

Ocmulgee Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
CASA CONNECTION

APRIL – JUNE 2025

*Ocmulgee CASA Swears in New
Volunteers in February 2025*



Ocmulgee CASA recently swore in two new volunteers to advocate for children in foster care. Pictured with Kelli Rutherford, our juvenile court judge, are (L-R): Kim Kramer and Sharon McClung. We are happy to report that both ladies already have a case!

Welcome, Sharon and Kim!

Upcoming Events:

**Swing a Club
for CASA**

Friday, May 16
The Club at
Lake Sinclair

**Fall Volunteer
Training**

Mondays &
Wednesdays,
1-4 pm

Dates TBD

Putnam Admin Building
117 Putnam Dr., Suite A
Eatonton

Swing a Club for CASA Golf Tournament

Ocmulgee CASA and The Club at Lake Sinclair will host their Swing A Club for CASA Golf Tournament on Friday, May 16. Registration begins at 9:30 am, with a shotgun start at 11 am. Registration is \$150 per player and includes green fees, cart, swag bag, drinks, lunch and appetizers at the awards ceremony. There are sponsorships available. To register, visit bit.ly/2025CASAGOLF. All proceeds benefit foster care children in our judicial circuit. Prizes will be given for top teams and the "Hit It and Get it" (putting challenge). An awards



ceremony will conclude the day with entertainment by Scott Little.

Our Friends of CASA team is busy planning the Swing a Club for CASA tournament. We are grateful for

this group and all the hard work they are putting into planning our tournament!



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**OCMULGEE COURT APPOINTED
SPECIAL ADVOCATES**

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Recent Ocmulgee CASA Happenings



In March, Suzanne and Rachel attended the All Volunteer Supervisor Meeting hosted by Georgia CASA. This annual meeting for CASA supervisors offers two days of new ideas and best practices. Over 100 supervisors attended, bringing their experience and passion for children and families. The Georgia CASA team does a great job with this meeting each year.

A huge thanks to the Reynolds Ladies Club and Ocmulgee CASA Nancy Whitesides for inviting us to their raffle event in March. It's always a pleasure to connect and share our mission with the community! Also, special thanks to our volunteers, Barbara Scott and Kim Kramer, for helping us sell tickets!



Our March Peer Meet-Up brought everyone to Chicken Salad Chick. We enjoyed great food and even better company. Ocmulgee CASA is so very grateful for this fabulous group of volunteers.

Do your
 little bit of
 good
 where you
 are; it's
 those little
 bits of
 good put
 together
 that
 overwhelm
 the world.

- Desmond Tutu



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Ocmulgee CASA's
Board of Directors

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Volunteer Spotlight: Barbara Scott



Barbara Scott's path to CASA came in an unusual way. She explains, "My daughter spent a weekend with college friends in the summer of 2023, when she learned about CASA from Rachel Odom, Volunteer Supervisor. When she got home, she called me and asked me to consider volunteering as a CASA. I remember clearly that she said, "This is something I would do if I had the time, can you?" So, I connected with Rachel and Elaine and went through the training program in November 2023. It was the best decision ever!"

Barbara has completed one case with two children and now has her second case. Her husband, Ronnie, has also completed CASA training, and she is helping him with his first case involving a teenager.

Reflecting on her first case, Barbara says, "The children were removed due to medical neglect and truancy. In the end, the medical issue was fully addressed, and the child is now in remission. Both children progressed to the next grade level while in foster care. During the case, the father was combative with DFCS and the court. I was able to empathize with both parents and redirect the father's attention to completing the case plan. I observed a significant improvement in the mother's parenting efforts and did not believe it would be in the best interest of the children to sever their connection with their mother. Thankfully, the children are placed with their maternal great-aunt, and their grandmother and great-grandmother also live in the home. Being involved in all aspects of the children's lives was so rewarding. I attended family visitations, visited the foster home, attended doctor's appointments, and met with school counselors and teachers."

Barbara spent her career working in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) field. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering Technology from Georgia Southern University and a Master of Science in Safety and Emergency Management from the University of Tennessee. Barbara started her career as a process engineer in the wire and cable industry and later transitioned into environmental engineering and moved into the fields of metal fabrication, adhesive paper manufacturing, and semi-conductor manufacturing. Over the last 20 years of her career, Barbara worked as an environmental specialist for Tennessee's Department of Environment and Conservation, Water Division, served as a Federal On-Scene Coordinator with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 4 Hazardous Waste Emergency Response Division and as Region 4's Safety Manager.

After retiring in 2022, Barbara and Ronnie moved to the Del Webb Lake Oconee community. She says, "We enjoy boating, traveling, and visiting our four children and their families, including 8 grandchildren. I enjoy reading, crocheting, and knitting. We are active in several clubs at Del Webb and volunteer on HOA committees. I serve as the President of the Charles Clark III Historical and Memorial Society, Inc., which is the primary caretaker of my father's maternal family church in Hepzibah, GA, which was built in 1847."

Thank you, Barbara, for all that you do for the children that we serve!