

nothing you do for children is ever wasted

The **CASA**

Summer 2010

Connection

The mission of CASA of Denton County, Inc. is to provide trained community volunteers, to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children, and to promote community awareness about child abuse issues.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES OF DENTON COUNTY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



As you glance through this issue of the CASA Connection, you will see many, many instances of people helping people because it's the right thing to do. We've included a feature story on Matt Turner,

Kudos Corner for special gifts, a list of all donations received since November 25, 2009, information on CASA's property acquisition, and two classes of volunteers who have joined the ranks of advocates working on behalf of our community's abused and neglected children. You might be asking yourself why, if that many people are highlighted as helping, should you get involved? I can tell you why - it's really quite simple. We need you to get involved because of Amy, Mary, Joey, Jonathan, Elisabeth, David, Cindy and Patrick. We need you to volunteer because of Brittany, Simone, Larry and Mark. We need your financial support because of Lisa, Robert, Shirley and Dakota. We need you to offer us the opportunity to make presentations to your clubs and groups because of Jeffrey, Pamela, James and Melinda. For as many people that generously give of their time, talents and resources, we can use that many more. For as many children as CASA is able to provide advocacy services for, there are that many more. I could use the newsletter to name every child that needs your help and I could list the many reasons why - but honestly, we need your help to take care of our community's children - simply because it's the right thing to do. We would love to welcome you to the CASA team - please call us at 940.243.2272 or visit our website at www.casadenton.org to learn more about how you can be involved in the life of a child in need.

"MATT'S OUTBACK"

Matt and Michelle Turner are busy people! With two very active children, Megan 12 and Mason 10, the Turners can be found at the baseball and softball fields or for whatever sport is in season, volunteering for school activities, and keeping the Denton community happy at Matt's Outback Steakhouse in Denton. As proprietors of the Outback Steakhouse, their plates are certainly full! Apparently, not full enough. In addition to family, work and community, Matt and his family contribute to children's causes and in particular - CASA of Denton County.

The Turners moved to Denton from San Angelo in April 2007. Proprietor of the Outback Steakhouse in San Angelo for 10 years, they became an integral part of the San Angelo community - much as they are doing in Denton today. While there, Matt assisted the local CASA program with events but also started the "For The Kids Trust" that continues to benefit local children's programs today. Started with a simple golf tournament to benefit the Children's Miracle Network, the event has grown into a major fund raiser that benefits the trust and then gives back to many children's organizations throughout the San Angelo community. Culminating from an idea that Matt had to give back to the community, the For The Kids Trust will be giving to the community perpetually.

If you have an opportunity to meet Matt Turner - you should do so! One would never guess with his easy going personality and gentle spirit that he steers the ship at The Outback Steakhouse. But don't let his quiet and inviting demeanor fool you - he's actually a very fun, very effective leader. The restaurant staff are a loyal crew who share that working with Matt and Michelle is a great experience. His personal life mirrors that as well. When asked what the Turners do for fun - Matt says they love sports and outdoorsy stuff but most of all enjoy spending time with family.

A good vacation with grandparents and other family members is one of their favorite things to do.

Active with children's charities in the Denton community, Matt and the Outback crew have "adopted" the children that CASA serves - helping throughout the year in ways that directly impact the children. They have collected school supplies, Christmas gifts, gift cards and monetary donations to help meet the unmet needs of these children while in foster care. In addition, Matt's Outback has generously donated catering for the CASA Annual Pulling for Kids Sporting Clay Tournament for three years - bringing their own team of volunteers to cook and serve an awesome Aussie Meal for shooters and volunteers! With their support and assistance these past three years, this event has raised \$287,000 for the services CASA provides for abused and neglected children. The CASA staff are sure that the catering provided by Outback Steakhouse has really helped CASA grow this event. After all, wouldn't you want a fresh grilled, juicy steak after a long afternoon of shooting sporting clay for charity?

