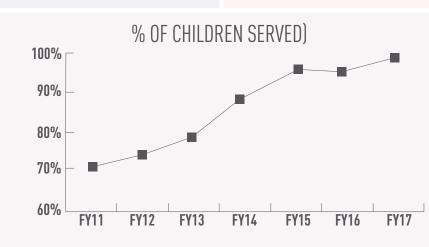
HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2017:

JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017







ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS PAST YEAR...

177 CASA VOLUNTEERS

advocated for 338 children

108 NEW CHILDREN

129 CHILDREN

REVENUE

65%

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

INVESTMENT INCOME

TOTAL \$803.261

FUNDRAISING EVENT

GRANTS

\$518,208

\$111,419

\$11,948

\$141,186

CORPORATE

11,656 HOURS OF SERVICE

112,289 MILES DRIVEN

by CASA volunteers to visit their assigned children and to attend meetings and court hearings on the children's behalf

\$311,215 of Child Advocacy

services were provided by our volunteers based on the hourly dollar value of \$26.70,

3.5 YEARS

98% OF THE CHILDREN

in foster care in Morris and Sussex



2017

ANNUAL

REPORT





CASA... CONTINUING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Dear Friends,

Cellphones, homeland security, DVDs, iPads, space shuttles, Harry Potter, social media, ATMs, the Soviet Union's collapse, international terrorism, designer water, electric cars—the world in which we live today is guite different from just 30 years ago, when CASA of Morris was established to train community volunteers to become "a child's voice in court."

CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties' 30 year history has been shaped by over 1,400 volunteers who advocated and mentored 5,789 children and youth, who were victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment. These children's lives have been forever changed. They have been given a chance to see beyond their circumstances and envision a future filled with opportunity and hope because of the dedication and advocacy of CASA volunteers.

We have achieved our vision of assigning a CASA volunteer to every child in foster care in our two counties. We are the only CASA program in NJ that has accomplished this and we could not have done it without all of YOU. Our Volunteers, Staff, Trustees, and Donors. You are the ones who have built the foundation of CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties and supported the work of bringing better tomorrows to vulnerable children.

Thirty years since our beginnings and child abuse and neglect are not diminishing. A child's emotional, physical, and mental well-being is fragile and easily compromised. We will not stop our work until the time when all children are protected from harm, live in a permanent and stable family environment, and receive the services that will meet their developmental, educational, physical, and mental health needs.

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure that we continue to provide valuable advocacy to every child until he or she has a safe, nurturing, permanent home.

Dippy Weits 181 Lisa B. Finkser

Together, we will continue to make a difference.

Skippy Weinstein, Esq. **Board President**

Lisa Barsky Firkser. Ph.D. **Executive Director**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Skippy Weinstein, Esq. President

Laurie Newmark, Esq. Vice President

Brad Muniz, Treasurer

Michelle Beatty, Esq. Secretary

Brian Amery, Esq. Trustee

Mindy Beck, Trustee

Jeanne Bratsafolis, Esq. Trustee

Richard Moore, Trustee

Jeannie Neufeld. Trustee

Jennifer O'Donnell, Trustee

John O'Hara, Trustee

Kate Tomlinson, Trustee

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Lisa Bromberg, Esq.

Lynn Devereux

The Honorable Gerald Hanifan

Julie McCormick

Marie Panzera

Dianne Robinson

Bernard Schoenfeld

Marilyn Semer

Joan Sturm

The Honorable Thomas Weisenbeck

Lisa Barsky Firkser, Ph.D., Executive Director

Julie Barros

Eve Cella

Jack Fraebel

Carolyn Gildersleeve

Marli Horwitz

Penni Nafus

Pat Nolan

Lindsay Osborn

Chris Schuette

Paula Tyson

Debbie West

BUSINESS PARTNERS

Adviser Investments

AIG Apple

Askin & Hooker Audi Bridgewater Mendham

Avis Budget Group

Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Black Horse Tayern and Pub Bressler Amery & Ross

