

CASA Weekly Happenings



Dear CASA Volunteers:

Happy Holidays from CASA. The following will provide you with important information and upcoming events for CASA. Please let us know if you have any questions.

- **Thank you to CASA Julie Gilman.** Thank you to Julie for opening up her home for our 2009 CASA Christmas Party. It was great to see everyone!
- **Christmas Gifts.** If you didn't make it to the CASA Christmas Party, there is a surprise waiting for you in your CASA box at the office. Thank you for the great work you do for children. In 2009, CASA served 149 foster children in Klamath County.
- **CASA Offices Closed Week of December 20.** The CASA Offices will be closed the week of December 20. If you have a December 28 court date, *the deadline for e-mailing your court report is December 17.*
- **Please return attached CASA Volunteer Spotlight form as soon as possible.** Okay, you may not want to brag about yourself, but CASA is going to ask that you do. As you know, the Herald and News has agreed to partner with CASA to recruit more volunteers and donors. They are waiting for our volunteer stories and volunteer pictures. We appreciate your help that will allow us to serve more foster children in 2010. *Thank you for filling out the attached form (150 words) and returning to CASA by January 30.*
- **CASA Christmas Card for Child Welfare.** If you were not able to attend CASA's Christmas Party, please stop by the CASA offices before Thursday, December 17, to sign a card for Child Welfare. We also have holiday paper to write a personal note to your caseworker. We will deliver pastries and the card to Child Welfare on the morning of December 17.
- **Gifts for Children.** If you would like to give a small gift to your CASA children, we have some children's toys, a couple of pajamas made by CASA Vicki Grinnell, and 140 kids sweatshirts donated to CASA. Stop by the CASA offices any time. Thank you for talking to the foster parents about giving a gift to your CASA children. If you have a foster parent who is concerned about giving a gift to one child and not the other children, feel free to take as many gifts as you need for that foster home. As always, kids love to get cards. I think it is great when CASA volunteers send their kids a card for their birthday or any special occasion.
- **CASA Court Reports.** Please read the attached document on CASA Court Reports and track your time for training hours. As you know, the CASA volunteer's primary role is to

be the voice of the child. The court report is the volunteer's primary tool in effectively communicating the child's perspective. The report also ensures *professionalism, consistency and objectivity*. Judges greatly value CASA's reports because they provide them with *current, accurate and fact-based information*. Your report helps judges make critical decisions about the child. Thank you for:

1. Seeing the child at least once a month to ensure you know the child's wishes and current needs;
 2. Speaking to all of the parties so you can provide the judge with current information;
 3. Speaking to the parents' service providers so you can report on their progress in services;
 4. Submitting your draft CASA court report to the Volunteer Coordinator 10 days prior to court;
 5. Submitting a digital photo of your children to the Volunteer Coordinator if you have one;
 6. Providing a current *What I would like the judge to know* form to your Volunteer Coordinator;
 7. Providing a current *Family Tree* form to your Volunteer Coordinator;
 8. Speaking to the Child Welfare caseworker about any concerns prior to submitting a draft report;
 9. Listing in your report if a parent's attorney has denied you speaking to a parent.
- **CASA Circle of Hope Campaign.** CASA is launching the second phase of our Circle of Hope Campaign. Circle of Hope is one way our community can support CASA's mission to advocate for the most vulnerable children in our community. Thank you for helping us spread the word about this opportunity. Radio ads will start running through Wynne Broadcasting in January and placemats will be displayed at Elmer's Restaurant. More information is available at www.KlamathFallsCasa.org/Give/Hope.

Sincerely,
Sandy Berger
Executive Director
CASA for Children of Klamath County
(541) 885-6017