

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

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# CASA OF TERREBONNE

ANNUAL REPORT

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# CASA STAFF



**Jenny Domangue**, Lead Advocate Supervisor, **Christine Aucoin**, Outreach/Training Coordinator,  
**Anna Merlos**, Office Manager, **Donna Brunet**, Executive Director,  
**Valentine Verdin**, Advocate Supervisor, **Sulma Reyes**, Advocate Supervisor

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## The Mission of CASA

CASA of Terrebonne, Inc. is to be an independent and objective presence in the courts by speaking for the best interest of abused and neglected children of Terrebonne Parish.

# A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of CASA,

As I come to the beginning of my third year as Executive Director, I am constantly amazed at the passion of the staff, volunteers and members of the Board of Directors who work so hard for the children in our community. I am also thankful for those of you who support CASA with your time and financial donations. We could not do what we do without your help.

Even during the chaos of the Covid-19 pandemic, CASA volunteers advocated for 134 children in Terrebonne Parish giving those children a powerful voice to speak up for them in the courts, in schools, and in our community. I am grateful for all of you who have become advocates in the past year, and to the many, many more who have gone before you. Our CASA volunteers are a dedicated group who give tirelessly of their time and expertise for the benefit of these children.

Our success would not have been possible without our donors, dedicated volunteer advocates and talented staff. Our donors have generously given their time and resources and have financially supported CASA of Terrebonne. Our volunteer advocates have donated countless hours to help change a child's story for the better. Their dedication and perseverance, along with their commitment to advocate

for the best interests of the child, help to mitigate the many biases and injustices that children would ordinarily endure without an advocate.

The future of our organization is filled with tremendous opportunities. We will continue to focus on the needs of the children we serve. We remain committed to enhancing our operations, expanding our donor base and increasing our ability to advocate for as many children as possible in foster care that need our support.

In closing, I'm going to ask you to please tell someone about CASA of Terrebonne. We cannot grow and reach 100% of the children in need unless more people support our cause. So invite someone to one of our events, talk to a friend about becoming an advocate or consider making a donation. There are so many ways to make a difference in a child's life, and we are so thankful that you do.

On behalf of CASA of Terrebonne: thank you for your continued support of our mission as we work to provide a CASA to every child who needs one.

ALL THE BEST,



**DONNA BRUNET**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*CASA Child on His Adoption Day*



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Martin Majewski, III**  
Board President



**Mary Guidry**  
Board Vice-President



**Bonnie Naquin**  
Board Treasurer



**Shelly Toups**  
Board Secretary



**Carl "Buddy" McNabb**



**Charles Brown**



**Heather Hebert**



**Douglas Gregory**



**Angelle Thibodeaux**



**Christopher Chiasson**



**Patricia Reeves Floyd**



**Charles Kornegay**



**Ida Moore**

## LOUISIANA CASA DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

In November, Executive Director, Donna Brunet, was recognized as the Louisiana CASA Director of the Year!

The CASA board and staff are proud of the hard work and advocacy Donna has put in during her short time with the program.





GABRIELLE HERNANDEZ

## IN MEMORIAM: GABRIELLE HERNANDEZ

Gabrielle Marie Theriot Hernandez was sworn in on November 21, 2013, and served as an active volunteer for nearly six years. During her time at CASA, she was assigned to six cases and advocated for 15 children. She was awarded CASA Advocate of the Month several times and was honored with a five-year service award for her dedicated service in 2018.

## GABRIELLE HERNANDEZ SCHOLARSHIP

Gabrielle Hernandez was a dedicated CASA Volunteer for over six years, who passed away in October 2019. Her husband, Jared Hernandez, and family, wanted to honor Gabbie and her love of CASA through a scholarship to a graduating senior at Vanderbilt Catholic High School, Gabbie's alma mater.

Graduating Senior, Hannah Hebert, was chosen as the recipient of the first annual Gabrielle Hernandez Scholarship. Hannah said that she was very grateful for the scholarship and will be sure to always remember Gabbie. Hannah will be attending Nicholls State in the Fall of 2020 and will be majoring in physical therapy.



*Hannah Hebert along with the Hernandez family, friends & CASA Staff*

## CASA OF TERREBONNE SCHOLARSHIP

Caroline Evans, a senior at Vanderbilt Catholic High School, was awarded a \$500 scholarship by CASA of Terrebonne. Caroline was chosen for this scholarship because of her outstanding academic achievements and numerous extracurricular activities during her time at Vanderbilt. Also, Caroline is part of CASA of Terrebonne's extended family as her mother, Christine "Tina" Evans, has been a CASA volunteer for the past six years.



