

Upcoming Training Classes & Volunteer Orientations

2007

TRAINING and ORIENTATION

ORIENTATION SESSIONS

ALL ORIENTATIONS ARE HELD AT
CASABALTIMORE
6:30 - 8PM

Thursday, March 15, 2007
Tuesday, April 10, 2007
Thursday, August 9, 2007

Thursday, May 31, 2007
Thursday, June 21, 007
Tuesday, September 11, 2007

TRAINING SCHEDULE 2007

March 2007

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
6-9PM Monday March 5, thru Monday March 26, 2007

SPRING 2007

April-May 2007

MONDAY AND TUESDAY EVINGS 6-9PM
Monday April 16 thru Tuesday May 15, 2007

June 2007

MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 6-9PM
Monday June 11 thru Wednesday June 28, 2007

The Starfish is a publication of CASA Baltimore a 501C3 non-profit organization registered with the State of Maryland. It is printed six times a year. Any comments or submissions should be sent to our editor: Linda Koban @ lindarosek@aol.com or 410-244-1465. We reserve the right to accept, reject or edit any submissions to our publication. CASA Baltimore PO Box 13004, Baltimore, MD 21203.



The Starfish

Newsletter for CASA Volunteer Advocates

January/February 2007

Volume 04 Edition 2

Starfish Award Winner-SALLY REED



Sally Reed has a unique perspective on family. Although her parents divorced when she was young, she grew up with a twin sister which gives her an unusually strong connection that continues to this day.

So when she talks about Orin, the 11-year-old boy she visits at Villa Maria, who has had no contact with his family since coming into care in 2003 and misses them very much, Sally is clear about one of her goals as a CASA. She wants to finally bring about a visit between Orin and his two older sisters and an older brother, who was recently adopted.

“I can’t imagine growing up like that with no sense of belonging, or being separated from your siblings,” said Sally.

When she first visited Orin, about a year ago, she didn’t know what to expect. On paper, he seemed to be a child who had been through a lot. Abused by his mother’s boyfriend and neglected due to his mother’s drug use, he had a history of hospitalization and diagnoses including: Mood Disorder, Anxiety Disorder, ADHD and aggressive behavior.

But the boy she met made her feel hopeful. “He was sweet and excited that I was there just to visit him.”

Sally, who’s 29 and single with a degree in sociology from the University of Maryland, manages to visit Orin on a regular basis even though she holds down two jobs – one as a full-time administrative assistant at an architecture firm, and the other working at a restaurant three nights a week.

Since her days growing up in Michigan before moving to Maryland she has had a commitment to volunteer work – primarily with children – at homeless shelters and doing outreach efforts in the community.

What initially attracted her to CASA was that it seemed like a unique opportunity to get to know a child. “It sounded like a perfect fit,” she said. “A volunteer at CASA is able to form a bond with one child.”

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Starfish Award Winner cont'd.

As she has spent time with Orin, she has witnessed a slow but very gradual transformation. Although he still struggles with violent episodes he has also improved in his behavior, earning the privilege of going off grounds at his placement.

Sally's advocacy is moving forward, too. She is supporting Orin's transition to a less restrictive placement, either to a therapeutic group home or a therapeutic foster home. She is working with the Unit Director at Villa Maria who has told her that it could be a very long process.

Sally plans to stay involved for as long as it takes. Orin wants her in his life, too. Recently, he lost a mentor and he told her he was afraid that Sally might be going as well.

"I tried to reassure him that I was not leaving and not to worry about that," she said.

"I think that just by being a person he can count on makes a difference," Sally said. "He hasn't been able to depend on many people throughout his life. I think he hopes that I will be able to help him along the way to a more stable life."

By Nora Frenkiel

Sadly, no one participated in the CASA volunteer recruitment contest advertised in the last Starfish newsletter. We really need your help. We can only serve more children if we have more volunteers and there are so many children who can use a CASA volunteer. Read about the contest and see if you can help us!! Thank you.

THE CASA VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT CONTEST!!

Every 5 names of prospective volunteers you provide can win you a prize!

- The volunteer that provides the most names of prospective volunteers by April 1st wins a **GRAND PRIZE!!**
- The names you provide do not necessarily need to be people who have made any promises to become a CASA volunteer but should be people you have spoken to about the work you do and have an interest in learning more about it.
- All you need to do is provide names and contact information and the rest is up to us.
- It's as easy as talking about the work you do as a CASA volunteer and completing the form!!

Send a list with the volunteer prospects including name, address, phone numbers, and email address to the CASA office and you will receive a surprise gift in the mail.

~Thank you for helping us to help
more abused and neglected children in Baltimore!

YOU'RE INVITED!

THE BEAT GOES ON!!!! MUSIC OF THE BABY BOOMERS

Jack Everly, the BSO SuperPops and special guest vocalists bring you all the music that raised America's most notorious generation!

***CASABaltimore
"Here's to Helping Children"
CONCERT AND
SILENT AUCTION
SUNDAY MARCH 18, 2007
3:00PM***



Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall
1212 Cathedral ST
Baltimore, MD 21201

***Ticket price \$125
Ticket price includes:
Concert, Silent Auction and Great
Food after the concert in the Meyerhoff
Lounge***

*Please contact us at 410-244-1465 and
send your check made payable to:
CASA Baltimore
PO Box 13004
Baltimore,
Maryland 21203*

***Proceeds from "Here's to Helping
Kids" will benefit CASABaltimore
to help abused and neglected children in Baltimore City.***

It takes all of us, everyday people, to stand up and commit to making a meaningful difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. It starts, very simply, with one volunteer at a time.

***Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate Volunteer!
Call us! 410-244-1465***

