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**Children's
Justice Act**



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**CASA Continues its Partnership with
AmeriCorps* VISTA**

- In 2008 the Louisiana CASA AmeriCorps* VISTA team participated in 56 speaking engagements.
- Created over 35 resources and materials for continued recruitment efforts after the VISTA project ends.
- Over the last year, our team has recruited over 100 new CASA volunteers across the state of Louisiana!
- The LACASA VISTA team currently has 9 members serving local CASA programs in Amite, Denham Springs, Gonzales, Baton Rouge, New Iberia, Opelousas, and New Orleans.

Mission

The mission of Louisiana CASA Association is to support local programs in their efforts to ensure that abused and neglected children in the Louisiana legal system have a competent and caring volunteer advocate through quality, local CASA programs.

www.louisianacasa.org

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A Message from the Louisiana CASA Executive Director



As we are well into 2009, it is important to take a moment to reflect on 2008 and acknowledge the hard work and commitment of staff, volunteers, and supporters. Because of this dedication, thousands of Louisiana's abused and neglected children were given voice through the eyes and ears of a community advocate. Because of this steadfast belief that we can make a difference by working together, children in foster care have found a safe and permanent

home with a family that is caring and nurturing.

Here at Louisiana CASA, we keep our focus on the mission: supporting local programs in their work to be the difference in an abused child's life. Whether through training, support, community development, or recognition, our goal is to support and uplift those who really matter to the children we serve – our CASA volunteers and staff!

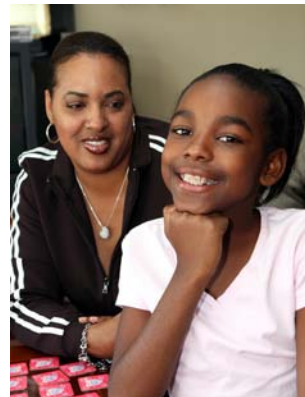
To learn more about CASA in Louisiana, or to get involved, visit www.louisianacasa.org. Thanks again for your support and encouragement.

John E. Wyble

A Message from the President of the Louisiana CASA Board of Directors

Thanks again for your support in 2008. Because of your commitment to Louisiana's abused and neglected children, CASA programs were able to serve over 3,700 children. CASA programs in Louisiana continue to grow in strength and in numbers of children served. In many ways, you are the reason CASA has such an incredible impact in our state. Whether you are one of the 1,500 volunteers, a local program board member or staff, or partner or policy maker, it takes a spirit of cooperation and teamwork at the community level to make a real difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. As we are well into 2009, perhaps you have seen our efforts to get the message of CASA out to the communities about the need for more volunteers. Help us spread this message; talk to your family, friends, and co-workers. Let them know that they too can... BE The 1. Be a CASA. Again, thank you for your support!

Stanley Dameron
Covington, LA



2008 Louisiana CASA Heroes

Judge of the Year Justice Kimball



Awards presented by Jennifer Marusak, Vice President, LACASA Board of Directors.

Under the leadership and guidance of Justice Kimball, CASA programs have grown to serve record numbers of children.

Advocate of the Year Pat Schexnayder



Pat is a shining example of an effective child advocate who has the highest level of ethics and respect for her role as a CASA volunteer.

Board Member of the Year Boni Ritter



Boni's commitment to CASA's mission is evident in her efforts to promote awareness of local CASA programs.

Louisiana CASA Executive Director of the Year David Sikes



David Sikes is a true leader in the community for issues involving abused and neglected children.

Louisiana CASA Program Staff of the Year Beverly Johnson



The quiet hero, Beverly Johnson is the engine that runs CASA Jefferson.

Office of Community Service (OCS) Staff Member of the Year Gail Lewis



Her passion for child protection and welfare is inspirational.

Diversity Award CASA New Orleans



CASA New Orleans understands that diversity/inclusion is a journey – not a destination.

CASA Programs in Louisiana Among Nation's Best

Louisiana ranks among the best in providing advocacy for abused and neglected children in foster care through its Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs, according to the National CASA Association. CASA volunteers are unique in that they focus exclusively upon the child's best interest. CASA volunteers are recruited from the community and are most often selected to serve only one child.

