



CASA OF TERREBONNE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021 • ISSUE NO. 3



402 CANAL STREET

985-876-0250

WWW.CASAOFTERREBONNE.ORG



MEET CASA VOLUNTEER : KATHLEEN ANDREWS

This month we would like to introduce you to Mrs. Kathleen Andrews. She has been a CASA since March 2020. She was one of the super troopers who swore in right before we all went into lock down. She has been assigned to a six-year-old boy. Even though she has not been able to visit as often as she would like because of the pandemic, she has been able to form a bond with him.

Kathleen has been married to her husband, Howard Andrews, for 23 years. She has two sons from a previous marriage, Christopher and Kerry Quave. She also has four grandchildren: three grand-daughters aged 13, 10 and six and one grandson age six. Kathleen was born and raised in New York state. She moved to Houma in 1976 at the age of 19. She was back and forth from

New York to Houma during this time. She also spent time in Pawleys Island, South Carolina. She moved back to Houma permanently in 2007. She is currently working as a long-term substitute teacher at Bayou Blue Elementary.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading and solving word searches. A fun fact about Kathleen is that she enjoys singing and sometimes she writes music.

Kathleen states that she chose to volunteer for CASA because she wanted to volunteer and help children. She says, at first she was very nervous but with the help of Sulma, her supervisor, she developed more confidence in her role. Her greatest hope is that children are in homes where they are loved and the parents put them first. Thank you for your dedication to the CASA program Mrs. Kathleen!

MARCH VOLUNTEER ANNIVERSARIES

*We appreciate your commitment
& service to CASA*

Kathleen Andrews

1 year

Brian Elliott

1 year

Alyssia Hay

1 year

Jon Russo

8 years

Beth Tabor

1 year

Yvonne White

10 years



**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

Beginning March 1st, I have stepped into the Executive Director role full time here at CASA of Terrebonne. I want to thank the board of directors for choosing me and supporting me throughout the transition. I look forward to this new challenge. My role here at CASA has changed several times over the years. I began as a volunteer in 2016 and joined the staff in 2017 as the office manager and then as the Outreach/Training Coordinator in 2019.

Throughout my tenure here, I have met so many individuals in the community who support the work of CASA. In my position as a trainer, I have witnessed the dedication and passion of the volunteers. Although they come from all walks of life, they all come with a desire to make a difference. I will miss seeing firsthand the growth of these volunteers from uncertainty to their fierce determination as they go through training. Our advocates will always be the heart of this organization because CASA does not exist without them.



I am proud to be part of such a great team and I am committed to working alongside the staff, board, and volunteers. Let's all take a moment to reflect on what drew us to CASA in the first place and recommit to doing our very best to be the voice for those children who so desperately need one.

**"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE,
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH."**

-Helen Keller



Melanie Prentice

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.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With the State moving to Phase 3 of the COVID-19 restrictions, events are now permitted in Terrebonne Parish. CASA of Terrebonne will be at a few upcoming community events. We are asking for active volunteers to sign-up and help us with these community outreach events. Help us spread the mission of CASA and have some fun at the same time.

Southdown Market Place
March 27, 2021 | 8 am - 4 pm
Bayou Terrebonne Boucherie

April 17, 2021 | 8 am - 6 pm

If CASA Active Volunteers are interested please call Anna at the office at 985-876-0250 for available timeslots.

VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUTS!

- Ann Beeson for attending court twice this month for her CASA child.
- Yvonne White for seeing all four CASA children on her case through to adoption.
- Edward Olivier for attending court for his CASA children.
- Tim Hitt for attending court for his CASA children.
- Tara Pellegrin for attending court for her CASA children and for speaking at a volunteer training session.
- Heather Falls for seeing her CASA child's case through to closing.
- Kim Eubanks for attending court for her CASA child.
- Buddy McNabb for writing his court report for his CASA child.
- Colleen Greer for attending court for her CASA child.
- Priscilla Callais for completing her court report with her co-CASA, and attending court for her CASA children.
- Melanie Prentice for attending a family team meeting, completing a court report with her co-CASA, and attending court for her CASA children.
- Tammy Brouillette for attending an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting for her CASA child.
- Christine Evans for completing her court report and attending court for her CASA child.
- Earleather Celestine for taking a new CASA case.
- Amber Ward for taking a new CASA case.
- Carey Redmond for completing her court report.