Briad Group

Buzak Law Group Caristia, Kulsar & Wade

ConnectOne Bank

Crum & Forster

Day Pitney Dolan & Dolar

Eastern Propane

Edward Jones

Einhorn, Harris, Ascher, Barbarito &

Everest Reinsurance Company

F&G Insurance Agency First Hope Bank

Fisher Golkin Group Franklin Mutual Insurance Company

Fulton Bank of New Jersev Gray Law Group

Greenberg & Rapp Financial

Greenberg Traurig Investors Bank

J. Thomas Jewelers

Jockey Hollow Bar and Kitchen

JR Cigar School

Korn Hynes Communications Lakeland Bank

Leadership Matters

Lovas Law Firm Madison Hotel

Manufacturers Reserve Supply Marketsmith

Marks Paneth

McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney &

McKirdy & Riskin

Mellinger, Sanders, Kartzman Mitchell Insurance Agency

Morris, Downing & Sherred New Jersey Monthly

New Jersey Sports Medicine

Nisivoccia North Point Realty Group Nutley Park ShopRite

Plaza Barber Shop Porzio, Bromberg & Newman

Prismatic Development Corporation RFD Group, Merrill Lynch

Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti RoNetco Supermarkets

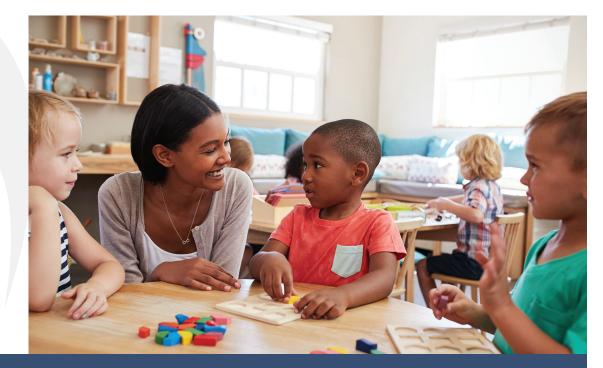
Salny Redhord and Rinaldi Schwartz, Sdimon, Edelstein & Celso Sentient

ShopRite of Hunterdon County ShopRite of Lincoln Park

Sills Cummis & Gross Sobel & Co Stop & Shop

Sullivan & Graber Sussex County Association of Realtors Synchronoss Technologies

IT TAKES THE COMMUNITY TO FUND CASA OF MORRIS & SUSSEX COUNTIES. THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS.



A CASA has the opportunity to help repair the damage a child endures when he or she is separated from parents and to give the gift of possibility in the face of seemingly overwhelming odds.

- Nathaniel Wechsler, CASA Volunteer 2.5 years

Townsend, Tomaio & Newmark True & Associates Wakefern Food Corporation Weinberger Law Group Wells Fargo Advisors Wennoale Law Wiley Malehorn Sirota & Raynes WithumSmith +Brown

Tahitia Nails and Spa

ZogSportsNJ **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** AAUW Mountain Lakes Branch Blue Knights NJ Chapter IX Inc. Chester Lions Congregation B'nai Emet Dover Rotary Club First Presbyterian Church of Mendham Franklin Plains United Methodist Green Pond Women's Club International Friends Club Madison Rotary Club NC JW West Morris United Way of Northern New Jersey

Waterloo Methodist Church

FOUNDATION & GOVERNMENT

Allergan Foundation Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation Community Foundation of NJ F.M. Kirby Foundation George A. Ohl, Jr., Trust Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation H.A. Heller Foundation Head Family Charitable Foundation Investors Bank Foundation

John Bickford Foundation Laura J. Niles Foundation Lillian Schenck Foundation Morris County Community Development MetLife Foundation National Court Appointed Special

Advocates Association Page Hill Foundation Paul B. Greetin and Beryl S. Greetin

Prudential Foundation Robert and Joan Dircks Foundation Selective Insurance Group Foundation Staples Foundation State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy

The Hyde and Watson Foundation The Provident Bank Foundation The Walter F. & Alice Gorham Wells Fargo Foundation William E. Simon Foundation

Willis and Nancy King Foundation

SCHOOL PARTNERS

Briggs Elementary School Cozy Lake Elementary School Fast Hanover Township Schools Jefferson Township Schools Kiel School Knollwood Elementary School Lincoln Park Elementary School Netcona Public Schools Ogdensburg Elementary School Pearl R. Miller School Rockaway Valley School Sparta Township Schools Stonybrook Elementary School Whippany Park High School

To protect the privacy of our individual donors, we have not listed their names.



