



To give a child a **CASA**  
is to give them a **VOICE**,  
to give them a voice is to  
give them **HOPE**, to give  
them hope is to give them  
the **WORLD**.

## Thank you Judge McKay!



The CASA Christmas Party proved the perfect place to surprise retiring Judge J.D. McKay with a small gift of appreciation from the staff, Board, volunteers and children of CASA.

The clock thanked him for his dedication and service to the children of our community through his years on the bench.

Marilyn likes to call him the “Godfather of CASA”, as he has been a trusted advisor and friend to our organization.

We wish you the best in your retirement but we’ll miss you Judge McKay!

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## CASAblanca—Don’t Miss Out!

Don’t miss your chance to attend this gala event to benefit children who have been abused or neglected—to provide them with a Volunteer Advocate to serve as their voice in court.

You are invited to be part of the inaugural CASAblanca dinner / dance, presented by CASA of Brown County. The event will be held **Friday, April 20, 2012** from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Jet Air’s new hangar at Austin Straubel Airport. Invitations will be forthcoming shortly, but you are welcome to pre-register by sending \$125.00 per person to CASA for your ticket!

### The Movie— The Event



CASAblanca will, as the name suggests, evoke the classic movie of the same name with a black tie optional dinner featuring silent and live auctions, dancing, and gaming for “Moroccan money” and prizes. We hope that you will consider being a part of this new venture.

### The Fun . . .

We are very excited that **Mr. Bill Jartz**, news anchor at **WBAY TV2** has agreed to be our emcee/

## CASA Grows by 29 Volunteers In 2011

On April 19, 2011, Judge Timothy Hinkfuss swore in 10 new CASA volunteer advocates. New CASA volunteers mention some of their reasons for becoming an advocate include, *"I have been given much and it is time to give back."* *"I want to make a difference in the life of someone who needs a chance at a fulfilling life."* *"To help the next generation, one child at a time, to feel valuable and cared for."* The CASA volunteers sworn in in April include:

- **Tom Bartel**, Green Bay
- **Ana Maria Coleman**, Green Bay
- **Linda Hartenian**, Neenah
- **Kitty Luedke**, Howard
- **Steven Miller**, Pulaski
- **Gabriele Nelson**, Green Bay
- **Kris Olson**, Green Bay
- **Cheri Salmon**, De Pere
- **Ruth Slang**, Green Bay
- **Laura C. Smythe**, Appleton

On Thursday, November 3, 2011, Judge Marc A. Hammer and Judge J.D. McKay swore in 19 new CASA volunteer advocates. New CASA volunteers mentioned some of their reasons for becoming an advocate: *"helping to make a positive impact on youth"*, *"every child has the right to be respected and to have confidence in themselves"*, *"to make a substantial difference in the life of the community's most needy children"*, *"to provide stability to the lives of children in the court system"*, *"to be helpful to families involved with Child Protective Services"*, and *"realized the importance of intervention and fighting for a child's best interest"*.

The CASA volunteers sworn in during November include:

- **Karen Alcantar**, Green Bay
- **Lisa Botsford**, Suamico
- **Stacy Buss**, Green Bay
- **Elizabeth Clark**, Green Bay
- **Andrea Covert**, De Pere
- **Mary Doruff**, Green Bay/Ladysmith
- **Beverly Doxtator**, Green Bay
- **Andy Duchow**, De Pere
- **Barb Gabryszek**, Suamico
- **Connie Greenawald**, Little Suamico
- **Carlye King**, Green Bay
- **Ann Kralapp**, Pulaski
- **Kathy Lindemann**, Green Bay
- **Kelsey McVey**, De Pere
- **Diane Payne**, Pulaski
- **Amy St. Laurent**, Green Bay
- **Pat Stevenson**, Luxemburg
- **Doris Trimberger**, Bellevue
- **Brenda Warren**, Allouez

These 29 new CASA volunteers have been assigned by juvenile judges to advocate for at least 40 additional abused and neglected children in the Brown County court system.

Thank you to all of them for their service and their generosity of spirit in reaching out to help these most vulnerable children!

### Thank you Denise VanEss!



Denise VanEss has been generously volunteering her accounting services to CASA for six years and we thanked her with a small gift. We'll miss you Denise!

## CASAblanca, continued



auctioneer for the event! And providing the musical entertainment for the evening will be none other than **Kevin Van Ess** and **Talk of the Town!**

Each ticket for CASAblanca is also a raffle ticket to win a trip for 2 to Paris, France, including airfare, 5 nights hotel and transfers, courtesy of **Chambers Travel!** (Because “we’ll always have Paris.”)

Thank you to **Schneider National Foundation** for their title sponsorship of CASAblanca 2012. For a list of additional participating sponsors, a peek at the amazing menu by **The Runaway Spoon**, a listing of our event hosts, and more, see our website: [www.casabc.org/casablanca](http://www.casabc.org/casablanca).



