

CASA OF TERREBONNE**DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER**

Message from Donna Brunet, Executive Director

As 2020 comes to an end I just want to send a big thank you to our volunteers who stepped up this year to advocate for children in foster care. Kudos to your tenacity and creativeness in finding ways to keep in touch with your children and for your dedication to CASA during these difficult times.

Also, thank you to our donors, supporters, tutors, board members and staff for allowing CASA to continue to serve foster children in Terrebonne Parish.

These quotes are reminders of what is truly important this holiday season:

"Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas." –Peg Bracken

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts." –Janice Maeditere

"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone." –Charles M. Schulz

"Christmas doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more." –Dr. Seuss

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR
from all of us here at
CASA of Terrebonne!!**

CASA STAFF

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

NOVEMBER DONATIONS & GRANTS

CASA AP	HIOT (Houma Oilman's)
Herman J. Courville Foundation	Lola J. Ledet
Dr. Tommy and Vanessa Fudge	Folse Productions, Inc.
Amazon Smile	
Network for Good (8 anonymous Facebook donations)	

Thank You

“Meet a CASA”. *Each month, CASA of Terrebonne will randomly choose a volunteer for the readers of this newsletter to meet. We want people to realize that they share many of the same characteristics as our volunteers.*



Our volunteer we want to introduce you to this month is Ms. Penny Hebert. Penny has been a CASA volunteer for 5 years. She is currently on her sixth case and her 14th child! Penny has two adult sons and 4 grandchildren (1 girl and three boys). She has worked for SLECA as a Human Resource Administrator for the past 29 years. They are very supportive of her CASA work and allow her to take care of any meetings or issues that come up with her CASA children. Outside of office hours and CASA time, Penny enjoys cycling (like miles and miles), kayaking, and being outdoors. Her love of being outdoors is to be expected as she was born and raised here in Houma.

Penny came to CASA because she was looking for something to do in her spare time. She knew she wanted it to be child related as she loves being around children. She did some research and followed CASA for about 3 years. When her younger sister decided to go back to school to work with children, Penny encouraged her to join CASA, which she did. As soon as she finished, her sister talked her into signing up for the next class. Penny has done a phenomenal job on all of her cases. The best part is she now gets to advocate alongside her best friend, Carol Bergeron, on a sibling group with multiple children.

Penny's advice for volunteers is that sometimes you may think that you are not doing anything special for the children, but in the end you see the collective good that you are doing.

To anyone who is thinking about becoming a CASA, just do it! It is very heartwarming to know that you are giving these children a chance at life.

She will be receiving a polo shirt donated by Shelly Toups at Artistic Embroidery.

Current Board Members

Martin Majewski, III—President
Mary Guidry—Vice President
Bonnie Naquin—Treasurer
Shelly Toups—Secretary

Charles Brown, Sr.
Christopher Chiasson
Patricia Floyd

Heather Hebert
Charles Kornegay
Buddy McNabb
Angelle Thibodeaux

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

47

VOLUNTEER
ADVOCATES



71

CASA
CHILDREN
SERVED



147

HOURS SPENT
ADVOCATING



150

MILES
TRAVELED BY
ADVOCATES



145

CHILDREN
ON THE
WAITING LIST



Breakdown of Waiting List Cases: Sexual (5) — Physical (13) — Neglect (70) — Substance Abuse (57)

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

October stats for children:

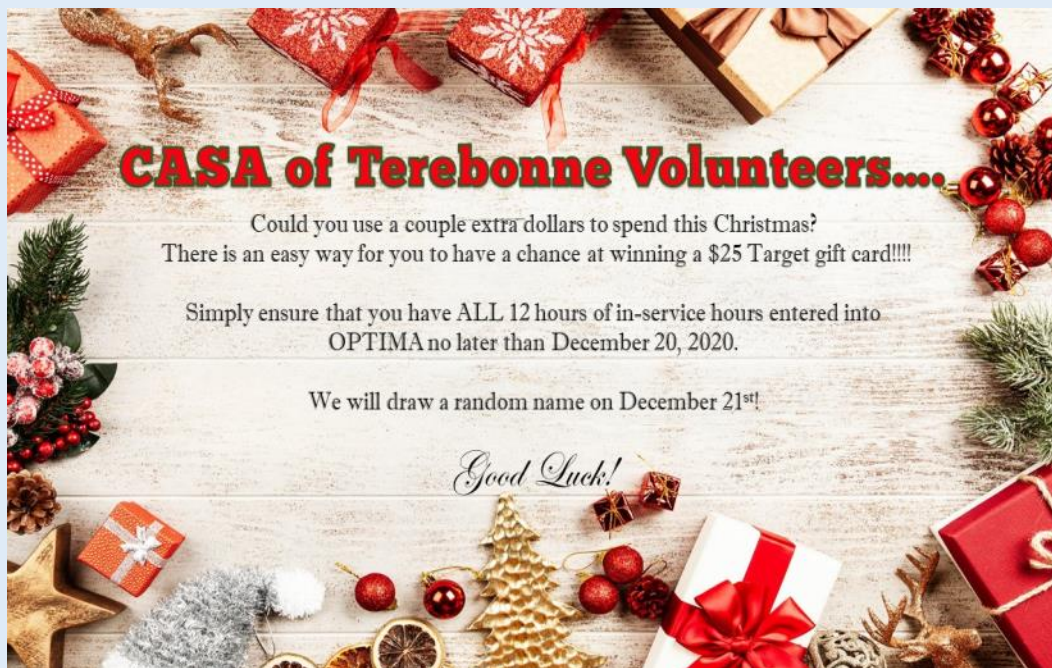
69 children assigned a CASA

54 children seen face-to-face

4 children contacted any other way (phone, FaceTime, mail...)

