



# CASA Matters at Hand

Annual Report 2007-2008

## Volunteer Spotlight



Martha Holmes, recognized as CASA's 2007 Volunteer of the Year, wrote this article describing her CASA experience so far.

When I retired I wanted to find something to do that would be a new challenge. I wanted to be able to contribute in an arena that was unfamiliar, but somewhere that I thought I could use my background as a school counselor. I wanted to find a non-denominational, non-profit with an orientation toward assisting youth.

When I discovered CASA I was excited about being able to work with children and their families, much as I had in my job, but in a totally new setting. The courts intimidated me, and legalese was just not my language. However, I was very interested in learning about the court's role in the safety of children who may be in abuse and/or neglect situations. I wanted to find out what it took for children and families to land in such serious straights, and even more, I wanted to know how the courts were going to help.

I have learned that keeping track of what is going on with each case and figuring out who everyone is and what their role is has been an important part of assisting the child. Helping the different players

keep focused on your child/children and keeping the lines of communication open isn't always easy. I have a healthy respect for the county caseworker and the attorneys, and sometimes I feel like a nag. Yet, sometimes I don't think that I do enough, or ask the right question of the right person. Being organized helps. Being retired helps (I think any CASA who is working a full-time job must be very organized.) Being ready for something new, but knowing your limits and what is safe, can lead to some rewarding situations...an unexpected hug, or a "thank you" for something totally unexpected.

I think that I was less effective with my first two cases than I am with my present three. Maybe it's because they were my first. Not surprisingly, I think that I have grown with the experiences. And I am learning something new with each contact. Volunteering as a CASA has reinforced for me how unthinking, ineffective, and hurtful people can be, but also how good people are, how well intentioned they can be, how loving parents are, and how loyal and accepting children can be.

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of Directors

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CASA of Rochester/  
Monroe County, Inc.  
is a tax-exempt  
nonprofit organization  
recognized under section  
501(c)(3) of the Internal  
Revenue Code.  
To contact our office,  
please call  
(585) 428-5297 or  
send a message to  
casarny@aol.com.



# CASA's Year in Review

In honor of **National Volunteer Month** last April, CASA hosted a movie night and dinner for its volunteers. The movie *The Pursuit of Happyness* was shown.

**Prospective volunteer training classes** were held in May of 2007, October of 2007, and March of 2008.

June 2007 events included the **9th Annual CASA Golf Tournament**, which raised \$47K. Time Warner Cable again hosted the tournament. The annual **CASA Volunteer Recognition Dinner** was held at Finn Park in Webster. Martha Holmes was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year.

New computer systems were set up and networked in the CASA office in July. CASA is grateful to **Monroe County Family Court** for providing a portion of the equipment and to the **August Family Foundation** for funding the remaining needed equipment, software, and services. CASA is thankful that Monroe County Family Court has continued to provide its office space at the Hall of Justice.

In November, **Stay-at-Home Holiday Party** invitations were sent to CASA's Board members and volunteers. This first-time fundraiser generated \$1,015.

The November in-service meeting for volunteers was held at the meeting house of the **American Association of University Women (AAUW)**. Retired Family Court Judge Michael Miller was the guest speaker at this catered luncheon. He spoke with thanksgiving and appreciation for the hard work of our dedicated volunteers.

During the winter, the **Irondequoit Quilt Club** donated 15 beautiful handmade quilts for CASA's children.

In March of 2008, **Scribner Road Elementary School** in Penfield donated 19 boxes of new and gently used books leftover from their Book Share Day. CASA distributed books to the children with whom it works and gave books to other social service agencies affiliated with Family Court.

(All statistics are based on fiscal year 4/1/07 to 3/31/08)

**363** children

CASA served 363 children.

**93** children from newly assigned cases

CASA was assigned to 93 "new" children.

**110** children on closed cases

CASA closed cases for 110 children:

33 children in stable placements

27 children returned home

22 children whose cases were

removed from the docket

11 children whose cases no longer needed CASA's services

9 children adopted

6 children aged out of the system

2 children whose families moved out of the county

**59** volunteers

59 volunteers advocated for children.

**10** new volunteers

10 new CASA volunteers were sworn in.

