

THE CASA BULLETIN

CASA of Terrebonne, INC.

NEW FACES

As we welcome the new year, 2023, we would like to introduce CASA's new board members that have recently joined our CASA family. We are looking forward to the value we know they will add to our mission.

CHRISTINE AUCOIN

Executive Director



Cindy Doiron

Cindy has been married to her husband Timothy Doiron since 2004 and together they have six children, Hailey, Kailey, Gavin, Lexie, Ian and Jacob. Cindy believes that God has not only called her to serve as a wife and a mother but also as a leader in our community.

Cindy has just been appointed the HR Director, Assistant Vice President at Synergy Bank. She started her banking career in 2008 and believes her role fits her passion for serving people in her community. Cindy has been nominated by the CASA Board to serve as Chairperson for the upcoming auxiliary program, CASA's Krewe, and is excited to build the program with CASA staff and volunteers.



Justin Lirette

Justin is married to his high school sweetheart, Hallie, for 12 years and they have three dogs - Miley, Breezy and Toodles. Justin was born and raised in Houma, LA and attended Nicholls State where he earned a BS in Accounting and an Executive MBA in 2012. He currently works at GIS where he helps lead the Accounting and Finance Department.

Justin loves to spend quality time with friends and family making memories. He and his wife love to travel and attend festivals but the beach is their happy place. Justin states that he is aware he grew up with a considerable amount of positive influence around him and wants to pass that along. He is looking forward to working with the CASA team and other Board Members to help achieve CASA's mission.



Tim Stevens

Tim is a native of Houma, LA and owns a local business, The Brick Yard, in Gray, LA. Tim is married to, Patty Stevens and they have two children together, Sawyer and Stella. Along with being on CASA of Terrebonne's board of directors, Tim is a member of several boards and enjoys being involved in his community.

When he's not in the office, you can usually find him traveling with his family, playing golf with his friends, or competing in a cook-off around town!

You can read more about CASA's new faces on our website.





Christmas at CASA...

CASA of Terrebonne held its 2nd Annual Cookie Exchange. It was an afternoon filled with Christmas cheer and some friendly holiday competition. We love creating these holiday memories with our volunteers and their guests and sharing our favorite holiday treats.



On December 13th, Family Preservation Court Staff and participants were able to come together to celebrate the Holiday Season. There was food, live music, games for the kids, family photos and of course presents! We are so proud of the great things happening within Family Preservation Court and are thankful to be a member of the team. Thanks to our community partners for your support to help this event come together for our children.



Spirit of Giving Back

The support from our community really shines during Christmas and we couldn't be more grateful.

To every person and family that adopted a CASA child this holiday season, donated gift cards, held toy drives and everything that was done for our program, thank you! We know that the holiday season is a special time and we just want everyone to know that it means so much to the foster parents and caregivers and to our CASA volunteers to see the smile on the children's faces.



The Catholic Daughters Court of Our Lady of Perpetual Help from St. Bernadette Church donated gift cards to each one of our CASA teens for Christmas.



A special thank you to CASA Volunteers Tammy Brouillette, Kathi Murphy and Kim Eubanks for their help with wrapping gifts for our teens and new cases before being delivered! We really appreciate your help!



A Gift for Every Child

We want to thank the Louisiana Bar Foundation and all who participated in ensuring each of our younger CASA children has gifts to open for Christmas! We can't thank you enough for your continued support during the holidays!



Each year we look forward to a special delivery from the Junior Auxiliary of Houma! We are so grateful that they continue to include our program in their Santa's Sneakers delivery!



We would like to thank Terrebonne Parish 4-H for hosting a sock drive for our CASA children. They will surely have some warm and toasty toes while waiting for Santa Clause!



VOLUNTEER SHOUT-OUTS

Thank you to all our active volunteers. For the first time, ALL Christmas presents were picked up prior to the Christmas holidays. We thank you for your continued dedication to your CASA children!

- **Jennifer Bonvillian** - Thank you for going that extra mile to visit with your CASA child and biological parent out of town.
- **Denise Cuartas** - Thank you for attending your very first court hearing for your case! These children are very lucky to have you! Way to go.
- **Gina Danos** - Way to stay on top of your roller coaster of a case! Thank you for attending court!
- **Tenicka Dobson** - You have already seen your first case to closing. You have been a blessing to a child who needed someone in his corner. Thank you for your commitment.
- **Cathy Duet** - Congratulations on seeing your case to closure. It may not have been easy or pretty but you arrived. Thank you for being so dedicated.
- **Christian Falcon** - Thank you for writing your first court report and attending court. You are doing a fantastic job with your CASA child.
- **Meagan Verret Hesler** - Thank you for attending your CASA child's court hearing. This case isn't always easy but you push through with grace and wisdom!
- **Timothy Hitt** - Thank you for attending your CASA child's court hearing. Your dedication to this case is unwavering. Thank you!
- **Sherry Mahaney** - Thank you so much for writing your court report and attending court! You always do such a great job.
- **Yessenia Mendoza** - You have taken your first case and made an instant connection with the child and the foster parents. Thank you so much for caring as you do.
- **Susan Porche** - Thank you for attending your first court hearing. You are on your way to forming a strong bond with your foster child.
- **Amanda Reeves** - You have not only attended your first hearing, but you have made a strong impression on the child, the foster parent and the biological parent. CASA is so blessed to have you on our team, thank you.
- **Danielle Walker** - Thank you for attending court and your continued dedication to your case!
- **Yvonne White** - Thank you for attending your CASA children's court hearing. You are such a trooper pushing through your own troubles to serve these precious children.
- **Karli Willis** - Thank you for attending your first hearing. You are doing an amazing job with your case. This child is lucky to have you on his side.