*Caroline Evans, pictured in the middle, with CASA staff*



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## REVENUE

Grants	.....	\$333,399.29
Donations	.....	\$72,446.34
Fundraisers	.....	\$39,415.72
Interest Income	.....	\$9,403.16
Miscellaneous	.....	\$15,502.74
PPP Funds	.....	\$24,688.00

**TOTAL \$494,855.25**

## EXPENSES

Program Services	.....	\$371,520.96
Administrative	.....	\$51,589.66
Fundraising	.....	\$9,799.36

**TOTAL \$432,909.98**



Donation from Herman J. Courville Foundation



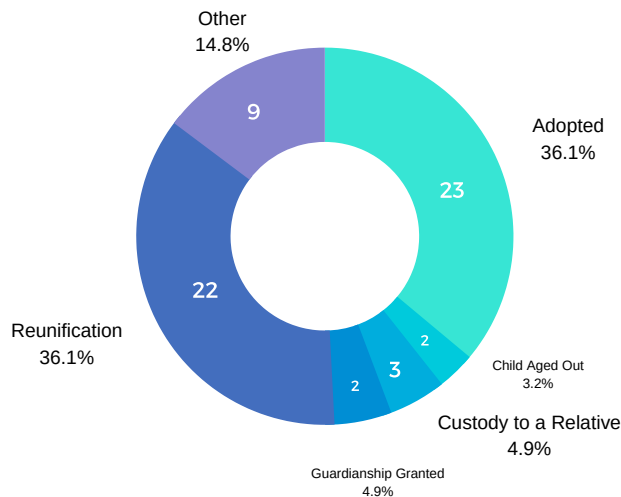
Donation from Shell Pipeline



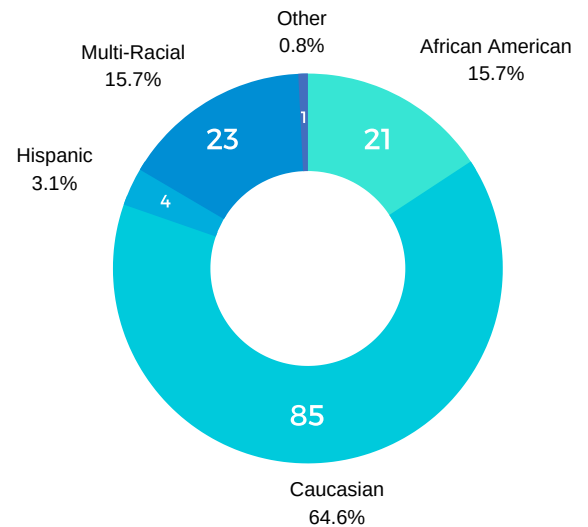
Grant Check to Fund the Traveling Tutor Program

Audit and IRS Form 990 - Independent auditors review our financial statements each year, preparing our audited financials and tax returns. Access to our audit and tax filings can be found online at [www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org).

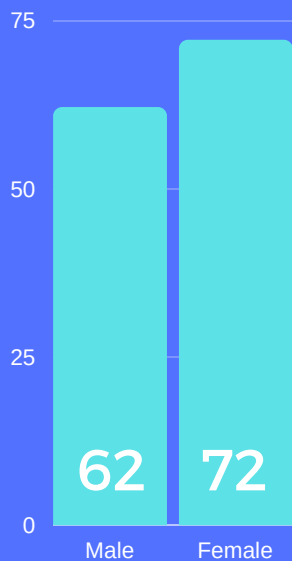
# **134 CHILDREN WERE SERVED BY CASA OF TERREBONNE FROM JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020.**



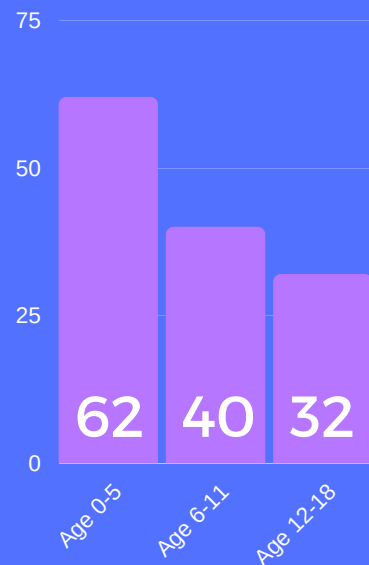
Outcome of the children whose cases were closed between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.



Ethnicity of children served between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.



