

WHAT'S NEW-S?

Court Appointed Special Advocates Quarterly Newsletter

January-April 2020

**Thank you to all our
wonderful volunteers!!
You all are heroes!**



“As a CASA Volunteer I am the leap from where that child is and where that child wants to be.” —
Darryl, CASA
Volunteer

In This Issue

- Featured book of the quarter, “Another Place at the Table.”
- Article: Spike in Severe Child Abuse Cases Likely Result of COVID-19
- Article: Changes in Fostercare System due to COVID-19
- Article: Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect During Pandemic
- Article: Mental Health Benefits that Come with Volunteering

*For more information about CASA, A division of Family and Youth
contact faith@fyca.org or call 337-436-9533*



Check Out this new Book!

In an effort to give you access to continued education on topics relevant to the work you do day in and day out as a CASA volunteer, our staff will be adding a new book every quarter to our CASA library for all volunteers to check out as they wish.

This Quarter our book of choice is.....
"Another Place at the Table: A Story of Shattered Childhoods Redeemed by Love" by Kathy Harrison

*There is one copy available to be checked out.

Spike in Severe Child Abuse Cases Likely Result of COVID-19

Article by: Jeff Calaway from Cook Children's Health Care System

What it's about:

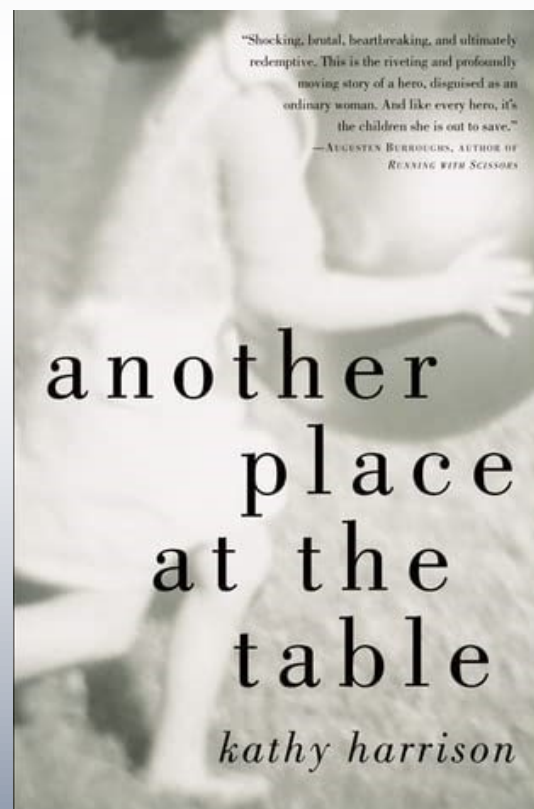
This article is about the spike in child abuse cases being seen due to the stress that the pandemic is causing. This article also speaks on how neighbors can report possible child abuse cases if they have concerns.

Link: <https://www.checkupnewsroom.com/spike-in-severe-child-abuse-cases-likely-result-of-covid-19/>

How is this relevant to CASA?

Many of the children we serve are victims of abuse and neglect. It is important for us, as advocates, to understand that this pandemic is stressful to some and it's important for us to continue connect with our CASA kids and families to minimize the effects that come with feeling isolated.

****Please don't forget to turn in your paragraph review for In-Service Training credit after you have read the article.***



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Coronavirus Leaves Foster Children With Nowhere to Go

Article by: Eli Hager from The Marshall Project

What it's about:

This article discusses the changes that are taking place in the foster care and justice system during the pandemic. Children in the foster care system already experience frequent moves from home to home, but adding the additional layer of this pandemic is another challenge kids are being faced with.

Link: <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/03/24/coronavirus-leaves-foster-children-with-nowhere-to-go>

How is this relevant to CASA?

As a CASA volunteer advocate it's important to stay current with the added challenges that our CASA kids are faced with so that we know how to best advocate. The changes that are taking place in the child welfare system is also important for advocates to stay up-to-date with. This article gives us information on the added challenges these kids are facing, changes that are happening in the system, and what we can expect.

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Preventing child abuse and neglect during pandemic

Article by: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

What it's about:

This article discusses ways to prevent child abuse and neglect and also talks about the mental health effects a child who has experienced abuse and neglect can have in the future.

Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/fastfact.html>

How is this relevant to CASA?

It is important for us, as CASA Volunteer advocates, to be informed of the long-term effects that abuse and neglect can have on a child's mental health. By being informed on this subject, CASA volunteer advocates can make more specific/fact-based recommendations for the best interest of the children we serve.

**Please don't forget to turn in your paragraph review for In-Service Training credit after you have read the article.*

Why Volunteer? Benefits of Volunteering You Might Not Have Considered

Article by Shelley Callahan

What it's about:

This article discusses the positive mental health benefits that come from volunteering.

Link: <https://growensemble.com/why-volunteer/>

How is this relevant to CASA?

As CASA volunteers it is important to know the benefits that can come from being a volunteer and what that does to your mental health. You all are heroes to our CASA kids, families, and our community. At times, being a CASA volunteer advocate can be stressful and difficult, but your work with these kids are not just beneficial to them, but you as well.

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The Single Most Common Factor for children who develop resilience is at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult



Virtual Activities

- Read a Book Together
- Write and Illustrate a Book Together
- Write Poems about the Same Topic and Share

We Will Continue to Serve

DON'T GIVE UP!!



- Play Charades
- Play Go Fish.

- Make up a scavenger hunt they can do in the house
- Play I Spy
- Play a board game and they can move the game piece for you

- Learn a Magic Trick Together
- Help with School Packets
- Play Simon Says



KEEP IN TOUCH!

- Ask them to teach you a TikTok dance
- Play 20 Questions

Show Them CASA is Always There...No Matter What!

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