

## CASA Updates: Program Outcomes, Trainings, Summer Art Project & More

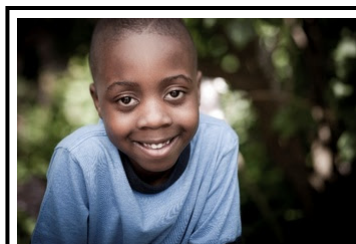
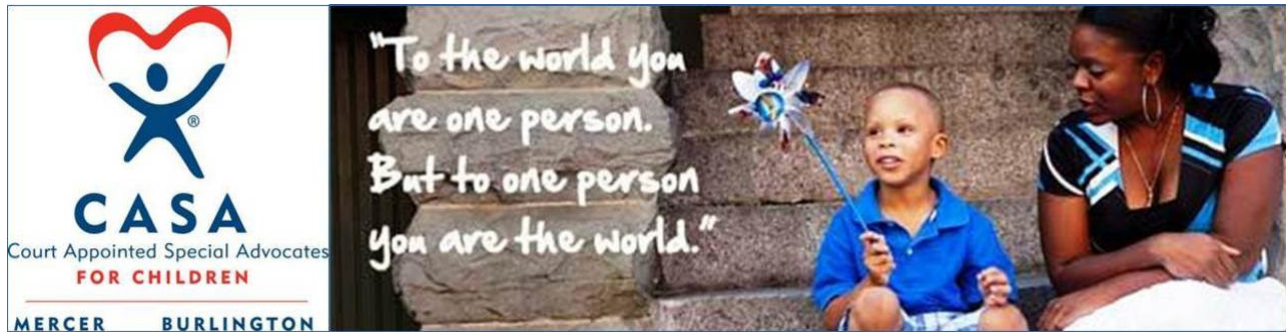
1 message

CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties <staff@casamercer.org>

Thu, Jul 27, 2017 at 10:21 AM

Reply-To: staff@casamercer.org

To: mpenney@casamercer.org



**Please help us provide a  
CASA Volunteer to Every  
Child Who Needs One!**

CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties is determined to get a CASA volunteer for every child who has been removed from his/her home because of abuse and neglect. Please share this fulfilling work with your friends and families to help us recruit and train more extraordinary volunteers.

**[Click here](#) for upcoming  
information sessions in  
August.**

**Like Us on Facebook!**



### CASA Connect Volunteer Updates – July 2017

#### CASA is Growing!

##### Executive Director's Message

The summer days have been extremely full of planning new initiatives as we launch into the FY18 fiscal year. First, I would like to share some program outcomes for the organization as a whole. We increased our number of children served in FY17 by 11 percent. We served 352 children up from 317 children in FY16. We also increased our active volunteers by 17 percent in FY17 to 246; up from 211 volunteers in FY16. Congratulations to the entire team for making these significant strides! We also launched our new Peer Coach Model in June with much success. With this new model in place we are positioned to grow the number of children we serve even greater in FY18.

Second, you will see new staff members in our Mercer office. Mary Penney started in early June followed by Kristy McCadden in early July.

Mary Penney stepped into the role of Communications and Special Events Director to guide our public outreach and strengthen awareness of and support for CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties. She has served in leadership roles with several nonprofits in communications and volunteer development for more



**CASA KIDS  
ART FROM THE HEART**

CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties invites you and your child to participate in ART FROM THE HEART, a summer project to spark creativity, imagination and fun! We request CASA Volunteers pick up a kit of art supplies in Ewing or Mt. Holly starting August 1, during business hours.

**Download flier and get started!**

Please schedule time throughout the month of August to sit with your child and create art around the theme of "Summer Fun" and "What Makes Me Happy". Every participant will receive a special gift as a way of saying thank you for sharing their artwork, which will brighten up our work spaces and be incorporated into a series of kids' cards.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO CASA  
VOLUNTEERS  
CELEBRATING THIS  
MONTH:**

than 25 years. She is dedicated to fostering more community action around the plight of our children to ensure their bright futures. Mary holds a BS in Organizational Communications and a Certificate of Latin American Studies from Ohio University. Mary can be reached at [mpenney@casamercer.org](mailto:mpenney@casamercer.org) and (609) 434-0050.

