

Sixth Annual Luncheon of Champions

You are cordially invited to attend

***The Sixth Annual
CASA Baltimore Luncheon of Champions***

*Awarding
Joan Little, Esq.
CASA Baltimore 2006 Child Advocate of the Year
and recognizing
our extraordinary volunteers*

**Thursday, May 11, 2006
11:30am-1:00pm**

*Hyatt Regency Baltimore
On the Inner Harbor
Constellation Ballroom
300 Light Street*

Parking \$8 on site

*\$50 per person
RSVP requested by April 28, 2006
410-244-1465*

All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law IRS code 501c3. \$25 represents the fair market value of the food and entertainment for the event. \$25 is tax deductible.



Volunteer (Starfish) of the Month Award Winner

Debbie Bertram named Volunteer of the Month for March/April 2006. Debbie has been a CASA volunteer for four years. During that time, she has been assigned two cases—

each time advocating for a young man. She has a young man of her own— her 19 year old son. While she considers herself opinionated, one of her references said it best when they told CASA, *“Debbie has a heart of gold, a head for justice, and a will to do what is right.”* CASA is fortunate to have Debbie on their team.

(read the rest of the story on our web site)

HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING FOR CASA!

Special Thanks to our new CASA Volunteer, Marilyn Moses, who coordinated and staffed a gift wrapping table at Barnes & Noble at the Inner Harbor in December. Tips went to CASA of Baltimore and Maryland CASA Association. Marilyn is a member of the Board of Directors of Maryland CASA Association.

Mark Your Calendars for the Next
CASA Training
June 12, 2006

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CASA BALTIMORE!

CASA of Baltimore is grateful to the many people who provided recent support to our organization.

*Allegis Group
 Baltimore Community Foundation
 Judy Brigham-Whole Systems
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 Daniel B. Hirschhorn, CEO, Atapco-American Trading
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 Mary Lloyd-MHA
 Jennifer Abell
 Malika Adams
 Mary Antkoviak
 Mary Antonakos
 Angelita Baldwin-Johnson
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 Patricia K. Batza
 Caroline M. Black
 Mary Louise Bowman
 Leslie Brown
 Richard and Susan Burger
 Louis and Shirley Burger
 Linda Carter
 Master James Casey
 Ann McSherry Chafey
 Jack Chilcoat
 Kim Cincotta
 Vicki Clark
 Betty D. Cohen
 Natalie Coibion
 Tom Coons
 Emily M. Craig
 Margaret Crook
 Jeanine L. Dilly
 Marcy A. Feeney
 Merle G. Fishman
 Mary Forrest
 Beth Francazi
 Joyce France
 Allan D. Friedman
 Cathy Garitty
 Ethel & Isaac Gheiler
 Susan Giles
 Wendy D. Ginsberg
 Nadine Gladney
 Lois Glassman
 Myrna Goldberg
 Leslie Goldsmith
 Jim and Ann Clary Gordon
 Eunice Gray
 Elizabeth Green
 Corbin Grinage*

*Sandy Gutman
 Greg Hatfield
 Carel Hedlund
 Patricia Hill
 Carla Hubbard
 Tom Hyatt
 Pearl A. Kirby
 Patie Kneisly-White
 Linda Koban
 Neil Kotras
 Harriet Kramer
 Debra Kuntz
 Raisa Kutznetsova
 Richard Lamb
 John Lessner
 Kyriakos Marudas
 Tomm Marvrellos
 Jim McComb
 Jeffrey McCormack
 George W. McManus
 Sam Miccinnili
 Lydia Milligan
 Chris Morse
 Marilyn Moses
 Mark Parr
 Christine M. Pearson
 Gerald Popko
 Ronda Radke
 Wendy Randall
 Isabel C. Rappaport
 Jim Rock
 Kelly Sheehan
 Ray Shepard
 Annette and Lawrence
 Smith
 Scott Soffen
 Rikki Solomon
 Barbara F. & Richard
 Steinke
 Maureen Steward*

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NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS!



New CASA volunteers with Judge Hargadon

CASA Baltimore welcomes the following new CASA volunteers:

Valencia Carter
 Naomi Goldberger
 Keya Johnson
 Patricia Jones
 Richard Karel
 Chrisi Look
 Marilyn Moses
 Emma Jane Rose
 Jules Weiss
 Betty Gillis Williams

The volunteers were sworn-in by Judge Edward Hargadon on February 28th. A reception at the Hollywood Diner followed the ceremony.

Another volunteer training class is now underway and another planned for June. Now's the time to tell people you know about CASA! Anyone interested in learning more about becoming a CASA volunteer can arrange to attend an orientation session. Orientation is held once a month at the CASA offices. Upcoming sessions are scheduled for:

May 16th, and June 6th



CASAs receive their court appointments

This newsletter is published four times a year by CASA Baltimore. CASA Baltimore is a 501-3 C non profit organization advocating for foster children in Baltimore City. All contributions are tax deductible. If you'd like to know more about how you can get involved, please contact us by calling 410-244-1465 or visiting our website: www.casabalt.org. No portion of this newsletter can be used or reproduced without consent.

