

In 1999, **Dianne Scoggins** began as the director of the still-emerging CASA program serving the Appalachian Judicial Circuit (Fannin, Gilmer and Pickens counties). She used her influence, reputation and resourcefulness to harness community involvement and directed it in a way to elevate CASA advocacy. CASA of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit transformed under her leadership to become one of the first affiliate CASA programs in the state to serve all foster children in the area and did so in a way that every attorney, case manager and judge came to respect and value CASA's input. To date, this program's long-tenured volunteers provide the highest-quality advocacy, maintain unwavering confidence from the court and are known throughout the community for the compassionate insight they bring to the system. Dianne remains a leader within the juvenile court, a trusted advisor, a confidant and a friend to many.



Locally, Dianne spearheaded much of the stakeholder engagement efforts for the Court Improvement Initiative and started the Fun'N'Facts Friday, a highly successful, recurring in-service training for Appalachian CASA volunteers and partners. Dianne also led Appalachian CASA's use of CPRS (Court Process Reporting System) to track statistics on CASA volunteers and children served, and the usage helped to launch the creation of many additional features being added to the system for the benefit of affiliate CASA programs across the state.

On a state level, Dianne takes a personal interest in each new CASA director and is commonly regarded as the matriarch of the CASA network. Dianne has also served as a longstanding member on the Georgia CASA board of directors, and currently serves a third three-year term.

Up at dawn, with energy levels that compete with those half her age, Dianne has supported development and fundraising efforts and established new relationships. Whenever possible, she has made connections to benefit the larger CASA network, and her previous career as a lobbyist resulted in expanded and meaningful legislative connections across the state and was instrumental in having CASA codified in state law on more than one occasion. Her involvement and guidance with the juvenile code rewrite for the State of Georgia is another example of her skill and influence in the legislative process. There might never be another director who so effortlessly secures resources and support for CASA.

Dianne loves all-things Disney, and she embraces the same core philosophies as her beloved Walt Disney in her approach to leadership, customer service and relationships, and employee engagement. She recognizes and invests in the talents and skills of those around her, and she exhibits a genuine interest and curiosity that opens doors, starts conversations and connects people to CASA in creative ways. Dianne's current staff team is the strongest yet, possessing a blend of subject-matter expertise and skills, compassion and camaraderie. If you ask Dianne, she'll tell you she's most proud of her "team," which she would define as her staff, volunteers, family, judges, supporters and the entire state CASA network.

Dianne's family and friends are eager to make more memories together through their shared adventures and travels. We look forward to her continued involvement on the Georgia CASA board and support for our advocacy at all levels. We thank Dianne and her family for their tireless involvement and support of the local, state and national CASA networks through the years and wish her well as we continue the legacy she leaves behind.