



**STARFISH AWARDEE: ED HAMBLETON**

The Starfish award is based on a short story of a young man seen on the beach by an older man throwing starfish from the beach back into the sea. There are hundreds of starfish surrounding the young man and he continually bends down, picks up a starfish and gently tosses the starfish into the water. The old man watches and watches and finally asks the young man, "May I ask what it is that you are doing?" And the young man replies, "Throwing starfish into the ocean." When the older man asks why, the young man says, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die". And the older man, who considers himself fairly wise, comments, "But young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!" The young man, bends down, picks up yet another starfish and throws it into the ocean and as it meets the water he says, "It made a difference for that one." Our CASA volunteers are like that young man, making a difference one child at a time.

It was a crisp November afternoon, as Ed climbed the steps to the group home for his initial visit with his CASA Youth, a 16 year old male. Ed had been rehearsing all the way over how he was going to introduce himself and engage his new charge. Yet, when his hand rapped on the door and he was greeted by the house manager, all that rehearsal 'faded to black'. When finally he and I left the initial visit, neither of us could stop laughing as we debriefed. Looking back now as a 3 year CASA veteran volunteer and in the midst of his second CASA assignment, Ed still remembers just how nervous he and first CASA youth were. His face flushed with the memory as he remembered those first few visits. Ed shared, "When I started it seemed somewhat overwhelming, I felt like a fish out of water, but with each visit, my confidence grew and comfort level increased". It would not be a boast to say, that today, Ed Hambleton is the 'Michael Phelps' in the waters of volunteer advocacy.

Ed hails from New York City spending a good many of his summers here in Maryland visiting with family. In 2008, Ed moved to Baltimore and is now splitting his week between Baltimore and Richmond, VA. Despite his hectic schedule, he maintains consistent contact with his assigned CASA youth, makes every team meeting, court hearing and is often present for his CASA teen's athletic events. Ed in describing their relationship comments, "Though my kid is not particularly verbal, I sense that our connection is real and our bond meaningful to him."

Ed remembering his first assignment, “I know that teens don’t divulge very much, (Ed is the father of one young adult daughter). I learned from my first CASA youth, if I just wait, if I listen more than I talk, they come around. Even after his case was closed, he has called occasionally to let me know how his life is going, changing, and how he is growing to meet the changes. It’s those contacts that convinced me just how significant the trust we built meant to him.”

Because of Ed’s attention to detail, the capacity to think through a problem/circumstance, his inquisitive disposition and his trust in his intuition, has gleaned the respect of the legal parties and professionals engaged in his CASA youth’s cases. Ed writes a thorough court report and independent of his Supervisor, advocates for his CASA youth at the court hearing. There have been several instances when the lines of communication between the ‘pertinent parties’ were breaking down. Ed, knowing that his CASA youth’s permanent placement was in the balance, was the one who mediated the misunderstandings, opening the door for clarity. Currently, at least for the moment, everybody involved is on the same page, working for the same goal. The number of reset hearings has all but vanished and what the foster parents felt were roadblocks are a faint memory. Ed would never claim that his part in the events of his case was that significant but as his Supervisor, it is obvious that his willingness to trust ‘his intuition’ and keep the doors of communication open meant that his CASA teen will have the family he deserves.

When asked for his advice to those just beginning their journeys as CASA Volunteers, Ed answered, “If you don’t know what you’re doing, call up your Supervisor and keep talking until you do...ask every question you have to sometimes twice or more until you are satisfied...remember they are there for you, so use them”. Every Supervisor is more than pleased when the CASA Volunteer says ‘yes’ to a second assignment, so you can understand my level of excitement when Ed accepted his second assignment. When asked why he decided to do so, Ed answered, ‘I get as much from being CASA as the kids do...a huge sense of accomplishing something...I feel like I’m helping in a real way and that counts for a lot’.

***“We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we give.”  
~Winston Churchill.***

This is Ed Hambleton, a persistent man with a willingness to share himself and who makes his words count.

~Written by, Phyllis M Felton, Ed’s Supervisor



# SHOUT OUTS

A very special thanks to **Betty Schappell** who for the second year has been our main holiday gift wrapper! We couldn't have done it with Betty!!

A special thanks to CASA Volunteer **Christina Ramsey** for putting together a holiday gift drive happy hour for CASA at Teavolve. We appreciate Christina's philanthropic spirit and leadership.

CASA Volunteer **Nadine Harris** was at the recent adoption ceremony of her CASA child! Nadine's advocacy for this child was significant and it was great that she could be present at such a momentous and important occasion in the child's life. Thank you Nadine!

