



# CASA News Bites

CASA of Allen and Putnam Counties, OH Newsletter Summer 2018

## Program Statistics 2018

<b>Children Served Since Inception (2009)</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>Active CASA Volunteers</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Children Served 2018 Year to Date</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>Total CASA Volunteers Needed</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Children with No CASA Assignment in 2018</b>	<b>100</b>		

### Advocate Reflections – Karen Wise

In May of 2014, I retired from the State of Ohio. Less than a month prior, I had been diagnosed with cancer. A time in my life that should have been happy, suddenly took a downward turn. I began to examine what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. It was during this time of reflection that I started following a court case in Logan County.

The case involved a young mother charged with murdering three of her four sons in a little over a year. How was this possible? Why is it that the very people who should be protecting children are often the ones who hurt them the most? Where were the authorities? Why didn't "someone" stop her? What can be done to protect children? How can I help?

Late in the summer of 2015, I happened to pick up a Lima newspaper and saw an ad for a CASA Orientation. I made a call, attended the orientation, liked what I heard, and applied to be an advocate. Finally, I had found a way to help children.

I won't tell you that being a CASA is easy. We see a lot and hear a lot that makes our hearts ache. We don't always see eye to eye with Children's Services. The court system does not move as swiftly as we may think it should. However, determination in the face of adversity is the first step towards courage...the courage we need to advocate for the children we represent.

Despite those hurdles, it has been a blessing to be part of the CASA program. I would tell other advocates to not get overwhelmed with those roadblocks. Just push forward with the help of staff and other advocates. The outcome for the children is what is most important, and your consistent support for the best interest of your case children may be just what is needed to help them achieve their best life possibilities!

### Advocate Affirmations

#### Pat Webb

Pat was involved in a volatile review at Allen County Children Services. One of the CSB case supervisors later called to inform CASA staff that Pat was very helpful during a tense conversation and was thankful for Pat's efforts to help diffuse a difficult situation.

#### Mary Bellerose

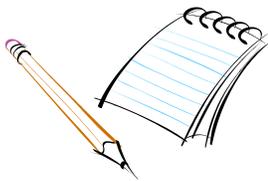
Mary was instrumental in de-escalating a violent situation involving one of her case kids. Afterwards, law enforcement called CVS Director David Voth to specifically thank Mary for her work as CASA, citing her efforts as being instrumental in a peaceful resolution.

Great job to both of you!

## RECRUITMENT/RETENTION UPDATE!

**Our next New Volunteer Orientation will be held in March of 2019.**

**If you know anyone who would be interested in joining our organization, please ask them to contact CASA at 567-940-2272 or [casa@crimevictimservices.org](mailto:casa@crimevictimservices.org).**



### Notes from the Program Director



*I thought CASA was a Spanish house!?!*

*CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. By virtue of being assigned only by the local courts, many in our community don't know who we are, or what we do. Unknown does not, however, translate to unimportant.*

*CASA advocates for more than 120 children per year in Allen and Putnam counties. These are children for whom life has become a storm of uncertainty. They may be uprooted several times in the course of the year as they move from family member to foster care. They could also be attending multiple school districts, and be forced to make new friends as they are moved through the system.*

*The role of CASA is to provide a stable, consistent adult in the child's life to mitigate the upheaval that they are experiencing. This role, in our organization, is filled by a caring, trained volunteer from the community. Although we are advocating for a record number of children in 2018, and currently have 90 amazing volunteers, there will probably be 150 cases for which we are unable to assign a CASA volunteer because we lack enough volunteers.*

*You can help our organization in multiple ways. You can spread the word through social media. Search @casaoftima to find our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, and Like, Share, and Comment to increase community awareness of this need and opportunity. You can give financially to our Non-Profit program. This tax-deductible donation assists us as we grow to meet the need of more volunteers. Finally, you can volunteer. At least twice each year we recruit and train community volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children. If you are interested in giving in any way to our organization, contact us at 567-940-2272, or [casa@crimevictimservices.org](mailto:casa@crimevictimservices.org).*

*Tim Thurston – CASA Director*