

## Fall 2012

### Board of Directors

Susan Bartlett  
Kirsten Bays  
Mary Bower  
Amy Card  
Sarah Greider  
Mary Anne Hanner  
Mike Havey  
Tami Knight  
Jill Nilsen  
Todd J. Vilardo  
Mary White  
Dale Wolf

### Executive Director

Susan Bulla

### Advocate Coordinator

Kristen Bertrand

### Officers

President:

Mary Anne Hanner

President-Elect:

Dale Wolf

Past-President:

Todd Vilardo

Treasurer:

Tami Knight

Secretary:

Susan Bartlett

Mission: Coles County CASA is a not-for-profit corporation that advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children brought into the Coles County juvenile court system.

### Advocate Training Starts Soon

Coles County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is beginning a training of new advocates on October 15. Potential advocates do not have to be a lawyer or social worker to be a volunteer. We welcome people from all walks of life. We are simply looking for people who care about children and have common sense. Volunteers are thoroughly trained and well supported by professional staff to help them through each case.

Becoming a CASA volunteer is an investment of time, energy and heart. But as many volunteers have said of the children they worked with: "It wasn't about what I gave them, it was what they showed me." Volunteer advocates are privileged to give a voice to abused and neglected children.

### I Am For The Child

Coles County CASA volunteers are "for" the child who:

- Sees their mother once a month in a prison and is patted down by guards beforehand
- Has been locked in a room and not allowed to come out for days, even to use the bathroom
- Keeps their clothes in a trash bag because it is easier to move to yet another foster home that way
- Has an ear infection so severe that it burst the eardrum, or has a broken bone and is not taken to the doctor
- Has a father who is also their grandfather
- Has seen his father beat his mother and stomp on her head
- Walks barefoot through a home with the floor so covered with dog feces that there is no place to step to miss it
- Is exposed to huge amounts of toxins because of the methamphetamine being made in the garage of the house



Each of these events has occurred in Coles County. Be a CASA volunteer. Be for the child.



## Casa for CASA 2012



Cleve and Karen Karch are pictured with this year's playhouse.

The new owner of the 2012 Casa for CASA is Karen Karch. Her name was drawn on August 4 at the Coles County Fair from the hundreds of raffle tickets purchased by area residents for the playhouse.

The 6-foot by 8-foot playhouse was donated by JoAnn Homann of Mattoon, and sponsored by several local businesses. Business sponsors include First Mid-Insurance Group, Don Baker Pest Control, Bob Oetting and Associates Insurance, Clarence Miller Insurance Services, and County Office Products, Inc.

In addition to a playhouse, an Apple iPad was raffled. The winner of the iPad donated it back to Coles County CASA.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Casa for CASA a success!

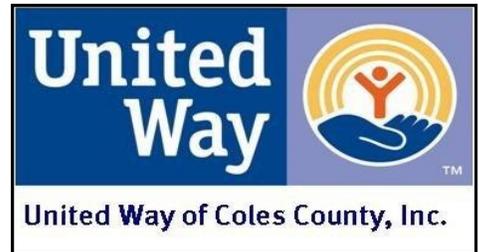
## Christmas House Walk in December

Coles County CASA will be sponsoring a Christmas house walk on December 2 from 1– 4 PM. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in advance or on December 2 at the McGrady Inn at 803 6th Street in Charleston.

## Thank you!

Find us on facebook! Friend us at : Coles County CASA for Children.

Thanks to the City of Charleston for the use of City Hall for training.



Coles County CASA is a proud member of the United Way

Printing and Distribution of CASA News is Compliments of Consolidated Communications, Inc.

Special Thanks to..... Megan Pritschet of Bliss Bakery and Cakery for providing cupcakes for the business afterhours.

Special Thanks to..... Charleston Carnegie Public Library Monthly Meeting Room



## Volunteer Spotlight



**Coles County Court Appointed  
Special Advocate**

**Ed Fidler**

### Meet Ed Fidler

Ed Fidler began working for CASA as a volunteer in September 1994. He has the distinction of being the only advocate who has been with Coles County CASA since the program began. As an advocate, Fidler dedicates himself to investigating parents who hurt their children. He visits the children, talks to people who know them, and can instinctively know what needs to be done to help them.

Fidler lives a very busy life. If he is not mowing lawns, he is working for the Mattoon Country Club or is at a ball game watching one of his five great-grandchildren. According to Fidler, “[he] gets busier as the years go by.” He enjoys spending time with his family, and his great-grandchildren are the joy of his life. He likes to fish at the Mattoon Lake and spend time in Alabama in the winter.

Fidler credits his wife for his involvement with Coles County CASA, saying, “she saw the article in the paper back at the beginning of the Coles County CASA program (1994) with Barbara Brown. I had just retired and my wife thought that I might be interested in volunteering and so I took the class.” Before his retirement Fidler had been an accident investigator at the USI Chemical Plant in Tuscola, Ill. for 30 years and it was this investigative experience that he brought to his work as an advocate. According to Fidler, “I became interested in investigations and my union supervisor told me to take an honest approach, so I've been doing that ever since. Investigation is hard to do and I always have to remember there are two sides to each story.”

According to Fidler, becoming an advocate can be challenging. Even after 18 years he finds it surprising that “some people don't care about their kids.” He says of his childhood, “My folks were very poor, but we had a good family,” and it is for this reason that, “I just can't understand why some people think it (not caring for your children) is a way of life. It's hard to believe.” Despite the challenges, Fidler finds that being an advocate can be rewarding, but the most rewarding part of the experience is “when one of those little kids gives you a hug. That really takes care of everything.”

### CASA Christmas House Walk

Send in this form to buy a ticket for the 2012 CASA Christmas House Walk.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Coles County CASA

Mail to: Coles County CASA - 651 Jackson Ave., Room 13 - Charleston, IL 61920

Tickets are \$20 each.

**Can You Help Coles County CASA Advocate for Children?**

- Friend of CASA**    \$0 - \$99    Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Silver Level**    \$100 - \$249    Address \_\_\_\_\_
- Gold Level**    \$250 - \$499    City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_
- Platinum Level**    \$500 - \$999    Phone # \_\_\_\_\_
- Millennium Level**    \$1000 and up    Email address \_\_\_\_\_
- I am interested in becoming an advocate.**    I prefer newsletter delivery by  **U.S. Mail**     **Email**

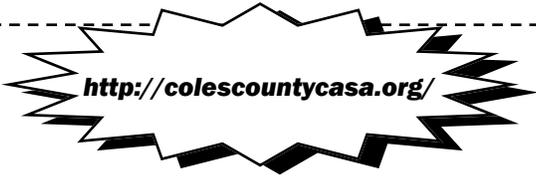
This gift is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ \* Your donation to CASA is

This gift is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ tax deductible.

Please notify \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check payable to Coles County CASA, 651 Jackson Ave., Room 13, Charleston, IL 61920*



Coles County CASA  
651 Jackson Ave., Room 13  
Charleston, IL 61920