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of Denton County
www.casadenton.org

A Powerful Voice in a Child's Life



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“MATT’S OUTBACK”

(continued from page 1)

With supporters such as Matt and Michelle Turner on CASA’s team, the organization is sure to keep the doors open and the services to our community’s most vulnerable children in full force. We invite you to patronize Matt’s Outback in Denton and hope that you will not only order a steak or two but that you will become part of the Outback family! And, when you stop in, be sure and thank Matt and the employees for their support of CASA and, most importantly, our CASA kids!

Kudos Corner

We are blessed on a regular basis to have many CASA friends who support the agency with in-kind donations. We hope you will share your business with those who do business for CASA - Eagle Press & North Texas Mailing, Eagleton Photography, Gayle Hermes, Hurricane Office Supply, and TRT Communications. These folks save CASA a tremendous amount of operating funds each year so that more money can be utilized for direct services to children!

- **The Holiday Season was merry and bright** for many CASA kids in 2009! Thanks to the generosity of the following groups and individuals, children served by CASA did not do without. Special thanks are extended to employees of The Outback Steakhouse in Denton, volunteers with RSVP Serving Denton County, the Leadership Denton Class of 2009-2010, the Ladies Group at Temple Baptist Church, Friends at Argyle Methodist Church, the Women’s Ministry at Southmont Baptist Church, Ami Ware, Brenda Fenner, Rob and Kimberly Seay, Dave and Debbie Finley, Bobby and Cheryl Schroeder, and members of the Board of Directors of CASA. There were 13 coats donated, 12 handmade hats, 11 handmade sweaters, 20 handmade blankets, 220 stuffed animals and beanie babies, 25 Christmas dinners, 36 toys, 20 cosmetic items, and \$915 in cash and gift cards for gifts directly for the kids. What an amazing gift these CASA “angels” shared this past holiday season!



- **Many thanks go out also to friends** who helped make the CASA “move” into our expanded space so organized and smooth. Thanks to Jerry and Debbie Martin, Mike Groose, Little Guys Movers, TRT Communications, and Humphrey and Associates. We are smiling in our new space today because of you!

- **Cheers to the Denton Benefit League** for their generous grant award of \$4333.79! This grant fully equipped the new CASA training room with updated equipment. Thanks to the generous ladies in “the league” we now have a dry erase board, a wall-mounted flat screen television with a DVD/VCR hook up, a ceiling mounted projector, a wall-mounted projection screen, and new tables and chairs. We have conducted our Winter and Spring CASA training classes in the new room and it is terrific!

- **Kudos to the Verizon Foundation** for their generous grant to CASA of \$17,000! With this grant, CASA purchased eight new computer workstations, upgraded 4 existing workstations, purchased a new computer server and server software, upgraded all software, purchased a new high-volume printer and purchased a back-up system for our computer system. The staff are much more efficient now as our technology is top notch and enables us to interact with case related parties, donors, volunteers and others in a much more timely and efficient manner.



- **The ladies in the St. Philips Women’s Club are at it again!** For Easter, these ladies put together 134 fabulous Easter baskets for the children CASA serves. The smiles and giggles from their efforts were really incredible! And, as if they hadn’t done enough, these ladies put together “graduation baskets” for five CASA young adults who graduated from high school this May and June. These were not your ordinary graduation gifts – they went all out! The youth received a large laundry basket filled with items you need when embarking out on your own – such as irons, bedding supplies, cleaning supplies, an alarm clock, kitchen ware, bathroom necessities and a gift card. Many special thanks to the St. Philips Women’s Club for their generosity and love for our CASA youth!



- **This spring, the Denton County Commissioner’s Court, the Denton City Council, and the Lewisville City Council proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month locally** – recognizing the work of CASA, the Children’s Advocacy Center and Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home. Special thanks to members of the Commissioner’s Court and the City Councils for your support during this special time and throughout the year.

- **CASA is grateful for the many donations** we receive indirectly through Denton County jurors, through United Way and state and federal employee workplace campaigns, and through matching gift funds through individual employers. Your designated gifts to CASA are truly a blessing to the children and families we serve and we thank you for keeping the needs of these children in your hearts.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

Heartfelt thanks to donors who made contributions to CASA between November 24, 2009 and April 30, 2010.