Gender of children served between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.



Age of children served between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.



# WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE 76 VOLUNTEERS THAT SERVED THE ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN TERREBONNE PARISH THIS PAST YEAR:

Mary Grace Adams	Rushelle Fitzgerald	Claire McNabb
Kathleen Andrews	Linda Fleniken	Carl McNabb
Hannah Becnel	Linda Ford	Kathi Murphy
Cynthia "Ann" Beeson	Patricia Floyd	Eddie Olivier
Carol Bergeron	Connie Fremin	Lori Olivier
Blayne Bergeron	Raymonda Guidroz	Joni Oncale
Charles Bergeron	Mary Guidry	Kim Pickard
Sara Bond	Jacob Ghery	Miranda Price
Terissa Boquet	Sarah Ghery	Carey Redmond
Peggy Boudwin	Emily Gilmore	Mitzi Rieve
Michael Brown	Alyssia Hay	Jonathan Russo
Silvana Brown	Traci Hawthorne	Beth Tabor
Jennifer Burrough	Mary Healey	Jerzelle Thomas
Priscilla Callais	Penny Hebert	Joy Tingle
Earleather Celestine	Tressa Hebert	Meagan Verret
Patti Charpentier	Gabrielle Hernandez	Michelle Verret
Destiny Clement	Timothy Hitt	Suzanne Vice
Rebecca Clement	Brittany Jones	Leah Voisin
Gina Danos	Jennifer Kryvanick	Paula Voisin
Jamara Doiron	Amanda LeBlanc	Betty Wallace
Alicia Dove	Kristy Ledford	Amber Ward
Jody Dusenberry	Miranda Legendre	Yvonne White
Brian Elliott	Tasha Lirette	
Emily Elmore	Rhonda Lovell	
Allison Eschete	William Lovell	
Kimberly Eubanks	Michelle Luke	
Christine Evans	Norma Macks	

*Thank  
you!*





## THE ROLE OF A CASA CAN BE A POWERFUL VOICE IN A CHILD'S LIFE....

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a court-appointed, trained and committed adult who ensures that each child's individual needs remain a priority in an overburdened child welfare system.

CASA volunteers are appointed as advocates and act as the eyes and ears of the Judge by documenting each child's circumstances and making recommendations for services and permanency. The ultimate goal of the CASA advocate is to help ensure that every child lives in a safe and permanent home. This could mean reunification with parents, placement with relatives, or adoption by a loving family.

### What are the requirements to be a CASA?

- Anyone 21 years of age or older
- Pass DCFS and criminal background checks
- Attend 30 hours of training

### 2021 PRE-SERVICE CLASS START DATES

Class #58	January 19, 2021
Class #59	April 13, 2021
Class #60	July 13, 2021
Class #61	October 5, 2021

### What are the expectations of a CASA?

- Visit child(ren) at least monthly
- Interview everyone involved in the child's life
- Enter visitations and notes in an online database
- Complete state mandated online well-being assessments for children biannually
- Prepare written court reports with findings and recommendations
- Complete 12 hours of in-service training annually

As of June 30, 2020 there were **125** children in need of a CASA volunteer.

To learn more about CASA of Terrebonne, please call us at 985-876-0250 or visit our website at [www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org).

*We're waiting to hear from you!*  
**Help an Abused or Neglected Child**  
*Volunteer Today!!*



# FINDING FOREVER HOMES



Connie Fremin at CASA Child's Adoption Hearing



Suzanne Vice at CASA Children's Adoption Hearing



Jon Russo at CASA Child's Adoption Hearing



Carey Redmond at CASA Child's Adoption Hearing



Paula Voisin at CASA Child's Adoption Hearing



Joni Oncale at CASA Children's Adoption Hearing



Connie Fremin at CASA Child's Adoption Hearing



Amber Ward at CASA Child's Adoption Hearing



Silvana Brown at CASA Child's Adoption Hearing



Rebecca Clement at CASA Child's Adoption Hearing



Earleather Celestine at CASA Child's Adoption Hearing

# CHANGING A CHILD'S STORY

When a child is falling through the cracks of a flawed and overwhelmed system, a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer has the chance to come in to change the trajectory of the case and change the child's life. Social workers are over-worked with new cases getting added every day. They are bound by policy, with little to no control over some decisions that must be made. Such as, the policy that states a child must be placed with a willing family member first before being placed into a foster or adoptive home.

