

The CASA Bulletin



Monthly Newsletter



MEET A CASA

CHRISTINE EVANS

This month, CASA would like for you to meet Christine “Tina” Evans. She has been a CASA volunteer since 2013. She has worked on three cases and has made a difference in the lives of each of those children. She found out about CASA through working for Timothy Ellender, Jr. She would walk past the CASA office when the office was on Goode St. and eventually called and got some information then signed up for the class. We are so glad that she did. Tina states that she chose CASA because it is so hard to believe that we have so many children in our parish suffering and she wanted to be part of the solution to fix it. Her heart for the children is apparent whenever she talks about the issues involving the kids. She would like to see changes in the law to better protect the youth of our parish.

Tina is the mother of three children Catherine, Thomas, and Caroline. As a professional, she is a legislative assistant to Representative Jerome Zeringue. She also does the end-of-the-month reporting for a local business, Heavenly Scent. In her spare time, she enjoys being outdoors with her beau Craig, fishing, hunting, running, or anything outside. Tina is a native of Houma. She was born and raised here. She did move to Georgia for a while but feels so blessed to be back home. Something fun about Tina is that when she was 20 years old she worked



for Gary Seacrest, Ryan Seacrest’s father. She also met Hank Aaron, but she didn’t know who he was and her excuse, was their TV only played Saints football! And YES, she did tell him that.

When asked what advice she would give to someone thinking about being a CASA she said, *“Take one day at a time. We have the most amazing supervisors to help with everything.”* CASA of Terrebonne is blessed to have Tina as a CASA volunteer. Her passion is contagious! Her drive will be a factor in getting laws, policies and procedures changed.

A CASA polo will be donated to this month's CASA Volunteer by Shelly Toups at Artistic Embroidery.

A MESSAGE FROM CHRISTINE AUCOIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We have wrapped up another busy and productive month here at CASA. Our advocates continue to make sound recommendations to the court concerning the best interest of the foster children they serve. Pre-service training is almost complete for Class #61. We are already looking for volunteers for our next class which begins on April 19, 2022.

Once volunteers are sworn-in, we continue to offer educational opportunities in order for advocacy skills to be enhanced. National CASA requires active volunteers to complete 12 hours of continuing education per year. Jenny has conducted the first in her series of four TBRI in-service classes for 2022. We are also offering Lunch and Learn sessions on a variety of relevant topics. (see the training section for details).

The month of March always brings new life. Our staff is weary of restrictions from both the pandemic and the hurricane and is ready to engage with the community. As the days get longer and the weather gets milder, we are preparing for several outreach/fundraising events. CASA will once again be in charge of the Kid's Corner at the Bayou Terrebonne Boucherie on **March 12th** and we will have an info booth at Roux for a Reason on **March 19th**. Look for us at both of these events.



We will close out the month with our very own CASA volunteer, Blayne Bergeron, as he and his band *Bandit* play on **March 26th** at Watergrill with all proceeds benefiting CASA of Terrebonne.

