

Everyday Heroes

Fall 2011



I am for the child who no longer comes.

I am for the child who's had seven addresses in a single year. Because she's in foster care. Because her father abused her. And because her mother couldn't believe her. That is the child I am for. Because if I am, she will be half as likely to languish in foster care, and that much more likely to find a safe, permanent home. I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

I am you.



VERMILION COUNTY

United Way
of Danville Area



MEMBER
NATIONAL CASA ASSOCIATION

A child's voice.

A child's life.
Lifted up.

By you.



Lift up a child's voice. A child's life. ™

A Message from the CASA Board President, Jane Dobbles

Dear Friends,

At CASA, our goal is to change the world for every abused and neglected child in Vermillion County. All children in foster care should have a caring, compassionate adult advocating on their behalf, focusing on their needs and helping the system provide the right kind of support.

I am proud of the fact that CASA of Vermillion County volunteers are now helping lift up the lives of close to 100 children a year. But the need is great. We are currently serving less than 30% of the children in foster care. Our goal is to provide an advocate for every abused and neglected child in our community who needs one. Please join us at CASA in our quest to make that wish a reality. Together, we can change the world for every abused and neglected child.

Sincerely,
Jane Dobbles

CASA Board of Directors

Jane Dobbles, President
Sandi Wood, Vice President
Chuck Kasper, Treasurer
Alayne Anderson, Secretary

Neal Ehrlich
Liya Hussmann Rogers
Tricia Keith
Roxy Reed
Anna Sykes

MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are pleased to announce that **Paul Gallagher** has joined CASA as our new Executive Director. Paul earned his bachelor's degree from Marquette University and a law degree from Loyola University in New Orleans. He brings extensive experience working with non-profits. We are excited to begin this new phase of serving children.



Laura's Story

From veteran of abuse to veteran of the Marines: the story of a young woman and the CASA who helped her change her life.



CASA Sally Payne (at left) gave Laura the support she needed to succeed.

Long before my feet touched Iraqi soil—before I even joined the United States Marine Corps—I was a veteran of a long war for survival.

My first foe was my father, who was horribly abusive to my mother and me. When he finally left, a new enemy surprised me: my mother's demons. I was 13 when my mother's mental illness drove her to lock me in a back bedroom of our house—without food or water. By the time the police broke in a week later, I was literally starving. When I got out of the hospital I had a new status: foster kid.

During my five years in foster care, I had more than a dozen social workers. Nearly every court date meant meeting a new lawyer. But through it all I had just one CASA volunteer: Sally Payne. Throughout all the changes and different people I had to deal with, Sally was the one person who was there just for me. Knowing Sally cared about me meant the world to me. She was the anchor I desperately needed to stay in school, to keep moving forward, to make the choices that got me safely out of foster care and into service to my country. She made me believe that I was destined for success—in college or in whatever else I decided to do.

“Whatever else” turned out to be joining the Marines—which I did as soon as I turned 18 without consulting Sally or anyone else. You see, while I was in foster care, my mom died—homeless and alone. I worried that I might be biologically programmed for a similar fate. The United States Marine Corps promised a roof over my head, job training and security. Sally wasn't thrilled with my decision, but she trusted me to make my own choices and she supported me.

I was a Marine from 2000 to 2005, and I served two missions in Iraq. Today I am 27 and a civilian police officer at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego. I am also a college student, studying psychology. Sally's lessons have never left me, and neither has Sally. She will be in my life forever.

I am living proof that CASA volunteers change kids' lives.



Personal: Seeking M/W for LTR

At any time, there are approximately 340 Vermilion County children who have been removed from their homes because of abuse and neglect. These children need men and women (M/W) willing to commit to a long-term relationship (LTR). There are many ways to become an "Everyday Hero" to a child.

BECOME AN ADVOCATE

An advocate's sole purpose is to help the court identify the best permanent home for the child, one where love and support does not cease at 18. CASA of Vermilion County holds a 30-hour training class each spring and fall. Watch for spring dates at www.casavermilion.org.