CASA volunteer, Connie Fremin, chose a case with a little girl who was taken out of her home a few days shy of her second birthday. Girl X's biological mother had several children taken from her over the last few years for not being able to provide a safe home for her children. Girl X was soon thereafter placed in a loving and supportive adoptive home and began to grow a bond with her new mommies.

Four months into her adoptive home placement, DCFS found a family member for Girl X who lived four states away and that she did not know. The foster parents and CASA volunteer were heartbroken but Connie knew that she had to stick with the child to ensure that she was in the best placement. Although DCFS is in total control of child placement, a CASA volunteer's notes and recommendations can heavily influence the court's decision on placement.

Connie was in continuous communications with all parties and was quickly informed when the placement was not working out. Connie was the listening ear when the selected family member expressed her concerns and ultimately her withdrawal as a placement for Girl X. Connie contacted those who were in charge to begin the process of Girl X returning to her original adoptive home.

Connie worked diligently through the staff changes at DCFS to ensure that this matter was handled as swiftly and smoothly as possible. She was a constant source of comfort and information for Girl X, the adoptive parents, and Girl X's family member. Without Connie being the family members' unbiased listening ear, Girl X may still be placed in a home that was not best suited for her. Girl X was placed with two mothers that loved her enough to let her go in the name of family; then welcomed her back with open arms. She was adopted and is now in her forever home.





# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

CASA of Terrebonne is grateful to **all** of our volunteers who have dedicated their time and talent to advocating for abused and neglected children in our community.



July 2019  
Carey Redmond



August 2019  
Tasha Lirette



September 2019  
Sara Bond



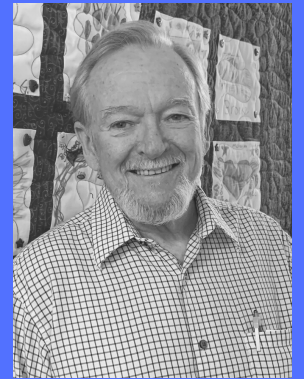
October 2019  
Sarah & Jacob Ghre



November 2019  
Gabrielle Hernandez



December 2019  
Norma Macks



January 2020  
Michael Brown



February 2020  
Kathi Murphy



March 2020  
Rhonda & Bill Lovell



April 2020  
Terissa Boquet



May 2020  
Priscilla Callais



June 2020  
Mary Guidry

## VOLUNTEER CLASSES

### CLASS #52



Miranda Price, Kim Pickard, Meagan Verret,  
Jerzelle Thomas, Amanda Smith.

### CLASS #53



Jennifer Burrough, Patrica Floyd,  
Priscilla Callais, Carl McNabb, Gina Danos,  
Claire McNabb

### CLASS #54



Judge Arceneaux, Brian Elliott, Beth Tabor,  
Alyssia Hay, Kathleen Andrews

### CLASS #55



Melanie Breaux Prentice & Alicia Dove

# A NIGHT FOR CHILDREN'S SAKE

## 2020 SPONSORS

CASA of Terrebonne appreciates the following individuals and businesses for their support in sponsoring our first annual gala:

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### Platinum Level

Cenac Marine Services

### Gold Level

Kornegay Family in Memory of Skipper Kornegay

### Silver Level

Trapp Cadillac Chevrolet  
Alford & Associates Insurance  
Delta Coast Consultants, LLC  
GIS Engineering, LLC  
The Hebert Insurance Agency

### Bronze Level

Cypress Family Dentistry  
Quality Energy Services, Inc

### Food Vendors

Bella Cosa Catering  
Buquet Distributing Co, Inc.  
Castalano's Deli  
Copeland's of New Orleans  
Dean Schouest  
Dominiques Bistro  
Fig Café  
Honest Abe's BBQ  
La Carreta  
Milano  
New Orleans Roast Coffee  
Podna's Cajun Cooking

We would like to thank those of you who donated items to our live and silent auctions. Your generosity contributed to the success of our event. We would also like to thank [Gordon and Mona Dove](#) for graciously opening up their home in support of our fundraiser.



For more information, please call 985-876-0250 or visit our website at [www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org).







# 2019 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

## FIVE YEAR AWARD



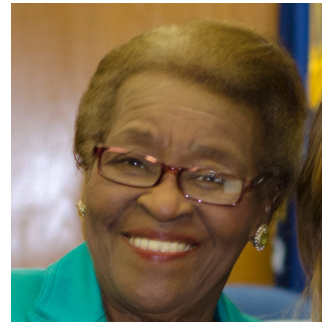
Patti  
Charpentier



Traci  
Hawthorne



Timothy  
Hitt



Betty  
Wallace



## FIFTEEN YEAR AWARD

Emily Elmore



## **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: AMBER WARD**

Amber once said "I am not here for them to like me, I am here for the children." Amber has gone up against not only court appointed attorneys but also the best private paid attorney to provide a voice and defend the child's best interest by her testimony and court reports. She advocates with passion and dedication and was chosen for Volunteer of the Year because of her observation and courage to make an impact in her CASA children's lives.



