

# CASA OF TERREBONNE NEWSLETTER

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## In this issue:

Message from Executive Director & Volunteer Spotlight  
Shout-outs & Anniversaries  
Fun Facts, Birthdays, and Statistics  
Donations & Supervisor's Corner  
In-Service & Pre-Service Training  
Back to School Boost

August 2019

Volume 8



## *Message from Executive Director, Donna M. Brunet*

We always associate the end of summer with the beginning of school. Actually, summer doesn't end until September 22 (of course here in Louisiana it seems to go into October sometimes!) so you still have time to accomplish all those items on your summer to-do list. Feel you don't have time to take that much needed vacation? If not, then become a tourist in your own home town. Take a "staycation". Check out local events whether they be festivals, farmer's markets, concerts or even football games. Host a pool party with family and friends and feel free to unwind while sharing summer memories. Turn off the television and read that book that you've been putting off starting. You can also learn something new by signing up for an art class or wine tasting. And if you are feeling the need to give back or help in some way, then you can sign up to be a CASA volunteer. Our next training class starts September 10.

So even though you may feel that summer has passed you by, you still have time to enjoy summer activities – at least until September 22 that is!

**If you need a little more inspiration, here are some August dates that you probably did not know about:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> National Ice Cream Sandwich Day**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Wiggle Your Toes Day**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Lazy Day (also National S'mores Day)**  
**16<sup>th</sup> National Tell a Joke Day**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Kiss and Make Up Day**  
**28<sup>th</sup> Race Your Mouse Day**  
(Nothing is truly more adorable than the mouse races!)

**And NO, I did not make these up – they are real!**

## *Spotlight on Tasha Lirette*



Our advocate of the month is Tasha Lirette. She was sworn in on November 14, 2018 and accepted her first case on November 29, 2018. Tasha hit the ground running with her case which consisted of 3 children in 3 different place-

ments. She made herself available to all 3 children and their foster parents. She became almost like a liaison between the 3 sets of foster parents, the biological parents and DCFS. She fought her way through the red tape to obtain information to make educated decisions and recommendations. She also fought through the emotional roller coaster when things didn't work out as she thought they would. Tasha has sat for hours at a time to ensure that she was available whenever interested parties were available. It was not uncommon for her to show up to behavioral health providers with her orders to get updates, when phone requests went unanswered.

She is not afraid to confront big issues whenever everyone else is reluctant to do so, but she does it gracefully and respectfully. She brings to light those things that linger right under the surface that need to be dealt with. She is truly fighting for the best interest in these children's lives. Tasha, we thank you for your dedication and service to your CASA children.

***Tasha will receive a polo shirt donated by Shelly Touns with Artistic Embroidery.***

## SHOUT-OUTS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

- Miranda Legendre for taking her first case.
- Linda Ford for submitting a court report for her CASA children.
- Tim Hitt for attending a FTM and a court hearing for his CASA children.
- Ann Beeson for attending a FTM and a court hearing for her CASA children.
- Tasha Lirette for attending court for her CASA children.
- Mary Guidry for putting logs in consistently within a day or two.
- Peggy Boudwin for attending a FTM for her CASA children.
- Michael Brown for attending a FTM and a court hearing for his CASA child.
- Allison Eschete for taking her first case.
- Penny Hebert for submitting a court report and staying on her case until it closed.
- Sarah and Jake Ghere for submitting a court report and attending a court hearing for their CASA children.
- Rhonda and Bill Lovell for attending a FTM, submitting a court report and attending court for their CASA children.
- Emily Elmore for attending a staffing for her CASA child.
- Hannah Becnel for submitting a court report for her CASA child.
- Joni Oncale for attending court for her CASA child.

## HAPPY CASA RETIREMENT!



As sad as we are to see you go, you have served our program wholeheartedly. We are forever grateful for your dedication and service to not only the program but the wisdom you have instilled in each of the employees you have encountered. Mrs. Raymonda Guidroz was in our very first CASA class and has remained active throughout that time. She has been with us for 18 years. She has seen a multitude of different faces as paid staff came and went. During her time with CASA she worked on 7 different cases and changed the lives of 13 children. She has been on her last case 10 years!! If you remember, we only ask for a 2 year commitment. Mrs. Ray has far exceeded that times 5 with just her last case. We hope that you enjoy this season of your life. Just know that you can never fully remove yourself from CASA as you are one of our cornerstones. With love and appreciation we bid thee farewell.

Thank you for your commitment to CASA !  
August Volunteer Anniversaries:

Jessica Barker - 4 Years

Blayne Bergeron - 4 Years

Annette Bilello - 2 Years

Jamara Doiron - 2 Years

Traci Hawthorne - 5 Years

Penny Hebert - 4 Years

Tim Hitt - 5 Years

Whittney Miller - 3 Years

Lori Olivier - 4 Years

Carey Redmond - 3 Years

Michelle Verret - 4 Years

Suzanne Vice - 2 Years

## ***JULY - VOLUNTEER STATISTICS:***

***56*** Volunteers advocated for  
***101*** Children  
***164*** Hours spent  
***577*** Miles traveled



**CASA of Terrebonne**

*We currently have*

**146**

*Children on our waiting list!!*



Sexual



Physical



Neglect



Substance  
Abuse



Lacy Poiencot	8/5
Carol Marmande	8/6
Christopher Chiasson	8/8
Jamara Doiron	8/15
Connie Fremin	8/19
Rushelle Fitzgerald	8/21



Congratulations to  
***Jacob Ghere.***

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 prior to the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month and enter contact logs by the last day of the month.

