



# The Caring Difference

The Newsletter of the Citizen Foster Care Review Board

After all, a home should be forever . . .

## 2004 CFCRB Conference breaks all attendance records!

By Mae Philbeck  
Education Specialist, AOC

The 2004 CFCRB State Conference in Owensboro Nov. 5-7 drew the largest attendance in the 10-year history of the event. Volunteers from Martin County in the east and McCracken County in the west to Kenton County in the north and Whitley County in the south made their way to the Executive Inn to participate in a variety of training workshops.

The conference opened Friday afternoon with a Committee Fair. Each of the standing committees provided information about their role within the CFCRB and took the opportunity to recruit new volunteers. The Executive Committee approved the new volunteers later in the weekend.

Following the Committee Fair, Regional Roundtable discussions were held to discuss any issues or concerns



AOC staffers Amy Smitha, left, and Hanna Harvey, right, took time to pose for the camera with country music star Jimmy Wayne, who grew up in foster care and addressed the general membership meeting during the conference.

expressed by the volunteers. These issues were recorded by the moderators and passed on to the appropriate parties to be dealt with when the conference concluded.

The 18th Volunteer Recognition Banquet took place Friday evening. This year's award recipients included Kathy Silberman, Daviess County CFCRB volunteer; Curtis and Diana Williams, Hardin County CFCRB volunteers and foster parents; Marilyn Belt, Union County Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), Family Services Office supervisor; Darrell Locke, Hardin County DCBS, Family Services worker; Stephanie Rose, Grant County DCBS, Family Services worker; Daviess County District Judge Joseph Castlen III; Hardin County District Judge John Simcoe; Patrick Yewell, Juvenile Services Department of the Administrative Office of the Courts, general manager; and Angie Funk, 2004 state vice chair.

In addition, 56 volunteers were given a Lifetime Achievement Award for their longtime dedication to the CFCRB program. These volunteers originally joined the Kentucky CFCRB between 1983 and 1990, and have served continuously on their local boards. This issue of *The Caring Difference* is dedicated to these outstanding individuals.

Saturday was filled with workshops and seminars that were thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The volunteers appreciated a surprise visit from country music star Jimmy Wayne at the general membership meeting. Wayne was raised in foster care and he wanted to express his appreciation for the volunteers' efforts on behalf of foster children.



Angie Funk, left, received the State Chair Award from State Chair Anita Williams at the 2004 CFCRB State Conference in Owensboro in November.

Many of local boards contributed beautiful gift baskets filled with items from their home counties. Those who made these baskets outdid themselves and the members who won them as door prizes were thrilled.

The volunteers enjoyed the entire weekend, which was filled with information and opportunities to network with CFCRB colleagues. Volunteers were able to meet many of their fellow reviewers from across the state and compare the differences of the local boards.

Volunteers can look forward to regional trainings that will take place throughout the state in the fall of 2005.

And mark your calendars now for the next CFCRB State Conference in Louisville in November 2006.

# CFCRB salutes its 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

— *The Caring Difference is dedicated to these outstanding volunteers* —

## Adair/Casey County Board

### Barbara Coomer

*Serving Since December 1987*

Barbara joined the Adair/Casey County Board to help people in need. She said she is glad she has had the opportunity to help children. She laughed when she said she has stayed with the program out of "routine." Yet it is apparent that her dedication to the community and to children is the driving force behind her service.

### McEva Mayse

*Serving Since December 1987*

McEva retired last year after serving on the Adair/Casey County Board for 16 years.

## The Caring Difference

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Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards  
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Jennifer Sharp, Graphic Designer

### Eva Miller

*Serving Since December 1987*

Eva was asked by the local district judge to serve on the board as the CFCRB was just starting to form. Eva has stayed with the board for the sake of the children. She believes they need an advocate because the social workers are so overworked. The reviewers are like a second set of eyes to watch over the children.



### Judy Smith

*Serving Since December 1987*

Judy joined the CFCRB while working at the courthouse. She could see the foster care office across the street and she watched the children coming and going. She was asked to volunteer by the district judge and she felt a need to help.

Judy has stayed with the CFCRB because she finds the job to be interesting and fulfilling. She believes children need someone to watch over them and give them a lifetime of care.

