at Calamos Wealth Management. Prior to Calamos Wealth Management, Kristi was employed by BMO Harris Bank in St. Charles as Director, Private Wealth Advisor. She has professional experience in accounting and finance, administration, and strategic planning. Kristi is a graduate of Western Kentucky University with a B.A in Business. She holds FINRA series 7 and 63 licenses. Kristi is a former recipient of Aurora YWCA's Women of Distinction honor.

Kristi and her husband Mark reside in South Elgin and have four children, Jordan, Taylor, Garrett and Alex. She has been a CASA supporter for many years including serving as a member of the Chairman's Advisory panel. She served as a board member with the St. Charles Arts Council and is also a member of the Fox Valley Estate Planning Council.

CASA KANE COUNTY'S 9TH ANNUAL SUPER HEROES LUNCHEON

PLEASE JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CASA KANE COUNTY MISSION
AS WE ADVOCATE TO CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

11:15 AM - 1:00 PM | Q CENTER | ST. CHARLES, IL

INDIVIDUAL TICKET - \$25

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Children's Champion
\$10,00 - SOLD

Superhero
\$5,000

Star
\$1,500

Host
\$1,000

All sponsorships include a table of 10 and recognition on website and marketing materials.

Seating is assigned, please contact us for specific table requests.

To request a CASA/GAL volunteer be seated at your table, please let us know when you register.

CHRIS NORTON, *KEYNOTE SPEAKER*



MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER, AUTHOR & FOUNDER OF THE CHRIS NORTON FOUNDATION

Chris Norton suffered a spinal cord injury while playing football at Luther College (Iowa) and defied the odds by walking across stage at his college graduation. Later he created the Chris Norton Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people with spinal cord and neuromuscular disabilities by providing opportunities that would not otherwise exist.

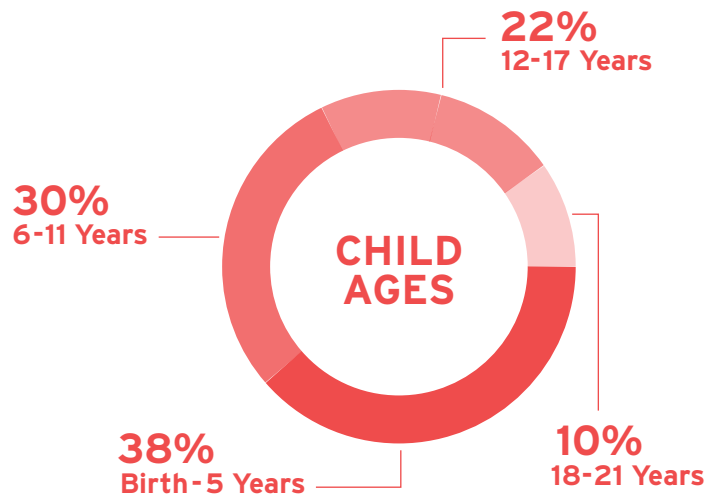
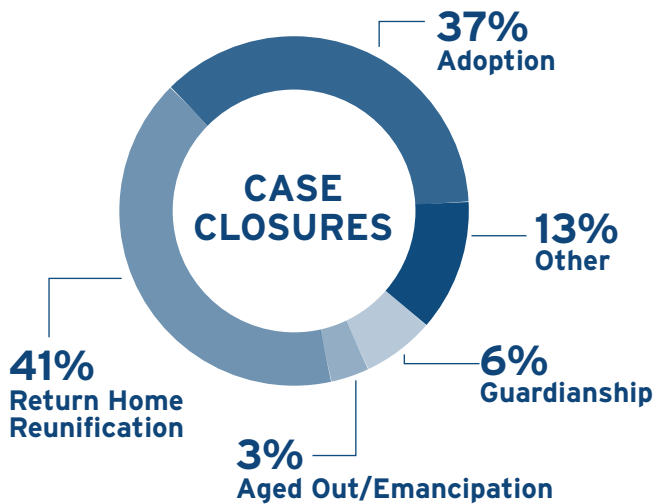
Chris coauthored a book with his dad and is releasing another book with his wife Emily, *The Seven Longest Yards*, on July 9, 2019, with the foreword written by Tim Tebow; and a feature documentary about his story titled, *7 Yards: The Chris Norton Story*, is expected to debut in 2020.

Chris and Emily have adopted five amazing girls, and have fostered a total of 17 children. They are both deeply committed to providing a safe, loving home for children in need.

FOR MORE INFORMATION TO SPONSOR OR ATTEND

please contact Stephanie Marlatt, Event and Development Coordinator, at 630-444-3108
or REGISTER ONLINE at weblink.donorperfect.com/Superheroes2019
by Thursday, October 3rd.

WHAT YOU HELPED US ACHIEVE IN 2018!



100%
of children served
were appointed a
CASA/GAL Volunteer.



80%
of children in abuse/neglect
court had 3 or fewer placements
for the duration of the case.

To best fit the cultural
needs and diversity of
the children served....



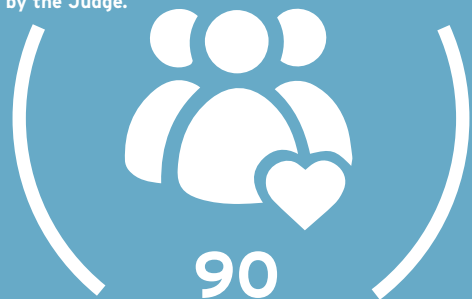
30%
of CASA/GAL volunteers
were male

11%
of CASA/GAL volunteers
were bilingual

12%
of CASA/GAL volunteers
were minority

31
new volunteers
were trained and
sworn in by the Judge.

