

CASA OF TERREBONNE NEWSLETTER

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

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February 2019

Volume 2



Message from Executive Director, Donna M. Brunet

This year has gotten off to a great start. We have a new office manager – Anna Merlos. Anna previously worked at The Haven and HGTV so she comes to us with lots of experience and enthusiasm. Please be sure to introduce yourselves to her next time you are in the office. We also have new board members:

- Douglas Gregory (President and CEO of Morrison Terrebonne Lumber)
- Angelle Caro Thibodeaux (Licensed Psychological Counselor)
- Chris Champagne (Manager Trainee at Barker Buick GMC).

Our Board of Directors held elections in January and our new officers are as follows:

Martin Majewski - President
Mary Guidry - Vice - President
Bonnie Naquin - Treasurer
Shelly Touns - Secretary

We all send a big welcome and thank you to our new board members and officers for agreeing to volunteer their time to CASA and its mission.

In honor of Valentine's Day:

"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." Charles M. Schulz



Spotlight on Connie Fremin



Connie Fremin was sworn in as an advocate on May 2, 2018. On May 14, 2018, Connie was officially assigned to her case and immediately stood out in her advocacy. Her case involves two young children in different placements. One child is placed with a relative and has been there since coming into care. The older child has been on a roller coaster, but thankfully Connie has been there holding her hand through the whole process and making this ride a lot less scary for her. Connie has logged countless hours advocating for her CASA children. Through unexpected personal matters, weekends, holidays, and even the child moving out of state temporarily, Connie stayed on top of the case and advocated for the child's best interest! She has proved to be an asset in her CASA children's lives and we admire her commitment. We, along with the children's attorney, have all expressed our gratitude for her dedication and perseverance throughout this case. The older child is now back in Louisiana, and it is comforting to know that Connie will continue to be there to hold her and her brother's hand through the rest of this journey. Thank you Connie for all you do for CASA and your CASA children. Connie will receive a polo shirt donated by Shelly Touns at Artistic Embroidery.

SHOUT-OUTS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

- ♦ Heather Pulley for writing your court report, attending court, and seeing your case to closing. You did an amazing job!
- ♦ Bill Lovell for attending the FTM for your CASA children.
- ♦ Suzanne Vice for attending the FTM for your CASA children.
- ♦ Hannah Becnel for attending the FTM and writing your court report.
- ♦ Traci Hawthorne for writing your court report in a timely manner.
- ♦ Jamara Doiron for attending the FTM for your CASA children.
- ♦ Ann Beeson for attending court and the FTM for your CASA children.
- ♦ Tasha Lirette for attending the FTM and court for your CASA children.
- ♦ Skipper Kornegay for attending the FTM for your CASA children.
- ♦ Jonathan Russo for attending the FTM for your CASA children. Your bond with them is apparent.
- ♦ Sally Preston for attending court for your CASA children.
- ♦ Carey Redmond for attending court for your CASA child.
- ♦ Charles Bergeron for attending court for your CASA child.
- ♦ Earleather Celestine for attending court for your CASA children.
- ♦ Amber Ward for attending a meeting with DCFS regarding your CASA children.
- ♦ Peggy Boudwin and Penny Hebert for taking a case with four children.
- ♦ Jody Dusenberry for taking a new case.
- ♦ Rushelle Fitzgerald for attending court for your CASA child.
- ♦ Jennifer Kryvanick for submitting a court report.



- * Valentine Verdin 1/29/19
- * Michelle Verret 2/7/19
- * Charles Brown 2/19/19

**REMINDER TO ALL VOLUNTEERS...WE
NEED YOUR T-SHIRT SIZE BY FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 8, 2019.**

January Volunteer Statistics:

- **57** volunteers advocated for **93** children
- **124** hours spent on cases
- **595** miles traveled to see CASA kids and families.



CASA of Terrebonne

We currently have

111

Children on our waiting list!!



Sexual



Physical



Neglect



Substance Abuse



Congratulations **Rebecca Clement!** You have won a gift card of your choice for seeing your child and putting in your 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.



NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO STAFFS' E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

Donna dbrunet@casaofterrebonne.org

Val vverdin@casaofterrebonne.org

Christine caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org

Jenny jdomangue@casaofterrebonne.org

Anna amerlos@casaofterrebonne.org

Sulma sreyes@casaofterrebonne.org

JANUARY DONATIONS

CASA AP
Christy Moss
David Elmore

Charlene Wallace
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Cazayoux
Blair Voisin (*with Affordable Autos*)



JOIN US IN WELCOMING THE FOLLOWING TO THE CASA FAMILY:



TOP: Anna Merlos, Office Manager

BOTTOM: New Board Members, from left to right

Christopher Chiasson, Angelle Thibodeaux, and Douglas Gregory



CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

President - Marty Majewski, III

Vice-President - Mary Guidry

Treasurer - Bonnie Naquin

Secretary— Shelly Touns

Charles Brown

Christopher Chiasson

Kathleen Duplantis

Patricia Floyd

Douglas Gregory

Merkle “Skipper” Kornegay

Carl “Buddy” McNabb

Angelle Thibodeaux

IN-SERVICE OPPURTUNITIES

Speaker: Children's Advocacy Center Team

When: Thursday, February 7, 2018

Where: 402 Canal Street (CASA office)

Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

R.S.V.P. caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org

Join us as we learn about the CAC's role in assisting with criminal investigations and prosecution of child sexual and physical abuse cases.

Earn In-Service credit hours on-line.

Google — Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)

You will find YouTube videos and Webinars on this subject. View what interests you and enter it into Optima. (*number of credit hours depends on length of video*)

We are working to have a speaker come in for the next In-Service to discuss this topic. The date has not yet been determined.

REMINDER: The volunteer library here at the office has a variety of books, both fiction and non-fiction, as well as DVD's and resource books to check out. All count toward continuing education credit hours.


STAFF PICKS FOR THIS MONTH:

DVD - The Odd Life of Timothy Green (2 Credits)

Book - To the End of June : *The Intimate Life of American Foster Care* (3 Credits)




**We welcome your ideas for in-service topics, library resources, volunteer get-togethers , etc.
Speak up !!! We would love to hear from you.**



CASA VOLUNTEER INFO SESSION

February 20, 2019
12:00 PM & 5:30 PM 402 Canal St. Houma, LA



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
A not-for-profit organization
CASA OF TERREBONNE, INC.

**TRAINING CLASS #51 WILL BEGIN
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019**
Complete on-line application at
www.casaofterrebonne.org



Check out our updated website
at www.casaofterrebonne.org

Share the love

Shop for your Valentine
at smile.amazon.com and
Amazon donates.

You shop. Amazon donates.