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your web search  
program!  
Identify CASA  
and we get a  
penny for every  
search—it adds  
up!***



**CASA Board Announces New Executive Director**

The Board of Directors of CASA for Riverside County, Inc. has announced that it has appointed a highly experienced nonprofit professional, Deborah Sutton, as its new Executive Director, starting full time duties on May 15, 2007. Sutton will be supported in the transition by Marc W. Hauptert, who has served as Interim Executive Director since September 2006.



Deborah Sutton

Sutton has worked in nonprofits since 1996, starting as volunteer at a domestic violence shelter. Since then she has been involved with the development of programs as a Manager of Behavioral Health programs, and a former Executive Director of the YWCA in San Bernardino. Hauptert will support Sutton as she settles into her responsibilities as Executive Director, and will also maintain various special projects that are underway to continue to solidify the organizational infrastructure.

The announcement was made by Ms Rosanna Contreras, newly appointed Board President of the organization, who is Field Representative to Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia (CA-District 80) and works out of the Cathedral City office. President Contreras commented, "We are extremely pleased to have a professional of Deborah's caliber to lead the organization into the future, in order to expand and solidify this wonderful organization and enable it to serve the neglected and abused children throughout the County. This is an essential community resource, and I call upon all sectors of the community to assist us to serve the interests of children who are wards of the courts. The staff, Marc and the board have been diligently working to bring the organization to a place where a professional like Deborah can have an immense impact right from the start. We're looking for great things in service to children."

Sutton commented, "I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to work with the dedicated board, exceptional volunteers and talented staff of CASA in the interest of the most vulnerable children in our county. I pledge to deploy every talent I've developed in over a decade in nonprofit organizations, in order to ensure that CASA remains a core community asset." She continued, "I am looking forward to meeting our community and court partners, as well as our supporters, volunteers and collaborators."

With over 4,000 children in the dependency court system in Riverside County annually CASA is in constant need of volunteers willing to undergo the rigorous training in preparation for assignment to a child. The experience is described by many as a "life-changing experience." Prospective volunteers are urged to call the Indio office at (760)863-7539, the Riverside Office at (951)358-4305, or the Murrieta Office at (951)304-5220.

Sutton will spend time in the Indio, Riverside and Murrieta offices of CASA, and at numerous volunteer, community and outreach events. She can be reached at the Indio office at (760)863-7425 or by email at dsutton@casariversidecounty.org



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**WEBSITE**

www.  
casariversidecounty.org

MEMBER, NATIONAL  
CASA ASSOCIATION



**What? My Paperwork Helps a Child?**

Yes, the truth is that the work of a CASA volunteer advocate is entirely in service to our youth, but that service happens in many ways. You serve when you take a child on an outing, intervene with a school or a teacher, or make sure the judge's orders are carried out. You serve when you attend inservices, seminars and refresher trainings in order to learn about resources that could be of help to your child.

And, you serve when you complete your paperwork every month. You see, the CASA program exists under a variety of laws, regulations, guidelines and funder mandates. In order to generate the funding to retain the case managers who supervise CASA volunteers, we constantly need to have a great deal of information at our fingertips. Our state Association needs to compile statistics on EACH child served by a CASA program in the State. The national CASA Association has to report to the Administration and Congress on what impact CASA programs and CASA volunteers are having on foster youth.

And, it all comes down to YOU, our cherished volunteers. Your reports enable us to collectively continue to provide the safety net our children need to make their lives better.

So, the next time you are thinking that the last bit of paperwork is just too much, remember that it is that paperwork that makes service to children possible.

We appreciate any and all feedback on how to make our systems more efficient and the least burdensome on our volunteers. Keep us posted, and we'll do the same!

