



CASA OF TERREBONNE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021 • ISSUE NO. 6



402 CANAL STREET

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WWW.CASAOFTERREBONNE.ORG



MEET CASA VOLUNTEER : EDWARD OLIVIER

Edward "Eddie" Olivier is our CASA to meet this month. He has been an active CASA advocate for 10 years. In this time, he has changed the lives of 9 children from six cases. He has been active in recruiting for CASA, participating in pre-training to inform incoming CASA's of what to expect, and extremely active in his case work. Prior to being an active advocate, Eddie was CASA of Terrebonne's AFLAC insurance agent. When he would come by for accounts, the staff would encourage him to become a volunteer. He promised that when his twins (Andre and Beth) were finally driving and he wasn't running around with them for carpool he would join. He swore in as an advocate in 2010.

Eddie has been married to his wife Dana for 28 years. His twins are now 26 years old. Eddie enjoys running and tending to

his backyard garden. He is so knowledgeable about flowers and plants that he often reminds us when our office plants aren't doing so well. Another one of his passions is Mardi Gras. He rides in the Krewe of Terreanians in Houma. He admits that it is almost an obsession. Eddie was born and raised in Houma, Louisiana. He grew up in the Barrios subdivision. He was the only boy with 4 sisters. He was raised by a single mother after his father passed away when he was 4 years old. Something interesting about Eddie is that he was a stay at home dad to his twins from birth until they entered Kindergarten. Even then he still made sure he was able to put them on the bus in the morning and get them off the bus in the afternoon.

Eddie suggests that if you are thinking about possibly being a CASA advocate,

to meet with the supervisors and veteran CASA advocates to get a feel of the need and also the reward it brings.

When asked about his CASA experience Eddie shared "One of the 'ah ha' moments that you have when you have been a CASA as long as I have is when you see the adoptive family of one of your CASA children at the grocery store or in a restaurant, and they are laughing and having a good time. It gives you a warm feeling that you helped to put that family together."



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**



As the calendar turns to another month, let us be mindful of the children who continue to mark time in foster care. Days turn into months and months sometimes into years. The community of volunteers that CASA has assembled

remains committed to advocating for a child's best interest. We commend the volunteers who remain on a child's case even when it seems to be going nowhere. Foster children are no different from other children in their need for a nurturing, safe, and loving home.

Here are significant ways to support the CASA of Terrebonne community:

- Volunteer and become part of the CASA community to change a child's story.
- Invest to ensure that CASA can continue to provide resources and materials within our program's community. Invest your time by joining us in community events. Invest your space by sponsoring an event. Invest your assets by sponsoring training events or donating directly to our organization.
- Spread the word about CASA's mission - to help build a community of change for our children. Follow us on social media and share news and events.

We hope you find a way, big or small, to join the CASA community in helping to support the foster children in Terrebonne parish.

Being a voice for children in foster care now will help them have hope for a brighter future and a better chance of becoming productive members of our community when they are adults.

**JUNE VOLUNTEER
ANNIVERSARY**

*We appreciate your commitment
& service to CASA*

.....

Melanie Prentice
1 Year

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Martin Majewski, III 6/17
Melanie Prentice 6/29

Penny Hebert

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.



THE NEWEST CASA VOLUNTEERS IN TERREBONNE PARISH

Congratulations to our newest CASA Volunteers in Terrebonne Parish: Cathy Duet, Danielle Walker, Mia Foret, and Ann Williams!

Class #59 was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Randall Bethancourt. Welcome to the CASA community ladies!

VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUTS!

- Traci Hawthorne for attending court for her CASA child.
- Kim Eubanks for attending court for her CASA child.
- Suzanne Vice for attending court for her CASA child.
- Penny Hebert and Carol Bergeron for attending a family team meeting, writing and completing their court report, and attending court for their CASA children.
- Sarah Ghere for completing her court report and attending court for her CASA child.
- Tammy Broulette for completing her first court report, attending court, and testifying in court on behalf of her CASA child.
- Amanda LeBlanc for completing her court report and attending court for her CASA child.
- Christine Evans for completing her court report and attending court for her CASA child.
- Tija Hopkins for completing her court report early for her CASA child.
- Kathy Mella for attending court for her CASA children.
- Priscilla Callais for completing her court report, attending court, and going above and beyond for her CASA children.
- Mary Guidry for completing her court report for her CASA children.
- Ann Beeson for completing her court report and attending court for her CASA child.

MAY DONATIONS & GRANTS

- Tori Rayne
- CASA-AP
- Ericka Dinger
- Maxine Carlos
- Classical Conversation Homeschool Community

Thank you!

4-year-old Liana raised \$25 for our program and even won the Best Decorated #BayouLemonadeDay Stand!



