



Unsung Hero – Susan Hill

A quiet wonder woman, Susan Hill began serving as an office volunteer in 1995 and retired as a case manager at Henrico CASA in 2011. Practically, Susan was responsible for administering all CASA's case files into a database developed by National CASA. She continues to assist the Virginia CASA office at the Department of Criminal Justice Services in standardizing this database to develop a comprehensive statewide reporting system for CASA programs. Susan's other responsibilities included acting as a liaison with the clerks of the Court, administration of the CASA volunteer and case files, and coordinating continuing education opportunities and completion for volunteers. All this aside, what really propels Susan to superhero status is her ability to stop all she is doing to help each and every person who crosses her path. She offered the same kindness and attention to the maintenance man as she did to a juvenile court judge. She was able to recognize that the well-being of children served by CASA was dependent on all service providers working well together.

In Susan's previous career as a mother and mentor to her two sons she excelled as one would expect of someone who works for an organization that advocates for children. Bobby, her oldest is in the business world and has three children of his own, and Paul is a professional firefighter and paramedic with two children. Being "Grandy" is one of the great joys in her life!

At the beginning of Susan's professional career she was a secretary/administrative assistant at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission where during her 10 year career she was awarded three high quality performance awards and ended her career, to become a fulltime mother, as administrative assistant to the Director of Reactor Licensing.

Susan has always prided herself on her work ethic, the quality of her work product and the effort she expends to achieve the highest level of excellence.



Unsung Hero – Larry Murtaugh

Lawrence Patrick Murtaugh was born July 8, 1948, the third of six children. He majored in Accounting and earned an MBA at Xavier University. He was a CPA who spent most of his career as a business broker. Larry married Genevieve Kickertz in 1972 and they shared two wonderful children prior to his death in 2010.

Those who met Larry admired the way he connected with children and youth. One of Larry's passions throughout his life was being active outdoors: from scuba diving as a young man to becoming a rower at 50. He was an avid hiker, cross-country skier and camper. He loved to introduce children to the outdoors and was always willing to help them if needed. While still in high school, he took a group of kids on a canoe trip in Canada, including a Spanish-speaking 15-year-old he helped learn to speak English. He spent many years in Ohio as a Scoutmaster, taking the boys camping year-around. Even after moving to Richmond, he occasionally met the troop in West Virginia for camping and hiking.

Whenever possible, Larry shared his love of the great outdoors with youth who otherwise might never experience camping, hiking or boating. Scouts enjoyed sitting around the campfire with Larry because he listened to them and showed that he cared.

At the beginning of one school year, Larry learned that some American Field Service foreign students were stranded in Philadelphia with no host families. He immediately convinced his wife and two teenage children that they needed to rescue one of those children. The consequent Japanese houseguest for the year bonded easily with Larry and enjoyed his more carefree way of being a father as contrasted to his rather formal father back home.

In Richmond, Larry was active in the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club helping maintain the trail and shelters. He was a member of the Virginia Boat Club and rowed regularly on the James. Larry also mentored kindergarten children at Swansboro Elementary School. He met with children weekly, donated musical instruments, assisted with field trips, listened to and encouraged reading. He sensed that the kindergarten students did not recognize items from their alphabet books because they had never seen the real thing. So he took them fresh fruits and vegetables, including kiwi and cherry tomatoes. If a Swansboro classroom or bathroom needed painting, Larry did it.

He loved his Sunday School class at Reveille United Methodist Church and served on the Finance Committee of the church inspiring the congregation with his quiet heroism.



Unsung Hero – Jim Bourque

Lieutenant Colonel James "Jim" Bourque is a true unsung hero, as he has diligently served the public in many capacities over the past 40 years. CASA was pleased to honor him with an Unsung Hero award at our 2nd Annual Superhero Run on April 9th. While born and raised in Boston, Jim retired from the Chesterfield Police Department in 2007 after 29 years of service. Early in his tenure there he investigated cases involving child abuse/neglect and specialized in the investigation of sexual abuse against children, which included testifying in court as an expert in child sexual abuse cases. At the time of his retirement, Jim held the position of Deputy Police Chief of the approximately 500-officer force.

Jim has always demonstrated the ability to mobilize others to meet an unmet need. In 1984 he helped design and implement the Chesterfield County-Colonial Heights Crime Solvers program. He also developed the officer's chaplain program and was instrumental in the formation of the Chesterfield County Retired Police Officers' Association. He, along with other members of the Chesterfield County Police Foundation, created a nonprofit organization aimed at supporting the Chesterfield County law enforcement community and their families in times of crisis. Jim's dedication to serving others, without any expectation for acknowledgement or praise for his efforts, is unparalleled.

Jim's service to the community extended far beyond his involvement in law enforcement. He showed great commitment to many other nonprofit groups in this area, including the United Way and Traveler's Aid Society. Jim was a founding member of Chesterfield CASA's Board of Directors and provided strong leadership to the agency for 14 years. Staff and fellow board members at CASA sought Jim's wisdom and guidance when making many decisions.

Jim is well-known for his humility and charitable spirit and has positively impacted countless children and families in his community. He is currently enjoying retirement with his wife, Joanne, four children, and eight grandchildren.