VOLUNTEERS Andrea Adler Aviva Arnuk Kim Arthur Ashley Attinello Roberta Auerbach Elaine Backer Jill Bellaus Nathalie Berger Michael Bertram Joanne Bickers Bill Bilinkas Miriam Bovlan Beth Brabston Sister Jane Brady Karen Brand Susan Brezina Allyson Brown Barbara Buran Jov Bushwell Carol Camerino Dennis Cannella Ronald Cattafi Jennifer Chrzanowski Agnes Clyne Michelle Cohen June Colangelo Janet Coleman Marianne Conad Nancy Cunningham Ralph D'Aries Liz Davidoff Helen Davis Mary Day Michael Dean Lisa DeMizio Karen Deslandes Lisa DiBartolo

Catherine DiDonato

Joseph Dunn

Stephen Dunn

Jennifer Duong

Mary Eldridge

Mary Emilius

Susan Felsen

Amanda Fish

Ana Espino

Suzanne English

Kathy Ferrenting

Michael Eisenberg

Desiree Ellerthorpe

Martin Fleming Paul Flood Mary Funari Lesley Gibson Roberta Golub Jhonattan Gonzalez Kristy Goulart Amy Greenberg Doren Greene Holly Gresko Dawn Haagensen Aimee Hanlon Jill Harding Stacy Harrison Patricia Heath Leslie Heller Dawn Hendershot Diane Herrera Meghan Hevert Lenor Johnson Robert Jones Doris Kaplan Dally Kaur-Sarullo Sharon Kawam Marialena Kearns Anne Marie Keegan Carolyn Keegan Suzy Keegan Thomas Kelleher Kimberly Kleindienst Melissa Kohylinski Kim Kramer-Ganz Linda Kraska Paul Kuny Linda Leenstra Arleen Lipsman Marybeth Lombardino Barbara Lorenzoni Cherilynn Louszko Diane Luzzi Virginia Mahoney Jack Marks Adriana Martinez Christiana Masucci Tod Matchett Susanna Mava Kathleen McBrady Debbie McBride Kristen MCConnell Debra McGrath

Amy McHugh Nancy Medford Doris Merrick Barbara Mills Jane Moskowitz Janet Murphy Jean Murphy Janet Murphy/Donato Penni Nafus Lauren Nemeth Olga Netto Susan Newman Mae Noonan Linda O'Brien Joseph O'Dowd Lisa Orlan Lindsay Osborn Heidi Oshima Mary Owens Mary Kate Pach Diane Penola Ada Pfotenhauer Mercedes Pierre Lynn Polan Lisa Pompey-Smith Denise Postlethwaite Cecelia Puglio Bhunita Ramdass Andrea Rascher Caren Ravitz Julie Reit Chris Remetz Rosemarie Reynolds Amy Rhinelander Anne-Claire Riehl Edsel Robinson Mark Roffman

Megan Sager Mary Jo Saunders Ellyn Schoenfeld Jeanne Seigle Liz Sember Melissa Sharma Michelle Sharpe Judy Stein-Loewenthal Lisa Stewart Denise Surdoval Eva Szumzer Linda Tarr Marcellene Thompson Daphne Thomson Diane Tolley Gary Trageser Errol Train Paula Tyson Timothy Ursell Mary Vohden Nancy Vuolo Abby Wasserman Nathaniel Wechsler Beth Weiss Carv Winslow Yanazia Yates Katerina Zambrano

I have seen amazing things from CASA volunteers that are so compelling that it would bring a tear to your eye. Their commitment and dedication is inspiring.

- Family Court Judge

Lucille Rosenberg

Anthony Rutigliano John Ryan

HAYLIE & NAYA'S STORY



Eight- year- old twin girls Haylie and Naya were removed from their home due to their mother's arrest for the possession and selling of cocaine and heroin. Their mother's history included substance abuse and diagnosis of Depression and Bipolar Disorder.

The twin's stepfather, Carlos, was designated as the caregiver while their mother was incarcerated. Subsequently, Carlos was arrested for driving while under the influence with the twins in the car. The twins were placed in a foster home, and Susan, a CASA volunteer, was assigned to be their advocate.