CASA STAFF

Christine Aucoin
Executive Director

Jenny Domangue
Lead Advocate Supervisor

Heather Falls
Advocate Supervisor

Anna Merlos
*Office Manager/
Marketing Coordinator*

Sulma Reyes
Training/Outreach Coordinator

Valentine Verdin
Advocate Supervisor

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Martin Majewski, III
President

Mary Guidry
Vice President

Bonnie Naquin
Treasurer

Shelly Touns
Secretary

Charles Brown, Sr.
Christopher Chiasson

Patricia Floyd
Heather Hebert

Charles Kornegay
Buddy McNabb

Angelle Thibodeaux

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Written by: Jenny Domangue

Over the last year and a half, we have learned the importance of physical, mental, and emotional connections and being able to connect. During the quarantine, some of us were isolated from our loved ones or families, while others were alone with no one around them for weeks. Research has shown that connecting with other individuals can lower stress hormones, decrease episodes of anxiety or depression, help regulate our emotions, and lead to increased self-esteem. Connections to others also help with our physical health.

Our happiness and success largely depend on the relationships we build with others. Often, children from hard places, such as the CASA children we serve, tend to retreat from relationships with others because of fear or distrust. In TBRI®'s Connecting Principles, the focus is to meet a child's need for relationships through awareness and playful and/or healthy engagement.

As CASAs, we have to be willing to put in the work and effort into making life-saving connections with our children. There are two strategies in the TBRI® Connecting Principles - Mindful Awareness and Engagement. Before we can help children heal and grow, we must be aware of our bodies and triggers. Being mindful of our own wants, needs, and abilities

allows us to better serve the children we work with. When we are honest with ourselves about our past, our hurts, and our successes, we can truly see the child - the "why" behind the behaviors and the "why" behind our reactions. Once we are self-aware and mindful of our own mind, body, and spirit, we can move into engaging with our kids. We engage children to form healthy connections through touch, eye contact, voice control, matching, and being playful.

If you are interested in learning more about TBRI Connecting Principles, please join me on June 22nd at the CASA office where I will be hosting an in-service. You must register on our website: www.casaofterrebonne.org. I hope to see you there to help you become more aware of yourself and help you engage more effectively with those you connect with.



JENNY DOMANGUE, LEAD ADVOCATE SUPERVISOR

APRIL CHILDREN STATISTICS

73	CHILDREN SERVED
50	CHILDREN SEEN FACE-TO-FACE
11	CHILDREN CONTACTED OTHER THAN FACE-TO-FACE
68%	OF CHILDREN SEEN
84%	OF CHILDREN WERE CONTACTED

MAY VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

49

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES



71

CASA CHILDREN SERVED



143.50

HOURS SPENT ADVOCATING



748.60

MILES TRAVELED BY ADVOCATES



150

CHILDREN ON THE WAITING LIST



Breakdown of Waitlist Cases: Sexual (9) - Physical (12) - Neglect (74) - Substance Abuse (55)



FINDING A FOREVER HOME

Congratulations to CASA Volunteer sisters, Kristy Ledford and Leah Voisin on seeing your case through to adoption!

Leah and Kristy have been on the case since May 2019 and have built a close bond with their CASA child!

2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Graduating Senior, Tia Millier, was chosen for the second annual Gabrielle Hernandez Scholarship. Tia will be attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the fall and will seek a major in Computer Science Engineering.

Gabrielle Hernandez was a dedicated CASA Volunteer for over six years, who passed away in October 2019. Her husband, Jared Hernandez and their three sons, wanted to honor Gabbie and her love of CASA through a scholarship to a graduating senior at Vanderbilt Catholic High School, Gabbie's alma mater.



CASA of Terrebonne would like to congratulate 2021 graduate Madison Kimble on being the recipient of the annual CASA of Terrebonne Scholarship.

Maddy, a graduate of Vanderbilt Catholic High School, was chosen for this scholarship because of her outstanding academic achievements. She is attending LSU in the fall and is pursuing a career as a Neurosurgeon.

CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS:

IN-SERVICE: TBRI: CONNECTING PRINCIPLES WITH JENNY DOMANGUE (3 CREDIT HOURS)

JUNE 22, 2021 * 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM * CASA OF TERREBONNE OFFICE

Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) is an attachment-based trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. Often, children from hard places tend to retreat from relationships with others as a form of fear or distrust. In TBRI®'s connecting principles, the focus is to meet a child's need for relationships through awareness and playful engagement.

RSVP at www.casafterrebonne.org>For Advocates>Advocate Calendar.

IN-SERVICE: LUNCH AND LEARN: CELEBRATING PRIDE AT CASA

JUNE 24, 2021 * 12 PM - 1 PM * CASA OF TERREBONNE OFFICE (1 CREDIT HOUR)

In honor of Pride Month, CASA of Terrebonne will host a Lunch and Learn where guest speaker Blaine Grandin will educate us on how to best serve the foster children who identify with the LGBTQ+ community. Blaine will discuss pronouns, resources, and how to best advocate and support our CASA children as they are finding their identity.

RSVP at www.casafterrebonne.org>For Advocates>Advocate Calendar.

***ENTER ALL TRAINING CREDIT HOURS TO OPTIMA ***



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.casafterrebonne.org



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

TRAINING START DATES: JULY 13, 2021

Apply Online
www.casafterrebonne.org

