

CASA OF TERREBONNE NEWSLETTER

402 Canal Street, Houma, LA
985-876-0250 www.casaofterrebonne.org

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April 2019

Volume 4



*Message from
Executive Director,
Donna M. Brunet*

April is National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month

Children and families thrive when they have access to safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments. Child abuse and neglect are significant public health problems in the United States:

- In 2018, 16 children died from abuse and/or neglect in Louisiana.
- In 2017, an estimated 1,720 children died from abuse and neglect.
- About 674,000 children were identified as victims of child abuse or neglect by child protective service agencies in 2017.
- An estimated one in four children have experienced abuse or neglect at some point in their lives.

Children's lives are shaped by their experiences, including what happens in their environment and the types of relationships they have with parents, teachers, and other caregivers. Children who experience abuse, neglect, and other adverse childhood experiences are also at increased risk for negative health consequences and certain chronic diseases as adults. Safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments are essential to preventing child abuse and neglect.

We here at CASA, and our CASA volunteers, are on the front lines and we see the abuse and neglect these children suffer every day before someone steps in to help them. Remember, if you see something you believe to be abuse and/or neglect, say something. Call the Sheriff's Office and make a report. They will investigate and if warranted, DCFS will be called in to take the child(ren) from the home and place them in a safe environment. We, as CASA's, are there to be a voice for those children and be a constant source of support in their lives while in foster care. CASA's stand up for children in court, with their school, their doctors, their parents, family members and caregivers. We give them a voice that will help to make a positive impact on their lives. We are there for them when they need us most.

Even if you cannot become a CASA volunteer, you can make a difference in the life of a child. Here are some ways you can make a difference:

1. Become a Foster Parent
2. Volunteer at Your Local Boys and Girls Club of America
3. Embrace Your Role as Auntie (or Uncle)
4. Become a Mentor, Big Brother, or Big Sister
5. Consider a Career Change or an Additional Part Time Job
6. Volunteer at the Local YMCA or Other Community Center
7. Become a Girl Scout or Boy Scout Leader
8. Volunteer Your Time at Your Church or Place of Worship
9. Volunteer at the Library
10. Volunteer at the Hospital
11. Volunteer at a Local School, Preschool, or Head Start
12. Spend Your Summer Vacation Working or Volunteering at a Children's Camp
13. Share Your Talents or Knowledge

Child Abuse and Neglect Are Preventable!

*Spotlight
on
Sallie
Preston-Smith*



The mission of a CASA advocate is to be a consistent presence and support during the duration of their CASA child's CINC (Child In Need of Care) case. As workers and placements change our advocates typically do not. This month we are highlighting Sallie Preston-Smith for her consistent advocacy as her CASA children navigate the foster care system.

She was sworn in as a CASA on April 20, 2016. The first case she was assigned to ended with transfer of custody to a relative. She took her second case in September of 2016. This case involved one child but a year later a second child came in as a drug exposed baby. Sallie without hesitation wanted to be assigned to that child as well. Since 2017, Sallie has visited with both children in two different placements. She has been a consistent presence in the lives of these two foster children, visiting them monthly and advocating for any needs that arise. Sallie has a great working relationship with all parties involved in the case.

Sallie has also assisted in several community outreach events and the Annual Crawfish Boil-Off fundraiser. Thank you Sallie for all you do for your CASA children and for the CASA organization. Sallie will receive a polo shirt donated by Shelly Touns with Artistic Embroidery.

SHOUT-OUTS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

- * **Yvonne White for attending a FTM for her CASA children.**
- * **Sam Spry for attending court for her CASA child.**
- * **Emily Elmore for attending court for her CASA child.**
- * **Joni Oncale for attending a FTM for her CASA child and submitting a court report.**
- * **Earleather Celestine for submitting a court report and attending court for her CASA child.**
- * **Penny Hebert for submitting a court report and attending a FTM and a court hearing for her CASA child.**
- * **Emily Gilmore for attending a FTM, a court hearing and submitting a court report for her CASA child.**
- * **Silvana Santos for submitting a court report and attending court for her CASA children.**
- * **Lacy Poiencot for submitting a court report for her CASA child.**
- * **Patty Charpentier for submitting a court report and attending a FTM for her CASA child.**
- * **Ray Guidroz for attending court for her CASA child.**
- * **John Russo for attending court for his CASA children.**
- * **Amber Ward for attending court for her CASA child.**



Thank you for your commitment to CASA !
Volunteer Anniversaries this month:

Ann Beeson	7 Years	Linda Ford	3 Years
Sara Bond	2 Years	Carol Marmande	5 Years
Patti Charpentier	5 Years	Joni Oncale	2 Years
Destiny Clement	3 Years	Lacy Poiencot	2 Years
Dillon Dumond	2 Years	Sallie Preston	3 Years
Corree Eschete	2 Years	Shana Robichaux	5 Years
Rushelle Fitzgerald	3 Years	Betty Wallace	5 Years

March Volunteer Statistics:

- **56** volunteers advocated for **93** children
- **77.5** hours spent on cases
- **830** miles traveled to see CASA kids and families.