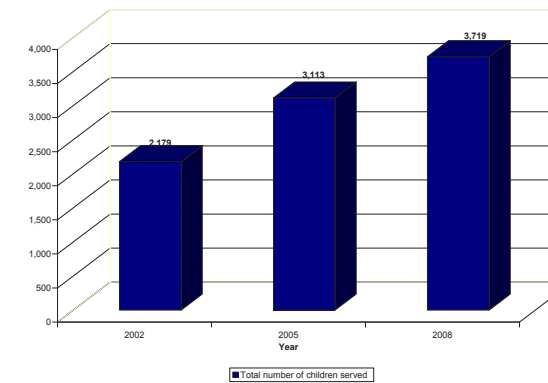
For Louisiana, CASA programs are serving more children with more volunteers than typical CASA programs in other states. Nationally, a CASA program has 37 volunteers serving 118 children. CASA programs in Louisiana typically have 110 volunteers serving 254 children.

Sally Erny, Chief Program Office for National CASA, echoed praise of CASA programs in Louisiana.

"We have found the work of the local CASA programs in Louisiana, as well as the Louisiana CASA Association, to be impressive. With the support of Louisiana CASA and the Louisiana Supreme court, local programs have grown and thrived in recent years. In total, CASA programs have over 1,500 active volunteers serving 4,000 abused and neglected children. This is a significant impact in a state where strong, high quality advocacy for children is critically needed."

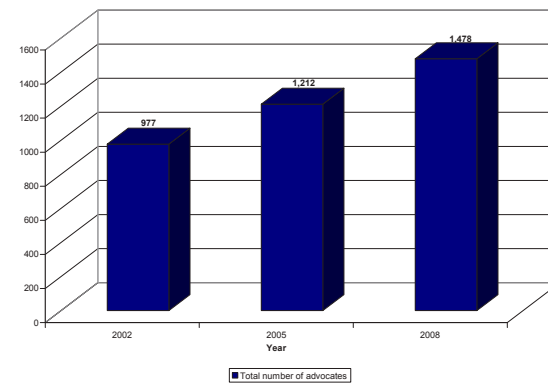
We are proud to be a partner with the Louisiana CASA Association and local CASA programs around the state and pledge our continued support to their efforts."

Total Number of Children Served by CASA Volunteers



The number of children that CASA Volunteers have served has more than doubled since 2002.

Total Number of CASA Volunteers in Louisiana



There has been a steady growth of over 20% increase of CASA Volunteers since 2002.

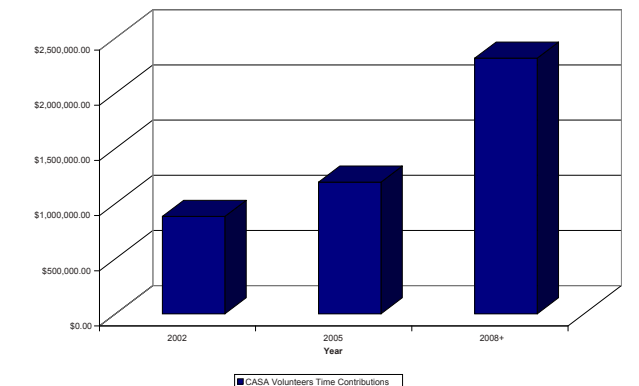
2008 Was Quite a Busy Year for Training. Below are the highlights:

- Hosted 10 court improvement program core trainings all across the state with over 500 attendees.
- Provided volunteer training for 5 local programs
- Brought in National CASA staff member Terene Bennet to train local program staff on diversity issues with over 30 attendees
- Organized a statewide OCS and CASA cross training attended by nearly 100 CASA and OCS staff, including regional OCS staff.
- Developed a day long professionalism program for new local program staff and VISTA volunteers
- In June over 40 local program staff and LaCASA staff attended the National CASA conference in Washington, DC.
- Organized a teleconference with National CASA staff member Shelley Morgan for the 12 local programs going through self assessment
- Had a delegation of 8 local program CASA staff to the National CASA "Train the Trainer" weeklong training in Atlanta
- Had over 200 attendees at our annual Together We Can conference
- Sent state and local staff to the LANO conference

In addition, Louisiana CASA staff participated in a multitude of multidisciplinary collaboratives focused on improving the lives of children in foster care, including:

- Court Improvement Program, La. Supreme Court
- Children's Justice Act Task Force
- Legislative Task Force on Legal Representation of Children
- Children's Cabinet Advisory Board
- Children's Code Committee
- Children's Advocacy Centers of Louisiana
- OCS Stakeholders Committee
- DSS Connections for Success Committee
- National CASA Strategic Planning

CASA Volunteers Time Contributions*



*Source: Independent Sector + Used 2007's dollar per hour

Between 2005 and 2008 there has been a 94% increase in the valued time of CASA volunteers.