

**HERE'S TO HELPING CHILDREN WINE-TASTING AND SILENT AUCTION A HUGE SUCCESS!**



Shopping at the silent auction

CASA Baltimore held its fourth annual exciting and successful fundraising event, the Here's to Helping Children, Wine-tasting and Silent Auction. This year's event was the biggest and the best so far!

Here's to Helping Children 2005, was

held on October 19<sup>th</sup> at The Wine Market, owned by Chris Spann and Chef Jeff Heineman. A beautiful wine shop, wine bar and café in Federal Hill, the spacious and bright location allowed us a bit more breathing room and guests!! As a café serving "new-American" cuisine, guests were treated to a sampling of some of the best Chef Heineman offers and the wines selected for tasting were exciting and delicious. The silent auction offered tickets to museums, cultural and sporting events, and had an exciting display of interesting artwork and more! This year CASA Baltimore's profits were twice as much as last year and we have so many people to thank for our overwhelming success.

**SPECIAL THANKS...**

The Wine-tasting and Auction Committee Chairperson, Paddy Morton and Committee members Scott

Thomas, Esq., Rev. Tiji Murphy, Mark Parr and Mary Medland.

Tim Ertel and the wonderful staff of Courthouse Copy Services, Inc.

CASA of Baltimore would like to thank everyone who bought tickets to the event and participated in the silent auction and/or made donations to CASA.



Staff pose for picture

**Special Thanks to all our Sponsorships:**

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**Volunteer Training Scheduled for January**

Volunteer orientation is scheduled for January 9, 2006. Training will follow, starting January 24 and ending February 14, 2006. CASA volunteers must complete 30 hours of pre-service training which takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9pm and includes one Saturday as well. The Saturday in question is January 28, 2006 from 10am—3pm.

If you or anyone you know, would like to consider being a CASA volunteer, we encourage you to attend the orientation. Please call to register. 410-244-1465.



## A Message from Our Executive Director: Susan Burger, LCSW

**8000 Baltimore City children are not safe living with their own families. We can't control where these children come from but we can have some thing to do with where they end up!**

As you know, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), is an organization that plays an extremely important role in helping Baltimore City's children.

We are encouraged by the successes our CASA volunteers initiate every day. "Cory" is a 7 year-old boy whose teenaged mother relinquished her parental rights after abusing and neglecting him as a baby. He spent three years in a foster home and was further neglected. Now he resides in a treatment facility medicated to the point that his CASA volunteer can hardly hold a conversation with him. At this CASA's insistence, the Court recently ordered that this child be present in Court to speak to the Master. This Court was able to independently access the child and subsequently ordered an independent evaluation. The volunteer is advocating that there be no more institutionalization, that he be placed with a family who is a potential adoptive resource.

This is why CASA is so important. Because the CASA volunteer is a trusted, caring adult who provides constant attention to the child and his needs. CASA trained community volunteers provide high-quality advocacy. The volunteer makes sure that the child's educational, medical, mental health and family needs are being addressed and that the child is valued and cared for, giving hope for a positive future.

CASA Baltimore has helped make a difference for hundreds of children. Unfortunately, there are still far too many abused and neglected children doing without this important and effective advocacy. CASA Baltimore needs more volunteers to serve more children.

We realize that not everyone has the time to be a CASA volunteer but we can still use your help. Your donation can make a difference. Please join us and make an investment in the lives of children in our community. Help us to grow the organization and serve more children in 2006!!

Happy holidays and a wonderful new year to you and yours!  
Susan F. Burger, Executive Director

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](http://www.casabalt.org). No portion of this newsletter can be used or reproduced without consent.

## NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS!

This Fall a bright and diverse group of trainees completed CASA Volunteer pre-service training. They were sworn-in by Judge Martin Welch on the afternoon of December 7<sup>th</sup>. Judge Edward Hargadon who will be replacing Judge Welch as the Administrative Judge for Juvenile Causes in 2006, was also present at the ceremony.