Kristy McCadden joined CASA as an Advocate Supervisor early this month. Most recently, Kristy oversaw the undergraduate Social Impact Program at the NYU Stern School of Business, including managing curricular operations and developing and managing the programming for co-curricular offerings that span the students' four year experience. Kristy also served as an Advocate in Burlington County for two and a half years, ending in December 2016 when her second case achieved permanency through adoption. She holds a BA in Criminology and Psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park, and an MPA from the NYU Wagner School of Public Service. Kristy can be reached at [kmccadden@casamercer.org](mailto:kmccadden@casamercer.org) and (609) 434-0050.

We look forward to connecting with our advocates through our advocate committees and the peer coaching process. My door is always open - feel free to call me at (609) 434-0050 or by email at [kcarmichael@casamercer.org](mailto:kcarmichael@casamercer.org)

Thank you again for everything you are doing to improve the lives of the vulnerable children in our care.

With gratitude,

*Katherine Carmichael*

**A Backpack for Every Child  
We Serve!**

Thank you to **Comfort Cases** for the donation of brand new backpacks for our foster children!

We have been fortunate to receive well-constructed backpacks containing age-appropriate items such as pajamas, fleece blankets, children's books and stuffed toys. Please contact your

Roxanna Choe  
 Lisa Brito-Greene  
 MychalAnne Giansanti  
 Jennifer Deming  
 Simone Jarvis  
 Francesca Vollaro  
 Jeanne Radimer  
 Bessie Sanders  
 Delores Beverly  
 Heather Casparro  
 Kerri Stahl  
 Tina Fiumenero  
 Melissa Arcaro Burns  
 Kelly Ganges  
 Carole Moore  
 Christine Antonelli  
 Brittany Bayo  
 Suzanne Woodard



advocate supervisor to arrange to select a backpack specific to your child's age and needs.



Stand Up for a Child  
 Comedy Night  
 is Friday evening  
 November 3!  
 Make plans to join us for a  
 wonderful event to benefit  
 CASA for Children of  
 Mercer and Burlington  
 Counties

Now Accepting  
 Sponsorships!  
 Please email Mary at  
[mpenney@casamercer.org](mailto:mpenney@casamercer.org)  
 or [download  
 sponsorship/advertising  
 form](#)



### New Fiscal Year Brings New In Service Training Classes

CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties is providing more opportunities for professional development to our volunteers. The monthly calendar below lists courses in *Educational Advocacy* and *Fostering Futures Adolescent Training*. We will also keep you updated on upcoming information sessions for prospective volunteers. For further information, please contact [Laura Fitzgerald](#), Director of Training and Evaluation.

## In Service Training

### Educational Advocacy

Educational Advocacy Training is a mandatory training developed by CASA of New Jersey for all volunteers. If you had this training previously, there is no need to attend unless you would like a refresher. The course remains the same for now. The primary goal of Educational Advocacy is to ensure that the children's educational needs are being met while they are in out-of-home placement. This may include advocating for services such as tutoring or more in-depth special education needs the child may have.

**Thursday, July 27, 2017, 5:30 - 8:30 pm**



## Heartfelt thanks to our corporate and foundation partners!

- Black Rock
- Bunbury Fund
- Church & Dwight
- Princeton Area  
Community  
Foundation
- Holman  
Community Grants
- City of Trenton
- Mercer County
- Investors Bank  
Foundation
- Wells Fargo  
Foundation
- Janssen  
Pharmaceuticals
- Roma Bank  
Foundation

### Burlington office address:

100 High Street, Suite  
301 Mount Holly, NJ  
08060

### Mercer office address:

1450 Parkside Avenue,  
Suite 22 Ewing, NJ 08638

**Burlington County Office, 100 High St. Suite 301, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060**  
**RSVP to Laura Fitzgerald**

### **Fostering Futures**

The Fostering Futures program, developed by National CASA, recognizes the plight of older youth who leave the child welfare system with seriously inadequate support systems or plans in place.

