



CASA OF TERREBONNE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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WWW.CASAOFTERREBONNE.ORG



MEET CASA VOLUNTEER : TIMOTHY HITT

The CASA Volunteer we are introducing you to this month has been volunteering with us for seven years. Tim Hitt has served on four cases and has advocated for nine children. He is a Houma native and is currently the business manager at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center. In his free time, Tim enjoys creating stained glass artwork, loves to cook, and likes to entertain friends and family when they are available. When his friends aren't available, Tim likes to deliver his delicious delicacies right to their front door. When he tries new dishes, Tim's neighbors are his taste testers and he will bring piping hot plates to the fence for them to try.

Tim is single but he is a super proud uncle. He prides himself on being the fun, goofy uncle to four nephews, one

niece a great-niece, and a great-nephew. Tim said the hardest thing he has ever had to go through was losing a nephew and a niece. He said he always reminds himself of all the fun times they had together and all the stories of being together.

Not only is he the fun and goofy uncle, but Tim also enjoys being goofy with his friends. He enjoys telling stories and no one knows if he is being truthful or not. Although Tim doesn't have pets of his own, he takes care of the neighbor's dogs when they are gone. They are spoiled by Tim and will sit in front of him and wait for the treats that they know he will have for them.

Tim initially became a CASA because a close friend encouraged him to. Tim said "she forced him to", but he admits there wasn't too much resistance. Even though he was nervous about becoming a CASA volunteer, Tim expresses that



FINDING FOREVER HOMES

These 4 children have been in care for three years. Tim took over after CASA volunteer and board member, Mr. Skipper Kornegay, passed away two years ago.

he doesn't regret the decision because there is such a need in the community.

To those who are considering becoming a CASA Tim recommends just do the training, you won't regret it. You get to meet the children and they will melt your heart. They get to the point they look forward to seeing you on monthly visits. They want you to be a part of each aspect of their lives, from home life to extracurricular activities to showing you their new found skill or talent. He encourages you that CASA staff is always there when you need help. You can also collaborate with other volunteers so that you are never alone. It gets easier with passing time. You can partner up to get started then eventually venture out on your own. Tim was able to push past his fear and anxiety and claims it becomes easier with passing time.



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

**A MESSAGE FROM CHRISTINE AUCOIN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



At CASA of Terrebonne, we like to celebrate anytime a child is placed into a safe and permanent home. National Parents Day is celebrated on July 28. We would like to take the time to celebrate the biological parents who are currently working diligently on their case plans to be reunited with their children. Statistics have shown that some children do best when they are reunited with their biological parents. Most of these parents have addressed the issues that caused their children to be placed in state custody so that they can be part of their children’s lives again. Of the cases, CASA has been part of during our fiscal year (July 2020 - June 2021) 18 children have been reunited with their biological parents. Our advocates work with the biological parents to monitor their progress with their case plan to ensure that their CASA child will return to a safe home. Our hope for these kids is that they are returning to a safe and happier home.

Similarly, we also want to celebrate the foster parents who have opened their homes and stepped up to care for these children while the bio parents are working to better themselves. Over the last fiscal year, 14 foster homes have become forever homes for 25 of our CASA kids. Our mission at CASA is to advocate for the safest placement for the kids we serve, however the outcome.

Lastly, July is the time of year when we celebrate our country with fireworks and get-togethers. Children are celebrating the freedom of school and many families enjoy trips together. Family and community are such an important part of the fabric of life here in Terrebonne Parish and at CASA of Terrebonne. However, the thought of family may not bring happy memories to mind. Many are spending their summer in State’s custody, away from everything and everyone familiar to them.

We are asking you to help us and become part of our community for change in a foster child’s story so that these kids can thrive. Our summer pre-service training class beings July 13, 2021. You can learn more and apply to become an advocate on our website at www.casaofterrebonne.org.

**JULY VOLUNTEER
ANNIVERSARIES**

We appreciate your commitment & service to CASA

- Mitzi Rieve**
3 Years
Edward Olivier
11 years
- Tressa Hebert**
3 Years
Amanda LeBlanc
3 Years
- Jennifer Kryvanick**
3 Years



CASA of Terrebonne would like to thank Blaine Grandin for coming and sharing his story with our CASA volunteers today.

Blaine was able to provide so much good information and share upcoming resources for the LGBTQ+ community in our Parish! Blaine, you are an inspiration and we look forward to working together in the future!

VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUTS!