## Ballard/Carlisle County Board

### Pat Geveden

*Serving Since February 1986*

Pat joined the Ballard/Carlisle/Fulton/Hickman Board as an original member when the local judge asked her to volunteer. She believes that giving concerned citizens oversight for children in care is a wonderful concept. She serves as chair of her board. She previously served as Legislative Committee chair. She also volunteers with other local organizations including the rape crisis board and the arts center.

Pat continues to serve the CFCRB because she believes it would be a waste of her training to leave. In addition to 18 years as a reviewer, she has been a social services worker and has worked in counseling. She said she has met many interesting people over the years and has enjoyed reviewing. Yet in the end, it is the civic activist in her that stayed because she believes we need to do everything we can for the children.



## Boone/Gallatin County Board

### Mary LaBare-Forder

*Serving Since September 1986*

Like many reviewers, Mary LaBare-Forder first learned about the review board program through an article in the newspaper. At that time she was working at an emergency shelter for children. Both the director and a local judge recognized Mary's commitment to child welfare and



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immediately recruited her as a reviewer. They knew her focus would remain on “What is in the best interest of the child?”

Mary and her husband, Charles, travel regularly to deliver emergency freight for FedEx. Despite scheduling challenges, Mary always manages to attend the monthly review board meetings. Even if they are fishing at their second home in Florida, Mary’s 18-year commitment to the program remains a priority. She has a good life and she wants children to have a good life, too. Mary said, “I appreciate my wonderful board members, all the people associated with the CFCRB, and the opportunity to serve the children of Kentucky ... our future.”

## Campbell County A Board

### John Brueggen

**Serving Since February 1986**

John was asked by his friend, the local district judge, to join the newly formed CFCRB program in Campbell County. He has watched many volunteers come and go in the 18 years he has served, yet he said he stays because of “civic duty.” Through all those years, he has seen the program become more influential in the lives of the children. He noted that the process used to be “more remote” than the “intimate” review conducted today.

John said the CFCRB program has allowed him to serve his community and he hopes he has played an important role in the welfare of the many children he has reviewed.

## Crittenden County Board

### Sharie Frazer

**Serving Since June 1985**

Sharie became an original board member when she was asked to join the newly formed Crittenden County board. This mother of two believes she was asked because of her experience as a kindergarten teacher. She has since taught second grade and middle school.

With the exception of the few years she worked when her husband went to law school in another state, Sharie has served the children of Crittenden County with passion. She knows the CFCRB is a “good cause” because children are so important. She believes the social services system has improved over the last 19 years and said that she “thinks the social workers are accepting the reviewers more!” The CFCRB is fortunate to have benefited from Sharie’s devotion.



## Fayette County A Board

### J. Douglas Burnham

**Serving Since November 1986**

Former State Chair Doug Burnham became involved with the CFCRB when he was on the faculty of Eastern Kentucky University. He believed that reviewing cases would keep him grounded in the reality of public welfare and he advises other academic professionals to do the same.



Doug suggests that perhaps federal mandates, as well as the money to implement them, have created a system that focuses on collecting data, tracking children and keeping records. While these things are valuable, their emphasis is on information rather than on service. He is concerned that the volume of documentation has become the goal instead of service to families and children. Reviewing an old argument, Doug wonders whether the CFCRB could operate more efficiently as an independent entity free of political influence. He hopes to promote prevention programs in an effort to teach people how to have healthy, happy families.

### Margaret Cadle

**Serving Since 1986**

Margaret joined the Fayette County Board 18 years ago. As a teacher in inner city schools, she had many foster children in her classroom. She said that one child in particular had caught her attention and she wished there was more she could do to help the child be free of her abusive mother. Margaret said she has stayed with the CFCRB program because of loyalty to the children, even though the foster care system is frustrating. It is clear that her desire to make a difference is the reason for her continued service to children.

### Jacqueline Murphy

**Serving Since 1986**

Jacqueline joined the Fayette County Board because of a steadfast devotion to a friend. “Margaret Cadle made me,” she said. After 18 years of service from Jacqueline, perhaps the CFCRB should thank Margaret for her excellent recruitment skills. Jacqueline said she has stayed with the program because it was a “good way to give back.” She believes every child needs a voice and that serving as a reviewer helps her give that voice to children.