GRANTS

- City of Carrollton
- City of Denton
- City of Highland Village
- City of Lewisville
- Denton Benefit League
- Denton County
- Johnson Family Foundation
- The Meadows Foundation
- Office of the Attorney General
- Texas CASA, Inc.
- Town of Flower Mound
- United Way of Denton County, Inc.
- United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
- Verizon Foundation
- Victim of Crime Act

PULLING FOR KIDS SPONSORS

HIGH VELOCITY SPONSORS

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- Denton Regional Medical Center
- Innovative Transportation Solutions

MARKSMAN SPONSORS

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- Kuzmich Law Firm
- Medical Center of Lewisville
- The Miller Family
- North Texas Shooters Association
- Northstar Bank of Texas
- Star Community News

SPORTSMAN SPONSORS

- Denton Municipal Electric
- Rogers-O'Brien Construction Company
- Speedway Club at Texas Motor Speedway
- University of North Texas

DINNER SPONSOR

- Classic Café at Roanoke
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LUNCH SPONSORS

- Syracuse Sausage
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CASA IS PLEASED TO HAVE RECEIVED GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

- Leon and Jean Campbell
From Ray and Judy Grimes
- Sennett Kirk, Murro Martens, Mike Moran and Don White
From Larry McBryde
- Linda Ratliff
From First State Bank
- Bill Wood
From Grace Weatherly

CASA IS PLEASED TO HAVE RECEIVED GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

- Frank Cawthon
From Wes and Sherri Gideon
From Mike and Betty Moran
- Paula Fitzhugh
From Mike and Betty Moran
- Jordan Haynes
From Joe Mitchell
- Delilah Schaub
From Kelly Koerner

DONATIONS FOR THE CASA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- Lauren Barker
- Dixie Berry
- Communities Civic League
- Sherri Gideon
- Highland Village Rotary Club
- Shelly Krueger
- Marc and Lori Powell
- Brenda Sweeten

DONATIONS TO HELP MEET CASA'S GREATEST NEEDS (Monetary, In-Kind & through Workplace Campaigns)

- Abbott Laboratories Fund
- David Ahadi
- Albertson's

- Elaine Albury
- Lamar and Barbara Ball
- Bank of America
- Dara Biegert
- Sterling Biegert
- John and Penny Bonnot
- Borders Bookstore
- Stanley Bugala
- Kim Burton
- Steve and Andrea Calloway
- Leon and Jean Campbell
- Kristy Carlile
- Beverley Carlson
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- Cheaper Than Dirt
- Ben Choate
- Cloud 9 Charities
- Elisabeth Clolno
- Eagle Press & North Texas Mailing
- Eagleton Photography
- Earl Williams & Associate LLC
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- Robert Estes
- Billie Evans
- Extreme Cuisine Catering
- Fast Signs
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- Miller of Denton
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- Nicole Youngblood Photography
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- Pioneer Natural Resource USA, Inc.
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- Linda Ratliff
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- Denise Roberts
- RSVP Serving Denton County
- Rudy's Country Store & BBQ

- Herbert and Jean Schaae
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- Bobby and Cheryl Schroeder
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- Grace Weatherly
- Russell Welch
- Weldon's Saddle Shop
- Theresa White
- White Flyer
- Don and Carole Womack

CASA strives to remember all of those who have blessed us. Please notify us and forgive us if we failed to list your name and know that your generosity is truly appreciated.

WELCOME GRADUATES OF WINTER ADVOCACY ACADEMY

Pictured from left to right - Reggie Greene, Richard Hunt, Jessica Greenfield, Barbara Willcox, Sandra Faciane, Clarice Darnell, Peggy Foster, Kara Kirkley, Teri Clark, Sherry Atkinson, Richard Freddo, Emily Skinner, Tori Masters.



WELCOME GRADUATES OF SPRING ADVOCACY ACADEMY

Pictured from left to right: Baba Ahuwan, Jackie Garcia, Cynthia Sandusky, The Honorable Judge Bruce McFarling, Lisa Wells, Leigh Brackeen, Jean Levenick, Renate Morehouse.