Thank you to **Nathera Monroe** for her generous donation of toys and children's clothing for the holiday gift drive.

Congratulations and best wishes to Volunteer, **Denise Doldron**, on her marriage October 14<sup>th</sup> ....Best wishes Mrs. La Fontaine Oliver!!

A huge thank you to **Kendra Franklin**. Kendra is a former CASA youth who has aged out of the system and is living independently. She shared her experiences at a recent in-service training to other CASA teens in foster care. She was honest and inspiring, helping other visualize a positive future!

**Aurelia Gardner** – CASA Volunteer AND small business owner and entrepreneur – congratulations on the Grand Opening of "POP DREAMS & GOURMET TREATS" on Reisterstown Road in Owings Mills!

**Audrey Ndaba** completed her training as an International Case Manager for Frontier Medics! Audrey is now part of the frontline when the next Sandy or tsunami hits!

A huge thank you goes to **Marsha Mason Wonsley** for her efforts and generosity in connecting CASA with donations of beautiful new winter coats for our CASA youth. The coats have been distributed and arrived just in time for this really cold weather!

Carolyn sends congratulations to the following volunteer on the completion of their first court reports and hearings. Great job! Keep up the good work to: **Barraw Makia, Bea Brodsky, and Shirley McIntyre!**

Congratulations from Carolyn and all of us at CASA to the volunteers whose teens aged out! You are to be highly commended for being committed and steadfast in your contacts and your advocacy for the youth. You saw them through some very rough times. Your involvement as a CASA Volunteer has made a difference. And even better....these volunteers will continue to be involved with CASA!!

Thanks to: **Andrea Miliam, Jennifer St. Germaine, Tiffaney Parkman, Rhoda Jones, Colleen Draw.**



**CASA's Holiday Party** at Mt. Washington Conference Center was a great get-together for many volunteers, staff and board members. A special thanks goes to the CASA staff for their wonderful poem and for leading everyone in dance!! Because of the generosity of many people it was possible for CASA of Baltimore to provide all our CASA children with a holiday gift. Contributions came from individuals, businesses, happy hours, and gift boxes. A tremendous thank you to all who helped this year!



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Art of Caring – Art Auction and Reception

April 28<sup>th</sup> 3-6PM at



Tickets \$50

Check our website for more information  
coming soon!

[www.casabalt.org](http://www.casabalt.org)

Living is the **art of loving**.  
Loving is the **art of caring**.  
Caring is the **art of sharing**.  
Sharing is the **art of living**.

--Anonymous



*Help people you know “discover why  
some of the richest people in the  
world are not millionaires,  
they are volunteers”.*

~Unknown

**Tell EVERYONE you know about CASA!!**

### UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS

- TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2013 3:30-5:30pm  
OR
- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2013 NOON – 2pm  
UNIVERSITY of BALTIMORE –  
MERRICK School of BUSINESS  
11 WEST Mt. Royal Ave. Room BC 143-  
Multipurpose Room  
OR
- THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 - 6:30-8  
PM  
BALTIMORE HEBREW CONGREGATION  
7401 Park Heights Ave.  
(parking lot next to building)  
OR
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013 – 6:30-8pm  
HUNTING RIDGE Church  
4640 Edmondson Ave.

(parking in front of church)



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We reserve the right to accept, reject or edit any submissions to our publication.

CASA Baltimore  
P.O Box 13004  
Baltimore, MD 21203.



**CASA**  
**OF BALTIMORE**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

**In-service Training Opportunities**  
**Mark your Calendars!**

February 19 <sup>th</sup> 6-9pm	"Color/Culture Matter" (Diversity and Cultural Competency)
March 14 <sup>th</sup> 6-9pm	"Teens and Effective Advocacy" (Fostering Futures)
March 26 <sup>th</sup> 6-9pm	"A Good Read and a Case Study" (check website for details)
April 6 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	National CASA Conference in Annahiem, CA
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Maryland State CASA Annual Conference
April 20 <sup>th</sup> 9am – noon	"Entering the Market Place: Finding & Keeping a Job" (CASA Volunteers and teenaged CASA Youth invited)
May 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6-9pm	"Teens & Effective Advocacy" (Foster Futures)
June 9 <sup>th</sup> 9 – noon	"Helpful Hints for the CASA Advocate re: Teen Dating and Pregnant and Parenting Youth"
June 28 <sup>th</sup> 6-9pm	"A Good Read & A Case Study"