## **BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR: MARY GUIDRY**

Mary is truly making a difference in children's lives by not only serving as board vice president but she is also an active volunteer. Whenever CASA has a project or fundraiser, Mary is the first to volunteer her time and effort. She attends swearing-ins of our new volunteers and she even speaks to new training classes of volunteers about her advocacy. Mary is truly committed to CASA and its causes.



## **ANGEL OF THE YEAR: SHELL PIPELINE COMPANY, LP**

In 2019 Shell Pipeline provided Shell bags filled with goodies for every child to receive for Easter. For Christmas, they donated 35 20" bicycles with helmets, seven tricycles and adopted three teenagers to provide Christmas gifts for. In providing us with this help, Shell saved CASA money which we were able to use to serve more children in foster care.



## **MOSELY-COURVILLE AWARD: JOHN & MARY ESTEVE**

John and Mary Esteve were presented the 2019 Mosely-Courville Award by the Courville Foundation for their help with fundraising efforts for The Southdown Bar & Grill Crawfish Boil-Off.



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

## PLATINUM Donors- \$5,000+

Martin Foundation via  
Cameron Thibodeaux and Evan Thibodeaux  
Herman J. Courville Foundation  
HIOT  
Mr. Tim Wiemann  
Shell Oil Company

## GOLD Donors- \$4,999 - \$1000

The Gray Foundation  
Terrebonne Parish School Board  
Kopfler & Hermann: A Professional Law Corp.  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Detiveaux

## SILVER Donors \$999 - \$250

Chick-fil-A  
Griffin's  
Z2 Enterprises LLC  
Ochsner Hospital/Chabert & St. Anne  
Patricia Floyd  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Fry  
Kwik Kopy  
Amber Johnson  
Dr. Catherine Schwab  
Martin Majewski, III  
Ms. Carolyn McNabb  
Ms. Carolyn Lirette  
Ms. Linda Ayers  
Terrebonne Parish 4-H  
Copeland's of New Orleans  
Charlene Wallace  
Christine Aucoin



## Houma Oilman's Fishing Invitational

- Baywater
- American Eagle
- Gulf Inland Contractors
- Hunting Energy Services
- PCM
- Infinity Energy Services
- Integrity Oilfield Services

## Give Nola Day

### The Greater New Orleans Foundation

- Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lee
- Ms. Kenzie Dennis
- Mrs. Shannon Eaton
- Mr. John Hazard
- Ms. Christina Tucker
- Ms. Cynthia Moore
- Mrs. Angelle Caro



Donation from HIOT



Donation from Ochsner Hospital/Chabert & St. Anne

## BRONZE Donors- \$249 - \$1

Mr. & Mrs. James Goodwin  
Jude Fanguy  
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Theriot  
Jeffery Williams  
Mrs. Melanie Prentice  
Mr. & Mrs. Shane Brien  
Mr. & Mrs. Jason McCain  
Restore the MS River Delta Campaign  
PBC Services  
David Muth  
Folse Productions, Inc.  
Donna Ezbitski  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Callais  
Christopher L. Zaunbrecher & The Partners of  
Briney Foret Corry Law Firm  
Sid Sundbery  
Debra Kildahl  
Lee Sumrall  
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Angelle Sevin  
Jean LeBoeuf  
Mark Belanger  
Vickie & Blaine Vedros  
Maura Trahan  
Restore or Retreat, Inc.  
Anna Merlos  
Donna Brunet

Alma Sullivan  
South Central Industrial Association  
Bayou Blue Assembly of God  
Lisowe's Lights  
Jane Atkins & Sewing Group  
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Justine Duplantis  
Michele Stringer  
Monique Boudreaux  
Kathy Hardy  
Christopher Chiasson  
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Darrell Jackson  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Haydel  
Ruth Trahan  
Catherine Hermans  
Joshua Aucoin  
Pat Judice  
South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center  
Mr. & Mrs. Rome Evans

*"It's not how much we  
give but how much we put  
into giving"*

-CHARLES DICKENS

# THANK YOU FROM







## CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY.

Be a CASA.  
Volunteer. Advocate.



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[www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org)