### Geraldine Williams

**Serving Since April 1990**

Gerry joined the Fayette County review program 14 years ago and became chair of her board within the first year. She has served the CFCRB as state chair and as Legislative Committee chair. Through the years Gerry has maintained a strong advocate voice for children. She is a long-time CASA volunteer and a past president of the National Association of Foster Care Reviewers. Her contacts nationwide ensure that current issues facing foster children remain a focus for her fellow reviewers. Gerry has volunteered many years because of her unwavering belief that there is more to do to change the laws to “get all of the systems working together for children.”



## Grant County Board

### Wanda Simpson

**Serving Since December 1988**

Wanda joined the Grant County Board when a friend asked her to come along.



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She said it sounded like a worthy cause. Wanda has continued volunteering with the Grant County CFCRB for 16 years because it is a job that needs to be done for the children. In her experience, the social workers “get things done faster when they know we are checking.”

## Grayson County Board

### Alberta Goldsberry Serving Since March 1986



Alberta joined the Grayson County board 18 years ago because she had witnessed the impact of children being removed from their homes and realized the importance of foster parents. She said she respects the work of foster parents because they are the ones responsible for working with the children while they are in care. She admires those who bring foster children into their homes and said that foster parenting is an amazing contribution which is often overlooked.

Alberta is chair of the Grayson County Board. She said she has dedicated all of these years to the CFCRB because of the children. She has reviewed the cases for so long that she feels as though they are her own.

## Harlan County Board

### Kathie Harris Serving Since April 1986

When Kathie joined the Harlan County Board 18 years ago, reviewing foster care cases was a “new thing.” She was asked to get involved because of her background as a school psychologist. She believes she has a “real advantage” as a reviewer due to the expertise of her profession. On the other hand, she said that reviewing cases has given her a better perspective on the lives of children throughout the years. She said reviewing is a “really important job” and one she greatly enjoys. Kathie believes the CFCRB is a wonderful service to the community and a great impact because reviewers represent the children’s best interests.

Kathie is vice chair of the Harlan County Board. The local board is one reason she has reviewed for so long. She said her board chair is organized and efficient, and that all of the board members get along well and enjoy working together.

### Brenda Johnson Serving Since April 1986

Brenda is the well-organized chair of the Harlan County Board that Kathie Harris referred to in the piece above. She said she joined the program the first day the local district judge asked her. Her background in social work gave her an edge as a reviewer. Brenda said she has enjoyed working with the Harlan County social services team. She believes that even if she does not always agree with them, social services workers do care and they try to help the children.

Brenda said her board is truly special. The members have more than 50 years of combined service and feel as though they are a team. Brenda credits her longevity with the CFCRB

to: “If I go, they say they all go, so we all stay.” However, when she speaks it is obvious that she is extraordinarily knowledgeable about all aspects of the foster care system. Perhaps she knows it would be a waste of all that insight and experience if she retired from the board.

### Duane Kauffman Serving Since May 1987

Duane joined the CFCRB because of his concern for foster children in Harlan County. He has an in-depth understanding of the challenges they face because of his position as director of a mental health agency. Duane said he has enjoyed his 17 years on the board primarily because of the people he has on his “team.” He believes that he and his team have made a difference in the lives of Harlan County’s foster children over the years. Knowing that “children are our future,” Duane continues to advocate on their behalf.

## Hart County Board

### Joan Choate Serving Since May 1986



It didn’t take long for a local judge to recognize that this retired home economics teacher would be an ideal prospect for the newly formed foster care review board. Agreeing to do it for the sake of the children, Joan began reviewing cases. Some of the families were familiar to her while others were new, but she said “My heart goes out to them” in every situation.

Hart County maintains four to five members on its board, and Joan makes it her business to emphasize the need for volunteer reviewers so that replacements are in the wings when vacancies occur. Her board has carried out projects to provide suitcases and teddy bears to foster children.

Joan believes that all children need instruction in home management, personal relationships, family dynamics and health, including preventing early pregnancies. She scrutinizes the educational needs of each child and believes that staying in school is a top concern. When reviewing cases, she looks for indications that a child needs attention. Joan knows that behavior problems are often a cry for help.

