

CASA OF TERREBONNE NEWSLETTER

402 Canal Street, Houma, LA
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November 2019

Volume 11



*Message from
Executive Director,
Donna M. Brunet*

November is National Adoption month and the start of the long holiday season. Everyone is beginning to make plans for both Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. Most of us spend these days with family and friends, but for so many of the children served by CASA, the holidays are a painful reminder that they are different from their peers – separated from parents, siblings, family members and pets as they reside in foster care and other safe placements to shield them from further abuse and/or neglect.

While you and I decide where we will spend our holidays, these children wait for safe and permanent homes. The holidays can be a lonely time for many of them.

Fortunately, this is often a time when many caring members of our community step up to offer their help whether it be in the form of a financial donation, in-kind contribution or as a volunteer. With your help, we are making a difference one child at a time. As you gather with your loved ones this holiday season, please know that your generosity is truly appreciated, and your gifts are providing hope for the children served by our dedicated CASA volunteers.

You can do something big,
You can do something small.
Because whatever you do ...
It's better than nothing at all.
Foster. Adopt. Donate. Advocate.

**Wishing you all a very Happy
Thanksgiving holiday!**

In memory of Gabrielle Hernandez



As people in our community come through our doors throughout the year, we are always so excited for the impact they will make in a child's life. Gabrielle Marie Theriot Hernandez was one of those individuals

who walked into our office 6 years ago. She was not only a voice for multiple foster children, she was a special, amazing lady and a sweet soul. She was all heart, even in the most frustrating times. She always had a way to spin it to where there was hope. She believed good would overcome evil, always. She was the type of person who would provide information without hesitation. She loved and cared for all of her CASA children and always went above and beyond to truly make a difference in their lives. She was motherly and enjoyed serving those who could not fend for themselves.

During her time at CASA, she was assigned to six cases and advocated for 15 children. She was awarded CASA Advocate of the Month several times and in 2018 she was honored with a five-year service award for her dedication to CASA. In her most recent case, she advocated for two teenagers whom she adored and cared for deeply. Her connection with them was sincere. She was the mother figure they did not have. She cheered them on from the bleachers, helped them to make dance proposals, and called them to task when something needed to be done.

We will always be grateful for the positive impact she made in the lives of so many children and their caregivers. Sending a big thank you to heaven to Gabrielle Marie Theriot Hernandez for sharing her precious time with us.

- In our hearts forever.

CASA of Terrebonne staff continues to extend our prayers and sympathy to her husband Jared (pictured above with Gabbie) and their sons, whom she loved dearly.

SHOUT-OUTS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

Tasha Lirette for completing a court report and going to court for her CASA children.
 Allison Eschete for attending court for her CASA child.
 Brittany Jones for attending court for her CASA child.
 Rebecca Clement for attending court for her CASA child.
 Amber Ward for seeing her case to permanency and attending the adoption proceedings for her CASA child.
 Sarah Ghere for attending a court hearing for her CASA children.
 Rhonda Lovell for taking a new case.
 Tressa Hebert for attending a meeting at DCFS for her CASA children.
 Kathi Murphy for attending a FTM, submitting a court report and attending court for her CASA child.
 Joni Oncale for attending a FTM, a court hearing and submitting a court report for her CASA child.
 Connie Fremin for attending court for her CASA child.
 Suzanne Vice for attending a FTM, a court hearing and submitting a court report for her CASA child.
 Kim Eubanks for submitting a court report for her CASA child.
 Tim Hitt for attending a court hearing for his CASA children.
 Linda Ford for attending a court hearing for her CASA children.
 Yvonne White for attending a court hearing for her CASA children.
 Ann Beeson for attending a court hearing for her CASA children.
 Miranda Legendre for attending a FTM for her CASA child.
 Betty Wallace for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
 Jennifer Kryvanick for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
 Kim Eubanks for attending a FTM and submitting a court report for her CASA child.
 Sarah and Jacob Ghere for writing a court report and attending court for their CASA children.
 Rebecca Clement, Silvana Santos, Kathi Murphy, & Suzanne Vice for volunteering at the Rougarou Fest.
 Rebecca Clement, Tressa Hebert & Priscilla Callais for volunteering at Southdown.

Thank you for your commitment to CASA !
 November Volunteer Anniversaries:

Charles Bergeron	1 year	Tasha Lirette	1 year
Rebecca Clement	1 year	Bill Lovell	1 year
Jacob Ghere	1 year	Rhonda Lovell	1 year
Sarah Ghere	1 year	Kathi Murphy	1 year
Mary Guidry	1 year	Paula Voisin	2 years

OCTOBER- VOLUNTEER STATISTICS:

54 Volunteers advocated for
89 Children
172 Hours spent
1513 Miles traveled



CASA of Terrebonne

We currently have

140

children on our waiting list!!



Sexual



Physical



Neglect



Substance
Abuse



Zann Vice	11/1
Kim Pickard	11/4
Hannah Becnel	11/8
Tressa Hebert	11/16



Congratulations to
Joy Tingle!

She has won a gift card of her choice for visiting with her CASA child 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.

Bet you didn't know!