CASA of Terrebonne

We currently have

123

Children on our waiting list!!



Sexual



Physical



Neglect



Substance
Abuse



Congratulations to Bill Lovell. He has won a gift card of his choice for seeing his CASA children and putting in his contact logs by the last day of the month.

To be entered into this monthly drawing, volunteers must see their CASA child prior to the 26th of the month and enter contact logs by the last day of the month.



Kathleen Duplantis	4/1
Sallie Preston-Smith	4/8
Betty Wallace	4/8
Peggy Boudwin	4/10
Gabby Hernandez	4/23
Emily Elmore	4/28
Kathi Murphy	4/30



Bet you didn't know!

5 Fun Facts About Marty Majewski - Board President



- * ***He grew up in Ventura, California..***
- * ***He has jumped out of a perfectly good airplane.***
- * ***He has a reef named after him at Santa Rosa Island.***
- * ***He has 3 boys but his amazing wife counts him as her fourth.***
- * ***He transported Hulk Hogan to a movie set by boat.***

MARCH DONATIONS

CASA AP

Emily Elmore

Louis Routier, Jr.

Philip & Nonna Whitney

Charles & Kathy Hardy

Jill Bianca

Joy Tingle

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene McElroy

Kayla Burton Enterprises

Network for Good (Anonymous)

Ron Endom, Rasfe Electric (electrical work)

Jane Adkins (cosmetic/laundry bags & blankets)

Copeland's (food for training class)

Griffin's (food for training class)

Cane Cutters Quilting Guild (2 quilts to auction)



**BAYOU
GIVES**

*Save
The
Date*

BayouGIVES is a 24-hour online fundraising event hosted by Bayou Community Foundation to inspire our Lafourche, Terrebonne and Grand Isle community to support the work of our local nonprofits. Join us in celebrating the unique culture and generous spirit of our Bayou Region.

April 30

You will be able to participate on April 30, 2019 by donating to CASA of Terrebonne at www.bayougives.org.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

President - Marty Majewski, III

Vice-President - Mary Guidry

Treasurer - Bonnie Naquin

Secretary- Shelly Toups

Charles Brown

Christopher Chiasson

Kathleen Duplantis

Carl "Buddy" McNabb

Douglas Gregory

Patricia Floyd

Angelle Thibodeaux

IN-SERVICE OPPURTUNITIES

In-service Training presented by CASA of Terrebonne:
Introduction to Trust Based Relational Intervention

Guest Speaker: **Leslie Adams, Certified TBRI Practitioner**

Date/Time: **May 15, 2019 / 5:30pm - 8:30pm**

Location: **Terrebonne Parish Main Library**

Meals will be provided and RSVP required.

RSVP: caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org or 985-876-0250



STAFF PICKS FOR THIS MONTH:

HBO Documentary - Leaving Neverland (2 parts/2hrs. each for total of 4 credit hours)

Book-Ghosts From the Nursery by R. Morse & M. Wiley(3 credit hours)

We are launching a new In-Service format called

LUNCH & LEARN

Every other month we will host an hour of skill building to increase volunteer's confidence and competency .

This month we will explore and develop skills to enhance communication with our CASA children.

JOIN US :

THURSDAY ** APRIL 25, 2019 ** NOON -1:00pm

CASA OFFICE

RSVP : 876-0250 or caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org



UPCOMING VOLUNTEER TRAINING CLASSES

DATES: June 18, June 25, July 2, July 9, July 16, July 23

TIME: 10:00am–12:45pm or 5:30pm–8:45pm

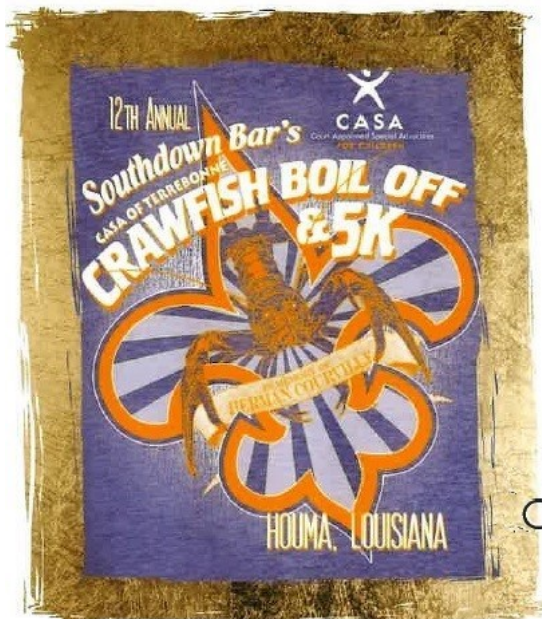
(Both times will be offered depending on how many sign up for training.)

LOCATION: 402 Canal Street, Houma (CASA Office)

Apply on line at www.casafterrebonne.org

Contact Christine Aucoin :

985-876-0250 or caucoin@casafterrebonne.org



May 4, 2019

*save
the
Date*

LOCATION CHANGE:
COURTYARD MARRIOTT



Call the office to
sign up if you
would like to
volunteer for the
Crawfish Boil-Off.