**5,730** hours

CASA volunteers contributed 5,730 hours to casework.

**36** months

Volunteers remain with the CASA program for an average of 36 months.

## Our Mission

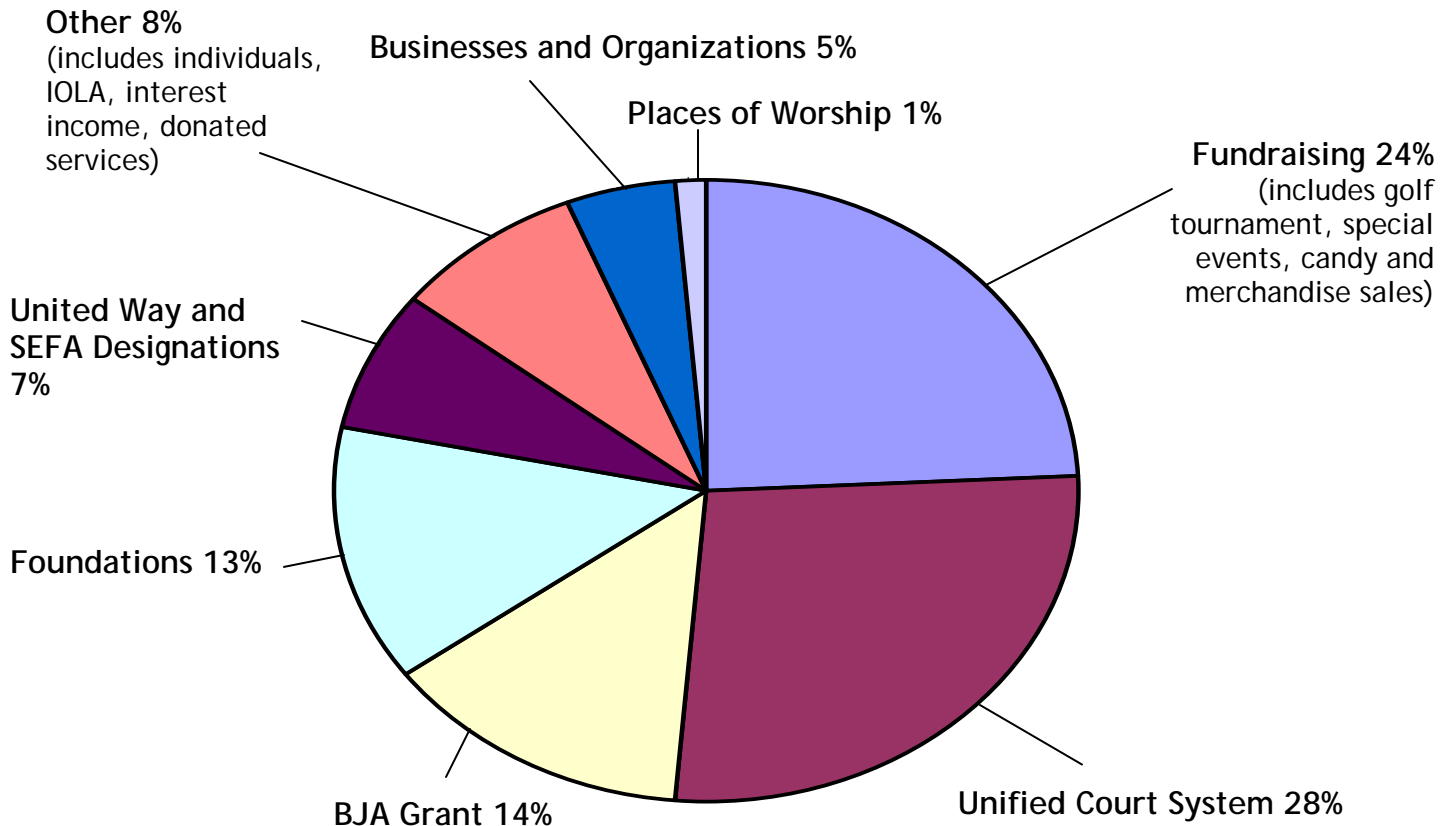
CASA of Rochester/Monroe County, Inc. is a private, nonprofit organization that trains and supervises a diverse group of volunteers to advocate for children who have been abused and/or neglected. These children are at risk of being removed, or have been removed, from their homes. CASA's goal is that all children have a safe, permanent home as soon as possible.

