

SCAN-IT

**Volume 12
October 2011**

The People Who Help SCAN Keep Children Safe

At Greater Richmond SCAN, we are able to continue to provide high quality services to families in need because of the people who dedicate their time and talents to our mission to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect. This month we'd like to feature several of these staff members, volunteers and student interns. We hope you enjoy getting to know them. These are only a few of those who help us reach hundreds of vulnerable children and caregivers each year. Thank you for what you do to help SCAN keep children safe.

Samira Fazel: Young Professional Makes the Most of Serving on the BYP

Samira said she was moved to do something to support children who fall through the cracks the first time she heard her friend's story about his experiences in the foster care system.

"The best way to help kids is through education and through supporting their families," Samira said. "I came from a very privileged and caring family. I felt like it was my responsibility that all children got that somehow."

While receiving her graduate degree at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, Samira was involved in different domestic violence prevention efforts such as the White Ribbon Campaign. When she moved to Richmond, she began looking for volunteer opportunities. Samira first volunteered for the Shamrock the Block event that benefits SCAN. Several staff and volunteers helped Samira learn more about SCAN's work in the community.

"I was really impressed with Jeanine, the rest of the staff and the passion they have for the mission," she said. "You don't have to have kids of your own to care about SCAN's work. It really does take a village to raise a child and they deserve our help because they are the future."

Samira officially joined the Board of Young Professionals this summer and is co-chair of the membership committee. She is also helping with the planning of Bourbon Street in Shockoe Bottom. She and another BYP member, Kara Kirstein, helped plan for a first-time Halloween fundraiser at BlackFinn Restaurant & Saloon on October 28. Samira serves on the Board of Director's at BlackFinn and expects this to become an annual fundraiser for SCAN.

"One of the big things the BYP does is raise funds for SCAN," Samira said. "I couldn't do CASA. I personally wasn't strong enough emotionally to do hands-on volunteering, but I realized one of the things I could do with my skills was to fundraise and advocate. The BYP was a good way to do this and work with other young professionals who have the same beliefs and passion."

Samira currently works with Markel as an Information Technology team leader. She also sits on the Associates Contribution Team (ACT) at Markel and works to engage the company and employees in supporting local nonprofits.





There is so much going on at SCAN. Check out Facebook to see photos of the many exciting things we have been up to!



Thank you!

Thank you to the **West Second Charitable Lead Annuity Trust** for their support of the [Circle Preschool Program](#).

Thank you to [Good Foods Grocery](#) for collecting snacks in their stores!

Thank you to the [Hippodrome Theater and Mansion five 26](#) for supporting SCAN and the ARC of Richmond through their opening event.

Thank you to [Creative Office Environments](#) for donating furniture to make the Child Advocacy Center more child friendly.

Thank you to [1708 Gallery](#) for hosting a lantern-making workshop with children in our Circle Preschool Program and other children at St. James's Children Center. We are lucky to be a part of InLight this year in our 20th Anniversary as we shine the light on abuse and neglect. [View Photos on Facebook.](#)

Thank you to supporters of the 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament to benefit SCAN and the Richmond Raiders IMPACT program. [Check out photos on Facebook.](#)

Thank you to the sponsors:

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Andrea Mitchell: Stopping Child Abuse by Starting With the Caregivers

Andrea started working for SCAN in February 2010. She is one of many part-time Family Support Program Facilitators at SCAN who lead caregiver treatment and education groups. Andrea works with many of the most at-risk caregivers SCAN serves in the court-ordered groups.

Andrea received her Master's of Social Work at VCU and she is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She had previously worked with adolescents facing substance abuse issues and also worked offering psychotherapy to children, adolescents and families. After having her own children, she realized the importance of parenting and how challenging it can be for anyone.

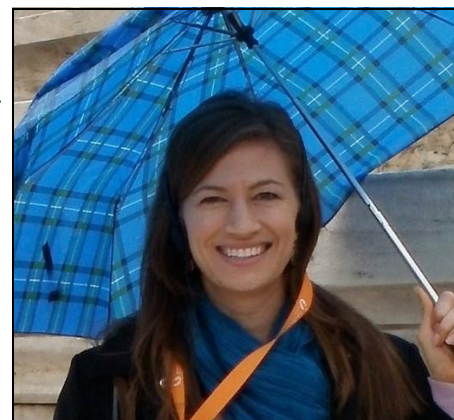
"I have always known by working with adolescents that the whole family needs to shift in the positive direction to create big and lasting change," she said. "Working with parents intensively creates that long-lasting change. The parents set the tone for the family and don't realize how much influence they can have in making their family the kind of family they want it to be."

Andrea said many of the caregivers in the court-ordered group arrive the first day of group very defensive and are unsure of what benefits the group will have. She says she often starts by asking them: Do you have the kind of relationship with your kids that you want to have? Most of the time they say, "No." This allows Andrea to help caregivers explore the reasons why their relationships with their children are not positive and then offer them the tools they need to improve those relationships.

At the end of her groups, in addition to clinical evaluations, she asks them a number of survey questions. One of the questions is "How did you feel about this class during week one?" And then she follows it with a question "How do you feel about the group now?" Answers to the first question include, "I really didn't want to be here" and "I was nervous and didn't know what to expect." Answers to the second question include "I feel really good about myself" and "I've been enlightened about a lot."

Andrea said one of the greatest challenges of working with caregivers is dealing with their lack of resources such as transportation and insurance, especially when caregivers realize they need therapy to deal with their own challenges so they can be better parents.

