

The **Child's** Voice



VIRGINIA BEACH CASA

SPRING 2010

Board Member Profile

Even though she's not in direct contact with the abused and neglected children CASA advocates for, Kelley Bimson, knows that she makes a difference in their lives. Kelley has been a champion of the CASA program since 2003 when she first joined the CASA Board of Directors. She served as Vice President for four years, and is currently serving on both the Events and Nominating Committees. Kelley knows that her role in raising funds and awareness about the CASA program is invaluable and she uses her extensive community connections to search out possible contributors, to find qualified individuals to serve

on the Board and as volunteer advocates.



As part of the Events committee, Kelley uses her experience as a fundraiser to spread the word about CASA. Over the years, the committee has done an amazing job in increasing

funding for the organization through the growth of the Spring Annual Fundraiser. With Kelley's leadership, the event has grown from a small afternoon get together to a recognized community benefit which raised more than \$60,000 for CASA last year. When asked, what one thing Kelley would like to accomplish as a board member, Kelley responded: "the development of a long term comprehensive contribution plan to meet the growing financial needs of CASA".

Kelley also serves on the Board Nominating Committee. She follows the entire process, which starts with finding new

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Did you know child abuse is not usually just one physical attack or just one instance of failure to meet a child's most basic needs. Usually child abuse is a pattern of behavior which takes place over a period of time. The longer child abuse continues, the more serious it becomes, and the more difficult it is to stop.

- From July 2008 to June 2009, **47,571** children were reported as possible victims of abuse and/or neglect to Virginia's city and county departments of social services.
- Every **10** days a child dies from abuse or neglect.

- Almost **40%** of all victims in founded investigations of child abuse and neglect in the state of Virginia were children age 4 or under.
- On an average moment there are **6,374** children in foster care in Virginia (with almost **300** in Virginia Beach alone).

2010 Virginia Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention

2010 Edith Duggan Award

Nianza E. Wallace II, was awarded the 2010 Edith Duggan Award on February 12, 2010 at the Annual CASA Volunteer Recognition Event.

Mr. Wallace is an Associate City Attorney, with the City of Virginia Beach and has been practicing law since 1983. He has worked for the City Attorney's office for the past 24 years – representing the Department of Human Services in cases involving child abuse and neglect. He serves on the Court Improvement Committee for the Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and is a member of the Virginia Beach Multidisciplinary Team to Prevent Child

Abuse, and the State of Virginia Child Abuse Fatality Review Team. He has been a long time guest speaker at CASA volunteer trainings –



on legal aspects of child abuse neglect cases and he cheerfully answers questions and provides support and guidance to CASA program

staff and volunteers regarding legal aspects of CASA cases.

The Edith Duggan Award was established in 2008 on the 20th

Anniversary of the founding of the Virginia Beach CASA Program to honor founding director, Edith Duggan. The Award is given annually and recognizes an individual who exemplifies the characteristics of Edith: vision, leadership and a passion for the prevention of child abuse

and neglect. Past award recipients are Judge Jerome Freidman, 2008 and Leah Waitzer, 2009.

Board Member Profile (continued from cover)

prospective members, then she informs the Board about the potential candidates, sends out the board member packets, and lastly, gets the vote and seal of approval from the current Board.

Before becoming involved with CASA, Kelley was a long time volunteer for the Virginia Beach Neptune Festival. This led Kelley to a fulltime career with the Neptune Festival until the birth of her daughter. Kelley began looking for another opportunity to serve the com-

munity after becoming a mom, when a friend and former board member, Virginia Roundtree, asked Kelley to consider CASA. Careful thought and an examination of CASA's purpose and mission, led Kelley to say yes.

Kelley feels that by giving back as a CASA Board member, she makes a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children and in the larger Virginia Beach community. Observations of court hearings and an understanding

of CASA court reports, reinforce her belief that CASA plays the biggest role in the life and wellbeing of abused and neglected children. In response to whether CASA is beneficial to the community and criminal justice system, Kelley states emphatically, "ABSOLUTELY! I can't imagine these cases without a Court Appointed Special Advocate".

Thank you Kelley for sharing your time and talents with CASA!

CASA Volunteers in the News



Phil Mazzara
1 ½ year volunteer
featured in the National
CASA Magazine:
The Connection, Fall,
2009.



Joan Flowers
7 year volunteer
recognized by the City of
Virginia Beach with a
Volunteer Star Award,
December, 2009



Elizabeth Hague
18 year volunteer
featured in the Virginian
Pilot, Beacon
“Close-Up” feature,
February, 2010

Thank You to Our Contributors July '09 - Feb '10

Children's Circle *\$5,000 and Up*

Joshua P. and Elizabeth D.
Darden Family Foundation
Youth Foundation of
Virginia Beach, Inc.

