

Dear All,

I am going to jump right in. We have so many updates to share!:

Our first annual golf outing was held on Monday July 12, 2021, at the Edgewood Country Club and it was a great success. The forecast rain largely held off. The day was fun and fiscally rewarding, we netted valuable additional funding and most importantly introduced CASA to several new donors and friends.

The Board of Trustees and I are now focusing our energies on the upcoming **CASINO Gala, scheduled for October 13, 2021, at the Venetian in Garfield. Please reach out if you are interested in joining this event committee and save the date**, because I am looking forward to seeing you there!

We continue to transform largely in response to the pandemic. Our office has been overhauled: staff now have separate work-stations both for COVID-19 compliance and to be more conducive to the confidential nature of our work. Our new information technology has been installed, including high speed wireless internet. So we are now 'backing-up' all our data, both in the office and offsite. **You should be aware that all the BergenCASA email addresses are also backed-up, to comply with AOC requirements that we maintain our case records for 7 years after each case closes.** Lauren Awe and I are working in the office practically full time while Patty, Kristine and Dina have flexible schedules. **(This means that if you want an in-person meeting with your Case Supervisor it can now be scheduled!)** Lastly, our upcoming fall pre-service training program will be hybrid; incorporating both in-person classes and zoom classes. You will also see that one of the upcoming court report writing refresher classes in September, is in-person as well.

Speaking of in-person, we hope we can continue visits with our children even when the weather becomes colder and we have to move inside. This will be possible if all of you are vaccinated. If you are not vaccinated I urge you to become so. Children ages 12 years and under are largely unable to be vaccinated, so it is necessary that we protect them from the spread of the virus. **If you are not vaccinated, please reach out to your case supervisor to discuss your plans for fall visitation.**

Thank you for your dedication to your appointed child(ren). I am especially grateful for the strong push this summer by all of you to find our children activities, camps, classes and other opportunities for growth. It has been a pleasure to find so many wonderful outlets for our children. We are still continuing with this program - so keep an ear open and do not hesitate to reach out to staff if you have an idea of something, possibly life transforming, or just joyous, that our children can engage in.

Stay safe and healthy,

Lucy