

Towaliga CASA



Towaliga Accountability Courts, Inc.
130 Library Street, Barnesville, Georgia, 30204
770-358-5629

Judge Sharon Sullivan, Juvenile Court



February 5– Towaliga CASA Received Lamar Give 365 Grant

Towaliga CASA was awarded a \$2,360 grant through Lamar Gives 365, a project of the Barnesville-Lamar Community Foundation. The support of this donation will be used for the recruitment of additional volunteers, training materials, and supplies.

Jan. 1 – Jun. 30, 2015

Volume 1, Issue 1

**CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH**



**April is Child Abuse
Awareness Month**

APRIL FACT:

In fiscal year 2014, 9,028 children were served by 2,224 CASA volunteers in Georgia. Over 7,780 of those children were in the custody of the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS).

February 3- CASA Day at the Capital!





April 1– A New Group of Volunteers Were Sworn In

Towaliga CASA’s Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Ann Leverett, starting facilitating her first trainings in September 2014 and she has been doing a great job! She recently finished training her second group of volunteers. This group is this largest group of volunteers we have had in one training since our program started in the beginning of 2014. Welcome to our team everyone!! :-)



New CASAs join team

Fifteen local citizens with “sincere care for the well-being of children” are now part of a team which advocates for abused or neglected children involved in juvenile court dependency proceedings. Juvenile Judge Sharon Sullivan last week swore in the five new members (from left) Ruth Ann Manley, Paulette Ivey, Jordan Moore, Jessica Merritt and James McLarty. “Court Appointed Special Advocates” train for 40 hours, must be 21 years old, pass criminal background checks and have good written and verbal communication skills. Anyone interested in becoming a child advocate in Lamar County should call Towaliga Accountability Court at 770-358-5029. The TAC is the host organization for CASA, which is directed by Mary Ann Leverett. The next training is tentatively set for May.

April 10– Patricia Gavel Appointed Executive Director of Towaliga Accountability Courts, Inc.

On April 10, 2015 Patricia Gavel was appointed as Executive Director, by the Advisory Board, of Towaliga Accountability Courts, Inc. and Towaliga CASA.



Congratulations

“Nothing you do for a child is ever wasted.”

-Garrison Keillor





April 28-30- 2015 Spring Council of Programs Meeting

Patricia Gavel, our Executive Director, attended the Spring Council of Programs Meetings this week, along with Executive Directors from other CASA programs across Georgia. Everyone wore blue to show CASA support for the “Go Blue” campaign for Child Abuse Awareness Month. Among the topics discussed in the meeting were: Grant Writing & Board Engagement Stress, Services for Children and Families, Older Youth Support Network, Risks and Protections for Children and Volunteers.

GO BLUE!!





April 29 – Towaliga CASA Officially Has a Facebook

We are currently looking for volunteers, donors, fundraising opportunities, and trainings. We are starting new efforts in order to send out awareness about our program and recruit more needed volunteers. We are posting ads in newspapers in the circuit, passing out brochures, posting flyers, and Mary Ann is doing what she does best and giving presentations on our program. And now we have a Facebook page!!

Visit, Like, and Share: <https://www.facebook.com/towaligacasa>



“Become a CASA volunteer today and give a child a voice– help change their life of hurt into one of hope.”

-Anthony Hamilton

GRAMMY Award-winning artist

A Very Special Thank You to the Towaliga CASA Volunteers

You are all awesome and we thank you for the differences you are making.



Thank you to our CASA volunteers and others in the child welfare system who work every day to help prevent the cycle of child abuse!





May 6- Recruiting at Rock Springs Baptist Church

Our Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Ann Leverett, presented a short presentation about our program at Rock Springs Baptist Church in hopes to recruit some much needed volunteers.



ROCK
SPRINGS
C H U R C H

May 27- In The Best Interests of The Child Training

Towaliga CASA staff and volunteers attended a training presented by Georgia CASA concerning what the “best interests of the child” really means. Advo-kids CASA was the host of this event. Dickey’s BBQ was catered. This training goes toward each volunteer’s required 12 hours of in-service training per year.

