

# The CASA Bulletin



Monthly Newsletter



## MEET A CASA

### JONATHAN RUSSO

This month we would like to introduce you to Jonathan Russo. Jon came to CASA of Terrebonne back in 2013. His training was a bit rocky due to some staff changes going on right in the middle of it all. However, Jon came through and has been soaring ever since. In 2015 Jon was named our Advocate of the Year. He fought some very tough battles and advocated for his CASA kids in uncharted waters. In total, he has worked six cases for seven children. All of these are just a bit better for having known Jon. Jon is no stranger to the service field. He has been involved in numerous organizations throughout the years, including Institutional Review Board at TGMC, the Leadership team at First United Methodist Church, MacDonell Children's Services, Vice President for Krewe of Terreanians, and many others.

Jonathan Russo is married to Pamela DeRoche Russo. They have been married for 38 years. They raised twin girls here in Terrebonne Parish. Ashley Russo Meche and Nicole Russo McGee are now adults with their own families. Jon and Pam enjoy spending time with their four grandchildren Sidney 6, Allie 4, KJ 5, and Noah 2. They also have a 10-year-old shih tzu named Harley. When Jon isn't chasing grandbabies, he enjoys growing orchids and gardening. He and Pam also make some of THE BEST pepper jellies I have ever tasted! Jon also enjoys brewing beer and enjoying a cigar out of his large collection.



Jon and Pam are owners of local businesses including Express Glass Inc, DeRoche Homes and DeRusso Properties. He personally has worked in the glass business for over 50 years.

Jon first became aware of CASA through a newspaper article. He and his wife had been talking about how blessed they were and that they needed to give back to the community. Jon shared, "CASA has been a lifetime experience for me, they have taught me empathy, compassion, patience and love. I am a better person today because of the fundamentals they have instilled in me. Just remember that God gave us each the talents and skills we have. Embrace them and use them."

Thank you, Jonathan, for all you do for CASA and the children you serve.

A CASA POLO WILL BE DONATED TO THIS MONTH'S CASA VOLUNTEER BY SHELLY TOUPS AT ARTISTIC EMBROIDERY.

# A MESSAGE FROM CHRISTINE AUCOIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In November, Americans take time to reflect and give thanks by enjoying our national holiday of Thanksgiving. It is a time to gather with family and friends.

Here are a few fun facts about Thanksgiving:

- In the 1860's, Thanksgiving was declared a National holiday to be observed the last Thursday in November.
- The average calories consumed on Thanksgiving Day is 4500.
- Texas and North Carolina both have a town named Turkey and other Thanksgiving-themed town names include Pilgrim, Michigan and Cranberry, Pennsylvania.
- The author of "Mary Had A Little Lamb" is responsible for making Thanksgiving a national holiday.
- Wild turkeys can run up to 20 miles per hour



Along with Thanksgiving, we here at CASA set aside a special day to give thanks and celebrate the heartfelt advocacy of our volunteers. The Volunteer Appreciation social is a celebration to honor and support the outstanding group of individuals who give so much to the children they are assigned to. Although we choose one Advocate of the Year, one Rookie of the year, and one Board member of the year, we honor all the advocates who give of their time on cases throughout the year and all board members who volunteer their time in order to keep our program on sound financial footing.

If you are a volunteer, you should have received your invitation to join us on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022. We are looking forward to celebrating with you!



