



Winter 2005

2004: Looking Back

Bill Stanton, Director, Dependent Children's Services Division

It is hard to believe that 2004 has come to an end. Where does the time go? As we look back over the year, DCSD has had many accomplishments. While the number of children in foster care continued to increase to an all time high, each of the programs in the division have been busy with new projects to improve the system. The Court Improvement team published the Dual Adjudication report, they held a case Flow Management Seminar, conducted operational reviews of several counties and provided training to attorney's and judges.

The CASA Program focused its efforts on the older youth in out-of-home care. They developed specialized training and provided technical assistance. In addition, they held numerous orientation trainings and are preparing for their twenty year celebration in 2005.

FCRB celebrated their 25 year anniversary. Four volunteers were honored for their continuous service for the full 25 years. The program began the process of undergoing a sunset audit; and they developed two additional findings as well as increased their outreach to the community.

These are just a few of the many accomplishments of each of the programs. In 2005, we look forward to additional challenges. The FCRB sunset audit will be completed, CASA will celebrate its 20 year anniversary and Court Improvement will expand its case flow management project.

Although the programs have accomplished a lot, we are well aware that our accomplishments would not be possible without the tremendous efforts and commitment of our volunteers. On behalf of the staff at DCSD, we want to thank all of you who have given so much over the years. We wish you a safe and wonderful New Year.

DCSD Programs - 2004

Court Improvement - Suzanne Matsumori

The Court Improvement program was very busy in 2004 due to the passage of HB 2024 in December 2003. Since the legislation had an emergency clause, it was effective immediately. Therefore, efforts were concentrated on establishing additional juvenile rules to address the new statutes. This process was finally completed in June 2004. Following the passage of juvenile rules, the Juvenile Benchbook required modification to adhere to the new rules. This was completed in June 2004 with a publication date of January 2005 by Education Services. The next calendar year will see the rules subcommittee working on formulating rules regarding immigration issues surrounding both dependent and delinquent youth.

continued on page 4

In This Issue....

*FCRB Audit Underway • AZAFAP Awards
Foster and Adoptive Parents Courage for
Children • AFFCF News • FCRB Member
Honored by MIKID • Arizonans for Children
Marches Into the New Year! • The Training
Corner • Tidbits & Reminders •
Staff Changes • CASA Activity Report •
FCRB Case/Child Activity Report*

FCRB Audit Underway

The Arizona Foster Care Review Board will be going through a “Sunset Audit” beginning in December. Many programs, such as ours, were created through the legislature and were given a “sunset” date—a date that the program would cease should the auditors, and subsequently the legislature, find that it is not meeting the program’s mandated purpose/function. This will be the second audit on Foster Care Review Board; the first took place in 1995. Our sunset date is June 30, 2006. The Auditor General’s Office will begin the audit process and it will continue through June or July of next year. Their final report is due to the Legislature in October 2005. After their report is submitted, legislative hearings will take place on the audit and our program will have the opportunity to address any concerns that are raised through the audit.

Arizona’s Foster Care Review Board is a national model for other state review systems and we have made continual progress in our operations. The audit will take some time and be pretty intensive. The auditors will be on site full time beginning December 10 and will be housed in the Phoenix office. At some time, the auditors may spend a few days in the Tucson office as well as as observing boards throughout the state.

Part of the audit process includes interviews with staff and board members. The auditors will randomly contact board members and staff, and will be asking about our processes and what we do. Although we do not anticipate questions regarding specific case details, volunteers and staff have been asked to keep in mind confidentiality issues. The auditors attended the December 4th State Board meeting and observed some boards.

If you have any questions regarding the Sunset Audit of the Foster Care Review Board, please contact Caroline Latt-Owens at 602-542-9408.



AZAFAP Awards Foster and Adoptive Parents Courage For Children

The Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents honored award winning foster and adoptive parents at the first annual “Courage for Children” awards dinner held in conjunction with the October Children Need Homes Conference.