# Financial Overview

	2006 - 2007 (4/1/06 to 3/31/07)	2007 - 2008 (4/1/07 to 3/31/08)
Total Income	\$195,698	\$185,911
Total Expenses	\$222,394	\$187,962
Net Income	(\$26,696)*	(\$2,051)*
Total Assets	\$134,253	\$135,147
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$134,253	\$135,147

\*This shortage was due to the delay in receipt of contracted grant money.

## 2007 – 2008 Funding Sources



# Many Thanks to All of CASA's Supporters

Many people support CASA in various ways. The CASA staff would like to thank all those who either directly or indirectly support our advocacy for abused and neglected children throughout the year.

We would first like to thank our **dedicated volunteers** who contribute their time and energy to advocate for the best interest of the children in our community. Without our volunteers, we would not be able to serve as many children as we do.

Many thanks also go to the **foundations, places of worship, businesses, organizations, United Way/SEFA contributors, and individual donors** who financially help support our mission. Without their aid, we would not be able to maintain an office, continue recruiting and training volunteers, or support and supervise our current volunteer base. We thank the following: **African-American Focus Group at EDS on the Xerox Account, Alstom Signaling Foundation, C.J. & B.S. August Family Foundation, Christ Episcopal Church of Pittsford, Eastman Kodak Company, First Unitarian Church, Goldberg Berbeco Foundation, Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity, Jack G. Lubelle Foundation, M&T Charitable Foundation, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Penfield Presbyterian Church, The Polisseni Foundation, Rochester Guild for Special Children, Spindler Family Foundation, St. Louis Church, Summerville Presbyterian Church, Van der Stricht Family Fund, Women's Club of Pittsford, Women's Club of Rochester, and York Children's Foundation.**

We extend our thanks to **those individuals and organizations who donate household items, books, clothing, and toys throughout the year.** These donations make daily living easier for our families who are overcoming difficulties.

Thank you to those who donate holiday gifts and food which make the holidays brighter for many: **Dr. Keith Alexander's Office, Christ Clarion Community Preschool, Christ Episcopal Church of Pittsford, Church of the Transfiguration, Colebrook Elementary School PTSA, Linda and Bill Delaney, First American Real Estate Tax Service, First Niagara Risk Management, Rosemarie Florio, Gene-**

**see Country Antique Dealers Association, Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, H. C. Johnson Agencies, Connie Jayne, Jean Latone, Carol Peath, Sandy Pinkerton, Sherry Smith, Summerville Presbyterian Church, The Summit Federal Credit Union, and Van Zile Travel Service.**

In April of 2007, **Lynn Mazzeo at Breathe**, a spa in Pittsford, gave massages and asked her customers to make donations to CASA. This fundraiser generated \$950 for CASA. We thank her for her fundraising efforts.

Our list of 2007 golf tournament supporters is quite large. Our thanks go to all of our major sponsors: **Time Warner Cable, Trident Precision Manufacturing, Global Communications Solutions, The Law Offices of Richard A. Kroll, Commercial Kitchens, Clover Capital Management, Premier HR Solutions Group, Jan and Bob Silver, and Reeds Jewelers.** Thank you to all the golfers, hole sponsors, tee sponsors, monetary donors, golf committee members, and vendors. Thanks to all those who contributed **auction items, prizes, and goodie bag items.** Special thanks go to **Karen and Harry Edick**, Honorary Tournament Co-Chairs, and to **Linda Delaney and Pat Slimmer**, Tournament Co-Chairs. **Jennifer Johnson** performed the Master of Ceremonies duties. Our tournament is only a success every year because we have so many people working together toward a common goal: giving a child a mulligan (second chance).

Last but not least, we must thank the **members and officers of our Board of Directors** who work diligently in various committees to support CASA's efforts. Thank you, one and all!

We apologize if any names have been accidentally omitted.

For more information about CASA,  
please visit our website  
at [www.casarochester.org](http://www.casarochester.org)  
or call our office at (585) 428-5297.