BECOME A SUSTAINING DONOR

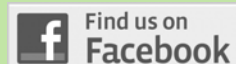
A strong base of regular donors assures that this program can remain in Vermilion County as grants become less available. It costs about \$1000/year per advocate for training and support. Services are provided free of cost to the child and the court.

Donations can be sent to the CASA office at 101 W. North, Danville 61832 or made online through our website, <http://www.casavermilion.org/donor.html>. Click on our secure 'Network For Good' button to make monthly, quarterly, annual, or one-time donations with a credit card. A record of each donation will appear on your monthly bank or credit card statement. At any time you may increase, decrease or suspend your donation.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Volunteers can perform non-confidential tasks in the office or can assist with events and fund-raising. Contact Paul at

director@casavermilion.org or 446-5975.



CHILDREN ENJOYED AN ENCHANTED EXPERIENCE AT THE 2011 CASA ROYAL BALL



A collective gasp of amazement rose from the crowd of children as the princesses entered the Royal Ballroom in the Harrison Park Castle. The enchantment continued as boys and girls learned a royal dance, explored the 21-foot long Watchfire pirate ship, created a craft, were sprinkled with glitter in the Royal Spa, interacted with fairies in the Magical Fairy Garden and much more.

This amazing event was made possible by generous sponsorships and in-kind donations. Benevolence sponsorships provided tickets for foster children and others who may not have been able to attend otherwise.



The CASA Royal Ball was an extraordinary experience!

JULY POKER RUN NETS A GENEROUS DONATION TO CASA!

We extend our gratitude to the Danville Firefighters Local 429, the Friendly Tavern and their Poker Run sponsors. They donated a very generous \$3,640 to help CASA volunteers advocate for abused and neglected children in Vermilion County.

**Thank you, Firefighters and
Friendly Tavern for organizing this
ambitious and enjoyable event!**



FRIENDLY TAVERN
416 E South Street
Danville

DANVILLE FIREFIGHTERS
LOCAL 429

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Many generous individuals and businesses donated time and materials to help make our Royal Ball and Hog Roast wonderful family events.

American Pavilion

Alayne & Mark Anderson

Doc Ashton & the Root Canals

Barbara, Rachel & Emily Bein

Tom Bookwalter, Applewood Foods Catering

Bowers Tree Service

City of Danville

County Market

D&J Entertainment

Danville Art League

Danville Gardens

Danville Light Opera

Danville Paper & Supply

Steve Dively Enterprises, Famous Recipe

Jane & Bill Dobbles

Ruth Ann & Gary Earl

Neal & Melody Ehrlich, Bud's Express Cellular

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Papa Murphy's

Peer Court

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Royal Donut

Missy Sims, Tastefully Simple

Merrit Spicer, Roselawn Dance by Merrit

Vermilion Valley Produce

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We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our donors...

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Kiwanis Noon Club of Danville
Sweet Adelines
Juli Thornton-Busby

Watchfire Signs by Time-o-Matic
Sandi & David Wood



PLATINUM (\$200—\$499)

Tom Bookwalter, In honor of
David & Sandi Wood
Danville Kiwanis Golden K
Ed & Sandi Dobbles
First Presbyterian Church
Mary Hardy, In honor of the
foster kids CASA serves

Kiwanis Breakfast Club
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Center
Mervis Family Foundation
Michael & Carol Olson, in honor of
Pastor Tiffany Black

GOLD (\$100—\$199)

Neele Aziaka
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In memory of Alma Nale
David Dillman & Cheryl Vergin
Elizabeth Dysert
Warren & Lynne Friedel
In honor of Heather Fox
Jim & Lois Gholson
In memory of our mothers
Dean & Phyllis Hudson
Lois Johnston
Laura Keller
John & Donna Mason
Judy Mattis
Dora McCullough
Bruce & Sharon Meachum

