

CASA OF TERREBONNE**NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER***Message from Donna Brunet, Executive Director*

CASA of Terrebonne will be hosting the annual volunteer social in conjunction with our 20 year anniversary celebration on Friday, November 13, 2020 at 6:30 pm at The Event Center on the Houma Air Base. I hope to see everyone there, both from CASA's past and present, to help us celebrate this milestone.

November 11 is **Veterans Day**. Please remember to thank a veteran for the freedoms that we are afforded as Americans because of their service to our great country. I would like to extend a special thank you to the following live veterans who are related to our staff:

Donna: Husband, Allen Brunet - Air Force
 Father, Neil Monnier - National Guard
 Uncle, Loyd Olin, II - Army (Vietnam Vet)
 Godchild, Christopher Breaux - Army

Christine: Father, Doyce Broussard - Army
 Father-in-law, E.J. Aucoin - Army

Jenny: Father, Calvin Sapia – Army

Val: Children's Father, Matthew Blanchard - Army (Iraq Vet)

November 26 is **Thanksgiving Day** where we come together to celebrate our blessings of the past year. Even though many of us may feel that we don't have much to be thankful for due to multiple hurricanes, Covid infections and deaths, loss of jobs, the election, and just the many troubles we suffer in every day life – there is always something we can find to be thankful for. So look for the good things, the positives, the silver linings – they are there if we just look for them!

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

CASA STAFF

Donna Brunet ~ Executive Director
Jenny Domangue ~ Lead Advocate Supervisor
Christine Aucoin ~ Outreach/Training Coordinator
Sulma Reyes ~ Advocate Supervisor
Valentine Verdin ~ Advocate Supervisor
Anna Merlos ~ Office Manager/Marketing Coordinator

OCTOBER DONATIONS & GRANTS

CASA AP
James Goodwin

Thank You

“Meet a CASA”. Each month, CASA of Terrebonne will randomly choose a volunteer for the readers of this newsletter to meet. We want people to realize that they share many of the same characteristics as our volunteers.



This month we would like to introduce you to Alyssia Hay. She has been a CASA volunteer for approximately eight months. She is still working her very first case and doing very well. She has been happily married to Steve Crispino for four years. She has two biological children, Carter Hay (25) and Carlie Hay (19). She also has two bonus children, Kevin Crispino (28) and Kyle Crispino (23). They also have a sweet little cavipoo named Teddy. Alyssia is a licensed medical massage therapist and has spent the majority of the last 22 years working at Donahue and Trahan Physical Therapy. Not only does Alyssia hold a massage license, she is also a certified yoga instructor and has a degree in Dietetics. When not working, Alyssia spends her down time with her family. She enjoys yoga, reading, hiking, riding bikes, fishing and kayaking. She likes to be outdoors and active. Alyssia is not a native to Houma. She was born in Morgan City but she and her family moved to Houma when she was 8 years old for a better job opportunity and has been here ever since. Something that many people do not know about Alyssia is that her family of origin hosted many foreign exchange students throughout her life. She traveled to Europe to visit these students in Denmark, Germany, France, Spain and Italy.

Alyssia first heard of CASA due to having an office in the same building as CASA. Upon researching the organization, she discovered that this would be a great organization to become involved with. However, as many people do, she put off submitting her application because of self-doubt. “Not enough time”; “Can’t handle it”; “Not the ‘right’ person”. She finally decided to go through with the process after the passing of her dear friend, Gabrielle Hernandez, who was a CASA volunteer. It was her way of honoring Gabby’s legacy.

When asked what advice she would give to people contemplating becoming a CASA she said: “Don’t let fear stop you. Will you become attached to these beautiful kids? Yes, you will. That’s the point. They need people who will be there for them, to always think of what is best for them, to love them. Don’t let the fear stop you from being there for a child in need. You could be the one person, the one constant, the one reliable adult in that child’s life that could be the reason they go on to become happy, healthy, successful, loving adults.”

Alyssia we are so grateful to have you. Thank you for all of your hard work.

She will be receiving a polo shirt donated by Shelly Toups at Artistic Embroidery.