The CASAblanca Planning Committee, headed up by Chair **Linda Hansen**, is still accepting sponsorships, including those for a table (\$1,200 for a table of eight). In addition, we are seeking auction and raffle items and volunteers for the day of the event—please contact [connie@casabc.org](mailto:connie@casabc.org) if you would like a sponsorship, have an item or are interested in helping with this fabulous event.

Please join us April 20, 2012 to help abused and neglected children in our community.

### Attention CASA Volunteer Advocates!

Two individual tickets have been donated to be given away to one of our CASA Volunteer Advocates! If you are interested in having your name be part of the drawing, please send an email to [lmckenzie.casabc@tds.net](mailto:lmckenzie.casabc@tds.net) no later than **Wednesday, February 9, 2012**.

In addition, if any Advocate purchasing a ticket is interested, we will have a “CASA Table” reserved for individuals who’d like to sit together—please make sure to tell us this when you are ordering your ticket(s).

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### CASA Classic for Kids

Yes, the golf outing is returning—**Monday, August 20, 2012** at Thornberry Creek at Oneida! This year the event is being co-chaired by **Tammy Blom** and **Judy Trimberger**, who have requested that you consider joining us—either on the planning committee, as a golfer, or by a donation of an auction or bucket raffle item.

Get your foursome ready now to try to win one of these sought-after trophies! See two of the three winning groups from 2011 above.

Contact [connie@casabc.org](mailto:connie@casabc.org) to let us know if you’d like to help!



## CASA — Caring, Assisting, Special Advocate

By Connie Haefs, Brown County Deputy Clerk of the Clerk of Courts

These four letters – CASA – were so foreign to me when I was first introduced to it. As a worker in the court system, these letters have become so much more. Here is bit about my role and how it works with CASA. My job is juvenile deputy clerk in the Clerk of Courts office which oversees the files used by the circuit court judges assigned to CHIPS and delinquency cases. During the course of hearings, the judges will appoint CASA to the CHIPS cases. My role is to complete required paperwork for the appointment of CASA and provide information to CASA. From that point CASA takes over.

CASA – the eyes and ears of the court. How important it is for the courts to have these special people! CASA gets into the homes and provides such an important service to the families. CASA workers file reports with our office. This information is provided to the courts for their review. What better way can a judge find out what is happening in a home

than to hear from the CASA volunteer! The CASA worker truly fills the role of eyes and ears to the court.

I am an active member in the Wisconsin Juvenile Court Clerks Association. This group consists of juvenile clerks from throughout Wisconsin who work in the court system. I had the honor of inviting a speaker from CASA of Brown County to speak to this association. This was in the beginning of CASA when those letters were so foreign to most of the association members. CASA made an impression then and continues today with clerks asking about how CASA works.

CASA has become much more than those four letters to me. I have this wonderful relationship with many of the workers. I see smiling faces and recognize them as loving and caring CASA workers. Thank you to a special CASA friend, Marilyn Bennin, who made working with CASA great.

### A Token of Appreciation

By Connie Greenawald, CASA Executive Director

Marilyn Bennin, CASA; Kathy Kurth, Schreiber Foods; Michael Haddad, Schreiber Foods; Brenda Aerts, Schreiber Foods, CASA Board member, and CASA Volunteer Advocate; and Connie Greenawald, CASA; are pictured with the small token of appreciation we presented to Mike and Schreiber to thank them. Their incredible generosity in naming CASA one of the two beneficiaries of their 2011 Schreiber Classic golf outing resulted in a \$127,597 donation!

With this phenomenal gift, CASA will be able to ensure our long-term stability with both an endowment fund and a “rainy day” fund. Not pictured are CASA Board members Rod Ryan, Board Chair, who graciously took the photo, and Mary Gronnert, Schneider National Foundation and Board Secretary who created the poster and had it matted and framed for us.



## My Experience with CASA

By Thomas J. Walsh, Attorney at Law

In my years as a practicing attorney I have served as guardian ad litem in children's court as well as a prosecutor of termination of parental rights cases. I have had the unfortunate opportunity to witness children who regularly experience abuse and neglect at the hands of people who should be protecting them. Those situations are difficult to see because, often times you would like to simply take those children home with you and give them a good dinner, a comfortable bed and lots of love. But, of course, that is impossible.

The next best thing would be to have someone who is there exclusively for them. Someone who will see them on a regular basis. Someone who they can rely on and talk to about what is going on in their day to day life. Someone who can make a difference and help the family get going in the right direction. In many cases, that person turns out to be a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

The Brown County Court Appointed Special Advocate—CASA program is made up of volunteers who are specially trained to help successfully guide children and their families through interaction with the Department of Human Services and the Court System. The CASA worker has the opportunity to experience the various aspects of Wisconsin's Children's Court and work directly with social workers, guardians ad litem and the court in an effort to improve the lives of children.



I have worked with children who have CASA workers as well as children who do not have such workers. There is no doubt that the children with CASA workers have a greater advantage in getting through Children's Court. The special attention and treatment that these children get from their CASA worker makes the journey through Children's Court easier because of the relationship they develop with their CASA volunteer.

