

# SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CASA/GAL PROGRAM, INC



## ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ended October 31, 2006

### 2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

Ann Schilling

2006 was our program's third year of accepting abuse and neglect cases within the Sixth Judicial District. Our volunteer pool has grown this year to 30 individuals with three of these new volunteers coming from Sweet Grass County!

Our program's volunteers have been assigned to a total of 42 children. The program continues to be very proud to have been able to meet 100% of all the cases within our district.

Procedurally we focused on a marketing plan with public awareness and education of the CASA program as our top priority. Our Board developed and printed 2000 **Case Statements** which have been distributed throughout both Park and Sweet Grass Counties. The purpose of the case statement was to explain to the public exactly who we are and what we do. Additionally in April we launched a radio ad campaign and utilized a live interview to convey the Program's mission. We continue develop strong partnerships with both local and state government agencies. We continue to maintain and work on our strong financial plan through education, public awareness, and by creating strong partnerships within our communities. As an example we were lucky to be involved in the "Bugle for Kids" benefit which was hosted by Tom Brokaw, of the West Boulder Ranch, and Randy Tobias, of the Twelve Springs Ranch. All proceeds from this event, roughly \$6,000, went directly towards our program.

Our Board has seen some changes with Toni Lusk, from Reed Point, and Bob Peebles, from Clyde Park, joining the group. Both bring to the board strong business and organizational skills as well as fundraising abilities. Our board continues to work towards developing strong leadership capabilities and endeavors

to keep the CASA mission out in the forefront of its district. We will continue our efforts on recruiting, training and the support of all our valuable volunteers.

We were very fortunate to be awarded a grant of \$6,000, for the third year, from the Greater Gallatin United Way. In addition our program received \$10,000 from Park County and \$5,000 from Sweet Grass County as part of their charge. Additionally, the program has received \$6,800 for case reimbursements and \$11,044 in individual, business and community donations.

September 2006 saw the State CASA Program hosting their second annual Park2Park bicycle fundraiser which again passed through our county. Our Program sponsored our own local rider, Larry Raffety, on the 5 day marathon which took the riders from Glacier Park to Yellowstone Park following Hwy. 89 South. Honorable Nels Swandal and wife Debra hosted lunch at their home for the riders. Our Board along with individual donors hosted a dinner complete with entertainment and refreshments.

Once again, thanks to a grant from National CASA, 2006 Program Treasurer Robin Hoggan Ebinger and I traveled to San Diego to attend the National CASA Convention. I continue to serve on the State CASA Board of Directors.

Sharon Walker of Montana Edge continues to support our program by donating office space and Julie Killorn of Insty-Prints continues to donate the bulk of all the program's printing needs. These are both tremendous gifts and savings to our program and truly shows to all of us and the community that working together we can make a difference! THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!



**Annual Volunteer  
Appreciation Dinner  
and new Volunteer  
Swearing In**

Hosted at the home of  
Board Chair Rev. David  
Gunderson.

**Volunteer Training  
Topics Included**

- Laurie Bishop—BBBS*
- Ann Schilling—Court  
Practices for Child  
Visitation; Educational  
Needs of Children; Local  
Memorandum of  
Understanding with the  
Court and DPHHS*
- Paula Coleman, RN—  
Physical and Psychological  
Signs and Symptoms of  
Abuse and Neglect  
Movie and Discussion—For  
The Love of a Child*

The Sixth Judicial District  
CASA/GAL Program is a  
member of both the National  
CASA Association and the  
State CASA Association.  
The program is also a mem-  
ber of the Montana Non-Profit  
Association.

# FROM THE CHAIR

It has been my honor to serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Sixth Judicial District CASA/GAL Program during 2006. All of us—the Board and staff, the dedicated and highly trained team of volunteers, and the many people in the community who support our work—should feel proud of what we have accomplished in the past year. We have strengthened the organization, both financially and in terms of community awareness. We continue to attract the kind of volunteers that make our work possible—men and women who are willing and able to learn, who are compassionate and courageous in the demanding work of children’s advocacy. We have worked to build a network of relationships with others in the fields of medicine, psychology, education, and law, so that we might coordinate our efforts to protect the children we serve.

In the end, however, the only success that really matters is with the children themselves. That they need our advocacy is a tragic reality we seek to overcome, and yet we approach our work with hopeful realism. We know the significance of helping even a single child find solace and safety, and the chance to mature into a healthy adult. On behalf of these children, we extend to all who share in this work and support it our deepest gratitude.