## Hopkins County Board

### Joyce Clayton Serving Since July 1981



Joyce joined the Hopkins County Board 23 years ago when “it was the beginning” of the CFCRB. She said there is no comparison to the way reviewing was done then and the way it is now. She talks of how the AOC paperwork procedures differ and how the number of cases has increased dramatically.

Joyce said she has volunteered all these years because it “feels like it makes a difference” and the “judges support us.” She speaks highly of the Hopkins County Board members and it is clear she enjoys working with them.

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Joyce has always had a special interest in children, especially teenagers. She has been a CASA volunteer for three years, representing six children. She retired from the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, only to turn around a few months later and take a position teaching parenting classes at the local advocacy center.

## Jefferson County Boards

### Lea Fischbach, Jefferson 1 & 10 Serving Since 1979

Lea is the only founding member of the CFCRB who is still reviewing children. She was asked by Kentucky Youth Advocates to become part of a new project for children and joined the program before the review process started in 1980. She watched the legislation that created the CFCRB go from permissive legislation in 1982 to mandated legislation in 1984.

Lea was an original reviewer for Jefferson County, one of the five county/areas in the pilot project. Although she took a few years off from the Kentucky CFCRB, she continued working in Ohio's review process for the years she lived there. Only she knows why she is with the program 25 years later. She was the first state chair, has served as Legislative Committee chair, and is currently one of the chairs and the regional representative for Jefferson County.

The Kentucky CFCRB would not be what it is today if not for Lea's lifetime devotion to the betterment of children's lives. She firmly believes the volunteer citizen review process is important to the children of the Commonwealth.

### Bill Goetz, Jefferson 8 Serving Since June 1988

Bill joined the Jefferson County board 16 years ago after answering an ad in the newspaper. He has served as chair of his local board, as regional representative and as Legislative Committee chair more than once. He will serve as the Review Committee chair for the next two years.

His legal background as a guardian *ad litem* and assistant county attorney has given him a unique perspective on the foster care system. However, Bill keeps reviewing because of his innate belief that "children are our future." The CFCRB is just one of the many organizations Bill has joined that works to improve the quality of life for children.

Bill said the CFCRB is unique because it helps the children who have the fewest organizations working for them. In fact, he said the children we serve have "the quietest voice of all the children in need of help."

### Lillian Milanof, Jefferson 1, 3 & 10 Serving Since 1985

Lillian has truly devoted a lifetime to improving the lives of children. Because of her master's degree and career in social work, she has been in great demand in her community, serving on countless boards, committees, task forces and councils. Throughout the decades, Lillian has diligently worked on multiple projects affecting the welfare of children and families.



Yet Lillian's efforts have not been limited to Louisville. She has served on the boards of the Home of the Innocents, Boys Haven, Brooklawn Treatment Center, The Family Place, the Kentucky Youth Research Center, Bridgehaven, the Neighborhood House, Park DuValle Parent Child Center, Community Coordinated Child Care, Senior Citizens East and the Kentucky Association for Older Persons. The list of her other accomplishments, educational achievements and community service is too long to reproduce here.

Lillian has earned many well-deserved accolades for her years of dedication. The CFCRB can be thankful that Lillian found her way to this organization. She brings an extremely powerful voice to the children of Jefferson County.

## Kenton County Boards

### Betty Howell, Kenton A Serving Since November 1988

Betty's son encouraged her to approach the CFCRB about serving for the Kenton County region. As an attorney, he was aware of the program; as a son, he believed it was a good match for his mother after her retirement. Now, 16 years later, it is safe to say he was correct. Betty said she has remained with the program for so long because she has enjoyed the work and the people.

Betty believes the CFCRB program has afforded her the opportunity to advocate for children. She is quick to note that just "a little bit of difference means a lot" to the children the CFCRB serves. Betty has gained a better understanding of how much the children have to overcome in their situations. She said, "Overall, it really is wonderful what the state does for these children, in retrieving them from the horror."