"There is nothing like the satisfaction you feel when you know you have helped an abused or neglected child."

Finally, my experience with CASA workers has taught me that the experience of working with a child and his or her family is as rewarding to the CASA worker as it is helpful to the court and the family. There is nothing like the satisfaction you feel when you know you have helped an abused or neglected child. This is a program that Brown County should be proud of and a program that benefits all who come in contact with it.

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## CASA of Brown County Annual Meeting—March 15th, 5:00 p.m.

We will be holding our annual meeting to reflect where we've been and where we're going on **Thursday, March 15th at 5:00 p.m.** at a location to be determined. Volunteers and anyone connected with CASA are invited to be a part of the meeting. In addition, we are planning a small hors d'oeuvre "get-together" afterward, pot-luck style, if you are interested in participating. Please RSVP to [connie@casabc.org](mailto:connie@casabc.org) or (920) 437-2272, ext. 101.

## From the Bench

By The Honorable Timothy A. Hinkfuss, Brown County Circuit Court, Branch VII

I handle one-half of the juvenile delinquency cases, child in need of protection and service cases, termination of parental rights cases, and adoptions in Brown County. I find CASA to be especially valuable in my juvenile rotation.

First, the CASA representative is a resource for the child. Judges, corporation counsel, defense counsel and the guardian ad litem use words and terminology that are alien to the children involved in the case. I find the CASA representative is a valuable resource to explain the court proceedings to the child.

Second, I find the CASA representative to be valuable to provide insight to the judge. A CASA representative is appointed by the judge. Consequently, I do review the periodic CASA reports from the CASA representative to the judge. I find these reports to be a very valuable insight into the dynamics between the



parties. This is important because it helps me formulate a disposition that is the best interest of the child.

Lastly, I find the CASA representative especially valuable to the parties in the children's action. So often the parties look upon Social Services, the guardian ad litem and the corporation counsel as adverse parties. My experience is that the parties are much more comfortable with a CASA representative because they are not part of "the system".

In conclusion, CASA is an especially valuable resource for me to determine what is in the best interest of the child.



## From Our CASAs to Your Casa— Cookbooks are still available!

The CASA cookbooks are still available! With tremendous help from one of our dedicated volunteers, Kristel Hawley, and printing support from Schneider National Foundation, the "From Our CASAs to Your Casa" cookbooks are for sale at the bargain price of \$10 per cookbook. Cookbooks may be shipped for an additional \$2.50 for one cookbook and \$2.75 for two. We accept both cash and checks (payable to CASA of Brown County). Contact Lynne McKenzie at 920-437-2272, ext. 102 or [lmckenzie.casabc@tds.net](mailto:lmckenzie.casabc@tds.net) to place an order.

## An Eyewitness Account

By Lynne McKenzie, CASA Volunteer Supervisor

For the past 7 years, I have been an eyewitness to the wonderful developments that have taken place here at CASA of Brown County. When I came to CASA as a volunteer in 2005, I set out to make a difference in the life of a child who had been the victim of abuse. For over four years, I devoted myself to one case and saw how having consistent contact with this youth gave him some reassurance during some chaotic and challenging times.

Further motivated to help promote the well being of children, in 2007, I moved into a new role as a CASA volunteer supervisor. Within this new role, I have been able to guide volunteers in a way that allows them to be most effective in their advocacy. Most often, volunteers come to the program without any sort of background in the child protection system. It is important for me and my colleagues to help them navigate this unfamiliar territory and equip them with new skills and knowledge. This means that when problem situations arise, I make myself available to volunteers to help them work out solutions such as closing the gap of an unmet need of the child.

Based on my unique position, I have been able to hear of the countless ways that volunteer advocates are making a considerable impact. On a weekly basis, I get to hear stories of how children, from young to old, have benefited from having one constant, caring adult in their life. Just recently, a volunteer shared that her 7-year old CASA child told her that he loved her. The success of our program is not always defined by some quantitative measurement.

Our volunteers are what I like to call “Chicken Soup for the Soul.” Because of them, children might smile a little more; feel like they actually matter; try harder in school; make better, wiser choices; learn to express their needs and desires; and get a therapeutic break by simply playing and being silly. The stories that volunteers share are uplifting and would warm anyone’s heart. They remind us that in a world that is sometimes overshadowed by stories of calamity, good deeds and people exist around every corner.

They say when we set out to give something of ourselves to others, we are the ones who in fact receive. This has



been my experience with volunteering and working for CASA.

It is with a heavy heart that I will be saying goodbye this spring and moving on to the next chapter in my life of raising my own children. I want to extend a very warm thanks to the CASA staff, volunteers, and board members for bringing sunshine into the lives of so many children as well as my own. You are making extraordinary things happen with your time and talents; I know this to be true because I have been an eyewitness.

From the CASA Staff and Volunteers—We’ll miss you Lynne and your passion for the children, your commitment to CASA, and your unwavering support for the volunteers. Best of luck in this next phase of your life!

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Brown County, Inc.



**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

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