Current Board Members

Martin Majewski, III—President
Mary Guidry—Vice President
Bonnie Naquin—Treasurer
Shelly Toups—Secretary

Charles Brown, Sr.
Christopher Chiasson
Patricia Floyd

Heather Hebert
Charles Kornegay
Buddy McNabb
Angelle Thibodeaux

OCTOBER VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

45

VOLUNTEER
ADVOCATES



69

CASA
CHILDREN
SERVED



79

HOURS SPENT
ADVOCATING



480

MILES
TRAVELED BY
ADVOCATES



147

CHILDREN
ON THE
WAITING LIST



Breakdown of Waiting List Cases: Sexual (4) — Physical (13) — Neglect (76) — Substance Abuse (54)

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Take note of the following:

1. Volunteers, get your Christmas list for teenagers in the office by Friday, 11/13/2020.
2. A requirement to remain active as a CASA volunteer is to obtain 12 hours of continuing education unless you swore in this year. Please make sure that you enter all hours to Optima including the newsletter, which is .5 hours every month.
3. It's that time of year when we celebrate all the hard work and efforts you have all put in to advocate for the foster children in our community. The Volunteer Social invitations have been sent out. Please RSVP by 11/6/2020. Hope to see you all there!

September stats for children:

75 children assigned a CASA

53 children seen face-to-face

9 children contacted any other way (phone, FaceTime, mail)

83% of children were contacted

71% of children were seen face-to-face

We Appreciate Your Commitment and Service to CASA NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

The following volunteers are all celebrating their 2nd year of advocacy:

Charles Bergeron
Rebecca Clement
Jacob Ghere

Sarah Ghere
Mary Guidry

Tasha Lirette
Rhonda Lovell
Kathi Murphy

SHOUT OUTS

Buddy McNabb for completing the continuing education hours required and entering them to Optima.

Tim Hitt for attending a court hearing for his CASA children.

Miranda Legendre for attending a Family Team Meeting for her CASA child.

Miranda Price for completing a court report for her CASA child.

Suzanne Vice for completing a court report and attending a court hearing for her CASA child.

Leah Voisin and **Kristy Ledford** for completing a court report and attending a court hearing for their CASA children.

Betty Wallace for completing a court report for her CASA child.

Tressa Hebert for seeing her case to completion with her two CASA children being adopted.

Silvana Brown for attending a court hearing for her CASA children.

Melanie Prentice for attending a court hearing for her CASA children.

Rushelle Fitzgerald for completing a court report and attending a court hearing for her CASA children.

Nicole Reiss for attending a court hearing for the first time for her CASA child.

Emily Gilmore for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.

Check out the following for continuing education hours:

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

<https://moodle.lcwta.org/enrol/index.php?id=376> **(1.5 Credit hours)**

This training 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.

⇒ Picks from the volunteer library:

1. "The Kindness of Strangers" by Katrina Kittle...*One review stated, "A moving novel about the ways in which healing can occur after a child's sexual abuse."*
2. "The Whole Brain Child" by Daniel Siegel and Tina P. Bryson...*This book offers a scientific focus on the impact of parenting on brain development.*
3. "Overcoming Dyslexia" by Sally Shaywitz...*This book is described as a "state-of-the-art tool kit for the parents and teachers of dyslexic children".*

⇒ *Early Childhood Development: A Brain Matters Documentary*...*Described as "An incredible documentary that every parent, educator, and person touching a child's early life must watch."* **(1 credit hour)**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rw_aVnlp0JY

⇒ *Documentary: Unadopted* - *This documentary follows Noel, a former foster child and his quest for answers about his family and his experience in the foster care system.* **(.5 Credit hours)**

<https://bit.ly/31T1Nhb>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Suzanne Vice 11/1
Jill Pere' 11/13
Tressa Hebert 11/16

CONGRATULATIONS
TO
Silvana Brown



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.

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW! FIVE FUN FACTS ABOUT CHARLES KORNEGAY, BOARD MEMBER



1. He is a 3rd generation member of the Krewe of Terreanians. His grandfather was one of the founding members and his father, before he passed away, had been a member for over 50 years. Charles is currently going into his 19th year in the club.
2. He will *never* give up his hobby of collecting bourbon.
3. He has seen *Shawshank Redemption* at least 100 times.
4. He is a huge fan of soul, Motown, blues and jazz music! His dad brought him to at least 3 or 4 BB King concerts.
5. He doesn't have a favorite color; he has two - blue and red.

2ND Annual "A Night for Children's Sake" Gala

March 5, 2021

Upcoming Pre-Service Flex Training Dates:

January 19, 2021

April 13, 2021

July 13, 2021

October 5, 2021

For more information please visit our website

www.casaofterrebonne.org or call 985-876-0250

CHANGE
A CHILD'S
STORY.

Be a CASA
Volunteer. Advocate.

IMPORTANT CASA DATES