5 Fun Facts about Sulma Reyes - Advocate Supervisor



1. She has 5 boys, ages 16, 8, 5, & 2 year old twins and to say the least, they keep her very busy.
2. She has never said "y'all" and probably never will.
3. She has visited the Playboy mansion and mingled with Hugh Hefner and Mario Lopez.
4. She has worked in the fields picking grapes, bell peppers and onions.
5. She was raised in California, born in Oaxaca, Mexico, but has not set foot there since age 4.

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Don't forget, our CASA month now runs from the 1st through the 30th (31st). All notes are due no later than the evening of the 30th (31st). If you cannot make a face-to-face visit, remember to contact the child some other way including phone call, FaceTime/skype, or card/letter.

We are QUICKLY approaching the end of the year. Remember, you must have 12 in-service hours per year. If you attended any in-person training with Christine, she has graciously entered them in to Optima. However, You MUST put in any other training, including newsletters. If you swore in this year, you need 1 hour per month from the month you swore in. (For example, those who swore-in in October will need 2 hours.)

If you need assistance or support at any point in the month, please contact your supervisor. If they are not available, contact me, Jenny Domangue, on my cell or at jdomague@casaofterrebonne.org



Amber Ward along with her CASA child and his adoptive family!!

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, December 6, 2019
Volunteer Appreciation
Banquet
(invitations will be mailed out in November)

OCTOBER DONATIONS:

CASA-AP

James & Mary Goodwin
Herman J. Courville Foundation

Charlene Wallace

Folse Productions, Inc.

Jude Fanguy

Martin Majewski, III

In memory of Gabrielle Hernandez:

Rob & Joy Theriot

Jeffery Williams

Melanie Prentice

Nicole & Shane Brien

Jason & Christina McCain

Rose Charpentier

Donna Ezbitski

Barbara & Charlie Heim

Leon Rittenberg, III, Jerome J. Reso, Jr. & Matthew P. Miller

Synergy Bank (Directors, Officers & Employees)

Chris Zaunbrecher and the partners of Briney, Foret, Corry Law Firm

Amber Ruiz

Kathryn Olivier-Duhe

Linda & Mark Tabor

Sarah Thigpen

Mr. & Mrs. Leon Stiel, Jr.

Tim Bourgeois

Jacob McGee

Mary & Don Callais

Debra Kildahl

Lee Sumrall

Sid Sundbery

David Muth

Katie Gruzd

Craig Derouen

Allison Goldie



*Cindy Courville presents check to
Donna Brunet with proceeds from
the 2019 Crawfish Boil-Off.*

Current Board Members

Marty Majewski, III—President

Mary Guidry—Vice President

Bonnie Naquin—Treasurer

Shelly Touns—Secretary

Charles Brown

Christopher Chiasson

Kathleen Duplantis

Patricia Floyd

Douglas Gregory

Heather Hebert

Carl "Buddy" McNabb

Angelle Thibodeaux



Here's how to register for any upcoming in-service:
Go to the Volunteer section and click on events and the event you want to attend.
Click on the register button and then input your e-mail address and you are done.
An e-mail is sent to you to confirm your registration.
NOTE: Beginning in 2020, your only option to register for an in-service will be on the website.

We are collecting items to donate to The Haven. If you wish to participate , please bring the following items when you attend the in-service: toilet paper, paper towels, or after-school snacks.

A Walk in Her Shoes

CASA of Terrebonne In-Service
Presented by: Melissa Williams
Training Coordinator at The Haven



Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Place: 402 Canal Street (CASA office)

The following topics will be presented tonight:

- ⇒ Definition of trauma and the brain and body's response to trauma
- ⇒ Sources and impact of trauma and barriers to seeking help
- ⇒ Support for trauma survivors and practical ways to support healing
- ⇒ Tips for Self-Care

Snacks provided and RSVP required to caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org

CONTINUING EDUCATION E-LEARNING

WEB SITE: <https://moodle.lcwta.org>

LOG IN INSTRUCTIONS:

Username: Use your e-mail address

Password: Advocate1!!

NOTE: FIRST TIME USERS ONLY—YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO EDIT YOUR PROFILE IN ORDER TO ENROLL IN A COURSE

Click on My Courses, Click on Subject, then Specific Course to enroll in

Click Enroll Me, then follow steps to complete course

REMINDER: ENTER TRAINING TO OPTIMA WHEN YOUR COURSE IS COMPLETE



CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY BE A **CASA** VOLUNTEER

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (**CASA**) works hard to ensure that children in foster care in Terrebonne Parish will have a safe and permanent home as soon as possible. Join us and make a difference. Together we can change a child's story.

CLASS

Class #54

Class #55

Class #56

Class #57

START DATES:

January 14, 2020

April 14, 2020

July 7, 2020

October 6, 2020

Contact *Christine Aucoin* to find out how you can become a community volunteer who advocates for a child who has been abused or neglected.

SEVEN WEEKS

Get trained in seven weeks to make a difference in the life of a child in foster care.

FLEX TRAINING

In-person and online training are combined for all learning styles.

APPLY ONLINE

www.casaofterrebonne.org