**Spring, which begins on
March 20th, brings with it
hope, new life, and
growth.**

**Consider joining our
community of caring
volunteers who give hope
and help foster children
grow!**



VOLUNTEER SHOUT-OUTS

- **Elaine Beyer** - Your beautiful heart has continuously shown through since being assigned to your CASA child. Your voice has definitely been heard this month through your court report and at both the family team meeting and court hearing.
- **Pricilla Callais**- Your tenacity over the life of this case is admirable. You have stuck through the good, the bad, and the ugly. You continue to try new approaches to help all four children. Your attendance at the family team meeting and planning meeting was extremely beneficial. Your court report was exceptionally thorough as always.
- **Rushelle Fitzgerald**- Your attention to detail has been influential in your case. Thank you for attending your children’s court hearing and being an active member in their little lives.
- Congratulations, **Mary Guidry** for seeing your CASA twins to adoption! This family adores you and your hard work on behalf of not only these children but also the other child in the home. You are irreplaceable!!
- **Alyssia Hay**- You have been a calm and constant presence in your CASA child’s life since the beginning. We are finally nearing the end! Thank you for attending court for your CASA child!
- **Danielle Walker**- You have been so committed to your case since you started and have been an amazing advocate to the child as well as to the foster parents. Thank you for being a Rockstar. Thank you for completing your court report on time and putting your heart into it.
- **Tija Hopkins**- Thank you for loving your CASA child the way you do and being a constant for her. Thank you for coming to court and showing up for the foster parents!
- **Kim Eubanks**, I am so proud of you for taking this sibling case with three children. You have already proven to be such a great asset to this family. Thank you for attending the IEP meeting and for being a positive influence on the children’s education. You Rock!
- **Tammy Brouillette**- Thank you for stepping up and taking over this case. You have brought insight into things this child needs to succeed. Your contact with the foster parent, the school and your well-written court report are all outstanding! Keep up the good work!
- **Jennifer Bonvillian**- You not only took a case that has a long history, but you took the sibling’s case when that child was born as well. Thank you for your continued support to the children and their foster families as we reach the TPR status for one of the children. You are awesome!
- A huge thank you to **Kristy Ledford** and **Leah Voisin** for their continued dedication on this very trying case. I know it hasn’t always been easy, but you two have remained a constant in these children’s lives! And for that, I am so proud of you two! You have finally reached the TPR status and we thank you for your continued support! You ladies are amazing!

FEBRUARY DONATIONS

Houma Rotary
 Mr. & Mrs. David Bourgeois
 Danielle Walker
 CASA-AP

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Carey Redmond	3/6
Jenny Domangue	3/8
Heather Falls	3/14
Molly Arrington	3/18
Buddy McNabb	3/23
Kristy Ledford	3/27
Priscilla Callais	3/28
Eddie Olivier	3/29

MARCH VOLUNTEER ANNIVERSARIES

1 YEAR

Molly Arrington
 Elaine Beyer
 Terri Brown
 Kathryn Mella
 Vickie Naquin

2 Years

Kathleen Andrews
 Alyssia Hay

9 Years

Jonathan Russo

11 Years

Yvonne White

ROCK OUT FOR CASA



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Martin Majewski III

Mary Laing-Guidry

Bonnie Naquin

Shelly Toups

Rev. Charles Brown

Cindy Courville

Carl "Buddy" McNabb

Reis Prevost

Angelle Caro Thibodeaux



March Gift Card Winner: Kathryn Mella

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.

FINDING A FOREVER HOME



Congratulations to Mary Guidry, for seeing her case through to adoption. Mary has been with the twins since 2020 and was with them at court as they officially became part of their forever family!

CASA VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

February Stats

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36 

Active Volunteer Advocates

55 

Children Served

132.55 

Hours spent on cases

942.70 

Miles traveled

 **126**

children waiting for a CASA

Check out the following for continuing education hours:

In-Service: Lunch & Learn

Family Preservation Court (FPC)

Wednesday * March 23, 2022, * 12 Noon - 1 PM (1 Credit Hour)

Join us to learn more about Family Preservation Court (FPC) and how their monitoring services and accountability assist families to regain custody of their children. Valerie Cooper, Coordinator of the 32nd JDC Family Preservation Court will be our presenter. Active CASA volunteers can find the registration link "Continuing Education" online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.

In-Service: TBRI

TBRI: CONNECTING PRINCIPLES

Wednesday * May 18, 2022 * 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM (3 Credit Hours)

Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) is an attachment-based trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. Often, children from hard places tend to retreat from relationships with others as a form of fear or distrust. In TBRI®'s connecting principles, the focus is to meet a child's need for relationships through awareness and playful engagement. Active CASA volunteers can find the registration link "Continuing Education" online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CASA of Terrebonne will once again be hosting the Kid's Corner for the Bayou Terrebonne Boucherie.

Volunteers are needed for three-hour shifts between the hours of 9 am - 4 pm to help assist with activities. To register, please contact Sulma Reyes at 985-876-0250.