

**Douglas County CASA, Inc.**  
**Mid-Year Report**  
**July 12, 2011**



During the first six months of 2011, 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 2010, our agency served a total of 77 children. From January 1-June 30, 2011, 58 CASA volunteers have already served 75 abused and neglected children from our community. This mid-year total nearly equals the total for the entire previous year, indicating a substantial rise in the number of abuse and neglect cases in our community. Children served during the first 6 months of 2011 include 26 children from birth to age 5; 25 children from ages 6-11; 15 children from ages 12-15; and 9 children from ages 16-18. There are currently more than 20 children on our waiting list for a CASA volunteer. Since January 1, 2011, our CASA volunteers have contributed over 2,437 volunteer hours on behalf of their assigned children. 14 cases have closed so far this year, reflecting safe, permanent homes for these children and teens. Birthday gifts and clothing assistance were also provided to children served by our CASA agency. Douglas County CASA continued to participate in the KU Advocacy Program, partnering with the Omega Phi Alpha service sorority and the Office of the University Registrar for donation assistance with our Birthday Box program.

2011 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Douglas County CASA, and this milestone was celebrated at a special gathering on April 26. This combined anniversary celebration with the Citizen Review Board (their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary) included remarks from several children and young adults previously served by our CASA volunteers, and the distribution of Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness ribbons to all attendees. In honor of Judge Jean Shepherd's January retirement, a room in the CASA office was officially dedicated as the "Jean Shepherd Room" and Douglas County CASA was asked to administer a special shoe fund (the "Shepherd Shoe Fund") to provide footwear for at-risk youth throughout the community to participate in sports, marching band, dance and other extracurricular activities. In-Service workshops for CASA volunteers included a program on domestic violence by Willow; Trauma-Informed Care by Toni Detherage of Success by Six; Book Discussions; Mentoring Youth in Foster Care; Children's Perceptions of Substance Abuse in the Home; and Transitional Planning for Older Youth by Stefanie Werth of KVC.

7 new volunteers were trained and assigned to children during the first half of 2011. CASA Volunteer Katie Becker was named the "Wallace Galluzzi Volunteer of the Year" at a special recognition ceremony hosted by the United Way in April. In June of 2011,

Douglas County CASA partnered with a KU international summer institute “Women’s Civic Leadership from the Heartland” on a CASA service-learning project that involved 18 women from 6 at-risk countries: India, Pakistan, Egypt, Morocco, Afghanistan and Sudan.

Our summer scholarship program enabled dozens of at-risk youth from the community to attend a variety of camps and activities, including photography, science, music, football, basketball, baseball, tae kwon do and more.

The current status of our program objectives for 2011 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 1/1/11-6/30/11: 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 1/1/11-6/30/11: 97% of the 75 children served so far in 2011 have remained with the same CASA volunteer during the calendar year. 86% of children whose court cases have closed so far this year had the stability of the same CASA during the calendar year; 72% remained with the same CASA volunteer for the duration of their case, with these case lengths ranging from 13 months to 28 months.

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 1/1/11-6/30/11: This recidivism goal has been met so far this year. 100% of CASA children whose cases closed before 2009 have not re-entered the system as a CINC case in 2011.

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 continue reducing the number of children on the wait list for a CASA. This can be accomplished 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 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Frederick

Executive Director