



CASA OF TERREBONNE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021 • ISSUE NO. 11



402 CANAL STREET

985-876-0250

WWW.CASAOFTERREBONNE.ORG



MEET CASA VOLUNTEER: JENNIFER BONVILLIAN

Let me introduce you to our volunteer advocate Jennifer Bonvillian. She is a mother to triplets, Chris, Kate and John. They are in 3 different colleges in 3 different states. To say they keep Jennifer busy is an understatement. She also has a dog named Scout at home to keep her company while the kids are away. She is a retired speech-language pathologist who worked with the Early Steps Program. She was born in Houma and lived in Natchez, MS during high school. She returned to the Houma area after graduating from Ole Miss and LSUMC. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering, doing Pilates, reading, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

Jennifer has been a CASA for a little over a year. She is currently on her first case with two children. She is doing BEAUTIFULLY! She is forming relationships with all involved parties even though it has been a chaotic year. She learned about CASA through her time working with Early Steps. She stated she always knew she wanted to volunteer but waited until her children graduated from high school. She loves being a voice for those who are too young to speak up for themselves. She says another perk to CASA is the new friendships that you form with other advocates and the staff. We do say that once you are a CASA you become family; and we truly mean that.

When asked what advice she would give to anyone thinking of becoming a CASA she said, "Just go for it - there will never be a perfect season in your life to become a CASA. The time and energy you put into the program will be returned to you tenfold through the relationships you form with these children and their biological and foster families. Always have an open mind - just because some families live differently than the way you do doesn't mean they are wrong."

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

Merry
Christmas



A MESSAGE FROM CHRISTINE AUCOIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are so thankful for all the volunteers and community supporters who came out to the volunteer social. We enjoyed celebrating all the volunteer's successes and honoring those who went above and beyond for our organization this year. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all the volunteers!

The holiday season is fast approaching and I hope you all have plans to celebrate Christmas with family and friends. Here at CASA, we are eagerly awaiting the Christmas gift pickup and distribution to our CASA children. The volunteers are able to bring joy to the

children they are advocating for by delivering gifts that were on their wish list. This is always a special time here at the office because we know what these children have experienced and it warms our hearts that the volunteers are able to give them a happy experience in the midst of their sorrow.

With the start of a new year, we are recruiting for new volunteers because the need continues to grow. We will once again offer four training classes in 2022. The number of children in foster care in Terrebonne parish without a CASA is now 116. We hope that individuals in the community will step up to fill the need for volunteers to advocate for the best interest of these children. Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER: REIS PREVOST

Welcome our new Board member, Reis Prevost. Reis is a resident of Houma, La, and works at Enterprise Marine Services. He is married to Chrissy Prevost and they have two daughters.

CASA of Terrebonne is excited to welcome Reis to the CASA Family.

FIVE FUN FACTS ABOUT REIS:

- 1. I WAS 11LBS AND 23 INCHES AT BIRTH.***
- 2. MY DAUGHTERS ARE 7 MONTHS APART.....FIGURE IT OUT.***
- 3. I HAVE WILLINGLY JUMPED OUT OF A PERFECTLY GOOD AIRPLANE.***
- 4. I ENJOY COOKING, ESPECIALLY BOILED SEAFOOD.***
- 5. I ENJOY FISHING AND HUNTING.***

VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUTS!

- Suzanne Vice for attending court for her CASA child.
- Kathleen Andrews for attending court for her CASA child.
- Sarah Ghere for attending court for her CASA child.
- Penny Hebert for completing her court report for her CASA children.
- Carol Bergeron for completing her court report and attending court for her CASA children.
- Gina Danos for presenting at the monthly board meeting.
- Molly Arrington for attending court for her CASA child.
- Ann Williams for attending court for her CASA child.
- Mia Foret for attending court for her CASA child.
- Tija Hopkins for completing her court report and attending court for her CASA child.
- Megan Verret for attending court for her CASA child.
- Priscilla Callais for completing her court report and attending court for her CASA children. Also, Priscilla participated in a CASA Volunteer Focus group hosted by Louisiana CASA.
- Emily Gilmore for completing her court report and attending court for her CASA child.
- Alyssia Hay for completing her court report for her CASA child.
- Jon Russo for participating in a CASA Volunteer Focus group hosted by Louisiana CASA.
- Kim Eubanks for participating in a CASA Volunteer Focus group hosted by Louisiana CASA.
- Tasha Lirette for participating in a CASA Volunteer Focus group hosted by Louisiana CASA.

