

The CASA Bulletin



Monthly Newsletter



MEET A CASA

ANN WILLIAMS

This month, we would like for you to meet CASA volunteer, Ann Williams. Ann has served on a single child case since swearing-in almost a year ago. She has three children who are 43, 41, and 34, and is a grandmother to 10 grandchildren! Ann is a retired US Postal Servicewoman and fills her time with knitting, creating floral arrangements, and decorating for weddings/parties. She enjoys spending time with the elderly population and coloring when she can. Something unique about Ann is that she is a licensed minister/elder which is a driving force in her wanting to serve people.

Ann first learned about CASA through a postcard mailing campaign and she considers her advocacy a part of her ministry. She recalls a gospel song that speaks to the sentiments of her heart. It says, "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vain." Ann considers it a joy to advocate, to be a voice on behalf of a child. She believes that all children deserve a chance to be heard. They deserve a chance to be raised in a stable loving environment. All children deserve a good childhood in spite of the situations that they have been a victim of. Ann states, "I advise any who has a love and concern for children to consider being a part of CASA, it's a heavenly reward."



A CASA polo will be donated to this month's CASA Volunteer by Shelly Toups at Artistic Embroidery.



INFORMATION SESSION

June 14, 2022
June 21, 2022
12 Noon - 1 pm

CASA of Terrebonne Office

402 Canal Street, Houma

A MESSAGE FROM CHRISTINE AUCOIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At the beginning of May, the Herman J. Courville Foundation hosted their 15th Annual Crawfish Boil Off with proceeds benefiting CASA of Terrebonne. We want to give a HUGE shout-out to the HJC Foundation and all of those who worked so hard to make it such a success. The benefit raised \$74,188.95 for our program. Whether on a boiling team, buying an auction item, or just coming out to enjoy the delicious crawfish; this community continues to be part of our success story!

As we start summer activities and vacations, please keep in mind that foster children are marking time in care and away from what is familiar. Many children, despite being abused by biological parents, would like nothing better than to be home. CASA volunteers accompany the child as they navigate the court system. If nothing else, remember, these foster children have the same dreams and ambitions as your own children and grandchildren. When you support CASA by giving your time or giving a monetary donation, you are helping to build a stronger and more resilient community.



Finally, during the month of June, we celebrate Pride Month/LGBTQ+ Awareness, and Father's Day. We also recognize National Reunification Month and Juneteenth. The month of June also brings the start of hurricane season. We hope you all stay safe and are able to celebrate, honor, and prepare as a community.

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

~ Coretta Scott King

VOLUNTEER SHOUT-OUTS

- **Tim Hitt**- Thank you for submitting your court report on time and attending court. Your commitment continues to shine bright!
- **Amber Berry**- Thank you for attending your CASA children's court hearing and speaking up for their best interest. You are a Rockstar!
- **Alyssia Hay**- Thank you for attending your CASA child's court hearing. Your relationship with this family is apparent.
- **Ann Williams**- Thank you for seeing your case through to closing. You were a Rockstar on your case and you left an amazing impact on the family. Thank you again for the time you dedicated to your CASA child.
- **Terri Brown**- You are back in action. You are on a difficult case but you came in ready to work. I'm excited to start this journey with you.
- Congrats to **Kristy Ledford** and **Leah Voisin** for seeing your three children to adoption. Thank you so much for the continued dedication and for the timely court reports for the last child. You are both very much appreciated!
- **Penny Hebert** and **Carol Bergeron**- Thank you two for the court report and dedication to your case. From five siblings, down to the one child left for permanency, you two have been an amazing team through this whole process!
- **Kim Eubanks** – A huge thank you for your hard work on your case! You have stepped out of your comfort zone with these three siblings and it has not gone unnoticed! This month has been filled with meetings, reports, visits, trips to different places to obtain records, and a court hearing to top it all off! You rocked every step and we are so thankful!

CASA VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

May Stats

39

Active Volunteer Advocates

57

Children Served

 136

children waiting for a CASA

615

Miles Traveled

86.3

Hours Spent on Cases

MAY DONATIONS

Shell Offshore, Inc.
 Pamela Kelley
 Network of Good
 Jill Siebert
 Herman J. Courville Foundation
 CASA-AP

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Celena Sons	6/14
Martin Majewski, III	6/17
Melanie Prentice	6/29

JUNE VOLUNTEER ANNIVERSARIES

1 YEAR

Cathy Duet
 Mia Foret
 Danielle Walker
 Ann Williams

2 Years

Melanie Prentice

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

GABRIELLE HERNANDEZ SCHOLARSHIP

Graduating Senior, Sophia Knoblock, was chosen for the third annual Gabrielle Hernandez Scholarship. Sophia will be attending Louisiana State University in the fall and will seek a major in Interior Design and a minor in construction management.

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 Vandebilt Catholic High School, Gabbie's alma mater.



CASA OF TERREBONNE SCHOLARSHIP

Graduating Senior, Mia Martin, was chosen for the third annual CASA of Terrebonne Scholarship. Mia will be attending Louisiana State University in the fall and will seek a major in speech pathology. Mia was chosen for this scholarship for her exemplary academic record and her passion for her community.



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Martin Majewski, III

Mary Laing-Guidry

Bonnie Naquin

Shelly Toups

Rev. Charles Brown

Cindy Courville

Carl "Buddy" McNabb

Reis Prevost

Angelle Caro Thibodeaux

15TH HJC FOUNDATION ANNUAL CRAWFISH BOIL OFF



The Herman J. Courville Foundation wrapped up another successful Crawfish Boil-Off and raised \$74,188.95! We would like to personally thank Cindy, Christine, Chad, Scott Courville, Terrill and Jennifer Theriot, Amos Mosely, and their children and grandchildren for continuing this tradition for 15 years. They have worked countless hours over the years and CASA has continued to benefit from their generosity.

boiling teams that sign up year after year and give of their time to make this event successful. This is a wonderful example of community at its finest!

The need for our organization to exist continues to grow because children in Terrebonne parish continue to be taken into State's custody. We are blessed that the Foundation chooses us to be the sole recipient of the proceeds. Thanks again to all who participated!

We also want to thank all the sponsors and



Check out the following for continuing education hours:

In-Service: Lunch and Learn

THE HAVEN

Thursday * June 23, 2022 * 12 Noon - 1 PM (1 Credit Hour)

Melissa M. Williams with The Haven will give a brief overview of The Haven services/programs and the populations that they serve. The training will also discuss the referral process and how they work with other service providers to assist the community. *Active CASA volunteers can find the registration link "Continuing Education" online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.*

In-Service:

REVIVE YOUR INNER CASA

Saturday* August 27, 2022 * 9:30 AM - 2 PM (4.5 Credit Hours)



Burnout is a state of emotional, mental, and often physical exhaustion brought on by prolonged or repeated stress. CASA of Terrebonne will be hosting an in-service to rejuvenate and refocus on our mission and build a stronger and healthier community of change for the children we serve. Join us for a day of self-care and getting to know your fellow CASA community members. *Active CASA volunteers can find the registration link "Continuing Education" online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.*



June Gift Card Winner: Tim 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.