

**Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA)
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Putnam County CASA Receives Grant from Tennessee Bar Foundation

By Randy Wilder, Community Outreach and Resource Development Manager

Cookeville- Some people may tell you “No news is good news”, but that is not the case when continuously filing grant applications to maintain government and privately funded programs. The Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA) recently received news the IOLTA (Interest On Lawyers’ Trust Accounts) program approved a \$3,000 grant for UCHRA’s Putnam County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program.

“The volunteers of the UCHRA CASA programs truly have a heart for the abused and neglected children represented,” stated Phyllis Bennett, Executive Director of the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency, “Their work is a vital part of the court system and life of these children. We are so pleased for the additional funding to support this program and its volunteers.”

The CASA program uses volunteers, who are judge appointed, to assist in determination of the best possible outcome for abused and neglected children on a case by case basis. Despite the state’s attempts to help, these children may become trapped in the court and child welfare maze spending their childhood moving from one temporary shelter to another. CASA becomes the voice of these children.

“Being a non-profit program, CASA depends on grants from different sources in-order to raise the needed funds for the operation of our program” states Judy Greenwood Program Manager. “We are so blessed to once again receive the support of the TN Bar Foundation. I also want to thank the attorneys in our community that participate in the funding of the TN Bar Foundation”.

CASA is funded by several different entities including: UCHRA, the Tennessee Bar Foundation, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, (TCCY), local governments, community donations, and fund raising events.

Each year thousands of children in the upper Cumberland enter Foster Care because they are innocent victims of abuse or neglect “states Johnnie Wheeler CASA Supervisor, We need

volunteers to help an abuse child in the Upper Cumberland area. Tonight, 6,970 Tennessee children cannot go home .Tomorrow; you can be the voice for 1 of these abused children.”

CASA is located in the Tennessee Career Center at Cookeville where it recruits, trains and supervises community volunteers to provide an objective voice for the represented children during court cases. If interested in becoming a volunteer for the CASA program, contact Judy Greenwood at 931-520-9540.



The Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency recently received news that the IOLTA (Interest On Lawyers’ Trust Accounts) program approved a \$3,000 grant for UCHRA’s Putnam County CASA program. Accepting the grant for the Putnam County CASA program is (L to R): Rita Turnipseed, Putnam County CASA Volunteer Coordinator; Judy Greenwood, Putnam County CASA Program Manager; and Johnnie Wheeler, Putnam County Career Coordinator.