Presented By:

Angela Tyner

Director of Advocacy & Program Development
Georgia CASA

When:

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

4:00PM - 7:00PM

Where:

University of Georgia - Griffin Campus

1109 Experiment Street

Griffin, GA 30223

Flynt Building - Room 305

Catered by:

DICKEYS

BARBECUE PIT

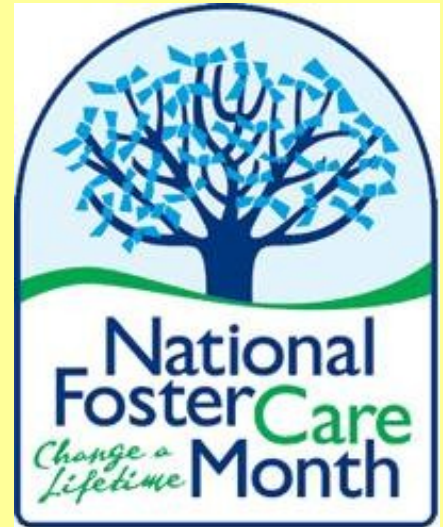




May is National Foster Care Month

Interested in becoming a foster parent? Call 1-877-210-KIDS

or visit <http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/general-information>.



June 19th– Training by Amerigroup

Training presented by Amerigroup concerning resources for healthcare services.

on Friday June 19th @ 1:30 p.m.
141 West Soloman Street, 2nd Floor; Griffin, Georgia



June 23-25– Volunteer Supervisor Training

2015 Volunteer Supervisor Training presented by Georgia CASA.

23 – 25th in Macon at the Wingate by Wyndham.

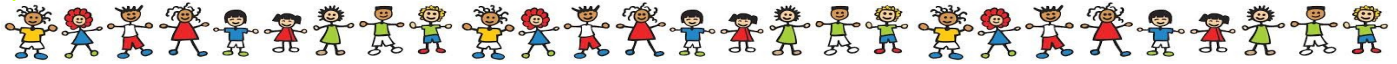
The training’s two main focus areas are case management for volunteer supervisors and volunteer management practice and strategies.

The training is designed to increase volunteer retention and support quality volunteer advocacy.



“Be the change you want to see in the world.”
Mahatma Gandhi





Former Foster Child Becomes CASA Volunteer

Sheree Bain, a former foster child, was recently sworn in as the youngest CASA volunteer for Murray/Whitfield CASA, located in Dalton, GA!

Sheree entered foster care in Georgia when she was very young and was adopted as a small child. Once she became a teenager, her adoptive parents surrendered their parental rights and she returned to foster care. Sheree recruited her own adoptive family and was adopted again as a teenager. She remains very connected today to her adoptive family.

Sheree called her former DFCS (Department of Family & Children Services) case manager, Lamar Wadsworth, a few months back and told him that she wanted to find some way to give back and help children in foster care. He suggested that she look into becoming a CASA volunteer - and as they say, the rest is history!

Chelsea Moser of Murray/Whitfield CASA commented that the program is "delighted to be the beneficiaries of the eagerness with which [Sheree] has approached giving back to foster children. Sheree brings a unique perspective to our program and a deep empathy to the children we serve. Her inspiring success as well as her tremendous energy and heart for serving foster children have already been a source of motivation for the rest of us. We are grateful and excited to have her on board, and to learn more from her!"

In addition to being committed to helping foster children, Sheree is a devoted wife to Kory, a deputy sheriff in Whitfield County, and their two young boys.

Sheree is a very inspiring example of someone who has overcome a difficult childhood and is now giving back to help others in her community!



Chelsea Moser (Murray/Whitfield CASA), The Honorable Connie Blaylock, Sheree Bain & Lamar



Towaliga CASA is Awarded with Grant for FY16

Towaliga CASA has been awarded a grant for fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015– June 30, 2016). This sub-grant is covered under a State of Georgia Department of Human Services grant and awarded to Georgia CASA by the Georgia State Legislature.

