
ADVOCATE ALLEY

Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2008

"It takes all of us, a village of everyday people, to stand up and commit to making a meaningful difference in the lives of abused and neglected children, our children. And it starts very simply with one volunteer at a time." - Judge Glenda A. Hatchett

CASA Corner

Greetings Advocates,

We hope your 2008 is off to a great start- who can believe it's already February!?! As you'll see at the back of this month's newsletter, we will be increasing our continuing education offerings this year. We hope you'll be excited and engaged by the many topics covered and opportunities available.

It is our major goal to achieve 100% compliance with all advocates and the 12 hour per year continuing education requirement. Please let us know how we can best support each and every one of you in meeting this goal. We are always happy to update you on your progress, answer any questions you may have, and, as always, we welcome your suggestions and feedback.

Speaking of continuing education, there are some very valuable offerings this month that are quickly approaching. Make sure to check out the Habla Conmigo/Talk to Me session on Monday, February 11th and RSVP soon to reserve your spot! The session, which deals with the topic of sex, is well-timed with the coming Valentine's holiday. We hope you'll be able to attend!

Wishing you all well,
Michelle Arnold
Recruitment & Training Coordinator



Interested in CPR certification???

The Salinas Adult School will offer a class on Pediatric Medic First Aid on April 5th and May 3rd. Class size is limited and fills up fast, so RSVP soon if you'd like to secure yourself a spot in one of these valuable sessions.

Class includes CPR for adult, infant, child, and childhood first aid. This is a required course for childcare providers & California Teaching Credentials. Fee includes certificate required by the California Department of Social Services. Certificate valid for two years.

8:30am-5:30pm
Parent Center, Rm P-10
Fee: \$60 per person, \$100 if you come with a friend

Call the Salinas Adult School's Health and Safety Education Program at 796-6970 for more information.

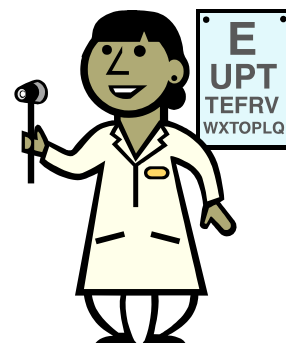
Did you know...?

Monterey County Children's Health Outreach for Insurance, Care and Enrollment (MC Choice) Project is committed to promote outreach, enrollment, retention, and utilization of Healthy Families and Medi-Cal program benefits for families throughout Monterey County.

The Outreach workers help families to:

- ~Enroll children in Healthy Families/ MediCal programs
- ~Retain their Healthy Families/ MediCal benefits
- ~Assist families to complete annual Healthy Families/ MediCal renewals
- ~Refer families to other local agencies for services
- ~Assist families to obtain documents needed to apply for Healthy Families/ MediCal programs
- ~Access preventative health care services for their children

Services cover doctor visits, prescriptions, hospital care, vision services, immunizations, dental care, mental health and other health services. For more information and application assistance, call 1-866-361-0477



Resource Runway

Some of you may know our fellow advocate, Becky Skrdla, but you might not know that she is the Executive Director of the **Hide 'N Seek Children's Foundation**, a nonprofit organization that promotes responsible parenting by creating public awareness materials about children's emotional and financial needs.

We've included some information about Hide 'N Seek's upcoming **Promise My Future** project in hopes that some of us will be able and willing to participate!

[Excerpted from the Hide 'N Seek website]

High school is a challenging time for students. One of the main factors preventing many girls from attending prom is the steep price of dresses at regular store costs. **Hide 'N Seek Children's Foundation** is sponsoring the **Promise My Future** project to help provide girls with affordable prom dresses.

They will receive prom dresses through donations and provide a tax-deductible receipt to the party that donates the dress. Having a requirement of being new or freshly dry-cleaned, the value of the dresses will be determined by the donors. A portion of the dry-cleaning fees will be donated to **Hide 'N Seek Children's Foundation** through Quality Cleaners. They are located next to Nob Hill on South Main Street in Salinas, where the dresses can be dropped off and eventually received by **Hide 'N Seek**.