***Bet you didn't know!***

***5 Fun Facts about Bonnie Naquin — Board Treasurer***



1. She has two amazing daughters, Ella(7) and Lydia(4) and they are strong-willed just like her.
2. She loves to play tennis, but her two daughters have ZERO interest in learning to play the game.
3. She was a CASA advocate for 6 years before joining the Board in 2017.
4. She loves to bake! Sometimes she feels that her friends invite her over just for the cake cookies. Mmmhmm!!
5. She (accidentally) joined a wine club last year while vacationing in Portland, Oregon.

## JULY DONATIONS:

**CASA - AP**

**BAYOU COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

**HOUMA INVITATIONAL OILMAN'S TOURNAMENT (HIOT)**

**CHIK-FIL-A (PROVIDED MEALS FOR LUNCH AND LEARN)**



Accepting check from HIOT are Board members Marty Majewski, Bonnie Naquin, & Buddy McNabb, Executive Director, Donna Brunet and Volunteer, Tim Hitt.



## SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Even though monthly face-to-face contacts are required, we understand that life happens. If for some reason you are unable to see your child in person, try to make some other type of contact. It will help to keep the relationship stable and it helps our overall contact number. So, if you are unable to visit please call, video chat, send a letter, send a card or send an email. They do not count as face-to-face visits, however they solidify the relationship with your child in the long run.

**My goal for CASA of Terrebonne is to have 100% of children contacted in August!!!**

Also, remember that ALL contacts and attempted contacts (phone, emails, texts, FaceTime, faxes, etc.) need to be input into OPTIMA. There is a new activity type "Attempted Contact" on the contact log form. If you attempt to contact, put that log in. Sometimes those are just as important as the actual contact. It shows your dedication to the child/case.

### Current Board Members

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

Charles Brown  
Christopher Chiasson  
Kathleen Duplantis  
Patricia Floyd

Douglas Gregory  
Heather Hebert  
Carl "Buddy" McNabb  
Angelle Thibodeaux



# IN-SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**TBRI CONTINUED..DON'T MISS THIS ONE..SIGN UP TODAY!!**

**Trust Based Relational Intervention - Connecting Principles**

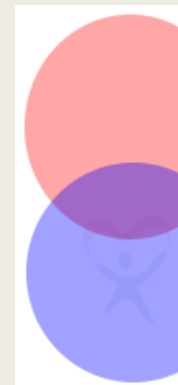
**Guest Speaker: Leslie Adams, Certified TBRI Practitioner**

**Date/Time: August 13, 2019 / 5:30pm - 8:30pm**

**Location: Terrebonne Parish Main Library  
2nd Floor / Distance Education Room**

**Meal provided and RSVP via e-mail is required.**

**RSVP: [caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org](mailto:caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org)**



## CONTINUING EDUCATION E-LEARNING

WEB SITE: <https://moodle.lcwta.org>

LOG IN INSTRUCTIONS:

Username: Use your e-mail address

Password: Advocate1!!

**NOTE: FIRST TIME USERS ONLY—YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO EDIT YOUR PROFILE IN ORDER TO ENROLL IN A COURSE**

Click on My Courses, Click on Subject, then Specific Course to enroll in

Click Enroll Me, then follow steps to complete course

**REMINDER: ENTER TRAINING TO OPTIMA WHEN YOUR COURSE IS COMPLETE**



**Noon until 1:00 pm at the CASA office**

- ♦ **Thursday, August 22, 2019 - Topic: Optimizing Your Optima Use  
Presented by CASA staff**
- ♦ **Thursday, September 19, 2019 - Topic: Resources to Rely On  
Presented by Nicole Ditch w/ Ascent & Traci Hawthorne w/ Opportunity Now**
- ♦ **Thursday, October 17, 2019 - Topic: Identifying At Risk Children  
Presented by Lonnie Lapeyrouse w/ Magnolia Family Services**

**Lunch provided and RSVP REQUIRED VIA E-MAIL- [caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org](mailto:caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org)**

# HELP US SPREAD THE NEWS...

## CASA OF TERREBONNE FALL VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Together We Can Change A Child's Story



Orientation

September 10, 2019

Weekly Sessions

Tuesday 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

September 17 thru  
October 22



### CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

CASA OF TERREBONNE, INC.

[www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org)

Contact: Christine Aucoin

985-876-0250

[caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org](mailto:caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org)

# Back to School Boost

The beginning of a new school year can be a stressful time for any child. However, many of our kids are going to new schools, have new teachers, new friends and new everything. Let's give our CASA children a "Back to School Boost."

*You got This!*



Come by the office to write a card or letter to your CASA child and mail it from here. Best part about it, it will count as an extra contact with your CASA child for the month! We will provide all cards, paper, envelopes, and supplies.

We will also have snacks and drinks.



We also have some school supplies including back packs, pencils, pens, crayons, paper, etc for our CASA kids. Please find out what they need and we may be able to help provide those items.



Even if your CASA child is not school-aged, please come out and participate, we will have non-school related cards/paper to send to our younger children.



*Come any time between 9am - 4pm on*

*August 16th, 2019*