



# CASA OF TERREBONNE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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WWW.CASAOFTERREBONNE.ORG



## MEET CASA VOLUNTEER : TAMMY BROUILLETTE

This month, CASA of Terrebonne would like to introduce CASA volunteer Tammy Brouillette. Tammy has been a resident of Houma since she was 12 years old. She has been married to her husband, Stan, for 27 years and they have one son, David, who is 24 years old. Sadly, their family recently lost their four-legged son, Andy Brouillette, a 17-year-old Jack Russell Terrier.

Some of the hobbies Tammy takes joy in are shopping, traveling, and attending sporting events with her husband. One thing that may surprise most people about Tammy, is that she likes watching a good boxing match.

In May 2020, Tammy retired from teaching after 33 years in the system. She loved teaching and particularly loved teaching science. Tammy was named a state finalist for the Presidential

Award of Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. She states that she misses working with her students and the joy she got when they had their "AHA" moment.

When she retired, Tammy knew she wanted to get involved and volunteer but didn't know with which organization. While at the gym, she heard newly sworn-in CASA volunteers, Amber Berry and Nicole Reiss, speaking about CASA and asked them about their roles. After attending an information session, Tammy believed CASA was a good fit because of her education background and experience with students.

Through the years of teaching, Tammy has come to believe that a person's story can be an explanation for their choices and behaviors, but it can never be an excuse. As a CASA, Tammy hopes to help

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her CASA kids know "that they have the power to write their own future regardless of their past." Tammy was sworn-in November 2020 and has been assigned to her first case. She advises incoming volunteers to be prepared for your momma/papa bear instincts to come to the surface. She states, "I have realized that I will fight for my CASA kid until the very end as I would for my own flesh and blood."

She states, "I have grown to love the young man I work with and have gone to bat for him many times, particularly with his educational needs." Tammy continues, "There are so few times in life when we get to be a champion for others. Being a CASA volunteer gives you that opportunity."

Thank you, Tammy for the hard work for your CASA child. We appreciate you!



**A POLO SHIRT WILL BE DONATED TO THIS MONTH'S CASA VOLUNTEER BY SHELLY TOUPS AT ARTISTIC EMBROIDERY.**

**GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK:**

As we enter the month of May, I am grateful for the awesome support of the community during the Bayou Gives Day. We received \$2,145.00 which surpassed our goal of \$2000.00. Thanks to all who participated to support our worthy cause.

Another way to support our organization is by joining us Saturday, May 8, 2021, for the 14th Annual Crawfish Boil-off sponsored by the Herman J. Courville Foundation. All proceeds from this event are donated to CASA of Terrebonne, Inc. Come out and enjoy crawfish from some of the best cooks around! It's not too late to organize a boiling team and join the competition for 1st prize. We are grateful for the continued support of this Foundation, in particular, Amos Mosley and the Courville family.

This month is also National Foster Care Month. We appreciate the caregivers who open their homes to the children we advocate for. Foster parents must go through training, pass background checks and be available for court hearings and visits by caseworkers and other involved parties, including CASA volunteers. If you know a foster parent, thank them for their service.



**CHRISTINE AUCOIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**Suzanne Vice**

She has won a gift card of her choice for visiting with her CASA children and putting in her contact logs by the last day of the month.

To be entered into the monthly drawing, volunteers must see their CASA children and enter contact logs by the last day of the month.

## MAY VOLUNTEER ANNIVERSARIES

*We appreciate your commitment & service to CASA*

**Carol Bergeron**

3 years

**Allison Eschete**

2 years

**Kimberly Eubanks**

2 years

**Emily Gilmore**

3 years

**Kristy Ledford**

2 years

**Miranda Legendre**

2 years

**Amber Ward**

3 years

**Leah Voisin**

2 years



# Life in Full Bloom

The month of April for CASA of Terrebonne was when we saw our program bloom back into the community just like a flower blooming after a cold winter. With Covid restrictions loosened and many of our volunteers and supporters vaccinated, we were able to "spring" back into action! Thanks to all the volunteers who came out and helped us spread our mission in the community over the last month. We are grateful to be out with you all once again.



