



**Court  
Appointed  
Special  
Advocates**

**Mission Statement**

Coles County CASA is a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to recruit, train and monitor volunteers who advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children brought into the Coles County court system. CASA volunteers work through the juvenile court system to facilitate prompt delivery of services and to make independent recommendations to the court concerning the child's well being.

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Built by members of the Mattoon Fire Department!

**Support CASA by purchasing a ticket for a chance to WIN this playhouse!**

**ONLY**

**1 for \$5    5 for \$20    15 for \$50    50 for \$100**

**To purchase tickets, contact a CASA Board Member or call the CASA Office at (217) 348-0599**

## Tax Day Binga Participants Support CASA



**Binga!**

On April 15, more than 115 area community members converged at the American Legion Post 88 in Mattoon for the first ever Coles County CASA Longaberger Binga. Billed as "Tax Day Binga," participants enjoyed over ten Binga games in which winners left with prized Longaberger baskets. Various prizes were also awarded for other

contests of skill. An enjoyable evening, the event raised over \$2,800 for Coles County CASA. CASA says thank you to our Tax Day Binga guests, Post 88, all who made baked goods and to and all of our sponsors! A big thank you also goes out to the board members who worked hard that evening and the EIU students who volunteered their time.



Area community members maintain deep concentration during the inaugural CASA Tax Day Binga.

**Want to volunteer as a CASA Advocate? Summer training class begins soon.**

**Contact:**

**Coles County CASA, P.O. Box 1074  
Charleston, IL 61920 (217) 348-0599  
edcccasa@co.coles.il.us**





From the Desk of Coles County CASA Executive Director



**Coles County CASA  
Executive Director  
Susan Bulla**

CASA advocates worked very hard in 2009! With 26 active volunteers, we served 49 children in Coles County. We had 15 cases close. Of those 15, 1 child's case was transferred to another county, 4 children were placed permanently in homes under guardianship, 8 children were adopted, and 2 children were returned home. Advocates served 24 male and 25 female children. Most of the children served were white not of Hispanic origin, 11 were African American, and 4 were of Native American heritage. CASA advocates made differences

in the lives of the children they serve by advocating for educational, medical, and counseling services. They investigated the past lives of their children, gathering information from police, school, and medical records. They consulted with teachers and foster parents as well as parents and other relatives. They also investigated the child's current situation, and looked into potential future situations for the child. They attended countless meetings and staffings. They then summed up their findings in written reports which were filed with the court, and they attended court on behalf of their children. Most importantly, they spent time with their children frequently.

CASA makes a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children because of the hard work of the volunteers. They are the eyes and ears of the child for the judge. Children who have been victims of abuse or neglect have a powerful voice in court through their CASA volunteer, who consistently and continually advocates for the best interests of the child.

Susan Bulla  
Executive Director  
Coles County CASA

**Imagine the Life of an Abused or Neglected Child**

Imagine seeing your mommy once a month for one hour in prison. Imagine having a burst eardrum or broken leg and nobody takes you to the doctor. Imagine keeping your clothes in a trash bag because it is easier to be ready to move that way. Imagine your mom or dad not showing up for a court hearing about you. Imagine being locked in a room and not being allowed out even to go to the bathroom. Imagine that your father is also your grandfather. Imagine watching your daddy beat your mommy and stomp on her head.

It is hard for most of us to imagine the life of an abused or neglected child. But the situations above are real and the children described above live right here in Coles County. Fortunately, we have 30 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) who have stepped up to help our community's abused and neglected children. As a group, they helped 49 Coles County abused and neglected children last year – one child at a time – bringing some hope into the life of each child.

The Coles County CASA program is a not-for-profit corporation which recruits, trains, and monitors volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children brought into the Coles County Juvenile court system. CASA volunteers work through the juvenile court system to facilitate prompt delivery of services and to make independent recommendations to the court concerning the child's well-being. You can help by becoming a CASA volunteer, or by supporting Coles County CASA by providing a service or product, or by making a donation. Call us at 217-348-0599 or email [edcccasa@co.coles.il.us](mailto:edcccasa@co.coles.il.us) for more information.

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is Compliments of  
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United Way of Coles County, Inc.

Coles County CASA is a proud member of the United Way

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

## Advocate Spotlight: Featuring Linda Moody

### How did you become familiar with the CASA program?

I became aware of the CASA program when Mamie Richey was the director. She asked me to become an advocate. I prayed about it and it seemed like every day I was either hearing about or seeing something to do with child abuse. I knew that was God telling me to get involved. So I took the training and was sworn in on September 5, 2008 by the Honorable Judge James Glenn. I also received my first case the same day. That case is in the adoption process now. I also have another case that I share with another advocate.

### What has surprised you most as you have worked as a CASA volunteer?

The thing that surprised me the most is the number of programs available to help the children and the parents to be reunited. There

are many organizations available for help. The thing I most dislike is the fact that sometimes it seems like a child is in foster care for way too long.

### What are your challenges as a CASA volunteer?

Being a CASA advocate is not for everybody. It takes being very open minded, thick skinned, and soft hearted. It can involve a lot of travel, detective work, being snoopy, being a good listener, being able to read body language and facial expressions, and spending hours on the internet. It means talking to teachers, neighbors, friends, counselors, caseworkers, relatives, ministers, probation officers, policemen, landlords and anyone else that may know some facts about your case. For me it has meant a few sleepless nights, a few tears, a lot of soul searching, and a lot of prayers.



**Coles County CASA Advocate  
Linda Moody**

### What are your other interests when you are not volunteering on the behalf of abused and neglected children?

I also keep busy being involved in my church, The Central Christian Church. Also The Elohim Great Banquet gatherings, spending time with my grandkids, and working ( I mean playing) in my flower gardens.

### What keeps you motivated on your case?

The children are what keep me motivated. To think that I may help to make a difference in the life of a child is an awesome feeling. And those little hugs are all the thanks I need to keep me motivated.

*"Children will not remember you for the material things you provided but for the feeling that you cherished them."*

### We Believe



16 years

Ed Fidler

11 years

Mamie Richey  
Penney Stanley

4 years

Pam Ortega  
Pat McCallister  
Richard Sylvia

3 years

Carolyn Cloyd  
Marcy Cunningham  
Bill Hill  
Helen Krehbiel-Reed  
Janet Marquardt  
John Reed

2 years

Susan Bulla  
Assegedetch Haile-Mariam  
Linda Moody

1 year

Dan Bennett  
Kristen Bertrand  
Linda Holloway  
Susan Majors  
Mary Beth Massey  
Marschelle McCoy  
Peggy McMillan  
Denise Preston  
Anita Shelton  
Michele Van Hise  
Deborah Woodley

**CASA ADVOCATES.... A POWERFUL VOICE IN A CHILD'S LIFE**

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

- Friend of CASA      \$0 - \$100      Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Silver Level      \$101 - \$250      Address \_\_\_\_\_
- Gold Level      \$251 - \$500      City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_
- Platinum Level      \$501 - \$1000      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/P.O. Box 1074, Charleston, IL 61920*

<http://colescountycasa.org/>



<http://www.nationalcasa.org/>



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