### Carol Kearns, Kenton A Serving Since December 1988

Carol joined the CFCRB 16 years ago when she found her nest empty. She found a way to put her "time and efforts into helping children." Over the years she has developed a deep appreciation for the friends she has made on the board. Carol said there is no doubt that the work of the boards are helping children in Kentucky. She believes the program is important because there are always children in need of our service. Carol said there are "moments after reading a file that you know you are doing the right thing."



### Pat Noll, Kenton A Serving Since December 1988

Pat was encouraged to join the Kenton County review program 16 years ago by District Judge Stevens. As a health coordinator for Head Start, Pat was aware of the needs of the children in her community. She has stayed with the program because the children need people to watch over them.

Pat said she has enjoyed working as a reviewer because she appreciates the dedication of her fellow reviewers, the interest of the social workers and the support from the judges.

**James Berg, Kenton B**  
**Serving Since November 1986**

James Berg's interest in children and families goes back to his days as a state social worker. He recalls the difficulty of documenting cases when records were handwritten and copies were hard to make. In his early days as a reviewer, he found incomplete and missing information to be the major obstacles in gaining a thorough understanding of each case. The introduction of computers eased this problem, making it easier to track the legal, medical and social progress of each child.

Operating a construction company in Northern Kentucky keeps James busy, but he still finds time to serve as a volunteer reviewer for foster children in the Covington area. He said that working with the CFCRB allows him to pursue his long-standing interest in children and families.

**Mary Lou Ringo, Kenton C**  
**Serving Since July 1986**

Mary Lou Ringo has seen many changes in her years as a reviewer and she's hoping to see even more. She cites the increasing number of sibling groups coming into foster care and laments the fact that many siblings are split up, eventually losing contact with each other. This fragments the damaged family even more, making the possibility of reunification with the parents even more difficult. She believes that group homes for siblings would be a welcome addition to foster care.

Mary Lou also believes that parents should be required to pay the state a token amount weekly as a tangible reminder of their responsibility for dependent children. She supports changing the placement goal to adoption within a defined period of time, knowing that children who languish for years in foster care frequently develop problems.

Because state agencies are subject to economic and political influences, it is important for reviewers to make their voices heard. Often a constructive change of policy begins with one individual's courage to speak up. Mary Lou Ringo is one of those individuals.

**Shirley Ringo, Kenton C**  
**Serving Since October 1990**

Shirley joined the Kenton County board 14 years ago when she was approached by Mary Lou Ringo. She stays because there are so many cases and she is needed on her small board.

Shirley has devoted a lifetime of advocacy to the children of Kenton County because she believes the work of reviewers is very important.



**Beverly Haegele Drye, Kenton D**  
**Seving Since November 1988**

Beverly joined the Kenton County board after hearing complaints time and again of children being returned to abusive homes. She was surprised to learn that what she thought was a solid foster care program consisted of "overworked social workers, an inadequate number of foster homes, residential settings, low budgets and no place for sibling groups." She wanted to become involved and help in any way she could.

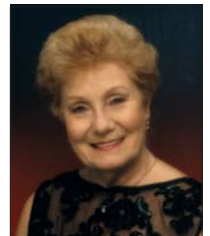
Beverly believes the CFCRB is important because it "serves as a safety net for children placed in foster care." She said that it is too easy for these children to be forgotten. "These children are from our communities and it is our responsibility to see that their needs are met."



**Knox County Board**

**Maud Mills**  
**Serving Since July 1988**

Maud joined the Knox County Board after her husband passed away. She was looking for an opportunity to work in the community when she was approached by Judge Messer and asked to join. She has been with the program for 16 years because she wants to help the children. She knows that even if you help only one child, you have made a difference in a life. Through the years, Maud has certainly helped many of Knox County's children.



**Lee/Owsley Board**

**Norma Moore**  
**Seving Since May 1988**

Norma wanted to get involved in the foster care process due to her work in the school system where she saw the needs of some children not being met. She enjoys helping children become educated and loves being involved in their lives.

From her experience in the school system, she knows children are easily lost along the way.



**Logan County Board**

**Emma Kendrick**  
**Serving Since December 1987**

Emma joined the Logan County Board 17 years ago. She believes the CFCRB is important because of the work done on behalf of children. Her love, compassion and concern for the safety of children has maintained her desire to review for all of these years.