Guests came from across the state to enjoy dinner, music and family fun. Award presenters included DES Director David Berns, Tracy Wareing from Governor Janet Napolitano’s office, state Senator Jim Waring and FCRB State Board chair Bruce Brannan. The stories of award winning families were inspirational, and Bruce Brannan spoke for all of the judges when he explained how difficult it was to choose winners from among all of the great nominations.

Congratulations to all the award winning families for 2004.



AFFCF News

Donate Your Used Books for Charity Book Sale

The VNSA book sale is just around the corner – and they need your used books!

The Volunteer Nonprofit Service Association is an all volunteer group of 150 members who work year round preparing and producing the largest charity used book sale in the country. The 49th Annual Booksale is set for February 12 & 13, 2005 at the Arizona State Fairgrounds in Phoenix.

VNSA is proud to make used books available to the general public at the book sale at very reasonable prices while raising significant amounts of money for Arizona charities. Because of its all-volunteer membership, VNSA is able to donate approximately 80% of its sale proceeds each year to nonprofit agencies which

continued on page 3

directly serve the people of our community. Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation is one of the agencies which receive the benefits of this annual event.

VNSA depends on donations from the public for its great book selection. They receive hardback books, paperback books, CD's, videotapes, audiotapes, records, maps, puzzles, and other book-related items from individuals, businesses, libraries and interested supporters.

Book Drop Locations Many donors prefer to use one of the convenient book donation drop boxes which are located in 23 shopping centers around the Valley.

To Schedule a Pickup Volunteers will arrange to pick up books at donor's homes or businesses. Call **602-265-6805** to arrange for book pickups.

For more information on the booksale and list of drop boxes, visit the VNSA web site at www.vnsabooksale.org/

FCRB Member Honored by MIKID

On November 5, 2004, Mentally Ill Kids in Distress (MIKID) presented its Seventh Annual Sue Gilbertson Award to Dr. Ilene Dode. Dr. Dode is the CEO and founder of Empact, Suicide Prevent Center and a 25-year member of the Foster Care Review Board. The award recognizes a person who has demonstrated the following qualities in service to children's mental health: leadership, advocacy, pioneering and a commitment to professional education.



Dr. Ilene Dode was honored for her numerous contributions to the behavioral health community. She has served on various committees and boards as well as contributed to the professional growth among her peers by serving as lecturer on topics ranging from confidentiality and ethics to suicide prevention and intervention. Dr. Dode is currently the president of the Arizona Council of Human Service Providers and her contributions to her field and to the welfare of those whose lives she has touched are tremendous. MIKID is pleased to have honored her with its 2004 Sue Gilbertson Award.

Arizonans for Children Marches Into the New Year!

*Peiggi Clements, AFC Board Member
Maricopa County CASA Volunteer*

The programs and services offered by Arizonans for Children (AFC) are available to all children in Maricopa County from infant to 18 years who are in the custody of Child Protective Services and living in group homes, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters or in private foster care. The mission of the Arizonans for Children is to help abused, neglected and abandoned children and to support the work of Court Appointed Special Advocates in Maricopa County.

The purpose of AFC is to:

- 1) support the CASA Program and volunteers financially and otherwise;
- 2) provide funding for the unmet needs of children in foster care;
- 3) develop and operate a Children's Visitation Center where children in the foster care system can interact with natural parents, relatives, siblings, potential adoptive parents and the CASA volunteers;
- 4) educate the public on the needs of all foster care children and the role of CASA volunteers; and
- 5) raise funds to accomplish all of the above.

AFC and the Visitation Center are staffed wholly by a team of volunteers. The Center is open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. This allows those parents who are required to maintain a job, attend counseling and also visit with their children, to have the flexibility of early evening and weekend hours. It is a warm, homelike setting with an air hockey table, billiards table, television set with VCR and many children's movies available. The children have access to a gymnasium, a dance studio, and a computer room.

