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# ADVOCATE ALLEY

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Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2008

*“Having children makes you no more a parent than having a piano makes you a pianist.” –Michael Levine*

## CASA Corner

Greetings Advocates,

April 18<sup>th</sup> marked Advocate Coordinator Kylie Kelly’s last day as she heads home to bring a little bundle of baby joy into the world... Stay posted for news about Baby Kelly’s arrival any day now! We already miss Kylie (and her Black Lab sidekick, Hana) around the office, but wish her well on her expanding family.

We also welcome three exciting additions to our team! Yolonda Young Armstrong is our newest Case Supervisor who has just relocated from the Bay Area. She comes to us with a wealth of experience in advocacy, crisis intervention and cultural competency.

Brianna Dani has started her advocate training in San Diego to prepare herself for her new role as a Monterey County Case Supervisor. She plans to join us in June after her graduation.

Esther Curtice, a member of the inaugural San Benito County training class, will be assuming the position of Program Manager when Sangeetha Ramanujam departs at the end of the month. We are sad to see Sangeetha go, but we feel well taken care of in Esther’s capable hands!

Make sure to come by and meet these amazing women! As always, thank you all so much for all you do...

With gratitude,  
Michelle Arnold  
Recruitment & Training Coordinator

## May: National Foster Care Awareness Month

The Monterey County Association of Families Caring for Children’s Annual Barbeque is coming up on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at Toro Park from 11am-3pm. Admission, including a delicious lunch, for adults and children 8 years and older is \$17. Children ages 3-7 pay \$5. Please join us for this wonderful annual event with fun and activities for everyone! Call us for more info...



If you know of anyone in your life who you would like to learn more about the CASA program, please let them know about this month’s info sessions. Our next training will begin later this summer...

May 7<sup>th</sup>- Starbucks in Del Rey Oaks- 6pm  
May 28<sup>th</sup>- Starbucks in Soledad- 6pm



## Q and A Blvd

Q and A Blvd with Attorney Sue Sutton

Q: What led you to pursue a career in law?

A: This was something I wanted to do since high school. I took a lot of psychology, sociology and criminology classes. I thought I would be good at it but I recognized it would be hard. I do it as more of a helper basis which is why I sit mostly on the defense side.

Q: What has your experience working with CASA volunteers been like?

A: Remarkable. I find that in all the emotions and tears that CASA workers are well-trained never to waver and to look at the child. They are the most observant and independent. Their decisions aren’t always popular and they put forth their reports with respect and dignity. It’s not always in my favor but I know it is something to be taken seriously.

Q: What do you do for fun?

A: I travel. I take care of my five cats. I love to read historical novels. Until recently I was a scuba diving more. I used to be a scuba diving instructor in the Caribbean before this job.

CASA of Monterey thanks Sue Sutton for assisting families in the dependency system.

# Did you know...?

## DEFINITION OF PERMANENCY

Permanency is both a process and a result that includes involvement of the youth as a participant or leader in finding a permanent connection with at least one committed adult who provides:

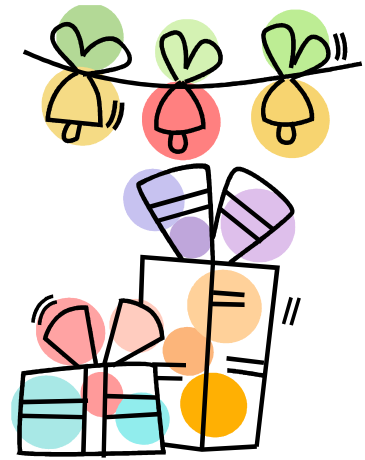
- A safe, stable and secure parenting relationship
  - Love
  - Unconditional commitment
- Lifelong support in the context of reunification, a legal adoption, or guardianship, where possible, and in which the youth has the opportunity to maintain contacts with important persons including brothers & sisters

A broad array of individualized permanency options exist; reunification and adoption are an important two among many that may be appropriate.



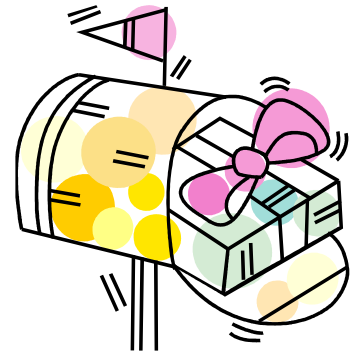
Check out the California Permanency for Youth Project website [cpyp.org](http://cpyp.org) for more info!

