

COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWS

by Chris Cronk

PRO BONO CLINIC

A huge 'Thank You' goes to the Pro Bono Clinic volunteers for September. **Terri Gillespie, Monica Thompson and Lisa Bright** are all new or fairly new clinic volunteers and we're so glad to have them.

The MTPA website is now back on track but as a result of some past website glitches, the Community Service column had not been updated as it should have been over the past few months. Therefore I'd like to acknowledge again and thank the Clinic volunteers for the past few months to be certain that everyone has been acknowledged for the invaluable time they've contributed to the Pro Bono Clinic.

June Volunteers

Dana Bramley
Hope Fishback
Anthony Cartwright
Tammy Johnson
Chris Rock

July Volunteers

Lisa Bright
Terri Gillespie
Kim Jay
Andrea Patton

August Volunteers

Dana Bramley
Hope Fishback
Kim Jay
Andrea Patton

Their sacrifice of time is so appreciated, especially over the summer months when everyone is busy vacationing and taking time off for summer break. Our volunteers are busy with their careers, and as parents and/or students and some are all three and more which is why they are so greatly appreciated for spreading themselves even thinner to assist with the Clinic!! Thanks everyone!!!

I am also reprinting Terri Gillespie's comments about her experience as a new Clinic volunteer. This is what Terri had to say:

"Volunteering at the Pro Bono Legal Clinic has been an incredible experience! I am grateful for the opportunity to learn new skills and meet new friends in the legal field. Whether you are a seasoned legal professional or a newcomer to the field, the clinic provides a way for you to move out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself professionally. The clients present diverse legal issues, which allow you to gain valuable knowledge in a variety of legal areas. I wholeheartedly recommend volunteering at the Pro Bono Clinic if you want to sharpen your legal skills, interact with great attorneys and know you have truly assisted people with their legal problems."

The Clinic dates for next couple of months are October 18th and November 15th. December's clinic date will most likely be moved up a week to the 13th due to the Christmas holiday but I will confirm that with Pro Bono and post that date next month. If you are interested in assisting at a Saturday morning clinic, attorney soliciting or intake training or would like additional information about the clinics and/ or other ways MTPA is assisting the NBA's Pro Bono Division please e-mail or call me, Chris Cronk at ccronk@wallerlaw.com or (615) 850-8761.

ALL ABOUT WOMEN -

This event took place at the Gaylord Entertainment Center on August 22nd and even though we were given short notice, MTPA members made time to help out.

The purpose of the event was to improve the health and safety of women by connecting them with community resources. It was a community resource fair so to speak. Due to the timing of the newsletters, an e-mail went out requesting MTPA volunteers to assist the Nashville Pro Bono Program and Legal Aid Society with manning a booth and providing notary assistance for living wills and durable powers of attorney for health care issues. In addition to the living wills and durable powers of attorney, the booth was stocked with all types of pamphlets on domestic issues, landlord and housing issues, financial matters, bankruptcy information, drivers license and warrant issues – you name it they had information on it.

Dana Bramley, Jennifer Elliott, Hope Fishback, Cyndi Snyder and I assisted with manning the Pro Bono/ Legal Aid booth at various times throughout the weekend. My shift was on Friday morning and surprisingly there was a lot of traffic at the booth. I assisted several people with living wills that morning and handed out ‘tons’ of pamphlet materials.

I offered the services of MTPA members to assist with this function again next year if it becomes an annual event or at any time and venue where Pro Bono and Legal Aid have an opportunity to set up the booth. Those of you who missed this volunteer opportunity be sure to participate the next time around. I certainly learned a few things. Thanks Dana, Hope, Jennifer and Cyndi for pitching in at the last minute.

CASA NEWS

CASA ADVOCATES -

If you are a new CASA or you know of an MTPA member who is a new CASA and has recently completed the training program or is still in training, please let me know. Also, any CASAs that have had a particularly interesting case and would like to share the story with MTPA, please let me know.

CASA is always in need of volunteers to train as advocates. If you are interested in learning more about becoming an advocate and the training programs the various County CASAs offer, please let me know and I will have the CASA organization for the appropriate county send you an information packet.

UCP HOLIDAY ELDERLY FOOD BASKET COLLECTION

MTPA is planning to participate in the United Cerebral Palsy ‘*Food For Elder Citizens with Disabilities*’ campaign this year. We will be soliciting specific food donations from MTPA members according to a list provided by UCP. Holiday food boxes will be assembled during our November MTPA luncheon. Please watch for a future e-mail about this service project and plan to attend the November luncheon!

United Cerebral Palsy's (UCP) mission is *'to advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people with disabilities and to provide support to family members.'*

UCP serves individuals with all types of disabilities and their expertise is to provide in-service to individuals with physical disabilities which affect mobility. They also serve as a clearing house for information about the condition known as cerebral palsy. Cerebral Palsy is the second largest lifetime disability in the U.S. Mental retardation is the largest lifetime disability. The term 'Cerebral Palsy' is used to describe a group of chronic conditions affecting body movement and muscle coordination and is caused by damage to one or more specific areas of the brain, usually occurring during fetal development, before, during, or shortly after birth; or during infancy.

Currently 40% of the individuals UCP serves have cerebral palsy and 60% have disabilities other than cerebral palsy, which include spina bifida, M.S., ALS, amputations, strokes and heart attack related disabilities among others.

There are many volunteer opportunities at UCP. If you are interested in learning more about them, visit the UCP website at www.ucpnashville.org.

*******RESOLVE TO GET INVOLVED IN 2003*******

*If you have any ideas or suggestions for MTPA participation
in community related activities, please let me know!!
MTPA Members are the BEST!!*