

CASA of the Tennessee Heartland, Inc.
Court Appointed Special Advocates for Abused and Neglected Children

I'm always so excited to have opportunities to get out into the community and meet our many supporters! I have had many of these chances since July 1st, and I can honestly say it has been a blessing to meet such wonderful and kind-hearted people. I am so thankful for each person, church and civic organization that is actively supporting the work of CASA - whether it's Tennessee Heartland, National, or another county program. Together we are making differences in the lives of the children in our communities. If you are interested in getting more involved, I hope you will call us, send an email, or drop by one of our offices. Each of the staff are always looking for new friends! If you are a part of a church or group who needs speakers on occasion, please consider having us come and share with you some of the ways to get involved with CASA. We are looking for more ways to spread our work and mission - we need you, as supporters, to help us get the word out! If you have ideas or suggestions of where we should be, let us know! If you meet someone you think might be interested, give them our contact information! Thank you again for all you are doing for the kids. - Naomi

Barbeque and Bluegrass Bash!

We hope you've already made your plans to attend the 8th Annual Barbeque and Bluegrass Bash on Feb. 19. We're excited about some of the changes you'll find this year. Our new venue is Junior Achievement's "BizTown" at the Hollingsworth Center in Clinton. Where you would normally find students practicing their business skills, you'll now find "stores" and "offices" full of available auction items (booklets available on our website or by request), many of which are new for this year. We'll be feasting on Texas Roadhouse BBQ, (vegetarian option available) toe-tapping to Eddy Sweet & Thundercreek and The Frost Bottom Boys, then ending the night with an enthusiastic live auction led, once again, by the one and only, Bear Stephenson, auctioneer. The fun will start at 6pm with a cash bar and hor's d'oeuvres provided by the CASA Board. For tickets or further information, return the attached tear off, visit www.casatnh.org, or call / stop in any of the CASA offices.

- Janis Williams and Karen Crutchfield
Barbeque and Bluegrass Bash Co-Chairs



Penguin Plunge!

It's that time of year again where the cold weather, or maybe just the water, brings out the people's warm hearts! It's time for CASA's 5th Annual Penguin Plunge! You may be asking what is the Penguin Plunge? Well, event participants, also known as human penguins, will don bathing suits or costumes, bowties, and their courage to benefit CASA by plunging into the Oneida City Park waters. Penguins seek financial sponsors for their plunge and will receive appropriate rewards according to the amount of money they raise. The minimum amount to plunge is \$25 for students and \$35 for everyone else and penguins under eighteen must have parent or guardian permission. All penguins must submit a signed liability waiver. Corporate sponsorship is available. Sponsors and donors will be recognized in publicity and the company logo will be placed on the sponsorship banner on the day of the event. **NOMINATIONS** have a chilling effect on this event! Anyone can nominate another person to plunge for a fee of \$50.00. That person can accept the nomination and plunge or they may choose to purchase "Plunger's Insurance" for a fee of \$50.00. Plunger's Insurance allows someone to become a prestigious member of the "Chicken Coop" and not have to plunge! For additional information please contact the Scott County office at 423-663-8943. We hope to see you "waddling up" to the Oneida City Park on the 5th of March!!

The difference an advocate makes...

A recent study found that cases involving a CASA volunteer were more likely to be "permanently closed" as compared to cases not involving a CASA volunteer. Specifically, half the number of children in cases involving a CASA volunteer were reopened. The same study found that a significantly higher number of children with a CASA volunteer were adopted or reunited with their parents for a permanent placement than those without a CASA volunteer. In 2010, the number of children removed from their homes due to allegations of abuse or neglect was higher than ever in Anderson and Scott Counties. Help us make a difference in these precious children's lives.



Meaningful Mother's Day Cards...

Don't forget Mother's Day is just around the corner.

We have cards specially designed for this occasion - What better way to honor a loving mother in your life than to make a donation in their honor to help stand up for children who don't have a loving home and caring parent. Please include the name and address you would like your gift acknowledgement sent to.



Who's Who?

President of the Board Valerie Smith	Vice President Karen Crutchfield
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Scott County Program Coordinators

Christy Harness	Sheena Rogers
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Administrative Assistant Newsletter Editor

Carolyn Andrews	Naomi Asher
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Anderson County Program Updates...

Mentoring - 5 "seasoned" volunteer advocates have accepted the role of mentors to assist new volunteers on their first case, go on 1st home visits, answer questions and provide support. On January 24th we held a meeting with 3 of these new mentors, who are ready to go as soon as we have a new class of trained volunteers to mentor!

Meth Training - On January 31st, District Attorney General Dave Clark gave a free presentation on the impacts of meth in our community to a very engaged group at the Clinton Public Library. Of the 30 or so in attendance were volunteers and staff from CASAs in Anderson, Knox, Sevier & Campbell Counties, as well as DCS case managers and other community members.

Scott County Program Updates...

Sheena Rogers recently joined the CASA crew in the Scott County program office. Sheena is a graduate of Tennessee Tech with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in Sociology. She is 4 courses shy of completing her Masters with the University of the Cumberlands. We are thrilled to have her on the CASA team and look forward to what she will help us accomplish

Penguin Plunge - We are working hard on getting into the schools and around to all of the businesses here in Scott County to generate support for this year's Penguin Plunge! Remember to nominate someone you want to see dive into the icy water! We have a few surprises for this year, so take a deep breath and get ready to take the plunge!!

Program News

Training - We are gearing up for our next training classes in Anderson and Scott Counties which will be in March/April of 2011 - tell all your friends, neighbors or a stranger at the grocery store to call us if they're interested in becoming a CASA court volunteer! Our goal is to get at least 10 new volunteers!

Fostering Futures - CASA of the Tennessee Heartland is working with TN CASA and the Anderson and Scott County courts to bring a training called "Fostering Futures" to the East Tennessee CASA programs March 4th! This program teaches service providers to better assist the youth in care who are teens, especially those close to "aging out" of the system, to help them be better prepared for adult life.

CASA of the Tennessee Heartland is in the process of resigning all of our volunteers. If you wish to remain active and have not yet set up an appointment to meet with staff, please do so as soon as possible!