17,445
volunteer hours
were served.



90
CASA/GAL volunteers were specially trained
in providing support to older youth ages 14+
who will soon age out of the system.

YOU'RE INVITED TO
CASA KANE COUNTY'S

16TH ANNUAL
GOLF FOR A CHILD
INVITATIONAL

**MONDAY
AUGUST 26,
2019**

10:30 A.M. - ST. CHARLES
COUNTRY CLUB
AND
10:00 A.M. - ROYAL FOX
COUNTRY CLUB

Our annual Golf for a Child is a favorite in the Fox Valley area and is almost sold out at two premier golf courses - St. Charles Country Club and Royal Fox Country Club. This year's golf event will include celebrity announcers and more surprises at the cocktail hour with live entertainment and reception style dinner.

To sponsor the event or to purchase a hole sign or an ad, please contact Stephanie at **630-444-3108** or **stephaniem@casakanecounty.org**.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO THE 2020 MASTERS!

APRIL 9-12, 2020
\$100 PER TICKET

Only 500 tickets sold for this raffle.
Enter to win the ultimate bucket list experience!

Visit casakanecounty.org/golf-invitational for more information.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE!

WHAT IT TAKES TO OPERATE CASA:

20 Professional
Team Members

23 Board of
Directors

40 Chairman Advisory
Panel Members

220 CASA/GAL
Volunteers

ALL SERVING
514 CHILDREN IN KANE COUNTY!



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION *Evening*

Honoring CASA/GAL volunteers!



The CASA organization had the distinct honor of recognizing all CASA/GAL volunteers on April 25th at the Eaglebrook Country Club.

THANK YOU for your years of service!



Honoring Volunteers

AND THEIR MILESTONE YEARS OF SERVICE!

20 YEARS

Cathy Whiteside

15 YEARS

Anne Nickerson

10 YEARS

Betsy Lewis
Kathleen O'Malley
James Screeden

5 YEARS

Ann Anderson	Lori McCaffrey
Stacy Banker	Jeff Otterby
Maria Boehm	Jen Otterby
Dudley Burgess	Michael Pedersen
Arturo Cruz	Henry Rozycki
Patrick Finn	Shevon Sherod-Ramirez
Alison France	James Sweet
Caroline Hetfield	Jodi Turek
Robert Hubbard	Gabriel Velez
Carol Hynes	Cynthia Winstead

TOP 10 WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- 1 Become a CASA/GAL volunteer today!
- 2 Collect gift cards for youth incidentals.
- 3 Provide gas cards for long trips for CASA/GAL volunteers visiting foster youth.
- 4 Contact the CASA office to distribute See Something Say Something flyers on reporting child abuse.
- 5 Join CASA's Community Action Group and become an ambassador for vulnerable youth.
- 6 Attend CASA's annual Gala, Golf for a Child Invitational or Clays for Kids Event.
- 7 Host a table at our annual Super Heroes Luncheon that will motivate you about the CASA mission.
- 8 Connect to CASA Kane County's website to learn more about our child advocacy organization.
- 9 Donate experiences, tickets or trips for fundraising events.
- 10 Host a third party event at your home or place of business.

CHAIRMAN'S ADVISORY PANEL

*A group of community minded professionals
that provide support to CASA's mission.*

Dan Dolan, *Co-Chair*
Bob Runke, *Co-Chair*
Nancy Belmont
Mike Black
Kim Byrne
Erin Brown-Carter
Michael Clements
Jane Combs
Nicole Cook
Ryan Corcoran
Thomas Duncan
Shannon Embrey/Ernesto Guillen
Katie Podl-Fish
P.J. Fitzpatrick
Alison France
Mike Frasier
Cynthia Holland
Jeffery Kubas
Tom Lannoye
Kirstin Liberatore
Maureen McHugh
Michael Moore
Dave Ott
Mari Pierce
Marianne Renner
Mark Rerko
Jeff Robinson
Zaida Rodriguez
Ginny Rosso
Meagan Slavin
Heidi Vicino
Lisa Weier
David Wong/Benjamin Zeman

CASA STAFF

Gloria Kelley
Executive Director

Natalie Bohner
Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator

Bethany Burgert
Advocate Supervisor

Amy Daeschler
Annual Giving Coordinator

Christina Divito
Advocate Supervisor

Christine Evertsen
Office Manager

Gail Garcia
Program Coordinator

Liliana Garcia
Development Specialist

Chris Geocarls
CASA Staff Attorney

Lindsey Herdrich
Training & Education Coordinator

Julie Hipp
Director of Marketing

Barb Kleinow
Executive Administrator

Stephanie Marlatt
Event & Development Coordinator

Maha McDiarmid
Director of Training & Education

Debra McQuaid
Advocate Supervisor

Nydia Molina
Director of Case Management/
CASA Staff Attorney

Lucy Rivera
Advocate Supervisor

Laura Sanders
Advocate Supervisor

Vicki Shaw
Senior Director of Advancement

Kelly Vatanou
Advocate Supervisor



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA KANE COUNTY

100 S. Third Street, Suite 460
Geneva, IL 60134

CASA Kane County is a non-profit, volunteer organization
that advocates for the best interests of abused and
neglected children within the Juvenile Court system.



PLEASE RECYCLE ME!

P: 630.232.4484

F: 630.232.4562

casakanecounty.org

GENERAL INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1
3:00-4:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
3:00-4:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3
3:00-4:00 p.m.

**All located at CASA Kane County*