CASA Volunteer Terri Brown Swearing-In



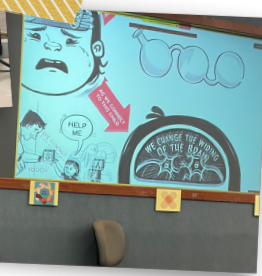
CASA Volunteers Rebecca Clement & Priscilla Callais at Southdown Market Place



CASA Staff Blue Shirt Friday Child Abuse Prevention Month



Lead Advocate Supervisor, Jenny Domanque Hosting TBRI In-Service Training



CASA Volunteers Appreciation Crawfish Boil



Crawfish and Fixins donated by Doug David and The Shack



CASA Volunteers running Piglets Pen at the Bayou Terrebonne Boucherie



## SHOUT-OUT TO...

- Kathy Mella for taking her first CASA case and attending a first family team meeting for her CASA children.
- Lisa Bustamante for taking her first case and attending her family team meeting for a CASA child.
- Miranda Legendre for attending court for CASA child.
- Amber Berry and Emily Gilmore for submitting their court report and attending court for their CASA children.
- Colleen Greer for submitting her court report and attending court for CASA child and seeing her case through reunification.
- Jonathon Russo for submitting his court report and attending a court hearing for his CASA child. Also, congratulations on playing a huge part in getting his child reunified with his parents so quickly.
- Rushelle Fitzgerald for submitting her court report and attending court for her CASA children.
- Norma Macks for attending court for her CASA child.
- Tim Hitt for completing his court report and attending court for his CASA children.
- Edward Olivier for attending court for his CASA child.
- Beth Tabor for writing her court report, attending a hearing for her CASA child, and seeing her case through to closing.
- Penny Hebert for attending court for her CASA child.
- Vickie "Darlene" Naquin for taking her first CASA case.
- Gina Danos for completing her court report and attending a family team meeting for her CASA children.
- Molly Arrington for attending a family team meeting for her CASA children.

## THANK YOU TO OUR FOLLOWING APRIL DONORS:

- Kathleen Andrews
- Jennifer Bonvillain
- Millie Bourgeois
- Maxine Carlos
- Callais Family Funds
- Ashley & Tyler Deroche
- The Shack of Houma and Doug Davis
- Cole Guidry
- Teresa King
- Mark Lee
- Megan Merlos
- Darlene Naquin
- Tori Rayne
- Joyce Thibodeaux
- Christina Tucker
- Suzanne Vice



CASA Volunteer and Board Member enjoying his crawfish



## CASA STAFF

**Christine Aucoin**  
Executive Director

**Jenny Domangue**  
Lead Advocate Supervisor

**Heather Falls**  
Advocate Supervisor

**Anna Merlos**  
Office Manager/  
Marketing Coordinator

**Sulma Reyes**  
Training/Outreach Coordinator

**Valentine Verdin**  
Advocate Supervisor

## CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

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## SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Written by: Jenny Domangue

May is foster care awareness month. It is a time to bring awareness to the needs of our most vulnerable population, our children. We are thankful for the foster parents who selflessly give abused and neglected children a safe and stable living environment. Foster Care is not to replace parents but it is a support to the family. Whether the foster home is a relative placement or a certified placement, we must continue to remind ourselves and oftentimes the foster parent that they are a bridge to help the children get back into their original home safely. We recognize that families get attached to the children placed in their home and letting them go back into their biological parent's home can be hard for them. We must always remember that it isn't about who can give these children the best life, it is about reunifying with the parents if at all possible.