Each month the Visitation Center hosts a birthday party with cake, ice cream, games and birthday presents for each child whose birthday falls within that month. Any child in foster care is welcome to attend and they may invite family members and friends. The CASA Clown attends all of these parties and does face painting.

continued on page 10

Numerous training opportunities were offered to judges and attorneys in 2004. Training on mental health, the Pew Commission, jury trials and the annual introduction to dependency for judges were conducted. Attorney training has been resurrected due to the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) requirement that all guardians ad litem and attorneys undergo dependency training meeting specific guidelines prior to be appointed to represent children. These requirements, as well as general requirements for all dependency attorneys, have been incorporated into the revised attorney training curriculum. The Court Improvement staff will be traveling to the rural counties offering this training to attorneys in 2005.

The National Center for Juvenile Justice completed the dually involved (dependency/delinquency) study on youth in Arizona. The study evaluated Maricopa, Pima, Coconino, and Cochise Counties. As a result of the study, interesting information was provided regarding dually involved children, i.e., how these children spent more time in detention than in their biological home. Numerous recommendations were made as a result of the study and a determination of which recommendations will be addressed in 2005 will occur in the near future. The study can be accessed on the DCSD web site at http://www.supreme.state.az.us/dcsd/docs/azdual_juri.pdf

The compilation and clean up of JOLTS dependency data was a major accomplishment by all of the counties. This resulted in the publication of information regarding all counties in the first division databook. Subsequent years will reflect additional data gathering so that more reports can be created and reviewed. JOLTS has been divided into two entities now – Legacy JOLTS and JOLTSaz. Legacy JOLTS is the current database that all juvenile courts are using; JOLTaz will eventually replace legacy JOLTS with a larger, more sophisticated program. Due to the expansion of JOLTSaz and the incorporation of DCATS into JOLTSaz, almost the entire division has been linked to legacy JOLTS and will be receiving training on it.

The dependency operational review tool was modified for both Court Improvement and CASA. This tool is now being utilized to conduct the second round of operational reviews of the counties. Along with the operational reviews, template training is occurring. The counties are

being encouraged to use the dependency hearing templates to ensure that all of the required statutes are addressed and not missed in a hearing. Clerk training has also been offered to assist clerks who do not regularly work with dependencies.

Caseflow management training for dependencies occurred in September 2004. Arizona is the pilot for this project nationwide. Cochise, Maricopa and Yavapai County parties participated in the training. Each county is now working to implement the initiatives they identified at the training. This should diminish delays which are occurring in their particular counties.

The Parent Assistance Hotline continues to be utilized by parents whose children have been removed from their home by Child Protective Services, individuals with domestic relations and custody issues, persons interested in locating a biological parent or child after adoption, requests for volunteer information on FCRB and CASA and various people with general questions.

Foster Care Review Board - Caroline Lauth-Owens

As the Foster Care Review Board's 25th anniversary year comes to a close, it's hard not to stop and look over its accomplishments over the last year. The program's staff and volunteers have worked hard on various projects and have quite a list of accomplishments to be proud of this year, in addition to accommodating the increased caseloads.

- *Community Outreach and Awareness Committee:* Due to the change in legislation that no longer requires FCRB to publish an annual report, the State Board's Annual Report Committee changed its focus to community outreach and public awareness efforts. The committee developed an action plan and has worked hard throughout the year to meet its identified goals.
- *Stakeholders Reports:* The program developed a set of statistical data reports on the county level that are shared with each county on a quarterly basis.
- *Receiving E-Mailed Reports from Child Protective Services:* The program is working with Child Protective Services (CPS) across the state to facilitate the exchange

continued on page 5

of documents electronically. The first phase, which includes the program receiving CPS documents via e-mail is underway and working well.

- *Twenty-Fifth Anniversary:* The Foster Care Review Board celebrated its 25th Anniversary this year. The milestone was celebrated with an open house in February and with a statewide educational conference in May.

- *Foster Care Review Board Review Dates in JOLTS:* The Cochise County Juvenile Court began entering Foster Care Review Board review dates in JOLTS, allowing all court personnel and others with JOLTS access to view upcoming review dates.

- *New Boards:* Due to the continued increase in cases statewide, the Foster Care Review Board has opened additional boards across the state to ensure that the case of each child in out-of-home placement who is also the subject of a dependency petition is reviewed.