Swearing In of New Volunteers

The volunteers and their guests proceeded on to the annual holiday party to celebrate their accomplishments and the holiday season with CASA staff, board members and volunteers.

### CASA Baltimore welcomes the following new CASAs:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Brenda Acree      | Veronica Mims    |
| Geraldine Crosby  | Gabriele Moravec |
| Monzella Dorsey   | Clarinda Risher  |
| Lakeisha Grant    | Natalie Thompson |
| Heather Green     | Jessica Wible    |
| Kimberly McKnight |                  |



CASAs Receive their court appointments. More pictures on our website



## ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Bo Brooks Crabhouse/Restaurant was the lovely site of CASA Baltimore's annual holiday celebration this year. Sixty-five volunteers, board members and staff, along with other invited

guests, gathered together to eat, drink and be merry! Everyone enjoyed a wonderful motivational speaker, Ty Howard, who was himself a foster child. CASA volunteers picked up holiday gifts in plenty of time to deliver them to their CASA children. A good time was had by all.

We are extremely grateful for the donations of gifts and gift certificates made by:

- \* The employees of Corbin's Hair Salon
- \* The employees of the Maryland Hospital Association
- \* The employees of Landmark Parking
- \* Mark Parr and the employees of Courthouse Copy Services, Inc.
- \* John Lessner, Esq. and Colleagues at Ober/Kaler
- \* The Law Offices of Kramon & Graham
- \* Leslie and Chris Brown
- \* The Morton Family
- \* Cindy Griner
- \* Linda Koban
- \* Susan Burger
- \* Neil Kotras, CPA
- \* Rev. Tiji Murphy & Discipleship of New Psalmist Baptist Church

**Special thanks** to Rev. Tiji Murphy and John Baum for the wonderful desserts.



Volunteers, Staff and Board Members enjoying the festivities

*Additional pictures posted at our website.*

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### Individuals, organizations and/or businesses that generously made donations to the silent auction:

About Faces Day Spa and Salon	John Lessner and David Bergman
Ann Chafey	MacKenzie Ltd. Gourmet Food
Baltimore Choral Arts Society	Mark Parr
Baltimore Museum of Art	Mary Carole Curran
Bonnie McCausey-UPN24	Mary de Marco
Cary Black	Maryland Science Center
Ceriello Fine Foods	Mitre Bos
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Chris Spann	MPK Productions
City Café	Neil Kotras
Delano McRaven	Pazo Restaurant
Gertrude's	Phillips Foods
Greystone Golf Course	Rusty Scupper
Ivy Bookshop	Scott Thomas, Esq,
Jeanine Dilly	The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
Jim Burger	The Senator Theatre
Joy America Café	The Visionary Arts Museum
Karen Moody	WISP Resort

### Volunteer (Starfish) of the Month Award Winner



CASA Volunteer, Velma Williams was named Starfish of the month. Velma has been a CASA for more than a year. She has gone above and beyond to advocate for

her CASA Child.

We salute her dedication and efforts and send our heartfelt thanks for all of her hard work.

You can read the rest of the story at our website

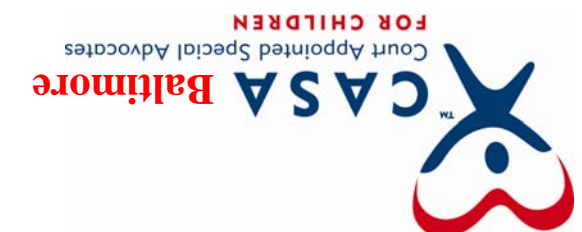
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The Board of Directors of CASA of Baltimore is a wonderful group of dedicated, hard working people who have volunteered many hours to ensure that the organization grows responsibly. The current board members are:

Theresa Barrett  
Diane Baum  
Leslie Brown  
Neil E. Kotras  
John Lessner  
Padraic McSherry Morton  
Rev. Tiji T. Murphy  
Mark Parr  
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