## Lyon County Board

### Carolyn Sims

*Serving Since February 1986*

Carolyn joined the CFCRB when the Lyon County board was looking for its first members. Her husband's dental office was contacted to see if he was available to serve. Carolyn found something about the initial call for help that struck a chord. She joined the board in 1986 and now, 18 years later, shows no signs of stopping. Her children, who were quite small when she joined the CFCRB, are now young adults.

When asked why she has volunteered this long, her answer was matter of fact: "It is important." In further explanation, she said, "You read a few files and you are hooked. You want to make sure that everything is being done that can be done for the children."

Carolyn currently serves as vice chair of her local board, and has previously served as chair. She knows that Lyon County may be one of the lucky areas of the state. At the last meeting, the board had only four cases to review.

## Madison County A Board

### Mary Lou Salter

*Serving Since July 1981*

Twenty-one years ago Mary Lou joined what was then the Clark-Madison Board. The chair would keep the files in her car trunk and drive to the two counties. Mary Lou said, with a laugh, that there was no training in the beginning of the CFCRB; you just started reviewing. Now Clark and Madison counties are divided into multiple boards.

After all these years, Mary Lou admits she thinks of retiring from the CFCRB, but then she "thinks about those children and goes one more time." She went on to say that the thought of leaving feels like "desertion" on her part. Even after all this time, she still worries about the children who go back into the homes of the noncompliant parents. Her wish for the children would be that "they could see a light at the end of the tunnel."

Mary Lou may retire from the CFCRB soon, as she has from the nursing profession. She and her husband, a retired doctor, raised two adopted children. She has had some challenges of her own in recent years. As a cancer survivor, she quickly passes on the message that "each day is a gift given." When she throws in her volunteer towel, we will know that her gift to the children of Madison County was 21 years of caring.

## Mason County Board

### Mary Jane Sharp

*Serving Since January 1987*

As a professional educator, Mary Jane is fully aware of the complexities of human behavior. She teaches psychology and sociology at Maysville Community and Technical College. Having a strong background in these areas has been a real asset in reviewing cases, and the foster children in Mason County have benefited from her years of service.



Mary Jane likes working on a review board that switches cases because she believes this gives each volunteer an overview of the entire caseload. It also allows members to see other cases and perhaps offer different points of view. As a long-time reviewer, she finds that switching cases breaks the routine and forces reviewers to read each case with fresh attention. Recruiting new members is always a priority for review boards. Knowing that community college faculty members are often searching for ways to meet their community service requirements, Mason County places notices at the college about the CFCRB and the ongoing need for volunteers.

## McCracken County A Board

### Ann Edwards

*Serving Since August 1989*

Ann became interested in the CFCRB program 15 years ago when she and her friend, Anita, were looking for a way to extend their advocacy to children. Ann had served with the local CASA program, but felt there was more that could be done for foster children.

Ann has always had a great interest in children, but by serving as a reviewer she has been able to focus that care and concern on a special group. She believes there has been a change in the system over the years which has made all of her years of service worthwhile.



### Martha Garland

*Serving Since November 1988*

Martha joined the CFCRB in 1988 after attending the National Foster Care Reviewers Convention in Lexington. She went to several workshops where foster children were telling about their lives in foster homes. After listening to their life stories she "was hooked!" She has spent 16 years with the CFCRB program because she believes she "can make a life a little better." She quoted a poem by an unknown author that has kept the fire burning for her:

"A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child!"



### Sandra Gottschalk

*Serving Since 1985*

Sandra was appointed to the first board in McCracken County. She said she is now reviewing the case files of children of the children she reviewed when she first started. Sandra continues her work with the program because she believes it is important for someone outside of the system to monitor these children. She also said the system is much better than it was in 1985, but improvement is still needed.



## **Anita Williams**

***Serving Since August 1989***

Anita joined the CFCRB ranks 15 years ago. She was working with the local CASA program and realized there had to be a way to do more for the children in care. Anita herself had adopted a child from foster care and she was curious about why it took so long for the process to work. Her efforts throughout the years stem from her desire to see a change in the system.

Anita has been a member of the CFCRB Executive Committee for 12 years. Her leadership as state chair for two terms has been invaluable to the program. Anita has seen the foster care system change for the better in the last 15 years. She said that the CFCRB has been a part of that change and she is proud to be a member of the organization.