Girls from all Monterey County high schools can acquire dresses by either purchasing one for \$60, or earning a dress by performing ten hours of community service with our organization. Perhaps best of all is that all proceeds from the dress' sales will be designated for public service announcements about child support that promotes responsible parenting.

Please help make school sponsored events available to ALL students. For more information about the **Promise My Future** project or **Hide 'N Seek**, email Becky email her at rebecca@hidenseekca.org or give her a call at 455-3200.

Advocate Avenue



We would like to wish the following advocates a very happy birthday during the month of February...

Kelly Locke	2/4
Delia Valdez	2/8
Betsy Collins	2/12
Nancy Hanson	2/16
Eric Paulson	2/19
Leslie Montgomery	2/23
Christina Courcier	2/29

Trainee Turnpike

We are currently searching for a few good men and women to include in our next advocate training session (scheduled to begin February 25th). Please spread the word to friends and family who you think might be a great fit for the CASA program!

Each One, Reach One...

If you know of someone interested in attending an information session, encourage them to attend on February 6th at the Starbucks on South Main Street in Salinas or February 27th at the Starbucks in Soledad.

Both sessions will begin at 6pm.

Aquarium Tickets Still Available!

Contact Edna to claim your tickets for the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Don't miss this great opportunity for CASAs to utilize with their children anytime over the next year.

CASA of Monterey County

February Continuing Education Calendar

“Prudent Parent” Standard Training

Presented by Legal Advocates for Permanent Planning, this free training will discuss how this standard can be implemented in real life situations, and what the social worker’s role in supporting caregivers.

Date: Thursday, February 7th
Time: 3:30pm- 5:00pm
Location: Quadrangle, Ste 110
RSVP: to Kylie Kelly at 455-6800 or
kylie@casamonterey.org

“Prudent Parent” Standard Training

Presented by Legal Advocates for Permanent Planning, this free training will focus on what the rights of youth in foster care are, how to make sure they are followed, and what to do when it appears a child’s rights are being violated.

Date: Thursday, February 7th
Time: 6:00pm- 9:00pm
Location: Hartnell College, Rm 116
Register: Call 755-6807 or online at
www.hartnell.edu/pathways/dses

Habla Conmigo/Talk to Me*

The beginning of an exciting series of learning to talk with children about sensitive issues, please join Maria from Strategic Health Communications as we tackle the topic of sex and teens.

Date: Monday, February 11th
Time: 6:00pm- 8:00pm
Location: CASA Office
RSVP: to Michelle at 455-6800 or
michelle@casamonterey.org

***If this program is well attended, in future, we will hold concurrent child and advocate sessions. This is an exciting new approach to opening lines of communication on some very tricky subjects. We encourage all of you working with children ages 12 and above to attend this workshop.**

Drug Abuse Recognition Training*

Officer Jackie Long, Drug Abuse Recognition trainer and expert from the Dept of Justice, will share current trends in drug abuse, warning signs, and how to recognize a person under the influence.

Date: Thursday, February 21st
Time: 6:30pm- 8:30pm
Location: Santa Cruz Office of Ed.
Tech Center
809H Bay Ave, Capitola
RSVP: Xaloc Cabanes at 454-5004

***If this program interests you, but the distance is too far, please email Michelle and let us know. If there is enough interest, we will do our best to arrange a similar session a little bit closer to home.**

Peer Review Session

w/Bree Nakashima

Date: Wednesday, February 27th
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Location: CASA Office
RSVP: to Michelle at 455-6800 or
michelle@casamonterey.org

Anger: Managing Yours and Helping Kids with Theirs

How to prevent anger build up; reduce your anger on the spot; cool down; respond to your child’s anger; teach children to manage their anger. This is a great opportunity to witness the anger management classes that are often included in our families’ case plans.

Date: Saturday, March 1st & 8th
Time: 9:00am- 12:00pm
Location: Hartnell College, Rm 116
Register: Call the Salinas Adult
School Parent Education Program
at 796-6970

If you have any ideas, suggestions, etc regarding our continuing education program, please do not hesitate to provide feedback. Call or email Michelle and share your pearls of wisdom... We are here for you!