Rev. David Gunderson

## SIXTH JUDICIAL CASA/GALS

Voices in court for our community’s abused and neglected children

Nancy Beebe	Suzie Bohleen	Gary Boone
Carl Brooke	Penny Hart Brooke	Greg Coleman
Jan Dawson	Jane Esp	Grant Farr
Dale Garrett	Nancy Gilbert	Shirley Hafner
Lisa Held	Robin Hoggan Ebinger	Debra Keller
Julie Killorn	Lucy Kincaid	Michelle Landers
Debra Lewis-Rust	Irene Longfellow	Gail McCormick
Jack McInerney	Barbara Norman	PiksiYaki
Robin Phillips	Melanie Roe	Rita Rozier
Ann Schilling	Tom Shellenberg	Greg Strong
Wyoma Terland		

### DEPARTURES

**Barb Norman**, who offered unwavering support as a program volunteer and Board Secretary for the past four years, has moved with her husband to Nevada—we know that whatever her next endeavor it will be the best for her involvement.

**Lori Weiser** moved to Park City, Montana where we hope she will stay involved in the CASA program.

**Matia Ann Michaelson** passed away during 2006. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her family.

# Our Supporters Make Our Work Possible

1st Interstate Bank  
 Albertsons  
 American Bank  
 Michael and Melissa Atkinson  
 Floyd Berggren  
 Big Sky Management  
 Ken Boettcher  
 Brokaw Family  
 Russell Chatham  
 John Childs  
 Evelyn Cranston  
 Mary Ellen Cremer  
 Nancy Danaher  
 David Rust Carpet Center  
 Kent Douglass  
 Lawrence Edwards  
 Equus, Inc.  
 Andrew and Victoria Field  
 Michael and Betty Fitzpatrick  
 Nancy Gilbert  
 Don and Ellen Gimbel  
 Bonnie Goodman  
 Jim Goodson  
 Grace Jones Richardson Trust  
 Great Divide Land Corporation  
 Great Gallatin United Way  
 Dennis Haderlie  
 Ann Hollowell  
 Lisa Held  
 Huppert, Swindlehurst, and Woodruff  
 Insty-Prints  
 Eleanor Jacobs  
 Josephson Law Firm PLLC  
 Robert Jovick  
 KMA, Inc. Kirk and Connie Michels  
 Little Blue Hand  
 Livingston's Ace Hardware  
 James Loomis

Vernon McIntyre  
 Montana Edge  
 Tom and Bonnie Hyatt Murphy  
 Philip Neumiller  
 Marcia Olson  
 Stephen Potenberg  
 Marilyn Roth  
 Ann and Ed Schilling  
 Fred Shellenberg  
 Ann Sherwood  
 Ray Sundling  
 Debra Swandal  
 Dana Taylor  
 Larry Truman  
 Dude Tyler  
 Walt Weissman  
 Jack Yardley



*"I see CASA  
 as the green  
 grass bringing  
 hope to hurting  
 families."*

*Wyoma Terland,  
 CASA Volunteer  
 Reed Point, MT*

Wyoma's entire ranch was consumed in the 2006 Derby Fire. She compares the devastation of her land to the devastation some of our families go through. Each with time and the proper elements can bring healing and transformation.

## STATISTICS

### CHILDREN

Total number of children served was 42. 25 of the 42 had at least one parent involved in methamphetamine. 22 Female, 20 Male, Birth to 5 Years—18, 6 to 11 years—11, 12 to 17 years—13. 11 children's cases were closed, 1 child was adopted, 8 children were returned home, and 2 are in guardianship.

### VOLUNTEERS

We swore in four new volunteers in 2006 for a total of 30. Total volunteer hours in 2006 were 1,188 valued \$60/hour reflecting a \$71,280 savings to the State. This figure does not reflect Board or administrative volunteer hours.

**SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
CASA/GAL BOARD**



# OUR MISSION

The mission of the Sixth Judicial District CASA/GAL Program, Inc is to provide specifically selected and trained community volunteer Guardian Ad Litem to work on behalf of abused and neglected children within our court system and to undertake any and all activities necessary for the promotion for these children's best interest, including but not limited to health, safety and welfare.

**Rev. David Gunderson**  
*Chair*

**Toni Lusk**  
*Secretary*

**Robin Hoggan Ebinger**  
*Treasurer*

**Patricia Stetson Agnew**

**John Hykes**

**Bob Peebles**

**Troy Redmon**  
*Advisor*

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
<b>Support and Revenue</b>			
Donations Individual/Business	5,554	1,000	6,554
Park County	10,000	0	10,000
Sweet Grass County	5,000	0	5,000
Private Foundations	5,250	0	5,250
United Way	6,000	0	6,000
National CASA	0	1,500	1,500
Case Reimbursements	6,800	0	6,800
Interest/Miscellaneous	<u>2,285</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,285</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>40,889</u></b>	<b><u>2,500</u></b>	<b><u>43,389</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Rent	1,161	0	1,161
Telephone	941	0	941
Supplies	571	1,148	1,719
Training	500	0	500
Postage	247	0	247
Printing/Copies	568	0	568
Promotion	1,207	0	1,207
Travel	934	1,500	2,434
Outside Contractor	330	0	330
Insurance, Dues	1,504	0	1,504
Payroll	15,559	0	15,559
Other	<u>490</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,490</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>24,012</u></b>	<b><u>3,648</u></b>	<b><u>27,660</u></b>

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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