

COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWS

by Chris Cronk

PRO BONO CLINIC

Thank you to the February 15th clinic participants: **Hope Fishback, Andrea Patton, and Dana Bramley!!**

If you have never attended and assisted at a Pro Bono Clinic, I urge you to do so in 2003!!!

The Clinics will continue to be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month in 2003 and clinic dates for the next six months are March 15th, April 19th, May 17th, June 21, July 19th and August 16th. 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.

NOTE - I have sent an email to the current clinic, intake and attorney scheduling groups to update those groups for 2003. If you have not responded yet to my e-mail please do so as soon as possible. This is the perfect time to express interest in one of these groups if you are not already signed up for a group. Resolve to get involved this year!!!!

CASA NEWS

CASA CLOSET - CLOTHING AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

Keep in mind CASA CLOSET when cleaning out your children's closets and drawers of outgrown clothing. I will be happy to take clothing donations for CASA CLOSET anytime, year-round. CASA kids grow with every season just like our own, so a continual flow of clothing is necessary and I hope MTPA will be able to contribute regularly to this need! The school supplies are also welcome year-round!! Any donated items can be brought to the monthly luncheons or you can contact me to make arrangements to get them to me.

Remember, this program benefits CASA advocates in any Tennessee county who want to make use of the clothing and supplies for the children (and other siblings of the children) in the CASA program. If you are an advocate and would like to contact Cheryl Brooks her telephone number is 714-8000, or if you know a CASA advocate, please let him/ her know about this great resource!

CASA ADVOCATES -

Make a New Year's Resolution to become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). 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 program CASA offers, please let me know and I will have the CASA organization for the appropriate county send you an information packet.

NASHVILLE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

As you know MTPA has been collecting pull-tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Those who are collecting, thank you and those who aren't please consider doing so. It's easy and the benefits to the House are great. Place a collection box in your office kitchen with a sign asking co-workers to pop the pull tab off the soda can before recycling or otherwise disposing of the can. This can be an ongoing way for MTPA to assist the Ronald McDonald House efforts. You can contact me or Pam if you have any questions. Feel free to bring your collected pull tabs to the monthly luncheons.

There are many ways to support the Ronald McDonald House throughout the year. There are volunteer opportunities to work at the house in 3 hour shifts from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; supplying meals and meal preparation; and general donations are always needed in the form of food items and household, cleaning and office supplies. If you'd like to supply a meal for 40 you can call 343-4000. I have a detailed 'wish list' I'd be happy to share or you can visit www.rmhnashville.com for more information.

LAW DAY 2003

It's already March, which means only two short months until Law day 2003. Volunteers to sit on the Law Day 2003 Committee are needed to brainstorm some ideas for MTPA's Law Day project. Anyone interested in any way with this year's Law Day preparations, please let me know. Last year a great group of MTPA members planned and put on a series of discussions with the kids in the after school program at the YWCA.

Law Day is a national celebration which takes place during the month of May. This year's theme is 'Celebrate Your Freedom. – Independent Courts Protect Our Liberties.' While the Constitution grants us rights, without the Court system the Constitution might as well just be a piece of parchment. This year the focus is on our court system and how it enforces the Constitution, protects our rights as Americans, and makes the rule of law a reality.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

Come on everyone – I know a majority of us take time to volunteer in the community. This is your opportunity to plug the charity or community organization you volunteer for!! Or for you to give a public pat on the back to another MTPA member you know who volunteers his or her time for the public good!!!! I can't spotlight an MTPA volunteer if I don't know who they are. Please help me out.

*******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!!*