**THE ADVOCATE**

*This is not about rescue, so as to feel good when the child lights up with a smile.*

*This is not about the comfort of compassion.*

*This is hard work, struggling with ripped families and children in clouds of pain, anger dancing round their heart*

*in the turmoil of a world made crazy. This is caring, yes, but also what is just, what should be demanded.*

*It takes love and a certain measure of courage, and in the simple act of person helping person, it becomes extraordinary.*

**Tell Your Friends:**

**For about the cost of a coffee per day (\$2.75), you can make a change in the life of a child who has been abused or neglected, and is a "ward of the court" in Riverside County!**

**A monthly pledge of just \$83 on your credit card makes possible the supervision of willing and able volunteers to advocate for the interests of an abused child.**

**Can you help? Do you know someone who can? You will feel a change in your life, and will literally change a child's life for the better!**

**DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.CASARIVERSIDECOUNTY.ORG!  
CASA IS A 501 (C) (3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.**

**CASA:  
IT'S  
ABOUT  
SPEAKING  
UP FOR THE  
CHILDREN.**



**YOU  
CAN  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE!**

**CALLING MALE VOLUNTEERS – HERE'S SOME SIMPLE MATH**

It may look like complex calculus, but it is really simple math.  $(a) + (d) + (h) - (e) + (t) + x(p) + \text{male CASA} = \text{a boy who is all right}$ . Taken "a" stands for abandonment, "d" for drugs, "h" for homelessness, "e" for education, "t" for teen and "p" for placements, that is a wondrous formula.

How do you take a boy, in his teenage years, very behind in school because of the chaos of his life, help him adjust to changes in placement, professionals, schools, help him find a place in his heart and mind for a homeless, drug addicted mother who he still wants contact with, and erase all the "high-risk", "at-risk", "future felon" from his identity? **Give him a male CASA.**

We see this equation solved on a daily basis. Children in foster care come in with many strikes. They only have a 51% chance of graduating from high school, a 3% chance of graduating from college. In fact, statistics show if they emancipate from the system at 18, by the time they are 19, 60% will be dead or in jail. As former Presiding Judge (Becky) Dugan said in her plea to the community in April 2005, "We will no longer tolerate the loss of our children in this manner and are asking our community agencies and organizations to come together in support of our kids."

Of course, the intervention of a CASA, male or female, makes an impact in a positive direction. However, upon review of cases where a male CASA was assigned to a teenage boy, the drama dissipated. What we see in these children is success. They are stabilized in school, they have a stable male adult figure in their life, and they are figuring it out – together.

Court Appointed Special Advocates recruits and trains volunteers to represent the best interests of abused, neglected and abandoned children in the juvenile court system. More than 4000 children are subject to judicial proceedings in Riverside County each year. CASA volunteers are advocates who seek to help these children secure safe, permanent and nurturing homes.

With the ratio of men in our program at 1 to 5, we need are actively recruiting men. Communicating the "simple math" is a good place to start.

**MURRIETA AUXILIARY HOLDS  
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**



*Crystal Farr, Sharon Levinson, and Cynthia Collins, all CASAs since 2003, enjoy the luncheon*

Over 45 Southwest County CASA volunteers were honored recently at a luncheon hosted by Outback Steakhouse. "This is an intense volunteerism," said CASA coordinator Shari Crall, "and we are grateful to Outback and our other donors for making this special event possible."

The highlight was viewing a video created by CASA Robert Roa and his CASA child, S.C. The video featured pictures of each Southwest CASA followed by interviews with several CASA children

about their experiences with their CASA.

"There is no adequate way to express to CASA's dedicated volunteers how very much they are appreciated for giving their time and opening up their hearts so fully to these children," said Southwest Auxiliary Chair Pat Comerchero. "Our recognition luncheon, overflowing with feelings of warmth and gratitude, at least allows those who are part of this worthy organization to acknowledge the true selfless giving and compassion of each and every CASA. I am proud and humbled to be in their presence."

Other donors included Abbott Labs, Chik-Fil-A, the Lake Elsinore Storm and McDonald's.

Also recognized was BetterWorld Together Foundation, a long-time supporter of CASA that has recently increased their support to underwrite our capacity building project to enable long time service to our children.