## **Monroe County Board**

### **Gayle Marrs**

***Serving Since February 1987***

Judge Hurt recruited her to serve and Gayle joined the Monroe County Board “the very first day” it was formed. Her background in nursing and her experience raising five children gave her insight into foster children. Gayle retired from the board earlier this year. She said it had been an honor to serve and she had enjoyed the work all those years, but it was time for some younger ones to come in. After 17 years, the CFCRB can say it was an honor to have her.

## **Montgomery County Board**

### **Pat McGlothlin**

***Serving Since October 1990***

Pat has been with the Montgomery County board for 14 years. She had never heard of the program when Starkey Ray called her and asked her to serve. Pat had taught fourth grade in Montgomery County for many years. She said that she has stayed with the program simply because she loves it.

Pat said the state conferences are very important to her. As a teacher, she learned more about children from the CFCRB conference than she did from her in-service training. She believes that the education she received from the CFCRB greatly impacted her teaching. She said the board members have been a wonderful group of people to work with.

### **Starkey Ray**

***Serving Since July 1988***

The program’s manager invited Starkey to join the CFCRB years ago when Montgomery County needed more reviewers. Starkey accepted the challenge to learn about the foster care system and has stayed for 16 years as an integral member of the board. Throughout the years, Starkey has stepped up on more than one occasion. He served for many years on the Executive Committee as a regional representative.

Starkey sees the CFCRB as an opportunity to give back to the community by watching out for less fortunate children.



## **Nelson County Board**

### **Janet Bee**

***Serving Since October 1986***

Janet Bee recently completed her 18th year as a foster care reviewer. In the early days of the review process it was envisioned that board members would serve limited terms, regularly being phased out as new volunteers took their places. Needless to say, that concept was abandoned and Jane is still working as a loyal reviewer.

Now retired from her career as a public Health Department nurse, Janet finds her knowledge of medicine helpful in reviewing cases. Knowing when childhood immunizations are required keeps her searching case files to make sure shots and physicals are up to date.

Janet advises new reviewers to always look forward, warning that it is normal to feel discouraged when children are moved in and out of various homes. Her advice is to search for ways to improve difficult situations and maintain good rapport with the social workers.



### **Kenneth Drake**

***Serving Since July 1987***

As a former elementary school principal, Kenneth knows that children need stable adults who are always there for them. Whether they have a specific problem or just want to talk, children turn to adults for reassurance. Kenneth’s commitment is to see that no child gets lost in the shuffle.

Working now as a supervisor at a distillery, Kenneth still takes time to help children by serving on the Nelson County review board. He notices that social workers face difficult challenges, such as having to investigate calls concerning alleged abuse and maintaining huge amounts of paperwork.

Reviewers make a difference. Kenneth recalls one case that involved parents who were a peril to the child. His input resulted in the Return to Parent goal being changed, with the child soon being adopted into a good family. He said that some parents “only want their children every once in a while.” Kenneth knows the children deserve much more.



### **Roland Gabbart**

***Serving Since October 1989***

Roland was encouraged 15 years ago by some of his CASA and Hospice friends to look into the CFCRB in Nelson County. He said the program sounded worthwhile and it has been.

Roland said that through the years he would “walk into the social services office and realize that a lot of the kids needed someone to watch over what was being done for them.”

Roland believes the checks and balances provided by the CFCRB are important to the foster care system.





**Therese Johnson**  
*Serving Since July 1987*

A Nelson County judge was one of the first in the state to implement the foster care review board process and Therese was one of the first reviewers to volunteer. She believes the judge sets the tone for making reviewers a vital part of each child's case. She likes the idea of interested party reviews, but acknowledges the difficulty of coordinating many different schedules.



Therese emphasizes that the purpose of the board is to review information for the judge, not to review the social worker. She believes the social workers have very challenging jobs and respecting them at all times is of primary importance. Her board is careful to phrase questions in the form of a request. They regard themselves as a support group for the professional staff and are pleased the social workers attend review board meetings. Maintaining a good rapport greatly increases the effectiveness of each case review.