NOVEMBER DONATIONS & GRANTS

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Tori Rayne | • Maxine Carlos |
| • CASA AP | • Daniel & Melanie Boquet |
| • Jude Fanguy | • Chelsie Gros |
| • M.J. Fakier | • Megan Merlos |
| • Cynthia Tieken | • Synergy Bank |
| • Sylvia Landry | |
| • Christina Tucker | |
| • Dr. & Mrs. Robert Haydel | |
| • Dr. Robert Haydel | |
| • Mary Frederick | |
| • Patrick Yancey | |
| • Robert & Robin Page | |
| • Mr. & Mrs. James Walker | |



Synergy Bank Donation

CASA STAFF

Christine Aucoin
Executive Director

Jenny Domangue
Lead Advocate Supervisor

Heather Falls
Advocate Supervisor

Sulma Reyes
Training/Outreach Coordinator

Valentine Verdin
Advocate Supervisor

Anna Merlos
*Office Manager/
Marketing Coordinator*

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Martin Majewski, III
President

Mary Guidry
Vice President

Bonnie Naquin
Treasurer

Shelly Touns
Secretary

Charles Brown, Sr.

Cindy Courville

Buddy McNabb

Reis Prevost

Angelle Thibodeaux

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Written by: Jenny Domangue

As our year is coming to a close, I look back over this last year. Yes, there was a lot of chaos and confusion with the COVID spikes and then Hurricane Ida. However, I also saw the resilience of our volunteers. You guys have rolled through every storm with us; from office closures to COVID exposures and all the uncertainty the year brought. You all have remained loyal and unwavering in your commitment to the children. For that, I say **THANK YOU**. Our program can not exist without our



volunteers. We truly enjoy being able to show our appreciation for everything you guys do. Our social that was held on November 12th, is just one part of that. I love celebrating your successes. But, I also know the pain and heartache when things don't go well with a case or child. I am here to support you through it. I hope that you know just how much you mean to CASA. We really do mean it when we say that when you swear in, you become family!

As we prepare for Christmas with our family and get excited about our traditions, remember your CASA kids. They are missing out on whatever their family traditions were. When you visit this month, maybe try to establish your own tradition with them. You could possibly bake cookies to decorate with them. This is a fun activity for a child (or adult) of any age! Or you can purchase a blank Christmas Ornament and bring markers to decorate together. Make it something special so that they will have those memories as they grow up of a CASA who changed their life!

OCTOBER CHILDREN STATISTICS

62 CHILDREN SERVED
43 CHILDREN SEEN FACE-TO-FACE
5 CHILDREN CONTACTED OTHER THAN FACE-TO-FACE
69% OF CHILDREN SEEN
77% OF CHILDREN WERE CONTACTED

JOIN US FOR A

Cookie Exchange & Christmas Sweater Party



1:30 pm - 3 pm

Come and celebrate Christmas with us with a cookie exchange. Wear your tackiest Christmas Sweater and bake your tastiest treat and join in on the fun reindeer games!

RSVP at www.casaofterrebonne.org/advocate calendar



December 17, 2021

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

44

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES



64

CASA CHILDREN SERVED



70.55

HOURS SPENT ADVOCATING



1354

MILES TRAVELED BY ADVOCATES



121

CHILDREN ON THE WAITING LIST



Breakdown of Waitlist Cases: Sexual (6) - Physical (8) - Neglect (53) - Substance Abuse (54)

CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS:

ONLINE TRAINING: LOUISIANA CASA CHANGING CHILDREN'S STORIES SERIES

NURTURING THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS

THURSDAY * JANUARY 27, 2021 * 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (1 CREDIT HOUR EACH)

Louisiana CASA is holding a 10 part public webinar series in 2021-2022. Every month they will be hosting FREE educational webinars presented by a statewide network of subject matter experts with first-hand experience working in the child welfare field. They will be discussing a variety of topics focused on protective factors, strengthening children and families, and building stronger communities. Active CASA volunteers can find the registration link "Continuing Education" online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.

ONLINE TRAINING: OPTIMIZING EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS IN CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH ADHD

TUESDAY * DECEMBER 14, 2021 * 2 PM - 3 PM (1 CREDIT HOUR)

To succeed in school, at work, and in life itself, your executive functions need to work well. What are 'executive functions,' exactly? The abilities to reason and creatively problem-solve exercise self-control, think before you speak or act, stay focused, and adapt to change. The good news is that EFs can be improved at any age. This webinar will be recorded. Active CASA volunteers can find the registration link "Continuing Education" online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO LOG ALL OF YOUR TRAINING HOURS INTO OPTIMA!
YOU MUST HAVE YOUR 12 CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS COMPLETED AND INPUT
INTO OPTIMA BY DECEMBER 31, 2021!**



Eddie Olivier

He has won a gift card of his choice for visiting with his CASA children and putting in his 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.

Happy Birthday

Amanda LeBlanc	12/1
Amber Berry	12/3
Angelle Thibodeaux	12/6
Miranda Legendre	12/8
Terri Falgout	12/11
Vickie Naquin	12/18
Christine Evans	12/24
Tiffany Guy	12/27
Sarah Ghere	12/30
Emily Gilmore	12/31