

# CASA OF TERREBONNE NEWSLETTER

402 Canal Street, Houma, LA  
985-876-0250 [www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org)

## In this issue:

Message from Executive Director & Volunteer Spotlight  
Shout-outs and anniversaries  
Fun Facts, birthdays, and statistics  
Donations, pre-service & in-service training

May 2019

Volume 5



*Message from  
Executive Director,  
Donna M. Brunet*

Springtime in Houma means festival time so gather all of your family and friends and head to Southdown Bar & Grill's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Crawfish Boil to benefit CASA of Terrebonne. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 4 at the Courtyard Marriott (behind the Civic Center). There will be plenty of boiled crawfish, music, fun and a live auction. Remember – ALL PROCEEDS GO TO CASA so eat a lot of crawfish and bid on an auction item!!!

If you have not picked up your child's Easter gifts, please come by the office as soon as possible to do so.

Mother's Day is May 12 so don't forget to thank your moms and grandmothers for everything they have done for you.

May 27 is Memorial Day. So please remember to take time out of your hectic and busy schedules to remember all the men and women who gave their lives in service to this great country of ours. Remember and honor those who have died and thank those who have served and are still alive.

## *Spotlight on Annette Bilello*



Annette Bilello was sworn in as a CASA volunteer on 8/24/2017. She served on two cases since beginning her journey with our agency. Annette's most recent case, assigned on 5/3/2018, was a pre-teen that tested her in every way possible but regardless of how disrespectful or belligerent she was, Annette never stopped showing up for her. The pre-teen soon realized that Annette was not going anywhere and that she was a tough cookie to break so instead she started listening, and opened up to Annette. Because of this, Annette was able to encourage family visits which helped to strengthen the family bond. Annette never missed a beat during her case and followed her CASA child -- even when she was transferred to an out-of-town placement. She also checked up on her several times a week by phone.

As a result of the family dynamics, Annette advocated for a transfer of custody to a relative. Her CASA child could not be any happier in her placement. Hearing her CASA child say, "I love you Ms. Annette" is undeniably heartwarming.

For being chosen as advocate of the month, Annette will be receiving a polo shirt donated by Shelly Touns with Artistic Embroidery.

## SHOUT-OUTS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

- ♦ Yvonne White for attending court for her CASA children and for speaking to the class of new volunteers about her experiences as an advocate.
- ♦ Mary Guidry for completing a court report and for attending a FTM and a court hearing for her CASA children.
- ♦ Kathi Murphy for attending a family visit, a FTM and completing a court report for her CASA child
- ♦ Joni Oncale for attending court for her CASA children.
- ♦ Paula Voisin for attending court for her CASA child.
- ♦ Sara Bond for attending court for her CASA children.
- ♦ Lacy Poiencot for attending court for her CASA child.
- ♦ Annette Bilello for attending court for her CASA child and seeing her case through to its best possible outcome.
- ♦ Sara Ghere for visiting with an associated party in her case at the jail complex.
- ♦ Destiny Clement for submitting a court report, attending a court hearing and visiting with an associated party at the jail complex.
- ♦ Sally Preston-Smith for submitting a court report and attending court for her CASA children.
- ♦ Jody Dusenberry for attending court for her CASA child.
- ♦ Jon Russo for speaking to the class of new volunteers about his experiences as an advocate.
- ♦ Raymonda Guidroz for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- ♦ The following members of Class #52 have completed all pre-training and are awaiting swearing-in: Michael Brown, Allison Eschete, Kimberly Eubanks, Brittany Jones, Kristy Ledford, Miranda Legendre, Anna Merlos and Leah Voisin.



Thank you for your commitment to CASA !  
Volunteer Anniversaries this month:

Carol Bergeron 1 Year

Lindsey Bull 1 Year

Linda Fleniken 7 Years

Connie Fremin 1 Year

Emily Gilmore 1 Year

Amber Ward 1 Year

### April Volunteer Statistics:

- **55** volunteers advocated for **93** children
- **107** hours spent on cases
- **511** miles traveled to see CASA kids and families.



**CASA of Terrebonne**

*We currently have*

**139**

*Children on our waiting list!!*



Sexual



Physical



Neglect



Substance Abuse



Congratulations to Mary Healey. She has won a gift card of her choice for seeing her CASA children and putting in her contact logs by the last day of the month. To be entered into this monthly drawing, volunteers must see their CASA child prior to the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month and enter contact logs by the last day of the month.



