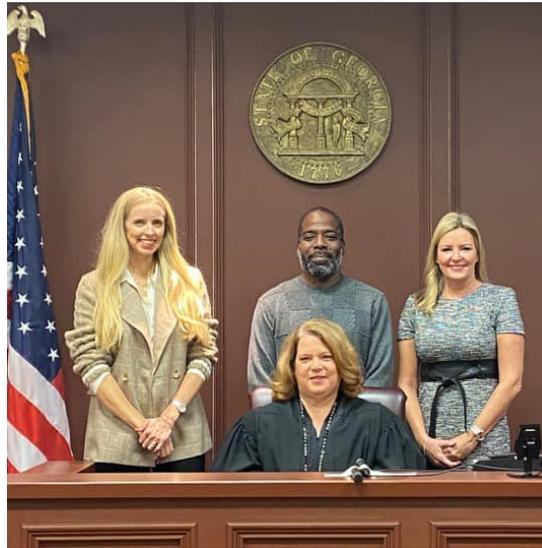


Ocmulgee Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
CASA CONNECTION

JANUARY – MARCH 2025

*Ocmulgee CASA Swears in New
Volunteers in November*

Ocmulgee CASA recently swore in three new volunteers to advocate for children in foster care. Pictured with Kelli Rutherford, our juvenile court judge, are (L-R): Laney Crowder, Daylon Martin and Allison Shepherd. We are happy to report that all 3 already have a case! Welcome, Laney, Daylon and Allison!



Upcoming Events:

**Peer Group
Meet-Up**

Tuesday, January 21
11 am
Mellow Mushroom

Volunteer Training
Mondays and Wednesdays,
February 3-19
1-4 pm

Putnam Admin Building
117 Putnam Dr., Suite A
Eatonton



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**OCMULGEE COURT APPOINTED
SPECIAL ADVOCATES**

A Holly Jolly Christmas



donations. Our CASAs were able to “shop” for their CASA children from these generous gifts.



We were blessed with Christmas gifts for our children this year. Thank you to Milledgeville 1st Baptist Church (pictured above), Kares4Kids for the Costco shopping spree (top right), Tri-County EMC, Arians Family Foundation, the Shriner’s Club (middle right), and several individuals for toys and

Christmas Cove on Lake Sinclair (right) was adorned in gorgeous lights again this year. Our program received donations from boaters who enjoyed the festive displays. Thank you, Christmas Cove!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Peer Group Meet-Up</i>	2
<i>Volunteer Appreciation Banquet</i>	2
<i>Holiday Giving Market</i>	3
<i>Volunteer Spotlight</i>	3

Peer Group Meet-up Planned for January 21



Our next Peer Group Meet-Up is planned for **Tuesday, January 21 at 11 am at the Mellow Mushroom**, 105 Harmony Crossing, Suite 1 in Eatonton. All volunteers are invited to join us for lunch and friendship!

Pictured is a photo from our November peer group meet-up. Thanks to these volunteers who joined us at Surcheros.

Volunteer Appreciation Banquet Held October 21



You have no idea how long something you say can stay in someone's mind.

- Scarlett Leithold





200 ABC Street
PO Box 1586
Milledgeville, GA 31059
478-452-9170

Elaine Odom, Director
ocasao@baldwin.k12.ga.us
478-804-1961

Dana Lowe, Vol. Supervisor
ocasadl@baldwin.k12.ga.us
478-456-0310

Suzanne Mathis, Vol. Supervisor
ocasasm@baldwin.k12.ga.us
770-378-2454

Rachel Odom, Vol. Supervisor
ocasaro@baldwin.k12.ga.us
478-457-5653

Ocmulgee CASA's Board of Directors

Milton Appling
Diane Brooks
Gwen Foster
James Goforth
Justin Jones
Ellen Torrance
Linda Zarkowsky

Ocmulgee CASA Participates in Holiday Giving Market

Ocmulgee CASA, along with other charities in Milledgeville, participated in the first annual Holiday Giving Market on December 6. Held in conjunction with First Friday, each charity was invited to set up a table and attendees were able to speak with representatives from each non-profit. During the course of the evening, we were able to gather email addresses from those interested in volunteering. Attendees were also able to make a contribution to the charities they wished to support and enjoyed cocoa, cookies and crafts. This was a great opportunity to spread the word about CASA and our mission. We look forward to next year's Holiday Giving Market in December 2025!

Volunteer Spotlight: Arlin Brown



While **Arlin Brown** was born in South Georgia, he has made Milledgeville home since his family moved to the area while in high school. After graduating from Baldwin High School, Arlin attended Georgia College, earning degrees in education, with a focus in special education. After graduating from college, Arlin and his wife (Brenda) who also works in education, decided to stay in their hometown and work with young children. “The

most rewarding aspect of teaching and working with children and families has been the relationships I formed with them,” adds Arlin.

Once he retired after 27 years, most of which were spent in the classroom, Arlin was searching for a way to give back. “I decided to volunteer with CASA to help make a difference in the lives of children in foster care,” he says.

As a CASA for two years, Arlin says, “One great success is seeing smiles on the kids faces when they are happy to see you. It is rewarding work because CASA works to keep families together during their time of need.”

Arlin and Brenda have two adult sons. In his spare time, he also enjoys container gardening and crafts.

Thank you, Arlin! We appreciate all that you do for CASA and the children we serve.