FEBRUARY DONATIONS & GRANTS

- CASA-AP
- Maxine Carlos
- Anonymous Facebook Donors
- The Danos Foundation
- Jock Scott Community Partnership Grant

Thank you!

DECEMBER DONATIONS

- Monique Boudreaux
- Danna Schwab
- Catherine Schwab
- Carolyn McNabb
- Linda Ayers
- Kathryn Richards
- Jodie Tueton



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*

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Martin Majewski, III
President

Mary Guidry
Vice President

Bonnie Naquin
Treasurer

Shelly Touns
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Charles Brown, Sr.
Christopher Chiasson

Patricia Floyd
Heather Hebert

Charles Kornegay
Buddy McNabb

Angelle Thibodeaux

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Written by: Jenny Domangue

Being an advocate for an organization that works with abused and neglected children is a difficult task. You are choosing to step outside of your comfort zone and help those who can not help themselves. March 7 is “**Be Heard Day**”. When looking through the various “special” days in March, this one stuck out to me. You guys do not need a special day to be heard. You choose to stand up and let the judicial system hear your voice for the children that often do not have a voice of their own. This is why the work that you do is so very important. It is the reason we strive for 100% of our children to be seen every month and have the expectation that the contact logs will be detailed. We want to make sure that your voice echoes as loud as it possibly can so that justice can be served for our children. We want each of our children to have the best possible outcome with the situation they find themselves in. So let your voice ring out loud and proud! You are a child’s advocate and for that, **you are a superhero!**



JENNY DOMANGUE, LEAD ADVOCATE SUPERVISOR

JANUARY CHILDREN STATISTICS

74 CHILDREN SERVED

45 CHILDREN SEEN FACE-TO-FACE

13 CHILDREN CONTACTED OTHER THAN FACE-TO-FACE

76% OF CHILDREN SEEN FACE-TO-FACE AND/OR CONTACTED

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

48

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES



76

CASA CHILDREN SERVED



124.70

HOURS SPENT ADVOCATING



997.5

MILES TRAVELED BY ADVOCATES



144

CHILDREN ON THE WAITING LIST



Breakdown of Waitlist Cases: Sexual (7) - Physical (11) - Neglect (69) - Substance Abuse (57)

CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS:

IN-SERVICE: FAMILY PRESERVATION COURT OVERVIEW WITH JUDGE ARCENEUX-TO BE ANNOUNCED

***THIS TRAINING IS MANDATORY FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS AND MUST BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 2021. ***

[HTTPS://MOODLE.LCWTA.ORG/ENROL/INDEX.PHP?ID=376](https://moodle.lcwta.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)

NATIONAL CASA: NATIONAL CASA AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

National CASA provides training resources for CASA and GAL staff and volunteers to help recognize and advocate for human trafficking and child exploitation victims. Links to the webinar are on our website under "Continuing Educations" in the For Advocate tab.

TEDTALK+: "GET COMFORTABLE WITH BEING UNCOMFORTABLE" - LUVVIE AJAYI JONES (0.25 CREDIT HOURS)

[HTTPS://WWW.TED.COM/TALKS/LUVVIE_AJAYI_JONES_GET_COMFORTABLE_WITH_BEING_UNCOMFORTABLE](https://www.ted.com/talks/luvvie_ajayi_jones_get_comfortable_with_being_uncomfortable)

Luvvie Ajayi Jones isn't afraid to speak her mind or to be the one dissenting voice in a crowd, and neither should you. "Your silence serves no one," says the writer, activist, and self-proclaimed professional troublemaker. In this bright, uplifting talk, Ajayi Jones shares three questions to ask yourself if you're teetering on the edge of speaking up or quieting down -- and encourages all of us to get a little more comfortable with being uncomfortable.

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

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.casaofterrebonne.org



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Carey Redmond 3/6
 Lisa Bustamante - 3/9
 Heather Falls - 3/14
 Buddy McNabb - 3/23
 Kristy Ledford -3/27
 Priscilla Callais - 3/28
 Eddie Olivier - 3/29