84% of children were contacted

78% of children were seen face-to-face



We Appreciate Your Commitment and Service to CASA
DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

Silvana Brown 3 years

SHOUT OUTS

♦ ***Congratulations to the volunteers who received awards at the 2020 Volunteer Appreciation Social:***

Rushelle Fitzgerald - Volunteer of the Year

Priscilla Caillais - Rookie of the Year

Angelle Thibodeaux - Board Member of the Year

Blayne Bergeron - 5 Year Service award

Penny Hebert - 5 Year Service award

Lori Olivier - 5 Year Service award

Earleather Celestine - 10 Year Service Award

Eddie Olivier - 10 Year Service Award

- ♦ ***Ann Beeson, Gina Danos, Kim Eubanks & Tara Pellegrin*** for completing training hours required by National CASA and entering them to Optima.
- ♦ ***Miranda Legendre*** for submitting a court report for her CASA child.
- ♦ ***Jennifer Kryvanick*** for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- ♦ ***Yvonne White*** for attending a Family Team Meeting for her CASA children.
- ♦ ***Eddie Olivier*** for seeing his case through to adoption.
- ♦ ***Kathleen Andrews*** for completing a court report and attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- ♦ ***Sara Ghere*** for completing a court report and attending court for her CASA children.
- ♦ ***Traci Hawthorne*** for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- ♦ ***Amber Berry*** for staying on her case until it closed with transfer of custody for her CASA child.
- ♦ ***Kim Eubanks*** for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.

Check out the following for continuing education hours:

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

<https://moodle.lcwta.org/enrol/index.php?id=376> **(1.5 Credit hours)**

This training 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)

⇒ For those who have Amazon Prime, check out the movie, ***The Ride***. (2 Credit hours)

One review states, “**The Ride** is the inspiring **true story** of BMX champion John Buultjens, a teen who was on the road to ruin before his foster father bought him his first bicycle that changed his life forever. “

⇒ Book picks from the volunteer library:

The Orpahn Sisters by Shirley Dickson **(4 Credit hours)**

The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint by Brady Udal **(4 Credit hours)**

Ellen Foster by Kaye Gibbons **(2 Credit hours)**

Three Little Words & Three More Words by Ashley Rhodes-Courter **(both 3 Credit hours)**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Amanda LeBlanc	12/1
Amber Berry	12/3
Mitzi Rieve	12/6
Angelle Thibodeaux	12/6
Miranda Legendre	12/8
Wendy Matherne	12/13
Jennifer Blanchard	12/20
Jean Slobodzian	12/20
Tina Evans	12/24
Sarah Ghery	12/30
Emily Gilmore	12/31

CONGRATULATIONS TO Penny Hebert



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.



BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW! FIVE FUN FACTS ABOUT CHARLES BROWN, BOARD MEMBER

1. He coaches basketball for low income/underprivileged children.
2. He loves singing with the New Rising Sun Soul Special Gospel Choir in which he has been singing for 49 years. The choir recorded a CD a few years ago.
3. He loves fishing.
4. He is currently learning how to play the bongos.
5. He has been working as a mentor with kids for over 20 years and currently does so at Southdown Elementary school.

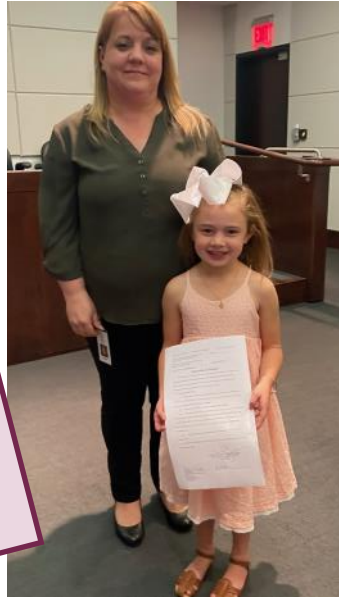


Congratulations to the newest sworn-in class of CASA volunteers.

Pictured from left: Jennifer Bonvillain, Lisa Bustamante, Sherry Mahaney, Heather Falls, Kari Griffin, Colleen Greer, and Tammy Brouillette.

FINDING FOREVER HOMES

Tressa Hebert with her
CASA children on
adoption day!



**CHANGE
A CHILD'S
STORY.**

Be a CASA.
Volunteer. Advocate.



IMPORTANT CASA DATES

2ND ANNUAL "A NIGHT FOR CHILDREN'S SAKE" GALA

MARCH 5, 2021

UPCOMING PRE-SERVICE FLEX TRAINING START DATES:

JANUARY 19, 2021

APRIL 13, 2021

JULY 12, 2021

OCTOBER 5, 2021

For more information, please visit our website
www.casaofterrebonne.org or call 985-876-0250

Highlights from the Volunteer Appreciation Social



Volunteer of the Year: Rushelle Fitzgerald



Rookie of the Year: Priscilla Callais



5-Year Service Award: Blayne Bergeron & Penny Hebert
Not pictured: Lori Olivier



Founders of CASA of Terrebonne:
Carolyn McNabb and Danna Schwab



Door prize quilt winner: Carol Bergeron



Angels of the Year: Jared Hernandez, Charles and Rachel Theriot