That is not to say that children should go back into unsafe households. Biological parents must do the work to make their lives better and to become stable. That is why CASA's presence is so important. The advocate is able to monitor the situation more closely and dedicate more time to the children because most have only one case to focus on. If the volunteer sees something that is not right, he/she can inform the judge through a court report or call the hotline if a child is in immediate danger. When CASA volunteers are sworn in, they become mandated reporters and are required by the courts to report any suspected child abuse. All active CASA volunteers are required to complete the training on the LCWTA website regarding mandated reporting by June 30, 2021. ***If you have not completed this training please do so as soon as possible.*** If you have trouble logging in please call the office for assistance.



JENNY DOMANGUE, LEAD ADVOCATE SUPERVISOR

### MARCH CHILDREN STATISTICS

- 70** CHILDREN SERVED
- 54** CHILDREN SEEN FACE-TO-FACE
- 4** CHILDREN CONTACTED OTHER THAN FACE-TO-FACE
- 74%** OF CHILDREN SEEN
- 83%** OF CHILDREN WERE CONTACTED

## APRIL VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

**62**

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES



**73**

CASA CHILDREN SERVED



**116**

HOURS SPENT ADVOCATING



**1,056**

MILES TRAVELED BY ADVOCATES



**150**

CHILDREN ON THE WAITING LIST



Breakdown of Waitlist Cases: Sexual (9) - Physical (12) - Neglect (74) - Substance Abuse (55)

## CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS:

### **IN-SERVICE: FAMILY PRESERVATION COURT OVERVIEW WITH JUDGE ARCENEUX**

**MAY 11, 2021 \* 12 PM - 1 PM \* JUDGE ARCENEUX'S COURTROOM (1 CREDIT HOUR)**

Join us in Judge Arceneaux's courtroom for an introduction to Family Preservation Court. This is a new and compelling program available in Terrebonne parish that is designed to help families with substance use disorders receive the treatment and support that they need to get their children out of foster care sooner or avoid foster care altogether. It is an intensive treatment plan based loosely on drug court but with a focus on the family unit. We will hear from Judge Arceneaux, ADA Ellen Doskey, and Valerie Cooper.

RSVP at [www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org)>For Advocates>Advocate Calendar.

### **LUNCH & LEARN: ADOLESCENT BRAIN SCIENCE: WHAT IS IT AND HOW CAN IT BE EFFECTIVELY USED TO ADVOCATE FOR AND ENGAGE YOUTH**

**MAY 21, 2021 \* 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM \* CASA OF TERREBONNE OFFICE THROUGH ZOOM IN THE TRAINING ROOM (1.5 CREDIT HOURS)**

This webinar will provide attendees with significant findings on how the adolescent brain develops, including a brief overview of the structure of the brain. The presenters will cover the three major aspects of the brain that are particularly active and change throughout adolescence: regulation, relationships, and rewards. Attendees will learn how to apply this information to working with youth to both promote and advocate for healthy brain development, as well as authentically engage them in their case plans. The presenters will also share practical tips to integrate adolescent brain science into their advocacy and framing of their client's narrative to the court. *Lunch will be provided.*

RSVP at [www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org)>For Advocates>Advocate Calendar>Event Date.

**\*THIS TRAINING IS MANDATORY FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS AND MUST BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 2021. \***

**[HTTPS://MOODLE.LCWTA.ORG/ENROL/INDEX.PHP?ID=376](https://moodle.lcwta.org/enrol/index.php?id=376) (1.5 CREDIT HOURS)**

It will help you learn your rights and obligations as a mandated reporter. In return, you will help keep children safe in your role as a CASA volunteer. (Include program ID #10241 when training is complete)




## CASA TUTORING PROGRAM

Help tutor foster children in your community.


- MUST HAVE A TEACHING CERTIFICATE
- TUTORS ARE PAID \$25/HOUR
- 3 HOURS OF TRAINING BEFORE BEING ASSIGNED TO A CASE
- MUST PASS A BACKGROUND CHECK

**APPLY ONLINE**  
[www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org)





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Beth Tabor 5/2  
Bonnie Naquin 5/14  
Amber Ward 5/16