- *Development of a Report to Track Missing Reports:* This report is broken down by county and shows how many reviews had all the reports needed for each review and how many reviews were missing the Case Plan, the Progress Report, the Initial Report or any combination of the reports. The development of this report is essential in assisting the program in its ongoing going efforts to ensure effective reviews.

- *Sibling Visitation Day:* The Foster Care Review Board was proud to collaborate with the Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation to host the first two Sibling Visitation Days. The first event took place in Maricopa County and the second one in Pima County. These events were well attended and appreciated by those children who participated.

- *Visitors from Kentucky:* The Foster Care Review Board hosted visitors from Kentucky's Citizen Review Program. Kentucky currently holds paper reviews and is moving towards an interested party review system, similar to Arizona's. The program was able to share information with Kentucky regarding policy and procedure as well as the DCATS system.

- *HOPE for Arizona's Children 2004 Award:* Dave Byers and the Foster Care Review Board were honored with the 2004 HOPE for Arizona's Children Award during the 15th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference that was held in January.

- *Effectiveness Survey:* A partnership with Glendale Community College resulted in development of an effectiveness study that was distributed to FCRB interested parties. The surveys, that were designed to be distributed over a six month period, were first distributed in April. The results of the survey will be available sometime during the next fiscal year.

- *Enhancement of Quality FCRB Reviews:* The Continuing Education Committee of the State Board formed an ad hoc committee to begin discussing ways in which to ensure quality FCRB reviews.

- *Governor's Action Plan:* A number of FCRB volunteers and staff participated in the Governor's Child Welfare Reform Subcommittees which resulted in the creation of the Governor's Action Plan for Reform.

The Governor's Action Plan for Reform of Arizona's Child Protection System identified several action items for various child serving agencies. Action 6.0 included an action item for the State Foster Care Review Board:

"I have also directed CPS to contact the State Foster Care Review board about how that Board, consistent with its oversight function, can advise through its quarterly meetings, CPS administrators regarding service gaps or system problems it or the local boards identify as part of their review of CPS cases, particularly as to areas where CPS does not currently meet federal standards."

An ad hoc committee was formed to address this action items, and as a result, a 10th Finding was created and implemented effective July 1, 2004. Results from this Finding will be shared with the Agency on a quarterly basis.

- *Special Session:* House Bill 2024, which was passed during Special Session, greatly impacts the courts with provisions for open court hearings and jury trials. In

Continued on page 8

The Training Corner

Continuing Education Committee, FCRB State Board

2004-2005 Substance Abuse Training

The first module entitled "Youth and Experimentation" is online and counts for one hour of training credit. The second module entitled "The Power of Addiction" will be online by January 2005 and will also be worth one credit hour. The third and fourth modules, "Legal Ramifications" and "The Recovery Cycle" are expected to be online in March and July. Each of these modules is more extensive and should count for one and half to two credit hours (TBD). Please visit our website at www.supreme.sp.state.az.us/casa/training to complete your online training!

2005 New Board Member Orientation Dates

January 28 & 29	Phoenix
April 15 & 16	Tucson
July 15 & 16	Phoenix
October 21 & 22	Phoenix

If you do not have access to the internet, please notify your program specialist and they can print the training for you.

What type of Financial Assistance do Foster Care Providers receive?

Licensed Foster Home Rates (Non-Relative and Kinship Foster Care)

Service Type Description	Age Range	Daily Rate	Daily Clothing Allowance	Daily Personal Allowance	Daily Total
Foster Care	0-12 mos.	\$19.44	\$0.53	\$2.10	\$22.07
Foster Care	1-2 yrs.	\$19.44	\$0.53	\$0.95	\$20.92
Foster Care	3-5 yrs.	\$19.44	\$0.53	\$0.10	\$20.07
Foster Care	6-11 yrs.	\$19.44	\$0.79	\$0.33	\$20.56
Foster Care	12-18+ yrs.	\$21.45	\$1.02	\$0.72	\$23.19

