**Program Update**

* The courthouse has returned to in-person so our volunteers are getting back into the swing of things with hearings and meetings.
* We finished training our small class of 6 new volunteers and will be doing court observations and swearing in on June 23rd at the office.
* Our next class is scheduled to start in September so we're advertising and holding info sessions to fill the class.
* We would like to start back to in-person Peer Support in July and we're ready to welcome volunteers to visit the office.
* We plan to spend the summer updating our training and working through the backlog of paperwork and other issues that we've put on the back burner.  Having an intern/assistant has been helpful so far and we're continuing to find tasks for her that help free us up for other work.
* We have paused on hiring a replacement for Monica until the employment landscape gets better and we have word from VOCA about continued funding.
* I spoke at the Festus/Crystal City Rotary meeting today and have an invitation to speak at the DeSoto Rotary later this summer.  I'm sure more public speaking events will be forthcoming now that groups are meeting in person again.

**Grant Status Update**

* We have been approved for a $25,000 cash flow grant from Jefferson Foundation.  That will help replace the lost fundraising money and tide us over until we can get back to our regular fundraising schedule.
* We've received the Jefferson Foundation $15,000 program grant for rent and internet for the next year and office furniture/expenses.
* We've received the $1149 technology grant from the Missouri Bar Association and have purchased the new TV for the training room.
* We should find out about a National CASA grant in mid-June that would allow us to hire another Volunteer Coordinator to help us grow.  It's only a remote possibility because it's a nationwide grant application but we can still hope.
* There is still no word about a new VOCA application.  It continues to be a source of stress for CASA programs and all victim service programs around the state that rely on that funding.  I will be sending out an email to ask for help lobbying our state senators to encourage them to pass the VOCA Fix Act which will help stabilize the funding that VOCA provides and prevent shrinking disbursements from it.
* Susan is working to get a grant that will help us purchase office furniture such as new tables to replace our folding tables and chairs to match our training chairs that will replace our current fabric ones.  If that doesn't come through, we can wait on the tables and we do have funding from the Jefferson Foundation program grant we just received to replace the  chairs.

**Board Membership/Growth Update**

* We currently have 3 potential board members in process
* *Margie Passmore* has been interviewed by me and submitted her paperwork but just retired and is out of town.  As soon as she returns we'll need a board member to interview her.
* *Linda Freeman* has been interviewed by me and has not submitted her paperwork yet.  She is very interested but just changed jobs so there might be a slight delay while she settles in.  I do think she'll make a good board member once she's ready to move forward.
* *Mary Thomasson* has an interview scheduled with me on June 21st.
* Susan gave me another name to contact today so I'll be working on getting in contact and scheduling her for an interview as well.
* I'll be asking for help from existing board members to interview potential new members to see if they are a good fit for our program.

**Fundraising Updates/Plans**

* ***Story Series-***we are off to a slower start than expected because we don't have any paid sponsors yet.  The stories are also coming in a little slower but we have several people working on them now.  If it's ok, I'll be starting to share the flyer and solicit more sponsors so please share and encourage people to sponsor or possibly submit a story.  This doesn't have to be a big money maker, it's more of an awareness mission and a plan to encourage more program support.
* ***Poker Run***-I'd like to form a small committee to plan the Poker Run so that by the July meeting we'll have a strong plan and be ready to move forward with promoting it.
* ***Vacation Raffle***-this was such an easy and profitable fundraiser last year so I'm hoping we'll be able to do it again this year.  I've reached out to Meg who donated the house for the raffle to ask if she's willing to donate it again this year but I haven't heard back yet.  I'm hopeful that she'll respond soon and agree but, if not, please think of others you may know who might have a luxury property that they would be willing to donate in a similar way.
* ***Board Appeal***-now is a great time to be thinking about who to target for the board appeal.  Postage is expensive so we should try to be 'intentional' about who we choose to send the board appeal to.  Think of people you associate with who would be interested in supporting us and helping us grow.  This is all about relationship fundraising and appealing to people who will be influenced by your involvement with CASA.
* ***Gala***-it's not too early to be thinking about ways to make the 2022 Gala a huge success.  Barring any unforeseen issues, it looks like a 2022 in-person event will be a reality so we'd like it to be the best possible event and put us back on solid ground in terms of fundraising.

***\*ACTION ITEMS\****

* Solicit Story Sponsors and share flyer
* Watch for VOCA email to help move VOCA legislation forward
* Keep an eye out for an email from me about possible help with specific projects
* Consider if you would be comfortable having the July board meeting in person at the office
* Mark your calendar for the July board meeting on the 13th-this will be an agenda heavy meeting with the end of the fiscal year and plans for the new one