Both Haylie and Naya were diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and medications were prescribed. Susan visited the school and met with the teachers to assess the girls' educational needs. When she was informed that the twins were exhibiting lethargic behaviors and were unable to focus, she immediately communicated with the psychiatrist; and the twins were taken off the medications.

After a year, the twins' birth mother was released from jail and was complying with the court orders; however, she was not ready to be reunified with her daughters. Susan recommended to the Judge that the mother have additional time to work toward reunification, and the Judge granted a three-month extension.

After 20 months in foster care, the Court approved reunification of the girls with their mother. Knowing that successful reunifications are dependent on having resources in place for the family, Susan wasn't finished with her advocacy. She was there to help this family navigate government agencies to get the resources they needed to thrive. Susan assisted the mother to fill out paperwork for financial assistance, food vouchers, and permanent housing. Susan researched and found additional financial assistance

from community organizations and businesses. She even contacted the local gas company to ask them to waive the \$500 security deposit required to turn on the gas in the family's new apartment.

I saw a huge positive change in the girls' behavior; they were angry when we first met.

- Susan Brezina - CASA Volunteer

Susan solicited donations of furniture, linens, and household items and connected the family with a local food pantry. Susan assisted the mother in exploring employment opportunities and identifying employers who were willing to accept people who had been arrested. She coached the mother on how to dress appropriately and present for job interviews.

The new apartment location meant the girls would need to attend a new school. Susan facilitated a smooth transition by securing the necessary documents from the previous school district for submission to the new one and by meeting with the Child Study Team to review the girls' educational plans. Susan even assisted the mother to enroll Haylie and Naya in summer camp.

After a successful reunification, the Court dismissed the case, and Susan's advocacy role ended. Several months later, the girls' mother delivered a picture of her smiling daughters as a gift for their CASA volunteer who had worked tirelessly to help them stay together and succeed as a family.

A CASA volunteer can truly impact a family's stability by providing them with a strong foundation to move forward and live independently.



CURRENT PROGRAMS

Child Advocacy: Children who are victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment and living in foster homes or residential facilities are assigned to trained volunteers for advocacy in the Family Court system. CASA volunteers make recommendations to the court for critical community resources and services to improve a child's stability and outcomes. Volunteers also ensure that each child is in a safe, nurturing, and permanent home as soon as possible.

Volunteer Recruitment and Training: The process to become a CASA volunteer advocate includes recruitment, orientation sessions, interviews, background checks, 6 weeks of combined classroom and online training, Swearing In ceremonies presided over by the Family Court Judges, and case assignment. Additional In-Service training is provided for our volunteer pool throughout the year.

Fostering Futures: The goal of this Program is to improve outcomes for youth ages 14-21 who will be aging-out of the foster care system. It incorporates the following three strategic components.

1) Connecting: to connect youth who have no home to call their own with a positive adult role model to count on for ongoing support

2) Mentoring: to identify the youth's strengths, areas for improvement, and the resources and services needed to establish the youth on a path toward a healthy, productive life. The emphasis is on life skills such as work and study habits, maintaining healthy relationships and daily living activities.

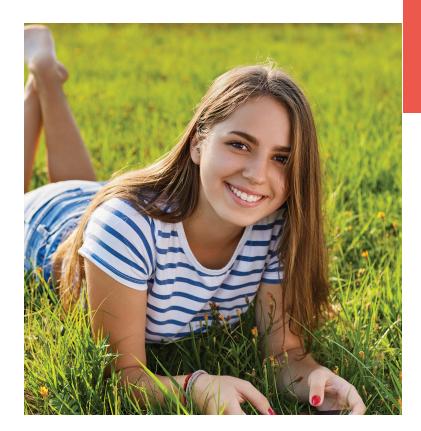
3) Coaching: to help youth reach their full potential by promoting a positive self-identity with goal setting, action plans and identifying and using community resources.

PAST PROGRAMS

Family Drug Court: This program provided treatment and services for substance-abusing parents whose children were in foster care as the result of child abuse and neglect. The services provided were designed to successfully rehabilitate the parents, balance child safety and permanency, and work toward family reunification or another safe, nurturing placement for the child. 2004- 2015

Youth Centered Advocacy Program (YAP): CASA volunteers advocated to facilitate the movement of youth detained at the Juvenile Detention Center to an alternative, less restrictive environment.