Rates for Children approved at Higher Levels of Care

Foster Care	0-12 mos.	\$19.44 +	\$0.53	\$2.10	\$25.86
Special 2		\$3.79			
Foster Care	1-2 yrs.	\$19.44 +	\$0.53	\$0.95	\$24.71
Special 2		\$3.79			
Foster Care	3-5 yrs.	\$19.44 +	\$0.53	\$0.10	\$23.86
Special 2		\$3.79			
Foster Care	6-11 yrs.	\$19.44 +	\$0.79	\$0.33	\$24.35
Special 2		\$3.79			
Foster Care	12-18+yrs.	\$21.45 +	\$1.02	\$0.72	\$24.97
Special 2		\$1.78			
Foster Care	0-12 mos.	\$19.44 +	\$0.53	\$2.10	\$31.19
Special 3		\$10.12			
Foster Care	1-2 yrs.	\$19.44 +	\$0.53	\$0.95	\$31.04
Special 3		\$10.12			
Foster Care	3-5 yrs.	\$19.44 +	\$0.53	\$0.10	\$31.04
Special 3		\$10.12			

Foster Care Special 2	6-11 yrs.	\$19.44 + \$3.79	\$0.79	\$0.33	\$24.35
Foster Care Special 2	12-18+yrs.	\$21.45 + \$1.78	\$1.02	\$0.72	\$24.97
Foster Care Special 3	0-12 mos.	\$19.44 + \$10.12	\$0.53	\$2.10	\$31.19
Foster Care Special 3	1-2 yrs.	\$19.44 + \$10.12	\$0.53	\$0.95	\$31.04
Foster Care Special 3	3-5 yrs.	\$19.44 + \$10.12	\$0.53	\$0.10	\$31.04
Foster Care Special 3	6-11 yrs.	\$19.44 + \$10.12	\$0.79	\$0.33	\$30.68
Foster Care Special 3	12-18+ yrs.	\$21.45 + \$8.12	\$1.02	\$0.72	\$31.30
FC + Parent Therapist	0-12 mos.	\$19.44 + \$15.87	\$0.53	\$2.10	\$37.94
FC + Parent Therapist	1-2 yrs.	\$19.44 + \$15.87	\$0.53	\$0.95	\$36.79
FC + Parent Therapist	3-5 yrs.	\$19.44 + \$15.87	\$0.53	\$0.10	\$35.94
FC + Parent Therapist	6-11 yrs.	\$19.44 + \$15.87	\$0.79	\$0.33	\$36.43
FC + Parent Therapist	12-18+ yrs.	\$21.45 + \$13.86	\$1.02	\$0.72	\$37.05

Unlicensed Kinship Foster Care (Relative Providers)

Service Type	Age Range	Daily Clothing Allowance	Daily Personal Allowance	Daily Total
Kinship Foster Care (Unlicensed Relative)	0-12 mos.	\$0.53	\$2.10	\$2.63
Kinship	1-2 yrs.	\$0.53	\$0.95	\$1.48
Kinship	3-5 yrs.	\$0.53	\$0.10	\$0.63
Kinship	6-11 yrs.	\$0.79	\$0.33	\$1.12
Kinship	12-18+ yrs.	\$1.02	\$0.72	\$1.74

Unlicensed Non-Relative Providers

Service Type	Age Range	Daily Clothing Allowance	Daily Personal Allowance	Daily Total
Unlicensed Non-Relative	0-12 mos.	\$0.53	\$2.10	\$2.63
Non-Relative	1-2 yrs.	\$0.53	\$0.95	\$1.48
Non-Relative	3-5 yrs.	\$0.53	\$0.10	\$0.63
Non-Relative	6-11 yrs.	\$0.79	\$0.33	\$1.12
Non-Relative	12-18+ yrs.	\$1.02	\$0.72	\$1.74

regards to the FCRB, the new legislation increased the number of FCRB volunteers that participate in both the Removal Reviews and the Case Conferences from 1 to 2 and provides the teams with voting authority. The program has responded to this legislation by recruiting additional volunteers and enhancing the Removal Review and Case Conference training to focus on the team's new authority.

