

The CASA Bulletin

CASA of Terrebonne Monthly Newsletter

MEET A CASA

MEAGAN VERRET

Meet Meagan Verret. She has been a CASA volunteer for 2 years. She has advocated on behalf of 2 children. Meagan is a pre-k teacher at Bourg Elementary. Her love for children and the happiness it brings her shines through in all that she does. Meagan has a strong faith in God; it is her guide in troubling times. Meagan is currently engaged. Unfortunately, her wedding was pushed back due to Hurricane Ida; but, she will be married on February 12, 2022 to her fiancé Hunter Hasler. She has one son, Colton, and three dogs, Chester, Mickey, and Beau. When not at work or tending to mommy duties she most enjoys spending time with family and friends. She loves taking road trips, going fishing, and going camping.

"Our children need that consistent person in their life to bring love and happiness to them."

Meagan is a lifelong resident of Houma. She is an only child and grew up in a typical Louisiana home. Meagan first heard about CASA through a friend in college. Meagan thought about being a volunteer for several years but felt like she didn't have the time. Then one day she stumbled upon a flyer for training held in the summer. She felt this was God opening the window of opportunity to finally be a CASA volunteer. She was able



to complete the training during the summer months while out of school.

When asked what advice she would give to someone thinking about becoming a CASA she said, "Being a CASA is so truly rewarding. Our children need that consistent person in their life to bring love and happiness to them. Let your light shine and be a CASA! Meagan quotes the bible, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven." – Matthew 5:16

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

December is always a busy time, and this year was no exception. We have had several cases close resulting in both reunifications with parents or adoption. It is also the time of year when our community steps up to ensure that our CASA children have a merry and bright holiday. The response to our request for gifts and monetary donations was met with generosity from our amazing community. Every child we advocate for received everything on their wish list. What an amazing show of support! We also had a first-time cookie exchange, ugly sweater, reindeer games event. Our goal of getting together for fellowship and fun with our volunteers was a huge success. We are already planning next year's event. As we prepare for 2022, I want to take a moment to look back at 2021 and highlight some of the achievements here at CASA.

Stats for this calendar year include:

- *65 volunteers advocated for 112 foster children*
- *Volunteers spent 1,517 hours advocating and 16,476 miles traveling for their case*
- *31 cases closed and for many of these cases the volunteer stayed on the case until it closed*

These statistics do not fully convey what a CASA brings to a child in foster care. For



every hour spent or mile traveled, there is a child who is receiving much-needed love and attention from a caring adult. The volunteers continue to bring to their advocacy role compassion, understanding, and commitment to the goal of being a voice for the children in foster care. This year they once again navigated through the chaos of COVID and the added disruption of Hurricane Ida in order to continue to advocate for the best interest of the children on their cases. It is an honor and privilege to know each of the volunteers and see the difference they make.

As the New Year begins, we will continue to seek volunteers throughout the community who are willing to make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children right here in Terrebonne parish. Come be a part of “changing a child’s story”.

Wishing you blessings and prosperity in 2022!

VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUTS

- **Miranda Legendre** for attending a court hearing for her CASA child and sticking it out through the multiple setbacks.
- **Meagan Verrett** for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- **Alyssia Hay** for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- **Emily Gilmore** for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- **Amber Berry** for completing a court report for her CASA child in a timely manner.
- **Leah Voision** and **Kristy Ledford** for attending a court hearing for their CASA children.
- **Penny Hebert** and **Carol Bergeron** for seeing their case through to adoption.
- **Kathleen Andrews** for seeing her case through to adoption.
- **Christine Evans** for seeing her case through to adoption.
- **Terri Brown** for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- **Sheila Johnson** for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- **Rebecca Clement** for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- **Ann Williams** for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.

DECEMBER DONATIONS

Kim Baughman
 Kenneth James Trahan
 Heinke & Susan Trapp
 Jeffrey & Shirley Sims
 Tim Wiemann
 Lynn Landry & David Grayson
 William & Jo Ann Smith
 Russell & Peggy Touchet
 Senator Mike Fesi
 Mark & Jody Waggenpack
 Richard Haydel
 Jerilynn Thompson
 The Blackbaud Giving Fund
 Joshua Aucoin
 John & Rebecca Monterio
 Girl's Lunch Class of 1967
 Chapman Burgueses Jr.
 United Way for South Louisiana
 Glenn Lee Buquet
 James & Carole Glorioso
 The Zen Den/Ashleigh Blanchard
 Morris & Sandra Hebert
 Bobby & Sara Bond
 Jody Payne
 Dr. Ray & Clare Lynn Cinnater
 Giving Quilt
 Carl Detiveaux
 Dr. E. W. & Cheryl Price
 Blake Verdin
 CASA-AP

Christmas Family Adoptions

Chelsie Gros
 Allison Duke
 Lumiere Bistro/Mitzi Rieve
 Jessica Bergeron
 Kimberly McElroy
 Mary Guidry
 Ann Bates
 Cara Hymel
 Ashley Harrington
 Q Hotels

HOLIDAY DONATIONS

We are overwhelmed by the generosity that was shown towards our program this holiday season! We want to thank every individual, family, company, and organization that donated gifts and monetary donations to CASA of Terrebonne.