## VOLUNTEER SHOUT-OUTS

- **Amber Berry and Emily Gilmore** - Thank you both for your continued dedication to your CASA children.
- **Denise Cuartas** - Congratulations on being sworn in and taking your first case. You're amazing!
- **Gina Danos** - Welcome back! Looking forward to working the case with you again and thank you for going to court for your CASA child.
- **Tenicka Dobson** - Congratulations on being sworn in and taking your first case. You're a superstar!
- **Rushell Fitzgerald** - Congratulations on seeing your CASA children through to adoption. It has been a really long road but you made it! You have been influential in the case since the day you signed on!
- **Kristy Foster** - Congratulations on being sworn in and taking your first case. You're going to crush it!
- **Nicholas Foster** - Congratulations on being sworn in and taking your first case. You're a superhero!
- **Kari Griffin** - Thank you for showing up for court and your continued support for your CASA child and family.
- **Tiffany Guy** - Thank you for your presence in court for your case! You are always there for the kids and family!
- **Traci Hawthorne** - Thank you for the first court report for this case! You are doing wonderful!
- **Penny Hebert and Carol Bergeron** - One child left in this sibling case!! Thank y'all so much for all the hard work and time that comes with your case!
- **Buddy McNabb** - Thank you for the first court report on this case! You are doing amazing with both of your cases!! Keep up the good work.
- **Yessenia Mendoza** - Congratulations on completing your advocate training classes.
- **Darlene Naquin** - Thank you for your dedication and your court report! You are doing great!!
- **Susan Porche** - Congratulations on being sworn in and taking your first case. You're going to be great!
- **Amanda Reeves** - Congratulations on being sworn in. Looking forward to seeing your success.
- **Amber Voisin** - Congratulations on being sworn in and taking your first case. You'll be a CASA legend!
- **Karli Willis** - Congratulations on being sworn in and taking your first case. You're going to be an amazing Advocate.

## OCTOBER DONATIONS

Christopher Landry  
Marty Majewski  
Tori Rayne  
CASA-AP

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Paige Gisclair	11/1
Denise Cuartas	11/8
Amanda Reeves	11/8
Corree Eschete	11/13
Danielle Walker	11/26

## NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER ANNIVERSARIES

### 2 Year

Jennifer Bonvillain  
Tammy Brouillette  
Kari Griffin  
Sherry Mahaney

### 4 Years

Rebecca Clement  
Sarah Ghere  
Mary Guidry  
Tasha Lirette  
Kathi Murphy

# CASA VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

## September Stats

**42**

Active Volunteer  
Advocates

**65**

Children  
Served

**169**

children waiting  
for a CASA

**894.40**

Miles  
Traveled

**104.60**

Hours Spent  
on Cases

## WELCOME CLASS #63



Join us in welcoming our newest class of advocate trainees who were sworn in on October 26 by Honorable Judge Dagate.

Class #63, Nicholas Foster, Kristy Foster, Karli Willis, Amber Voisin, Amanda Reeves, Tenicka Dobson, Susan Porche, and Denise Cuartas. They completed the 30-hour pre-service training and they are ready to meet their CASA child and advocate for their best interest.

Welcome to the CASA family!

## CASA STAFF:

**Christine Aucoin**

Executive Director

**Jenny Domangue**

Lead Advocate Supervisor

**Anna Merlos**

Office Manager/Marketing Coordinator

**Edward Olivier**

Advocate Supervisor

**Sulma Reyes**

Outreach/Training 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

## Check out the following for continuing education hours:

### **In-Service: TBRI**

#### **Correcting Principle**

**Wednesday \* November 16, 2022 \* 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.casafterrebonne.org](http://www.casafterrebonne.org).

### **In-Service: Terrebonne Parish Narcotics Division**

#### **Narcotics Identification and Trends**

**Thursday \* December 1, 2022 \* 5:30 pm - 8:45 pm (3 Credit Hours)**

Captain Shelly Liner with the Terrebonne Parish Narcotics Division will be providing a generalized overview of the current most commonly abused narcotics. Upon completion of the training, trainees will be able to identify the substances and the paraphernalia used. This will benefit not only the welfare of the children we serve but also the advocates entering these environments. There will also be a special K-9 and his handler present for the training session. Active CASA volunteers can find the "Continuing Education" registration link online at [www.casafterrebonne.org](http://www.casafterrebonne.org).



### **September Gift Card Winner: Sherry Mahaney**

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.