- Kim Eubanks for attending a family team meeting and a court hearing for a CASA child.
- Tara Pellegrin for completing her court report, attending, and testifying at a court hearing for her CASA child.
- Molly Arrington for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- Tammy Brouillette for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- Suzanne Olivier attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- Edward Olivier completing his court report early.
- Lisa Bustamante for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- Emily Gilmore for attending a court hearing for her CASA children.
- Alyssia Hay a court hearing for her CASA child.
- Terri Brown a court hearing for her CASA child.

JUNE DONATIONS & GRANTS

- CASA-AP
- Maxine Carlos
- Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Fry
- South Central LA Human Service Authority
- Gretta Calongne
- Herman J. Courville Foundation
- HIOT
- Priscilla Callais
- Jenny Dupre
- Ryan Gootee
- Rhonda Schoonenberg

Thank you!



CASA STAFF

Christine Aucoin
Executive Director

Jenny Domangue
Lead Advocate Supervisor

Sulma Reyes
Advocate Supervisor

Valentine Verdin
Advocate Supervisor

Anna Merlos
*Office Manager/
Marketing Coordinator*

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SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Written by: Jenny Domangue

The summer break is flying by and we are already headed into the tail end of summer vacations and the new school year is quickly approaching. As CASA advocates, we need to start encouraging our kids and reassuring them that they are smart and are capable of success. Before entering state's custody, these kids may not have had the support they needed to thrive in their class, and school may have not been a priority. As CASAs, you are in a position to encourage, support, and motivate them to do their very best. Also, CASA provides educational help through our CASA tutoring program. If you believe your CASA child could benefit from tutoring, please put in your request on our website and your advocate supervisor will be in touch with further information.

Speaking of school, get your best picture day look ready. CASA is updating photos of volunteers. We will be hosting a Back to School Photo Day. Join us on August 6 from 10 am thru 2 pm at the office. We will be taking pictures to use whenever we post about the great work you are doing! We don't want to go snooping through your Facebook anymore! We will also have announcement cards to fill out and send to your CASA kids to start their new school year on a positive note! Also, we will have some cool sweet treats for you to nibble on while you are getting everything done.

Finally, our kids come from hard places and may not have gotten the love and support needed to get through life and be successful. Children need to have certain needs met and feel a sense of safety before they are able to meet certain expectations. We will be discussing the importance of meeting those needs in our next installment of TBRI In-Service training. Join us on July 22 from 5:30 pm -8:45 pm at the CASA office. I will present the complex needs our children have, including some they may not know how to express and how as a CASA you can help meet those needs.



JENNY DOMANGUE, LEAD ADVOCATE SUPERVISOR

MAY CHILDREN STATISTICS

74 CHILDREN SERVED
55 CHILDREN SEEN FACE-TO-FACE
5 CHILDREN CONTACTED OTHER THAN FACE-TO-FACE
74% OF CHILDREN SEEN
81% OF CHILDREN WERE CONTACTED

JUNE VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

49

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES



74

CASA CHILDREN SERVED



165.20

HOURS SPENT ADVOCATING



1211.00

MILES TRAVELED BY ADVOCATES



156

CHILDREN ON THE WAITING LIST



Breakdown of Waitlist Cases: Sexual (7) - Physical (16) - Neglect (76) - Substance Abuse (57)

CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS:

IN-SERVICE: **TRBI - EMPOWERING PRINCIPLE**

JULY 22, 2021 * 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM * CASA OF TERREBONNE OFFICE (3 CREDIT HOURS)

In the third installment of our TBRI In-service training series, Jenny Domangue will present the TBRI® Empowering Principle. In the TBRI® model, this term describes the attention to addressing the physical needs of a child and their felt safety. Empowering principles help children learn important skills like self-regulation. Active CASA volunteers can register online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.

THIS TRAINING IS MANDATORY FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS AND MUST BE COMPLETED.

[HTTPS://MOODLE.LCWITA.ORG/ENROL/INDEX.PHP?ID=376](https://moodle.lcwita.org/enrol/index.php?id=376) (1.5 CREDIT HOURS)

It 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)

If you are a reader, we encourage you to check out books from the volunteer library.

ENTER ALL TRAINING CREDIT HOURS TO OPTIMA



Good work!

Priscilla Callais

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.



CASA TUTORING PROGRAM

Help tutor foster children in your community.

- MUST HAVE A TEACHING CERTIFICATE
- TUTORS ARE PAID \$25/HOUR
- 3 HOURS OF TRAINING BEFORE BEING ASSIGNED TO A CASE
- MUST PASS A BACKGROUND CHECK

APPLY ONLINE
www.casaofterrebonne.org



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Penny Hebert	7/4
Tim Hitt	7/7
Sulma Reyes	7/9
Carol Bergeron	7/10
Meagan Verret	7/10
Brian Elliott	7/14
Rebecca Clement	7/20