## Advocate Avenue



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

Nikki Greco	5/6
Michelle Arnold	5/9
Denyse Frischmuth	5/9
Nan Johnston	5/9
Sangeetha Ramanujam	5/9
Martha Froke	5/19
Darlene Drain	5/20
Toni Nicklaus	5/20
Christie D'Amico	5/21
Siobhan Greene	5/22
Roelof Wijbrandus	5/22
Susan Horcajo	5/23
Reyna Navarrete	5/23
Marlene Haskel-Brickner	5/24
Paula Arnold	5/27
Tomi Burgess	5/27
Linda Prowse-Fosler	5/29
Maria Matias	5/30



Also, please note that our office will be closed on **May 26<sup>th</sup>** in observance of Memorial Day.

## *San Benito Street*

Please join us in welcoming the 11 new advocates in the inaugural San Benito Class. They were sworn in on Feb. 4 and have already been doing wonderful work with their kids. The second training class has also just wrapped up and will be sworn in by Judge Breen in San Benito on Cinco de Mayo!

Please join us as we introduce ourselves to the community and celebrate the new advocates. Enjoy a beautiful day outdoors at San Juan Oaks Golf Course, great food, and a silent auction.

### **HeART of CASA**

Saturday, May 10, 2008

2:00-6:00

San Juan Oaks

3825 Union Rd.

Hollister, CA 95023

Ticket Price: \$50.00

Light dinner to be served.

No-host cocktails

2:00-5:00 Auction

5:30 Winner bidders announced.

### **The 2008 CASA Classic Benefit Golf Tournament**

Join us at Pasadera Country Club on June 9<sup>th</sup> for the sixth annual Golf Classic benefiting CASA of Monterey County. Start the day with a great lunch. The scramble-format tournament begins with a shotgun start at 12:30 pm. After golf, gather with friends for no-host cocktails, silent auction, awards and a buffet dinner. Be sure to invite you non-golfing guests to the awards dinner, catered by Pasadera Country Club.

Registration and Check-in begins at 11:30 am.

Fees: \$900 - Foursome, \$225 - Individual Player, \$60 - Dinner-only guest

Includes:

Lunch, green fees and cart, practice range, tee gifts, closest to the pin contest, and an awards dinner for each player.

Volunteers needed between the hours of 10:30 & 6:30, various shifts (Approximately 6-8)

#### **Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

July 17th - Trofholz Annual Golf Tournament benefiting CASA of Monterey County - Bayonet & Blackhorse Golf Course - Volunteers needed between the hours of 11:00 & 3:00 (Approximately 2-4)

August 15th - The Quail Motorsport benefiting CASA of Monterey County - Quail Lodge - Volunteers needed between the hours of 6:00 AM & 6:00 PM, various shifts (Approximately 30)

**Contact Edna for more information about any of these fun fundraising events!**

# CASA of Monterey County

## May Continuing Education Calendar

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### ***Gang Awareness Presentation***

Come learn from the members of the Monterey County Gang Task Force about how to recognize developing gang involvement. Highly recommended for advocated working with children over the age of 10.

***Date:*** Wednesday, May 14th

***Time:*** 6:00pm- 8:00pm

***Location:*** CASA Office

***RSVP:*** to Michelle at 455-6800 or  
michelle@casamonterey.org

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### ***Advocates Share Their Experience***

Come share your experience as an advocate with our newest group of trainees. Only three spots available!

***Date:*** Tuesday, May 20th

***Time:*** 6:00pm- 8:00pm

***Location:*** CASA Office

***RSVP:*** to Michelle at 455-6800 or  
michelle@casamonterey.org

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### ***Advocates Understanding Attorneys***

Join Attorney Doug Tsuchiya as he provides an understanding of the dependency system from an attorney's perspective.

***Date:*** Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

***Time:*** 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

***Location:*** CASA Office

***RSVP:*** to Michelle at 455-6800 or  
michelle@casamonterey.org

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### ***Peer Review Session***

w/Bree Nakashima

***Date:*** Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>

***Time:*** 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

***Location:*** CASA Office

***RSVP:*** to Michelle at 455-6800 or  
michelle@casamonterey.org

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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!