



# dancing With **CASA**

*by Richard Sowers, CASA Volunteer*

**I**t was the night to remember. As one often hears, “Mi casa, su casa.” Such was the case February 6th when CASA greeted over 220 distinguished guests dressed to the nines at the Maysville Country Club. The giddy guests came to the club to cut a rug, tip a mug, and give a plug to benefit CASA – the Court-Appointed Special Advocates for abused and neglected children living in Mason, Fleming, and Bracken counties.

The Honorable Judge Frank McCartney led the assembled group in prayer and welcomed all to another exciting fund-raiser best known as “Dancing with CASA.” His impassioned speech made everyone feel special about their extraordinary support of the CASA program. Board Chair, Dana Bach beautifully described the vital role of CASA volunteers. Bach’s heart-felt speech ended with a famous quote from Dr. Seuss:

“

*Unless someone like you  
cares a whole awful lot, nothing is  
going to get better. It's not.*

”

Bach thanked the many CASA volunteers for helping over 169 children last year in the surrounding three counties.

Keynote speaker Dr. Stephen Vasik, President of Mason County Technical College, convinced us of the value of a strong technical education and how it impacts positively all corners of our community. CASA Executive Director Shanda Hamilton shared her gratitude to the



CASA volunteers and all who were responsible for making the evening’s event a fun-filled yet meaningful endeavor.

As the guests filed in, they were greeted by a bountiful buffet of hors d’oeuvres, fanciful fruit trays, towering tiers of miniature quiche, scrumptious Swedish meatballs, raw veggies with delicious dip, and plenty of petits fours. The main course included a mixed spring salad, mouth-watering prime rib, smoke-infused grilled chicken, tender young asparagus, yummy yeast rolls, drinks, and cheesecakes that would make your grandmother do the jitterbug. The exquisite food, conceived and prepared by Maysville Country Club’s own chef Melissa Manley, was the perfect precursor for this high-energy evening.

Displayed on the porch were over 75

Silent Auction items donated by businesses in Bracken, Fleming, and Mason counties. CASA patrons circled the auction tables like hungry sharks trying to out-bid each other for the fabulous prizes.

As guests moved from the elegantly appointed dining tables to the ballroom, they surrounded the three dance couples waiting eagerly to strut their stuff. Emcee and CASA board member Scott Schroer introduced judges Mike Thomas, Linda Thomas, Richard Sowers, and Betsy Adams who was selected from the audience.

The first couple, Tony and Betsy Case of Fleming County, sprang to the dance floor twirling to the hit songs “My Girl”, “Gangnam Style”, “Felt Good on My Lips”, and “Wobble Baby.” The crowd loved their moves and were





impressed by their variety of dance styles that included country line-dancing, hip-hop, and the waltz. The sexy sight of Tony's twinkling toes circling Betsy's saucy hips made this first dance couple look like talented kids at a sober sock-hop. Good thing their parents weren't there.

Second up were Robert and Gwendolyn Boone of Mason County. The Boones set a regal mood as they draped the ballroom floor decked out as "Fred and Ginger." Their traditional waltz music came straight from an MGM movie classic adorned with stunning Greek poses and smooth-as-silk transitions. Robert's tantalizing tux teased Gwenny's burgundy gown while the mesmerized crowd seemed to float toward heaven. Who knows, they may be expecting yet another child after this immaculate dance conception.

Lastly, the Bracken County duo of David Green and Mary Breeze exploded onto the dance floor with "Ebony and Ivory", "Beat It", "Ice, Ice Baby", "Shake It Off", "2 Legit" and "Black or White." They got the audience perfectly primed and pumped with daring dance moves that tossed Mary up, around, and across the floor in a Dance Fever frenzy of athleticism that would make Beyoncé and Bruno Mars look tired. The crowd shrieked with excitement and awarded David and Mary the winners of the "Dancing with CASA" competition. Nobody fainted and everyone felt like they'd secretly sipped silver soda from the Fountain of Youth.

The awesome David Tucker Band followed this fabulous frenzy with harddriving music that got everyone onto the dance floor cutting the

rug into a thousand more pieces. The Maysville Country Club will never be the same!

**We Thank The Following Event Sponsors For Making Our 3rd Annual "Dancing With Casa" A Great Big Fabulous Success!**

- Comprehend, Community Trust Bank
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- KY Innovation Network at MSU,
- Maysville Rotary Club
- Meadowview Regional Medical Center
- Momentum Commercial Construction
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- US Bank



CASA is governed by a 21-member Board of Directors (7 from each county). They not only implement the operation of our program, they also plan and implement fundraising events throughout the year. CASA receives no state or federal dollars and operates solely from funds received through generous donors, net proceeds from fundraising events, and grant support from corporations and foundations.

**2016 CASA Board Members Are:**

- Bracken County:** John Corlis, Patricia Doane, Robin Kelsch, Julie Moore, Mareka Scott, Tina Teegarden, and Lisa Wood
- Fleming County:** Karen Brown, Sarah Campbell, Julie Emmons Gay, Jodi Grannis, Joni Hazelrigg, Jamey High, and Jason Walton
- Mason County:** Dana Bach, Lew Cook, LuAnn Doyle, Denise Lewis, Angie Mitchell, Brigid Osborne and Scott Schroer

**KY CASA Network Web-Site:**

[www.casnetworkky.com/about.html](http://www.casnetworkky.com/about.html)