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**PLEASE MAKE A NOTE:
OUR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED!**

We are discontinuing use of the post office box we have used for more than eleven years. Please update your records to include our new physical and mailing address – it is:

**614 North Bell Avenue
Denton, Texas 76209**

Everything else remains the same – you can reach us by phone at 940.243.2272, by fax at 940.243.1605, or by visiting our website at www.casadenton.org.

Thanks so much – we look forward to getting your mail right outside our door!

CASA of Denton County is a member agency of Texas CASA, Inc., the National CASA Association, and the United Ways of Denton County and Metropolitan Dallas.

If you receive two CASA newsletters, please give one to a friend and notify CASA at 940.243.2272 or info@casadenton.org. **THANKS!**

**WISHFUL
THINKING!**



You can help us meet needs that are not included in the agency's budget. As a small nonprofit agency, with limited resources, we depend on the generosity of our friends to help meet needs and cash donations are not the only way to become a CASA benefactor. The less funding CASA spends on operating costs, the more the children benefit.

TO DONATE, CALL 940.243.2272.

Needs for the Office

- ★ 20 lb. White Copy Paper
- ★ **GIFT CARDS TO:** Office Depot, Office Max, Best Buy, and Staples
- ★ Speaking Opportunities

Needs for the Children

- ★ Hugs!
- ★ Gift Cards to Wal-Mart
- ★ Gift Cards to Target



Calling All Angels

The 11th Annual CASA Recognition Dinner was a celebration of service and commitment on the part of CASA angels - volunteers, board members, donors and supporters. With over 120 in

attendance, the agency spotlighted some special angels whose varied contributions truly made a significant difference in the lives of 451 precious CASA children in 2009.

The Denton Country Club was the setting for the celebration and the theme of "Calling All Angels" was selected by staff because it so eloquently describes how CASA truly feels about our team that cares about children. Both were perfect in sending a message to the CASA family that their work on behalf of abused and neglected children is important, noticed and deeply appreciated.

Of the more than 200 people who volunteered for CASA in 2009, awards were given to seventeen volunteers for completing two years of service to CASA and thirteen volunteers for five years. A special award was given to CASA Program Director Brenda Sweeten who has guided the staff into excellence in service for eleven years. And finally, ten special awards were given as follows: Heartbeat of CASA Awards to Susan Gleghorn and Greg Studer, CPS Worker of the Year to Cassidy Baker, Attorney ad Litem of the Year to Charity Borserine, Judge of the Year to The Honorable Darlene Whitten, Benefactor of the Year to The Verizon Foundation, Outstanding Contributors to the Lewisville Senior Center Needlework Group, Board Member of the Year to Bob Mancino, WITT Award (Whatever It Takes for Teens) to Ellen Sullivan, and the Shelby Hiser Child Advocate of the Year Award to Jean Burk.

Each of these folks, and many, many more, were exceptionally generous to CASA with their time, talent and resources and helped make 2009 a little brighter for our CASA children.



PROPERTY UPDATE/OPEN HOUSE

2009 was a landmark year for CASA as you met the call for help and enabled CASA to purchase property that will serve as the agency's permanent headquarters. Staying in the same location but expanding into the entire building, CASA purchased a building in Bell Place Office Park at 612-616 North Bell Avenue. Growing from 2,500 square feet to 4,500 square feet of space, the office has a new look and functionality that should provide for current and future needs for many years to come. With this acquisition, CASA was able to bring files, equipment and furniture from off-site storage to the office. With this move, the agency now has a conference room, a volunteer training room, on-site storage, a kitchenette, private offices for all staff, two workrooms, three volunteer workstations and a reception area. We had an open house earlier in the year to welcome and thank our CASA team and our capital donors. Now, we welcome you too. Please feel free to stop by the CASA office for a tour of our new space. Who knows, you might like it so much that you will want to join the CASA team as well! Thanks again to all who made this dream come true possible for CASA. With a permanent property to call home, the agency now has more resources to direct to children in need.