Supervised Visitation: CASA volunteers were trained to supervise visits between children and their non-custodial parent in a safe, interactive environment. 1997-2010



How YOU can help us

ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN

- Attend an Information Session to learn the process to become a CASA volunteer to advocate for a child.
- Make a tax-deductible donation of cash or appreciated securities.
- Ask your employer to match your gift to CASA.
- Honor a family member or friend by sending a tribute card; in memory of, in honor of, thank you, happy birthday etc.
- Include CASA in your Will or Estate Plan.
- Become a member of the CASA Board of Trustees

Our community came together to provide birthday presents, holiday gifts, beach towels, backpacks, school supplies, teddy bears, toiletries and smiles for over 350 children in foster care.

THANK YOU TO

Assumption Church, Giving Tree Committee

Avis Budget

A Birthday Wish

Books-A-Million, Rockaway

The Briad Group, Wendy's Division

Caring Capital

Earrings by Suzann

Franklin Plains United Methodist

PNY Technologies of Parsippany

Politi Auto Parts

Saint Joseph Church, Human Concerns Ministry

Sparta Kiwanis

Telecom Pioneers Chapter #99

Toyota Financial Services

Waterloo Methodist Church

West Morris Mendham High School, Service Club







CHILDREN SERVED THRU FY17 = 5789 | VOLUNTEERS TRAINED THRU FY17 = 1431

1987 - 11 volunteers served 15 children

1997 - 105 volunteers served 110 children
Served 48% of children in foster care in our 2 counties

2007 - 159 volunteers served 320 children
Served 69% of children in foster care in our 2 counties

2017 - 177 volunteers served 338 children
Served 98% of children in foster care in our 2 counties

30 YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- First and only CASA program in NJ to serve 98% of the children in foster care in our two counties compared to the state average of serving 32% of children
- Our volunteer retention rate is 3.5 years, the highest rate among NJ CASA programs
- Moved to professional office space with ample room for all staff and volunteer interactions
- Established Board Restricted Endowment Fund
- Sustain a solid financial status with reserve for operational funds
- Professional staff of 13
- Began Fostering Futures Program to prepare youth for independent living prior to aging-out of the foster care system

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS:

- Sandra Jacobsen 1985- 1994
- Barbara Ward 1994-Sept. 2008
- Lisa Barsky Firkser March 2009- Present

LONGEST FUNDERS:

F.M. Kirby Foundation— The F. M. Kirby Foundation aims to effectively manage and utilize that which has been entrusted to it over multiple generations of the Kirby family. The foundation fosters self-reliance to create strong, healthy communities. **Funding CASA since 1993, 17 grants total donation \$335,000**

Page Hill Foundation— The Page Hill Foundation, Inc. is a small family foundation focused on improving the lives of America's less fortunate youth.

Funding CASA since 1998, consistently each year for a total of \$132,816





To recruit, train and supervise community volunteers to serve as advocates, champions and mentors for children in foster care



To support CASA staff Case Supervisor salaries; these are the volunteers' mentors, supervisors and advisors



To provide children in foster care with backpacks and school supplies; birthday gifts; holiday gifts; sports equipment; cell phone calling cards; appropriate outfits for job interviews; transportation vouchers, SAT prep courses etc.



For volunteer mentors to take teens from our Fostering Futures program on outings to theatre, sports events, museums, visits to colleges and other educational and vocational venues to prepare teens for independent living



For organizational overhead (rent, utilities, supplies, equipment, printing)

A special Thank You to the Team at W20 Sentient for donating their time, talents and friendship to CASA throughout the year. We especially appreciate their design of this Annual Report.

LONGEST TRUSTEE: RICHARD A. MOORE (DICK)

Dick has been on the Board of Trustees for the past 16 years, serving in the roles of Board President, Vice President, Treasurer and as our Interim Executive Director. Dick served as Chair of the annual Golf Outings and has taken on the role of mentor and historian for Trustees and staff for the past 16 years, 2001-present.

"As a CASA trustee, unless you have been an advocate, you do not see firsthand what CASA does to help the children we serve, that is to say children removed from their homes and placed in the system because of abuse or neglect.