## CASA:

**THE HARDEST  
AND MOST  
REWARDING  
VOLUNTEERING  
YOU'LL EVER  
DO.**



### Board Seeks Leadership Candidates

The Board of Directors of CASA has announced that it is seeking leadership candidates for many types of positions that will lead the agency into the new fiscal year, and for years to come. If you have a desire to serve the abused and neglected children of Riverside County, but you are not in a position to be a CASA advocate for a child, you may consider a variety of options. The organization needs energetic, hard working individuals to lead its operations in a variety of ways. You can have an impact on improving the lives of one of the most vulnerable groups of children in our county, children who have been abused and neglected and are now wards of the court. Call us today!

## ~~~~~WISH LIST~~~~~

### ARE YOU A "TECHIE"? COULD YOU DONATE A COMPUTER? WE NEED YOU!

The organization currently is looking for volunteers with expertise in computers, networking and VPN to assist with various services in each of our offices. From data input to setting up our networks, to troubleshooting hardware problems, we are in need of volunteers who have professional background in tech support and could make a long-term commitment. Please call any of our offices to donate!

### CRIFE AND ALLS JOIN CASA BOARDS

Murrieta -- *Bruce Crife, Senior Account Executive with RKR Media in Temecula, and recipient of the Temecula Chamber of Commerce 2006 Citizen of the Year award has joined the Board of Directors for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Riverside County; and Clifford Alls, Chair, City of Murrieta Community Steering Committee has joined the Advisory Board.*

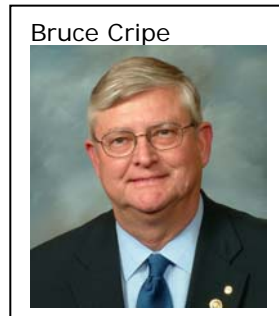
"After visiting the Riverside County Juvenile Court in Murrieta," Crife said, "I was touched by how many adults, both staff and volunteers, actively get involved with other people's kids. I wanted to be part of that body of concerned, compassionate individuals who truly care what happens to kids at risk."

With a special heart for children in difficult circumstances and a talent for bringing people together to support important causes, Crife will work to improve outreach, revenue flow and community support. His long involvement with Rotary International garnered recognition when Crife was named Humanitarian of Year for 2005-2006 by the Rotary Club of Temecula. He currently serves as an Assistant Governor with Rotary District 5330.

Crife has also served in board capacities with the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Riverside County American Red Cross, and Temecula Valley Citizen's Corps.

Cliff Alls has been active in the local communities he has lived in for over 37 years, as he has followed a career in the Navy with one in the aerospace industry. His steadfast goal to make a difference and help shape the future of his community, especially with children, led him to his current position on the Murrieta Youth Commission. He also is an active member of the Murrieta Unified Political Action Committee. Alls has been a youth coach and has an extensive background in diversity issues, as well as drug and alcohol abuse prevention, and was the 1996 recipient of the San Diego County United Way Cal-West Silver Bowl Award 1996.

CASA's Interim Executive Director Marc Hauptert stated, "I am overjoyed individuals with Bruce and Cliff's extensive community background have chosen to devote time to serve the abused and neglected children of our County. We are in the midst of an active board development campaign, and we look forward to Bruce, Cliff and their board colleagues taking CASA to the next level of service."



### Volunteer notes:

#### REMEMBER, YOUR MILEAGE CAN NOW BE REIMBURSED

Due to the generosity of the Riverside County Transportation Commission, and the Community Foundation of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, we now have funding for the next year to reimburse CASA volunteers for their mileage transporting children. Remember the funding is for travel involving children only, not volunteer travel to meetings, trainings, inservices, etc. The board and staff have been working hard to identify sources for this expense of volunteers for a number of years. We hope the funding will make it possible for people who had time and motivation to volunteer but couldn't because of the cost of travel, to participate. Now that we have access to funds, we encourage all volunteers to contact their Case Managers to learn the requirements for claiming mileage.