**Oldham County Board**

**Mark McLeroy**  
*Serving Since September 1990*

Mark joined the Oldham County board 14 years ago and has served as chair for 12 of those years. He learned about the program through an acquaintance at church. Over the years, Mark and his board have enjoyed a good working relationship with social services. Mark has stayed with the program because he is able to help children without being in the limelight.

He said he has prayed many times for the children he has reviewed, and is thankful he was able to help with their lives. It has been difficult for him to see children raised by social services and not their parents, but he admits that the worst part is seeing "a child not loved" by their parents. In the end, Mark believes "he owes the board a thanks for the opportunity to help the children."

**Shelby County Board**

**Brenda Jackson**  
*Serving Since August 1986*

Firsthand experience prepared Brenda for her role as a case reviewer. When she grew up during the 1960s, three babies (ages 3 months, 4 months and 6 months) came into Brenda's home as foster children. Six years later these boys were available for adoption and officially became Brenda's brothers. Other friends and family members also fostered children, with one neighbor adopting five of them.



Brenda remembers when conditions were quite different from today. Potential foster homes were not inspected and children were sometimes placed with adults who had serious problems of their own. Social workers were not required to make regular home visits and could appear without notice to remove foster children. Sometimes foster parents were given the ultimatum to adopt or lose the children completely. She believes that social workers today have very heavy loads, but the system is greatly improved.

One of her current concerns is the placement goal of Return to Parent. Brenda said that unless parents show definite improvement, termination of parental rights is often a more positive alternative. She also worries that older children who leave foster care are not prepared to face the world alone.

**Simpson County Board**

**Pam Roland**  
*Serving Since July 1990*



Pam joined the CFCRB 14 years ago when she was approached by another teacher to come on board. Her profession as a special education teacher gave her an edge in understanding children. In fact, she said that many of the children in the files were her students in school.

At one point she left the board, but was once again approached to serve, this time by the local district judge. The judge promised to be supportive of the board and he followed through by even attending the meetings for a while. Pam said that she has stayed with the program because the judge has made children a "number one priority." Pam believes that the Simpson County CFCRB has been a good support mechanism for social services in her area.

**Spencer County Board**

**Ann Greenwell**  
*Serving Since June 1989*

**Taylor County Board**

**Pat Abell**  
*Serving Since May 1988*

Pat joined the CFCRB because she saw a need for it and she was asked to join by the local district judge, who also is her husband. Pat believes the CFCRB is a worthwhile project. Because of her work, Pat has seen accomplishments in her city of Campbellsville. She has devoted her life to keep children from falling through the cracks of the foster care system.

**Todd County Board**

**Sarah Slack**  
*Serving Since December 1987*

**Warren County A Board**

**Janet Fugate**  
*Serving Since July 1988*



Janet joined the CFCRB to make sure all children receive high-quality education and health care. She believes children should have access to the resources that can help them achieve the best possible lives and become productive citizens. Janet said that all children deserves a home and someone to meet their needs.

## Linda Montell

**Serving Since July 1988**

Linda has been a Warren County child advocate for 16 years. There was something about the concept of the foster care review board that initially drew her to volunteer and she has never looked back.

She recognizes that the CFCRB is a valuable tool to help Kentucky's children who, she believes, are "getting lost in the system." She has devoted a lifetime to the program because of her emphatic belief that "somebody out there needs to go an extra mile for the children."



## Webster County

### Brenda Brasher

**Serving Since February 1986**

Brenda joined the CFCRB in 1986 and has been a volunteer for 18 years. She said that the foster care system has really changed in the years she has been reviewing: "Children were getting lost."

She believes that the CFCRB has had an impact on the system and is proud to be part of the process that has made the difference. She said it is important for volunteers to be able to alert judges and make recommendation to judges, which makes the reviewer an integral part of the checks and balances for the system.

Brenda has raised three children and enjoys one grandchild. For many years she says she was "just a mom," raising her children with her husband, a minister. She now works in the local Family Resource Center, writing grants for the nonprofit agency. As with many other recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Brenda said that her work with the CFCRB is an opportunity to "give something back."



*Correction: The name of Denise Hawkes was misspelled in the 2004 CFCRB State Conference banquet program in the section listing the volunteers with six to nine years of service.*



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