"Life is significantly harder when you have no resources," Andrea said. "It's fair to say there is a lot of trauma history with the caregivers we see. Often there is a family pattern or a history of trauma. It comes out in different ways in each generation. The beauty of it is despite the difference in the stories and events, people feel like they have connected with each other. They realize they aren't alone. We serve people from all economic, racial and cultural backgrounds."



Thank you Protector's Circle 2010-2011 Members

Kathleen and Gerard Albanese
Dottie Amore
Trina and Roy Anise
Kelly and Tiffany Armstrong
Lindley and Coby Beck
Cathy and Howard Bos
Kathryn and Matt Brotherton
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Dorinda Smith
Martha and Bobby Speight
Charlie Stallings
Lucinda and John Stanchina
Judith Strickler
Eric Sundberg
Letty and Bill Tate
Margaretha and Jose Valderas
Elizabeth Scott Warren
Stephanie and Brad Welles

Student Interns Share What They've Learned While Working at SCAN

"I am learning a lot interning SCAN. I am learning about how to approach child abuse from a community and a clinical standpoint. I am also learning about the role of social workers in dealing with this issue.

-DeJane Carroll, VCU MSW Intern

"I love how all of SCAN's programs are client-centered with the ultimate goal of protecting children in our area. I feel like everyone who works at SCAN embodies this mission and has a positive attitude. I have learned a lot about how to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect, but also about how to engage the clients and the community in the process."

-Emily Yeatts, VCU MSW Intern

"I have learned the importance of community and working as a team in the prevention and treatment of child abuse. Harm to one child is harm to us all, and we can more effectively work toward change and hope when we pool our efforts in this common mission."

-Jonti Simmons, VCU MSW Intern

"I have always wanted to work with children. Interning at SCAN in the Circle Preschool Program has taught me if you want to successfully work with children, you also have to successfully work with their caregivers. The team approach used at the Preschool and in other SCAN programs by far seems to be the most beneficial to not only the children, but to improving families, as well."

-Erica Perry, VCU MSW Intern

"I am inspired by SCAN's dedication to helping children and families overcome the traumatic effects of child abuse and neglect, as it is a prevalent social issue in the Greater Richmond area. In the past year, the projects that I have worked on at SCAN (including the National Child Abuse Prevention Month Campaign) have taught me the importance of having strong marketing, event planning, and research skills in the nonprofit sector.

-Maddie Spagnola, University of Richmond Bonner Scholar

"As a Bonner Scholar intern at the CAC I have learned about the importance of combined interactive and administrative service. I am able to be useful to the CAC, understand how 'the system' around child abuse functions and feel like more of a team member than a volunteer through my office work. At the same time, I keep my work in perspective by interacting with the children and families we actually serve. This combination helps motivate me to continue my CAC experience."

-Samantha Lint, University of Richmond Bonner Scholar

"I have learned so much at SCAN in the short time I have been here. First and foremost, I have learned a great deal from simply witnessing the tremendous compassion and devotion of the staff at SCAN. I am convinced that it is through this compassion that many wonderful and powerful things are happening in the lives of those who walk through SCAN's doors. Through my interaction with clients at SCAN, I have come to realize the vicious cycle of abuse and trauma; however I have also seen that through genuine relationship, advocacy, and support that the cycle can be broken and lives changed."

- Nicole Heindl, VCU MSW intern

Join us at these Coming Events

Halloween Happening

October 28, 9 p.m.

Join us for a Halloween bash at BlackFinn in Shockoe Bottom hosted by our Board of Young Professionals. Black Finn will welcome SCAN supporters for a cover fee. Have fun with us and help protect children in our community.

Mosaic Café

November 17, 5 to 9 p.m.

Join us for Community Give Back Night at Mosaic Café in River Road Shopping Center. We'll have guest bartender Laura Eilers, Ms. United States and Ms. Virginia 2011. Say "Hi" to Laura and the bar tips will be donated to SCAN. If you tell your waiter that you are there to support SCAN, a portion of your dinner will be donated to our work.

Anne Miller: CASA Volunteer Dedicates 13 Years to Helping Abused and Neglected Children

"It's the children who are the main reason why I do this," Anne Miller said. She has been a Richmond CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for 13 years.

"I think it's unfortunate that kids have no choice in being brought into the world and once they get here, they are mistreated. As many kids as there are who are missing, hurt, abducted and killed, they all need representation and support."

Anne Miller says she was first engaged through an advertisement on TV calling for CASA volunteers. "I knew that it would take up a lot of time, but I knew that I could really make a difference through CASA and spent a year arranging my life and getting things in place so I could dedicate the right amount of attention to volunteering."

As a CASA, Anne said, she is a consistent role model for the children whose cases she is assigned to. She sees her CASA children at least once a week while serving on their cases. She says it's important that she always shows up at the time and day she says she will because the stability is so integral to helping the children through such difficult times in their lives.

Anne says she has worked on more than 40 cases through CASA. She has worked on many cases with teenage mothers, whom she says she has grown to connect easily with. One such young mother was taught by her father to prostitute herself. Anne said the young woman and her child are now doing very well after being placed in a therapeutic foster home thanks to her CASA report recommendation.

One of the greatest challenges she faces as a volunteer is working with caregivers who are in denial of their child's abuse, she said. For example, a 3 year old was molested by his mother's boyfriend and the mother continued to see the boyfriend despite medical evidence. Anne said the 3-year-old and his sister are now safe with their biological father.

"It's challenging volunteer work," Anne said. "It's not just something that you can put down. It becomes a part of you, a part of your family... I have been so enriched by doing this and having these children in my life, I cannot imagine not doing this forever."

**CASA Recently
swore in a new
class of volunteers!
Check out photos
on Facebook.**