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

We would like to thank all of the families, individuals, and organizations that chose to adopt a CASA child for Christmas! You all brought a smile to so many children during the holiday season. Thank you all!

Lumiere Bistro	Summer Bannen	Sadie Chauvin	Mark and Missy Moreaux
Mary Ann Matherne	Ashleigh Leone	Amanda Melancon	Brandy Pitre and staff
Gina Fitzgerald	Kim Domangue	Katherine Thibodaux	Jeanne-Claire Carreere
Kim Baughman	Yessenia Mendoza	Ann Bates	
Barbara Prejean	Ashley Harrington	Rushelle Fitzgerald	
Sarah Ghere	Wanda Welch	Linda Fleniken	

DECEMBER DONATIONS & GRANTS

Tori Rayne
 Joy & Mike Tingle
 Randy Ledet
 John Monteiro, Jr.
 Carl Detiveaux
 Mr. & Mrs. Morris Hebert
 Ronald Dardar
 Mr. & Mrs. L. Milton Cancienne, Jr.
 Frank Davis
 Brain Matherne
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Tucker
 Danielle Walker
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lee
 Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Thompson
 Tim Stevens
 Justin Lirette
 Raising Cane's
 Five-Below
 Ship N Geaux
 Martin Family Charitable Fund
 Louisiana Charities Trust
 CASA - AP



Louisiana Charities Trust

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Christine Aucoin	1/5
Christian Falcon	1/13
Tenicka Dobson	1/17
Terri Brown	1/18
Shelly Toups	1/22
Valentine Verdin	1/29



Welcome to CASA of Terrebonne



Welcome to our newest class of advocate trainees who were sworn-in in December by Honorable Judge Dagate. Class #64, Gerria Couvillion and Yessenia Mendoza. They completed the 30-hour pre-service training and they are ready to meet their CASA child and advocate for their best interest.



Beta Club's Birthday Boxes

Thank you to Mulberry Elementary Beta Club for the Birthday Blessings boxes.

These children came up with the idea of the "Power of a Wish", a project in which they qualified for the National Beta Convention. They then turned the project into a reality by hosting a "birthday party items" drive, in which they were able to complete 90 boxes and donate them to CASA of Terrebonne. Each box is filled with items to make a foster child's birthday special!

We are thankful for this kind gesture. Keep up the great work Mulberry Beta Club and good luck at Nationals!!!

Learning Together

CASA of Terrebonne held a special In-Service Training with Terrebonne Parish Narcotics Division at the Terrebonne Parish Library. The training was a generalized overview and education of the most commonly abused narcotics. CASA volunteers, staff, and DCFS employees were taught how to identify the substances and paraphernalia most commonly abused in our parish.

CASA would like to thank Lt. Seth Boudreaux, Captain Shelly Liner, and Senior Handler Dillon Condetti, for sharing their knowledge to help benefit the welfare of the children we serve. Lt. Seth Boudreaux brought his partner Oti to demonstrate how K-9 units are used to detect narcotics.

We also would like to give a very special thank you to Raising Cane's of Houma who donated meal combos and gallons of lemonade and sweet tea for all of those in attendance. We are grateful for their generosity and for helping this night be such a huge success!

We are proud to be able to bring together these three agencies to work on a common goal of making this a safer community for our most vulnerable children!



Check out the following for continuing education hours:

In-Service: TBRI

Correcting Principle

Monday * January 23, 2023 * 5:30 pm - 8:45 pm (3 Credit Hours)

In the fourth and final installment of our TBRI® In-service training series, Jenny Domangue will present the TBRI® Correcting Principles which aim to address a child's behavioral issues in a positive way.

Two important principles in the correcting component are proactive and responsive behavior. *Active CASA volunteers can find the "Continuing Education" registration link online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.*

In-Service: Lunch and Learn

DCFS Investigations

Friday * February 24, 2023 * 12 noon - 1 pm (1 Credit Hour)

Kayla Pillette and Erin Jackson will be our presenters for the Lunch and Learn on February 24, 2023. They will cover DCFS investigations and foster care procedures. *Active CASA volunteers can find the "Continuing Education" registration link online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.*

New Year's Resolutions

Christine - To voice my gratitude and appreciation daily.

Jenny - To be fully present in whatever I am doing-minimize multi-tasking. To be intentional with my time, my money and my effort. And to rest more.

Eddie - To work on my fitness and increase my endurance.

Anna - To be more intentional with my decisions and time. Not let fear stop me from achieving my goals.

Sulma- Enjoy the little things and take things/situations one day at a time.

Valentine - Send/deliver small gift of encouragement each month to a different loved one I don't get to see often.

December Program Stats

45

Active Volunteer Advocates

1,080.9

Miles Traveled to Visit
CASA Children

66

CASA Children Served

97.6

Volunteer Hours Spent
on Cases

 159

children waiting for a CASA



December Gift Card Winner: Timothy Hitt

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.