- *Quality Assurance Reports:* the creation of Quality Assurance Reports has enabled the program to ensure quality data collection.

Arizona CASA Program - Linda Wright

While reflecting on work and accomplishments of the CASA Program this past year, I ran across this poem that really says many things I wanted to convey to you. But before you read these words of wisdom, I do want to share a few of our successes during 2004.

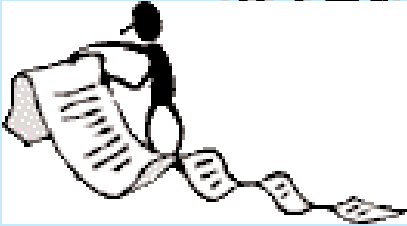
- The CASA Program has proudly served children for 20 years - even longer in Pima County. CASA volunteers continue each to serve more children each year - approximately 2,412 children were served.
- There were 244 new volunteers trained.
- All program staff provided more training this year than last. Specifically, in the area of distance learning, approximately 421 training hours were completed by volunteers via the internet.
- Our program Code was completed and adopted providing a more constant guide to program operations and accountability.
- Volunteers are now able to submit court reports and contact logs without leaving home. By signing on to a secure page of the CASA web site, volunteers can submit their court reports and contact logs via the Internet. County coordinators then sign on to the secure page of the web site and download the documents. You may contact your county coordinator for more information on this new capability.

- Many of us are interested in Helping Older Youth in the system have a better chance of success after they reach their majority. The Maricopa County CASA Program is involved in a partnership with ASU to study this issue. At the state level, the CASA Program has provided additional training for volunteers who want to gain knowledge concerning how to better work with these young people prior to exiting care. We have a great deal to do in 2005 in this area and have taken small steps to accomplish our goals. With your help and additional resources, we can be an intricate part of this focus.

We should take pride in our longevity, our passion, and our vision for future work. You, the volunteer, are truly the heart beat of our organization. You always will be. We thank you for the commitment you keep to the children who need your voice. Reflect now on how we can put our work in perspective and focus our energy on the things that "really" matter.

*Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end.
There will be no more sunrises, no days, no hours or minutes.
All the things you collected, whether treasured or
forgotten, will pass to someone else.
Your wealth, fame and temporal power will
shrivel to irrelevance.
It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.
Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, and
jealousies will finally disappear.
So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans, and to-do lists will all expire.
The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.
It won't matter where you came from, or
on what side of the tracks you lived.
It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.
Your gender, skin color, ethnicity will be irrelevant.
So what will matter?
How will the value of your days be measured?
What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built; not
what you got, but what you gave.
What will matter is not your success, but your significance.
What will matter is not what you learned, but what you taught.
What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage and
sacrifice that enriched, empowered or
encouraged others to emulate your example.
What will matter is not your competence, but your character.
What will matter is not how many people you knew,
but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.
What will matter is not your memories, but the memories that live
in those who loved you.
What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by
whom and for what.
Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.*

Tidbits & Reminders



Have a story to submit for the newsletter?

Here are the deadlines for submitting articles for the upcoming issues of *Advocates for Children*:

February 28 - Spring
May 13 - Summer
August 12 - Fall
October 28 - Winter

Send articles to
Connie Lopez
CLopez@supreme.sp.state.az.us.
or
Jenny Loya
JLoya@supreme.sp.state.az.us



Training! Meetings! Deadlines! Important Dates to Remember - 2005

(dates are subject to change)

February

17 Legislative Day Training, Phoenix

March

5 FCRB State Board Meeting, Phoenix
11 CASA Administrative Meeting, Phoenix
11-12 CASA Orientation & Training, Phoenix

April

8 CASA Older Youth In-Service, Phoenix
15-16 FCRB New Board Member Orientation, Tucson

May

13 CASA Administrative Meeting, Phoenix
13-14 CASA Orientation & Training, Phoenix

June

4 FCRB State Board Meeting, Phoenix
10-11 CASA Administrative Meeting/Training

Have a change in your email?



Don't forget
please contact your FCRB
program specialist or
CASA coordinator
regarding corrections or
changes to
your email address!

