

Altrusa Program Meeting  
January 16, 2012  
Hospice 12:00 Noon

Members Present: Bev Nally, Jan Hamman, Susan Walker-Hemm, Myrle Briggs, Judy Nickras, Ann Baird, Amy Dawson, Susan Swinehart, Nancy Wiles, Amy LeVan, Sondra Christian, and Mary Davis  
Members excused: Tami Ganley, Sally Adams, Susan Harbaugh, Babs Wesbecher, Deanna Riley, Linda Roth, Cindy Wingert, Teresa Bowers, Deb Kappers , Barb Owen, Karen Eliason, Mary Beth Anthony, Mary Hobson, Mindy Phelps, Sharon Buse,

The Altrusa program meeting was called to order by Mary Davis at 12:01 p.m. with the Altrusa Grace.

**Program:**

Mary introduced Kay Kaebnick who is in her 15<sup>th</sup> year of being CASA child advocate. Kay was introduced to the CASA program by Sue Parker, then a member of First United Methodist Church. Last year Kay was named CASA of the year in Ohio.

In 1977 a Seattle judge saw the need for a well informed person to try to unite a child with parents. Attorneys lacked the time, so someone else was needed to fill the gap. The CASA/Guardian Ad Litem was begun. Now there are 75,000 CASA guardians serving 900 districts in the US. In Ohio 35 out of the 88 counties have these programs.

This is Miami County's 17th year. 775 children have been served in Miami County since the beginning of the program in 1995. 34 women and two men are CASAS. The average age is 50. 30 hours of initial training are needed to begin the job.

The process begins when a complaint is first issued to Children's Services. Then a hearing is planned. If there is merit, a CASA is assigned. CASAS are allowed to copy and inspect records without the consent of the child's parents or the child. CASA makes a report to the judge 10 days before the hearing. A CASA can stay with the child until he or she is adopted, reunited with their family, and until they turn 18.

Kay stated that there is a problem with the kids when they turn 18 and age out of the system and have nowhere to go or no support system in place. National CASA is working on a program to help these kids. There are pilot programs at this time and one of the locations is in the Cincinnati area.

CASA has never turned down a case. Somebody has to do something for these children. All Ohioans are indebted to CASA for helping to get the young person's truth told. Their voices need to be heard.

Kay was honored with a gift certificate from Jay and Mary's for giving her presentation.

**Roundtable:** Susan Walker-Hemm announced the Down a Country Lane items are being sold as a benefit for Hospice of Miami County. The sale is in the Amish Furniture Store (David's Shoes). The store is open every day until January 31.

Ann Baird reminded the members that Altrusa orientation was to be held tonight. (January 16) at Tami Ganley's home.

Judy Nickras asked for all members to sell Spelling tickets, and that all members need a ticket to come to the spelling bee. Many members picked up tickets after the program.

Sandy Christian stated that there are nine teams and nine sponsors for the Spelling Bee at this time. The club is trying for 10.

The meeting was closed with the Altrusa benediction.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Davis, Secretary, Pro tem