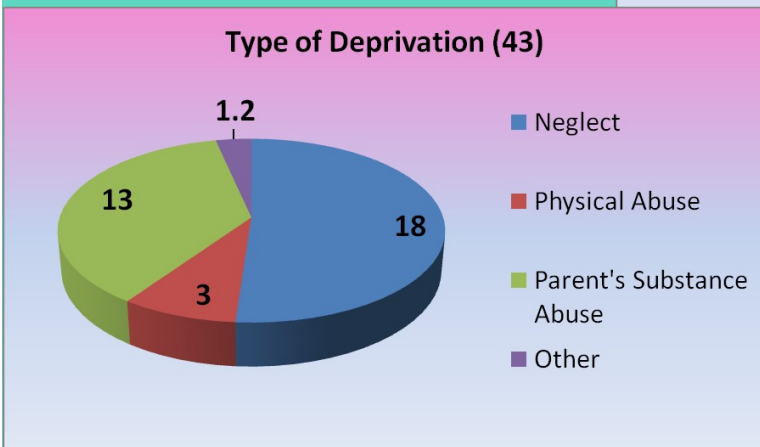
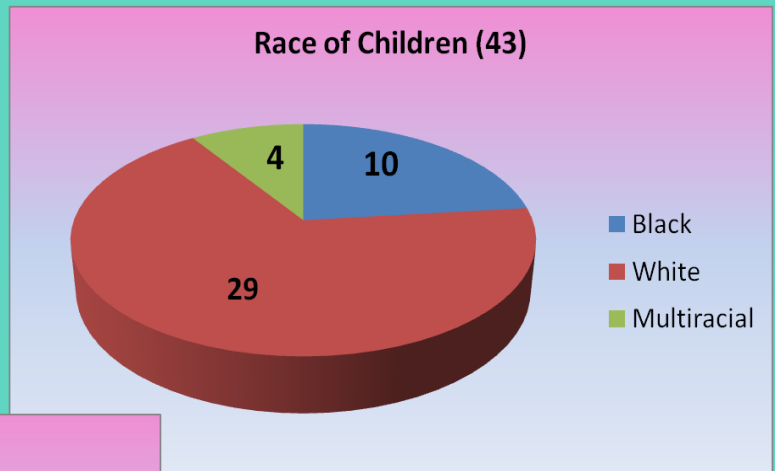
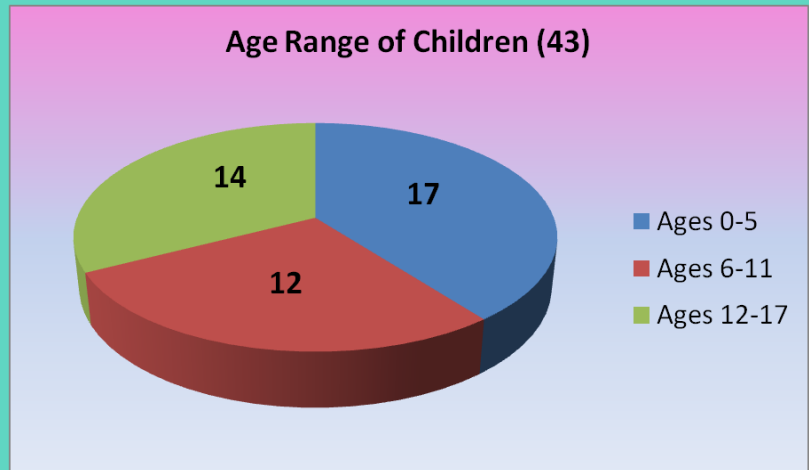
Current Statistics for Our Program

Number of Volunteers: 12
Active Volunteers: 12
Volunteers in Training: 0
Ages: 60+: 8 50-59: 2 40-49: 0
30-39: 0 21-29: 2

Total Children: 43
Ages 0-5: 17
Ages 6-11: 12
Ages 12-17: 14

Females: 21
Males: 22

Type of Deprivation:
Black: 10 Dom. Vio: 0
White: 29 Neglect: 18
Multiracial: 4 Sub. Abuse: 13
Phys Ab: 3
Other: 9



77 CHILDREN SERVED IN FY15 FOR BUTTS AND LAMAR COUNTIES