Fostering Futures provides a framework for CASA advocates to guide these older youth through intensive goal setting and planning for emancipation. Through Fostering Futures, CASA volunteers identify support systems as well as gaps that youth need to address in order to be successful when they leave the child welfare system.

See dates below.

### **Book Club**

Shenandoah Chefalo is the author of **Garbage Bag Suitcase**, a true story of her life with a dysfunctional family and her challenges to beat the odds and actually go to college and graduate.

See dates below.

### **The Process of a Court Case**

Harry T. Cassidy, CASA Advocate Recruiter will share his vast knowledge working with the Family Practice Division within the Office of Trial Courts in Burlington County. He is the author of two articles on the family court system and continues to serve on the NJ Council on Juvenile Justice Systems Improvement, and is a volunteer mediator in the Family Division in Burlington County.

See dates below.

### **Upcoming Mercer County Classes:**

Aug. 14 - 12:00 pm - Air and Share  
Aug. 15 - 1:00 pm - Book Club  
Aug. 23 - 5:30 pm - Book Club with Shenandoah Chefalo, Author  
Sept. 7 - 5:30 pm - Air and Share  
Sept. 11 and 12 - 5:30 pm - Fostering Futures  
Sept 19 - 5:30 pm - The Process of a Court Case with Harry Cassidy as presenter  
Oct. 17 - 10:00 am - Air and Share  
Oct. 17 - 5:30pm - To be determined - in-service

### **Upcoming Burlington County Classes:**

Aug. 10 - 5:30 pm - Air and Share  
Aug 18 - 12:00 pm - Book Club  
Aug 29 - 5:30 pm - Book Club w/ Author  
Sept. 14 and 19 - 5:30 pm - Fostering Futures  
Sept 18 - 5:30 pm - The Process of a Court Case with Harry Cassidy as presenter  
Oct. 13 - 12:00 pm - To be determined- in service  
Oct. 24 - 5:30 pm

**RSVP to Laura Fitzgerald**

Be sure to check out our [calendar](#) for all the upcoming events!



### Emails for Advocates:

If you would like a CASA email, please let your case supervisor know. The CASA email is run through google mail so you can access it on any computer or smart phone.  
[@casamercer.org](mailto:@casamercer.org)

### Shop AmazonSmile.com!

When you shop on Amazon, please access it via [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile). It's the same shopping, but by designating Court Appointed Special Advocates of Mercer County, Inc. (our registered name with the state) as your charity, they will donate a percentage of your purchase directly to us. It's a donation every time you make a purchase!

## Volunteer Resources

[Family Care in New Jersey: Challenges and Opportunities - Advocates for Children of New Jersey, July 2017](#)

[State Budget Highlights Children and Families FY 2018 - Advocates for Children of New Jersey, July 2017](#)



The Annual CASA Superhero 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk at Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville was a great day of fundraising and friendraising.

## CASA Kids Superhero 5K Raises Funds and Friends

CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties sponsored the annual CASA Kids Superhero 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk on June 11. There were close to 100 participants including CASA staff, board and volunteers.

CASA expresses its sincere thanks to all the Superheroes who

participated in the 5K Run and 1 Mile Run/Walk, as well as the corporate sponsors of the Superhero 5K: Investors Bank; RWJ Lakeview Child Center-Robert Wood Johnson Health System; Borger Matez, Attorneys at Law; Garden State Trust Company; Jack Kemler, Mercer County Sheriff and John A. Cimino, Mercer County Freeholder. Special appreciation also goes to Washington Crossing State Park Staff, Union Fire Company and Rescue Squad, Beneficial Bank for providing water bottles, Tamara Garaffa, Photographer, and Anna D'Anna, Race Director. Thank you to Wells Fargo Bank in Bordentown and HDR Architecture in Lawrenceville for their team spirit! The next Superhero Kids 5K is planned for May 2018. Lace up your sneakers and we will see you at next year's 5K Run and Walk!

**Visit our website for all training and events!**  
**[www.casamb.org](http://www.casamb.org)**

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1450 Parkside Ave. Suite 22  
Ewing, NJ | 08638 US

This email was sent to [mpenney@casamercer.org](mailto:mpenney@casamercer.org).

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