What I see and have seen over the years is the dedication on behalf of those children, on the part of our volunteers and staff. These extraordinary people have made a difference in the lives of so many children, and it has been meaningful for me, as one trustee, to play a small part in supporting their efforts."—Dick Moore

LONGEST VOLUNTEER

John Ryan became a CASA volunteer advocate in 1997 and is still an active volunteer. He took a hiatus from volunteering from 2006-2010, when he was hired as a Case Supervisor and then promoted to Senior Case Supervisor. John has advocated for 10 children/youth through the CORE CASA program and 15 youth through the Youth Center Advocacy Program. He has given over 1,200 volunteer hours and driven 10,650 miles.

"In addition to a strong advocate, children in out-of-home placement and especially teenagers need someone they know genuinely cares, is reliable and consistent, and who is a positive role model too. As a CASA volunteer and Fostering Futures mentor, I strive to be an enthusiastic champion in general while sharing what I have learned from experience to be crucial for making good decisions, improving potential, and preparing for a successful and happy adulthood. It can be challenging work but is vital and most rewarding. For these reasons I keep coming back for more opportunities to make a difference in the life of a needy young man, and intend to continue for as long as I am able to." —John Ryan

FIRST BOARD PRESIDENT: MARILYN SEMER

In 1985 Marilyn Semer served as Co-chair of the CASA project for the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). Along with the assistance of many other women in the NCJW chapter, Marilyn spent two years learning the court system, meeting judges and court officials, applying for funding, and preparing to train the first group of volunteers from the community. Marilyn continues her involvement with CASA 32 years later as a member of our Advisory Council and Fundraising Committee.

"When the CASA program was but a proposed pilot project I thought to myself, "Why not give it a try? Wouldn't it be wonderful to make a difference in the life of a child in unfortunate circumstances. That motivated me to volunteer as co-chair of the pilot project. I stand by that decision. Thus 30 years later of CASA's active service to children I continue to give my time, energy, passion and financial support. It's a worthy legacy. I couldn't be prouder of the accomplishments of the staff and volunteers throughout the years."

—Marilyn Semer

You go into a courtroom and you will see lawyers who know the law and have dozens of kids' files, or you have social workers who know the regulations and have dozens of kids' files. But if a CASA volunteer is in the room, you will see they have just one file, and what they know is that one child. And that can make all the difference to a judge's decision regarding how the rest of that child's life is going to go.

- Anna Quindlen





CSS A POWERFUL VOICE IN A CHILD'S LIFE."

he National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)
initiates the CASA project
in Morris County.

Fran Raguso is hired as first Case Supervisor

Sandra Jacobsen retires and Barbara Ward, a CASA volunteer, is hired as Executive Director

CASA office moves • into Morris County courthouse

CASA of Morris expands services into Sussex County—opened office in Sussex Judiciary Center



First Candlelight Vigil: held for 5 consecutive years to honor National Child Abuse, Prevention and Awareness Month in April (2000-2004)

Barbara Ward retires and Richard Moore,

• Board President takes over as Interim Executive Director



Three Executive Directors Sandra Jacobsen Barbara Ward Lisa Barsky Firkser



30th Anniversary Celebration of CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties



CASA's 25th anniversary

Morris CASA • office moves to 18 Cattano Avenue

1987

1990

1991

1994

1995

1996

2000

2005

2008

2009

2010

2012

2014

First Gala Celebrating our 25th Anniversary

2017

First grant received from the Geraldine R Dodge Foundation - \$15,000

Marilyn Semer is appointed as the first Board President and Sandra Jacobsen is hired as the Executive Director.

The first volunteer training class is held and 9 new CASAs are Sworn In and assigned to 12 children.



Judge Theodore Bozonelis and Marilyn Semer sign the official paperwork to make CASA a corporation.



First Golf Outing is held and continued as an annual event from 1994-2009 as our organization's major fundraiser



First Lawyers for Kids 5K held. Thank you to Bill Krais, Esq. and the Morris County Bar Foundation for hosting this event for 10 consecutive years 2005-2014 and for donating a total of \$57,000 to our organization



Lisa Firkser, Ph.D. is hired as Executive Director



"Weaving Lives Together" Celebration of Volunteers, Board and Staff, sponsored by the Page Hill Foundation.