A CASA CHILD IS ADOPTED!



Stormy (in front) with her new family

Stormy, a fitting name for a young girl who, for several years, was involved in the child welfare system. Stormy came into the foster care system in 2003 at the age of seven, as a result of being left by her mother with her maternal grandmother with no long-term provisions for her care. Her mother had a history of abusing alcohol and illicit drugs. At the time Stormy entered the system, her mother was hospitalized with a terminal illness and was in a comatose state. She has since died. Stormy's father was unwilling and unable to care for her and throughout her involvement in the system, never appeared in court.

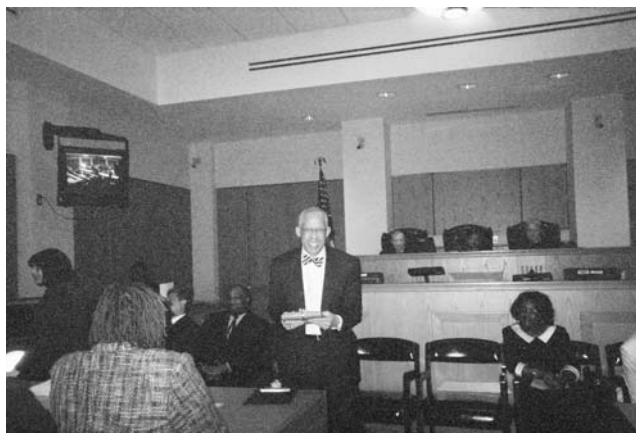
The grandmother's home where Stormy was left, was "deplorable". It had no running water and was rodent infested. In the care of her grandmother, Stormy was hungry, dirty and poorly clothed. She was placed in the care of a non-relative—a neighbor of Stormy's father. Two months later the neighbor brought Stormy to the Baltimore City Department of Social Services for placement, due to her "negative" behavior. She was then placed with a paternal aunt who, due to her husband's poor health, only kept Stormy for one month. Stormy was then placed in the care of her paternal cousin who asked that she be removed shortly thereafter due to her "negative" behavior. Stormy was then placed in a foster home and then a pre-adoptive foster home.

A CASA was requested on this case and visited Stormy and her foster family, assessing her adjustment to the pre-adoptive home and recommending a permanency plan of adoption to the court. She is in the 2nd grade and an honor roll student who has received an award for perfect attendance. Stormy identified her pre-adoptive foster parents as "mom" and "dad" and at all CASA visits appeared to be very well adjusted and very happy. Stormy's father's parental rights were terminated in October, 2005.

On March 15, 2006, Stormy was adopted by the foster parents, Sharon and Mark who live in the White Marsh area. Barbara Darley, Esq., CASA Supervisor, attended the ceremony and was invited to lunch with the family. Stormy's new parents gave permission for Barbara to take pictures on this exciting day and to share them here. We, at CASA, wish that all our cases could have this kind of happy ending and permanency for children. Not all do. But when they do, we can all celebrate and feel good about having played a role in making a difference in a child's life!

FAREWELL TO JUDGE MARTIN WELCH

CASA bids farewell to Administrative Judge for Juvenile Causes, Judge Martin Welch



Farewell to Judge Welch

On March 2nd at a lovely farewell ceremony for Judge Martin Welch, many friends and colleagues gathered in the courtroom in the Juvenile Justice Center, where for years, the judge has presided.

Because of his dedication and hard work, during his more than twelve year tenure, the Juvenile Justice Center became a reality and opened its doors in 2004.

Judge Welch has always been a great friend to CASA of Baltimore, Inc. His support has been very important to the organization's growth and development. Susan Burger, Executive Director, was honored to be asked to say a few words to Judge Welch at the ceremony and presented him with a gift. Judge Welch continues in the judiciary in the (adult) Circuit Court.

Judge Edward Hargadon has taken over Judge Welch's position as Administrative Judge for Juvenile Causes and CASA Baltimore welcomes his energy and dedication. Judge Hargadon quickly began a relationship with CASA with a meeting to discuss the program and by opening up his courtroom to a swearing-in ceremony on February 28th. We, at CASA Baltimore, look forward to a long and productive relationship with the new appointee.



Judge Hargadon Welcomes New CASAs

(Continued from page 2)

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CASA BALTIMORE!

CASA of Baltimore is grateful to the many people who provided recent support to our organization.

*Maureen Steward
Roberta Strickler and David Meyers
Bobbi Strum
David Thimsen
Joanna Thomas
Freedra E. Thompson
Jenna Wade
Jennifer Warner
Reggie Wilson
Joyce L. Wright*

The Board of Directors of CASA of Baltimore is a wonderful group of dedicated, hard working people who have volunteered many hours to ensure that the organization grows responsibly. The current board members are:

Theresa Barrett
Diane Baum
Leslie Brown
Neil E. Kotras
John Lessner
Padraic McSherry Morton
Rev. Tiji T. Murphy
Mark Parr
Marvis Patterson
Mike Posko
James Rock
Scott Scoffen
Scott Thomas

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