

UCHRA CASA to hold Training

The children of Cumberland, Overton and Putnam Counties need you to be their Court Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA Volunteer. In 2010, over 2200 cases of abuse in the three counties were reported to the Department of Children's Services and were investigated. Of those, 101 children were served by UCHRA CASA by volunteer advocates.

CASA volunteers are individuals with a heart and passion for helping abused and neglected children. Currently serving advocates include college students, full-time workers, and retirees, who were specially trained how to provide the voice of the child to the court and who have passed thorough background checks.

UCHRA CASA is pleased to announce the next Volunteer Advocate Training class has been scheduled for June 14, 16, 21, 23, and 25, 1010, at the UCHRA main office in Cookeville, Tennessee with times to be determined. The comprehensive 30-hour training program will cover everything needed to serve as the "eyes and ears" of the court in a child's life, including childhood development, the impact of drug addiction, abuse, and mental illness on children, an introduction to the legal system including DCS Juvenile Court observation, and investigative skills to be able to discover all avenues of information necessary to create a full picture of what has happened to the child since entering the court system.

All potential volunteers must complete a volunteer application, provide three references and undergo a pre-training interview. Once the training is complete, volunteers must then submit to a thorough TBI background check before being sworn in as an officer of the court and being assigned an abuse or neglect case.

If you are interested in becoming a CASA Volunteer, please contact us by calling 931-456-069 in Cumberland County, 931-823-7479 in Overton County or Putnam County 931-520-9542, or visiting the website at www.uchracasa4children.com. CASA is a non-profit program under the umbrella of the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency.



Pictured is Judge John Officer and Bernie Barton, CASA volunteer advocate after the Overton County swearing in ceremony.