Jason Griffin	5/2
Doug Gregory	5/4
Jody Dusenberry	5/11
Bonnie Naquin	5/14
Amber Ward	5/16
Dillon Dumond	5/24
Mary Healey	5/26

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

#### ***5 Fun Facts About Donna Brunet - Executive Director***



1. She met Arnold Schwarzenegger while volunteering at the Special Olympics.
2. She drove to Toronto, Montreal and Quebec, Canada with her youngest daughter.
3. She binge-watched the first 7 seasons of "Game of Thrones" in two weeks.
4. She was an extra in the movie "The Client".
5. She is a voracious reader and has read 879 novels since 1988.

# MAY DONATIONS: CASH & IN-KIND

- ⇒ CASA-AP
- ⇒ Charlene Wallace
- ⇒ Network for Good - Anonymous donor
- ⇒ Shell - tote bags and Easter goodies organized by Brook Perrillieux and Shelley Piehet
- ⇒ Five Below - Easter toys and candy
- ⇒ Amy Lane - Easter toys
- ⇒ Chick-fil-A - Food donation for training class
- ⇒ The Shack of Houma - Food donation for training class
- ⇒ Manny Merlos - Food donation for training class
- ⇒ Artistic Embroidery - polo shirt for advocate of the month
- ⇒ Jane Adkins - pillow cases and blankets
- ⇒ Christine Baamonde



## **CURRENT BOARD** **MEMBERS**

**President - Marty Majewski, III**

**Vice-President - Mary Guidry**

**Treasurer - Bonnie Naquin**

**Secretary - Shelly Toups**

**Charles Brown**

**Christopher Chiasson**

**Kathleen Duplantis**

**Douglas Gregory**

**Patricia Floyd**

**Carl "Buddy" McNabb**

**Angelle Thibodeaux**





# YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE... RSVP TODAY !!

In-service Training presented by CASA of Terrebonne:  
**Introduction to Trust Based Relational Intervention**

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

Date/Time: **May 15, 2019 / 5:30pm - 8:30pm**

Location: **Terrebonne Parish Main Library**

Meals will be provided and RSVP required.

RSVP: [caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org](mailto:caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org) or 985-876-0250



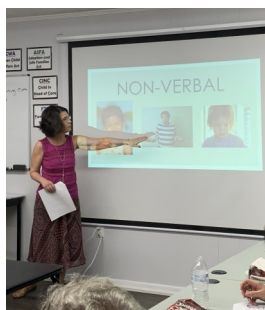
**NEW ADDITIONS  
TO VOLUNTEER  
LIBRARY**

D Good Will Hunting  
D Martian Child  
V Oliver Twist  
D Raising Arizona  
D The Great Gilly Hopkins

**BOOK**

Sold on Monday by K. McMorris  
The Orphan Sisters by S. Dickson

*We want to thank all of you who attended our Lunch & Learn.  
Remember to enter this In-service training into Optima.*



*The next Lunch & Learn will be on Tuesday, June 11, 2019.  
Topic will be announced at a later date.*



**FYI: Our data shows that most of those that sign up for classes have heard about CASA through word of mouth.**

**Please spread the word about the positive difference a CASA makes for foster children and about our upcoming training class.**

## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER TRAINING CLASSES

**DATES:** June 18, June 25, July 2, July 9, July 16, July 23

**TIME:** 10:00am–12:45pm or 5:30pm–8:45pm

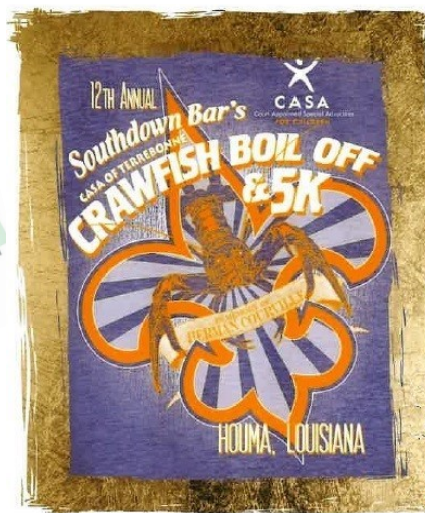
(Both times will be offered depending on how many sign up for training.)

**LOCATION:** 402 Canal Street, Houma (CASA Office)

Apply on line at [www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org)

Contact Christine Aucoin :

985-876-0250 or [caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org](mailto:caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org)



**SATURDAY  
MAY 4, 2019**