The Zen Den Health & Wellness



Synergy Bank



LA Bar Foundation



Q Hotels



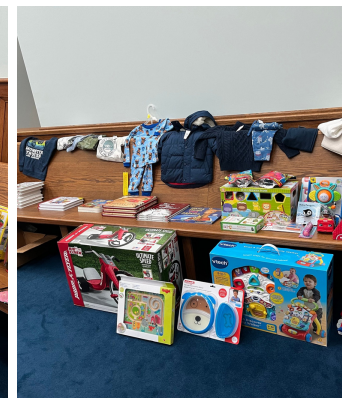
Steel Fringe Salon/ Ryan Caro



Junior Auxiliary of Houma



Giving Quilt



**Lumiere Blues & Jazz Bistro / Mitzi Rieve
Trapp Cadillac**

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMEBER



Cindy Courville is a native of Eunice, LA and moved to Houma in February of 1969 with her husband Herman. She has three adult children, a daughter-in-law and a son-in-law. She has five grandchildren and a great grandson. Cindy was a CASA Advocate for five years and although she is no longer an advocate, she is still involved with CASA through the Annual Herman J. Courville

Foundation CASA crawfish boil-off.

Cindy enjoys cooking for her family, going to dance competitions and soccer games with her granddaughter, traveling, volunteering, and dancing when she has the chance.

RESOLUTIONS CASA'S STAFF

Christine Aucoin

Face new challenges without fear.

Jenny Domangue

Make better choices for my physical health, mental health, and spiritual health.

Heather Falls

Grow in my career field, find a hobby and travel more.

Anna Merlos

Live my life with more purpose and be more proactive. Be happy on purpose.

Sulma Reyes

Find self enjoyment outside my children's activities and needs.

Valentine Verdin

Big and small, doing my best to reach my full potential.



January Gift Card Winner: Danielle Walker

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Martin Majewski III, Mary Laning Guidry, Bonnie Naquin, Shelly Toups, Rev. Charles Brown, Cindy Courville, Carl "Buddy" McNabb, Reis Prevost, Angelle Caro Thibodeaux

November Children Stats

67
Children Served

42
Children seen face-to-face

7
Children contacted other than face-to-face

63%
of children seen

73%
of children were contacted

December Stats

45
Active Volunteer Advocates

67
Children Served

76.75
Hours spent on cases

1,169.9
Miles traveled

129
children waiting for a CASA

FINDING A FOREVER FAMILY



Carol Bergeron & Penny Hebert

Co-CASAs Carol Bergeron and Penny Hebert have been working their case together since March 2020.



Kathleen Andrews

Kathleen has been on the case since March 16, 2020 and was there when her CASA child was welcomed into his forever home.



Christine Evans

Christine has been on her case for over two and a half years and we can not thank her enough for changing her child's story.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Christine Aucoin 1/5
- Terri Brown 1/18
- Shelly Touns 1/22

Check out the following for continuing education hours:

In-Service: Lunch & Learn

Lunch with DCFS: Procedures and Expectations - Erin Jackson, DCFS Social Worker Thursday * January 20, 2022 * 12 Noon – 1:00 pm (1 Credit Hour)

Topics will include: The process of assigning foster parents to cases, expectations of what foster parent’s role should include, options for placements that are available in Terrebonne Parish, as well as outside of parish placements, COVID and new procedures, how can CASA’s be most helpful to DCFS and the CINC process, what can CASA’s do if they are having a hard time reaching the caseworker, and what are DCFS expectations of CASA.

Active CASA volunteers can find the registration link "Continuing Education" online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.

Online Training: High in Plain Sight: Current Drug Culture, Trends, and Identifiers Tuesday * January 18, 2022 * 2 PM - 3 PM (1 Credit Hour)

This workshop will provide attendees with the ability, knowledge, and confidence to help prevent and identify individuals who are abusing drugs and/or alcohol. Attendees will also be taught the strategies and different terms that are consistent with alcohol & drug abuse. There are several identifiers, logos and terms that are commonly related to drug (illegal and over the counter) and alcohol abuse, marijuana abuse, and drug concealment on school, home, and work property. Active CASA volunteers can find the registration link "Continuing Education" online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.

CASA's First Annual Cookie Exchange and Christmas Party

CASA held it's first annual cookie exchange and Christmas party with volunteers and staff. Guests had fun playing reindeer games and exchanging sweet homemade treats.