We want to keep you informed!

DCSD Staff Changes

The Foster Care Review Board sadly says farewell to staff members in the Phoenix and Tucson office. **Carrie Kelly** and **Valerie Smith** both resigned from their program specialist in Phoenix. In Tucson, **Lisa Scholinski** resigned her position as program specialist.

Meghan Naddy joined the FCRB staff in the Phoenix office as a program specialist. Naddy has extensive experience with the Healthy Families program and will be a strong addition to our team

In the Tucson office, **Jody Fox** was promoted from support staff to program specialist III. Jodi has just completed her BS degree in Human Services.



The Arizona CASA Program welcomes two new support staff, **Jenny Loya** and **Celia Lara**. Loya comes to us from the Children's Action Alliance where she has been in a support position there. She will fill the position vacated by Ondria Mercer. Lara was an administrative secretary with the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency and will fill the position vacated by Elsa Romero.

CASA bids farewell to **Victoria Wold**, support staff in Coconino County; Pinal County support staff **Felisha Celis** and to Mohave County CASA coordinator, **Toni Laskowski**.

The Pima County CASA Program welcomes new coordinator **Gerardo de la Torre**. Torre was a CPS Specialist in Tucson and his experience as a domestic violence and DUI counselor and a home study specialist for an ICPC unit in Phoenix. Gerardo is helping to recruit minorities for the CASA Program. By working closely with the community and organizations intended to help the youth, de la Torre is creating strong ties between the court and the community.

Laura Church joins the Maricopa County CASA Program office as a new support staff. She has held various administrative positions before becoming a legal assistant to a criminal defense attorney. She likes volunteering at her children's school, reading, and spending time with family. "It's good to see that there are organizations in the community that have a heart, and I'm proud to be able to utilize my skills for the betterment of such an organization."

*Arizonans for Children
continued from page 3*

A certified pet therapy dog from Gabriel's Angels is always there and performs tricks and is, in general, the hit of the party.

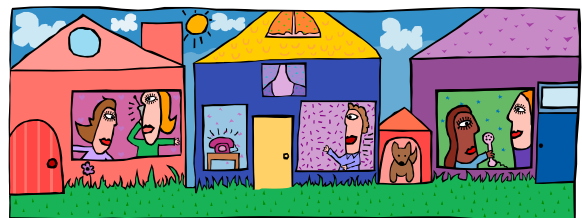
The Visitation Center is maintained through the generosity of corporate donors, private foundations, and the fundraising efforts of AFC. All of the individuals involved in making the Center work are volunteers. During its first 24 months of operation the Center served 7,000 people. There is no charge for using the Center.

The number of children utilizing the Visitation Center is increasing. The Center is now serving about 1,000 people including children, along with their siblings, biological parent(s), parent aides, and/or other family members every month. The need for volunteers is also increasing.

In addition to the Visitation Center, AFC coordinates events for volunteers and their children. In October, a train ride to Wickenburg was enjoyed by nearly 100 CASA volunteers and their children. The CASA clown painted happy faces on all the children throughout the train ride. Clowns, kittens, kites and, yes, some ghosts and goblins could be seen on little laughing faces with great big, happy eyes as the train chugged along and the whistle blew.

In May and December 2004, Governor Janet Napolitano issued proclamations commending the efforts of AFC in operating the Children's Visitation Center and serving the needs of foster children.

If you would like more information on AFC and are interested in volunteering at the center, contact Kaye McCarthy at (480) 838-0085.