Muster King Orthodontics,
Dr. Kevin King
Offutt Developers
Po-Boys
Richard & Phyllis Roth
Harith & Deborah Tamimie
Margaret Ward
In memory of Joe D. Ward
Schlarman High School Jeans Day
Teresa Zellers in honor of Judy Mattis



SILVER (\$50—\$99)

Anonymous
Teresa Bartstow in honor of
Jane Dobbles
Richard Brazda
Chad Bryant, DC Fitness
Adrienne Dahncke in honor of
Jane Dobbles
Doug & Kim Cunningham in honor
of Lander & Logan Leigh
Dan D. Brown, Attorney
Devens & McFetridge, Ltd.
Anne Weitzmann, in honor of
Heather Fox



Fred Faulstich
David Fields
First Financial Bank Jeans Day
Lynn Foster
J. William Goodwine
Mary Hardy, in honor of all the foster
Kids she's taught or worked with
William & Beverly Kesler
Gayle LeCount, in honor of
Jane Dobbles
Theta Lee, in honor of
Vermilion County Teachers
Harry Levey, in memory of
Dean A. Cohler
Mark & Marty Lindvahl
Michael & Carol Olson, in honor of
Rev. Tiffany Black
John & Janet O'Rourke
John & Janet Peverly
Michael J. Puhr, in honor of
Kathleen Puhr
Barbara Stover
Carol & Gary Swank

BRONZE (\$1—\$49)

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Shirley Klamann

Ruth Koenig
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Lorene Lane
Leverenz Memorials
Lietz & Hussmann Rogers LLP
Mary Jo & Jay Meeker
Janice Nelson in honor of the birth of
Rowdy & Jody Fatheree's son
Jim & Mary Pate
Roxy Reed
William & Marilyn Satterwhite
Missy Sims
Vivian Stokes
Judith & Irvin Story
John & Christine Wonderlin

On behalf of the children we serve, thank you!



By advocating for an abused or neglected child or by donating to support the training and guidance of a volunteer advocate,

you give that child a voice—
and a chance for a better life.

The mission of CASA of Vermilion County is to advocate for abused and neglected children within the Juvenile Court System by training and managing volunteers to represent those children's best interests to the Court.

Our current Advocates

Mandy Alvarez	Janice Kempe	Kathy Moore
Rose Askam	Jeanette King	John Murray
Ellen Baxter	Sandra Laster	Evelyn Phebus
Barbara Bein	Julie Lester	Tamarai Red
April Bennett	Danielle Lewallen	Terri Reed
Adam Brown	Cheryl Lutes	Kristen Smith
Emma Brown	Mary Mancuso	Ned Smith
Mike Courson	Deb Martin	Jeanie Stamm
Stephanie Dixon	Mary Martin	Scott Wernigk
Shalonda Foreman	Judy Mattis	Mike Westfall
Gwen Frattick	Mark Meyer	Wendy Wilder
Monica Gaston	Michell Monroe	Linda Williams
Janell Graham	Megan Montgomery	

Our newest Advocates

Six new Advocates have completed their training and were sworn in by Judge Claudia Anderson on November 1. They are in the process of taking their cases and are expected to serve an additional 7-10 children.

Rhonda Beasley	Jim Collins	Celya Robles
Jackie Collins	Melinda Jones	Dominique Washington

THANK YOU for the commitment you have made to our youngest citizens.

Please join us in making a commitment to give a voice to abused and neglected children in Vermilion County. CASA is an approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency.
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Please make checks payable and mail to CASA of Vermilion County
101 W North Street, Danville, IL 61832
Donations can also be made online at:
<http://www.casavermillion.org/donor.html>

Special requests: _____ Anonymous
_____ In Honor of _____
_____ In Memory of _____

Please send acknowledgment to _____
Address _____

PLEASE HELP US SAVE POSTAGE COSTS BY PROVIDING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

A child's voice.

**A child's life.
Lifted up.**

By you.



CASA of Vermilion County

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Danville, IL 61832

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www.casavermillion.org

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Go to casavermillion.org and click on "Join Email List."