

**Douglas County CASA, Inc.**  
Mid-Year Report  
July 14, 2010



During the first six months of 2010, Douglas County CASA, Inc. utilized funds provided by the City of Lawrence for general operating expenses required to carry out our mission of providing specially trained volunteer advocates for abused and neglected children in Douglas County. City funds have allowed our agency to continue recruiting, training, and supporting a dedicated corps of volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children who are under the protection of our juvenile court system.

In calendar year 2009, our agency served a total of 74 children; in 2008 we served 66 children. From January 1-June 30, 2010, 48 CASA volunteers have already served 57 abused and neglected children from our community. This reflects a marked increase in the number of children in need of a CASA volunteer; we currently have 25 children on our waiting list. Since January 1, 2010, our CASA volunteers have contributed over 1,850 volunteer hours on behalf of their assigned children and have driven over 9,000 miles to visit these CASA children. 5 cases have closed so far this year, reflecting safe, permanent homes for these youngsters; 4 were adopted and 1 returned home.

In December of 2009, our CASA office relocated from the third floor of the Douglas County Courthouse, our home since 1993, to a new office at 1009 New Hampshire. This new venue has provided increased space that allows our volunteers to spend time with their assigned children on-site doing games, crafts, and other activities. More than 30 children have spent time in our new facility since January 1, 2010.

Another highlight during the first half of this year was the implementation of a new Birthday Box program for children served by our CASA agency. Since most of the children assigned to our CASA volunteers reside in foster care and often change placements during the year, their birthdays sometimes pass without celebration or acknowledgment. Thanks to community support and many in-kind donations, our CASA volunteers are now able to share birthday gifts and party supplies with these children and youth, assuring that they are not forgotten on their special day.

Additional highlights since January 1 include our agency's participation in the KU Advocacy Program, which has matched Douglas County CASA with several KU Departments: The Lied Center, Office of Admissions, Office of the University Registrar, University Theatre, and the Omega Phi Alpha service sorority. These KU staff and students are already assisting our CASA program with outreach, fundraising, birthday boxes, and more. Our agency was also selected as a beneficiary of the 2010 St. Patrick's Day Parade, requiring our participation in the Parade Committee's related outreach and

fundraising events. This venture resulted in a \$10,500 donation to Douglas County CASA.

The current status of our program objectives for 2010 are as follows:

Goal/Objective 1: 95% of children assigned a CASA volunteer will not experience reported or substantiated abuse/neglect during the calendar year.

Results from 1/1/10-6/30/10: 100% of children assigned a CASA volunteer did not experience substantiated abuse/neglect during this time period.

Goal/Objective 2: 90% of the children served by Douglas County CASA will remain with the same CASA volunteer during the calendar year.

Results from 1/1/10-6/30/10: 96% of children whose court cases have closed so far this year were assigned one CASA volunteer for the duration of their case.

Goal/Objective 3: 90% of children whose cases close will not re-enter the jurisdiction of the Court as a Child in Need of Care (CINC) within two years.

Results from 1/1/10-6/30/10: This recidivism goal has been met so far this year. 98% of CASA children whose cases closed before 2008 have not re-entered the system as a CINC case in 2010.

With a significant increase in abuse and neglect cases that require a CASA volunteer, a goal for the second half of the year is to reduce the number of children on our waiting list by recruiting more volunteers and obtaining additional funding to subsidize the required staff supervision of these advocates. Thanks to support from the City of Lawrence, Douglas County CASA has already made a significant impact on the lives of abused and neglected children in the first half of 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Frederick  
Executive Director