CASA Activity Report

(as of September 30, 2004)

Volunteers

Volunteers currently in program	854
All volunteers accepted to date	3,531
Volunteers trained this month	0
Volunteers trained to date in FY	107
Volunteers trained to date in calendar year	244

Cases assigned this month	32
Children assigned this month	38
Cases assigned to date in FY	142
Children in cases assigned to date in FY	203
All cases assigned to date	6,391
All children served to date	11,285

Hours/Miles Through 9/3/04

Volunteer hours	618,081
Volunteer miles	5,396,415

Cases temporarily unassigned	31
Children in temporarily unassigned cases	98

Cases/Children

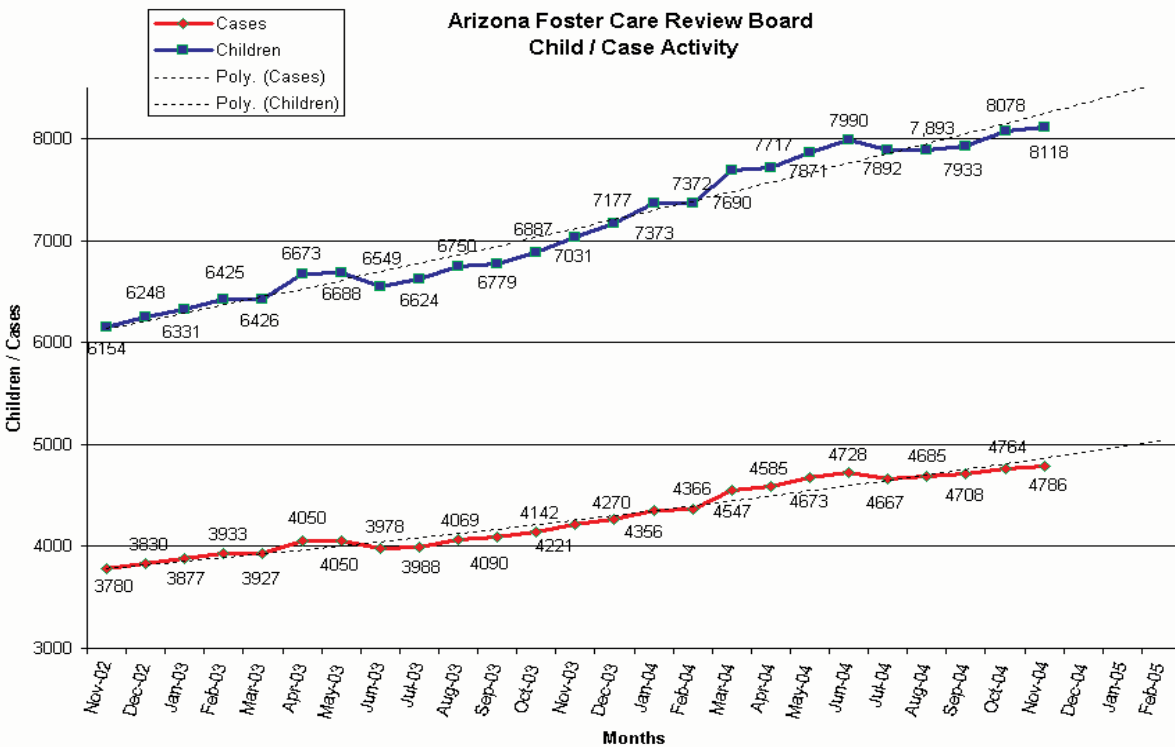
Cases currently assigned	871
Children in assigned cases	1,508

Cases closed this month	15
Children closed this month	20
Cases closed to date in FY	126
Children in closed cases to date in FY	199
All closed cases to date	3,529
All children in closed cases to date	6,321

* Activity figures based on counties submitting data

FCRB Case/Child Activity Report (as of December 31, 2004)

The activity report figures are statewide.



*This newsletter is published by the Administrative Office of the Courts
Dependent Children's Services Division*

Bill Stanton, Division Director
Dependent Children's Services Division
602/542-9409
Wstanton@supreme.sp.state.az.us

Caroline Lauth-Owens, Program Manager
Foster Care Review Board
602/542-9408
Clowens@supreme.sp.state.az.us

Linda Wright, Program Manager
Arizona CASA Program
602/542-9583
Lwright@supreme.sp.state.az.us

Connie Lopez, Community Outreach Specialist
Dependent Children's Services Division
602/542-9683
Clopez@supreme.sp.state.az.us

Dependent Children's Services Division

Administrative Office of the Courts
Arizona Supreme Court
1501 West Washington, Suite 128
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3327