Champion *\$2,500 to \$4,999*

Benefactor
\$1,000 to \$2,499
Eastern Shore Chapel
Eleanor Marshall Charitable Trust
Sam Steingold
Virginia Beach Rotary Club
Foundation
Warden Family Foundation

Patron

\$500 to \$999
Faggert & Friedan, P.C.
Huff, Poole, and Mahoney, P.C.
Charitable Foundation
J. Barbour Rixey

Supporters *Up to \$499*

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Kappa Gamma Society International
Richard D. Guy
Robert & Terry Jones
Kyle Korte
Patricia Kramer
Louise Eggleston Martin
Monarch Charities
Norris, St. Clair, & Lotkin
The Property Shoppe
John & Mary Reinhart

Lynn Schoenbaum
Pauline and Daniel Siddall

In Memory of Larry Ashinoff
Carol Ashinoff

*In Memory of Christopher
Chapwick*
Phyllis Chapwick

In Honor of Dr. Thomas Cox
Glenn and Cathryn Snyders

In Kind Contributions
Firehouse Subs
Beach Realty Group

Special Thanks to CASA Interns
John Simmons
Bryant & Stratton College Fall 2009

Alex Pearson
Old Dominion University, Winter /
Spring 2010

My Friend

What is life?
Is that a question we want answered?
Is it a place where we are and forever will be?
Is it simply a stepping stone onto a new horizon?
I think it's a place where we learn who we are
And we find our friends and our foes
Our strengths and our weaknesses.
Because when you get past the colors of your life
When you strip it bare
And see what cannot be taken away
You are surprised.
You will expect to find the big things in life
The big pleasures
The big problem
And the big goal that we've always seen in front of
ourselves
But you will see something different
The little things
That make life worth living
You will see the handshake of a stranger,
The hug of a mother
And someone that you never expected
Someone that's been there for you through thick
And thin
Whether old or young
Weak or strong
Beautiful or ugly
They've been there
And you hope
With all your heart that they will stay that way
These are the reasons why you can't strip them away
Ever if you scratch until your fingers bleed
They will remain
When you are weak
They will be strong
When all else fails
They remain.
That is why I thank you
My friend....

**Poem written by Noelle for her
Virginia Beach CASA**



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

FRIDAY, MAY 14TH, 2010
7:30 P.M. until Midnight
Cavalier Golf & Yacht Club

**FEATURING THE BAND
"TEN SPOT"**

Complimentary
Beer, Wine & Heavy Hors d'oeuvres
Tickets \$60 per individual in advance
and \$75 per individual after May 7
Casual Attire
(no flip flops)

AWESOME LIVE AUCTION ITEMS & RAFFLE BASKETS
All funds benefit Virginia Beach CASA
Purchase your tickets today by calling
THE VIRGINIA BEACH CASA OFFICE
(757) 385-5616
www.virginiabeachcasa.org

VIRGINIA BEACH CASA
CASA is a private, non-profit organization funded solely by
grants and donations. We need your support so that we may
continue training volunteers and advocating for abuse and
neglected children. Support such as yours will make a lasting
difference in the life of a child.
2425 Nimmo Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23456
www.virginiabeachcasa.org

SLIDE INTO SUMMER

Stand Up for an Abused Child

Help us provide volunteer court advocates for abused and neglected children with your tax deductible contribution. Your dollars will support the continued recruitment, training and supervision of volunteers in the coming years.

Ways to Support CASA

By phone or mail: Call the CASA office Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. 757-385-5616. Someone will be happy to process your contribution or use the enclosed envelope to mail in your donation.

On-Line Donations: Visit: www.virginiabeachcasa.org and click on the “Make an On-line Donation” link from the side bar. Visa and Master Card accepted.

Tributes: Gifts may be given to share the joy of graduation, birthdays, anniversaries, a simple thank you, memorials for loved ones or friends, or any special occasion. A note is sent to the recipient stating that a donation has been made, by you their honor. The amount of the gift is not disclosed.

United Way: Virginia Beach CASA is designated as an unaffiliated donor write-in agency by United Way, and is qualified to receive donor designated contributions through the Community Campaign (for city employees), Combined Charities Campaign (for non government organizations), Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (for state employees), and Combined Federal Campaigns (for Federal government employees). If you would like to contribute through your work plan, simply write in: **“Virginia Beach Court Appointed Special Advocates”** or **“Virginia Beach CASA”** on your pledge form. You may also use the following codes:

Combined Charities Campaign code: 8092 / Commonwealth of Virginia code: 3473 / Combined Federal Campaign code: 58648

Endowment Fund: Virginia Beach CASA has established an Endowment fund with the Hampton Roads Community Foundation. Donors can designate contributions to the fund either directly through the Foundation or through CASA with the words “for endowment fund” indicated on the contribution. The fund was established to further the charitable purposes of the Virginia Beach CASA Program and is part of the long term planning and funding process.

Employer Matched gifts: If you are employed by a company which matches the charitable gifts of its employees, please see your personnel officer for the appropriate form and submit it with your gift. Virginia Beach CASA staff will complete and return the form. You will be notified when the matching gift is received.

*The Virginia Beach Court Appointed Special Advocate Program is a designated 501-C-3 Non-Profit Organization.
Tax ID # 54-1708340 All contributions are tax deductible according to current IRS regulations.
All donors will receive acknowledgement of their tax-deductible donations.*

Upcoming CASA Events:

- *March / April
Spring Volunteer Training*

- *April
Child Abuse Prevention
Month*

- *April 27
Board of Directors Meeting*

- *May 14
Slide into Summer
CASA Annual Fundraiser*

- *September 14
Board of Directors Meeting*

- *September / October
Fall Volunteer Training*

STAFF

Judy Kurtz,
Executive Director
Linda Michie,
Volunteer Coordinator
Beth Simons,
Volunteer Coordinator
Becky Malone,
Staff Assistant

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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

To find out more about CASA, or to make an online donation Visit us on the web @

www.virginiaeachcasa.org



CASA
ANNUAL
FUNDRAISER
MAY 14, 2010
CALL FOR TIX
757-385-5616

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JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC
RELATIONS COURT
2425 NIMMO PARKWAY
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456

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