

# CASA OF TERREBONNE NEWSLETTER

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

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June 2019

Volume 6



*Message from  
Executive Director,  
Donna M. Brunet*

June heralds the beginning of summer and the end of the school year. This means that kids are free to stay up late, hang out with friends, go to the movies or the pool, visit family, go on vacation. Summer is about taking a break and having fun. Unfortunately, for children in foster care this is not always the case.

As advocates we spend plenty of time talking about children's needs – but what about what they *want*? Most children grow up at home with a loving, stable family who know what they like in terms of food, clothes and fun things to do. Children in care, however, are thrown into another environment, often with people who mean well, but don't fully get the chance to really know them. You do have that chance so take time to learn what brings them joy. What makes them smile? What are the little things you can do to brighten their summer?

So CASA volunteers, in the spirit of summer, I encourage you to take a little break of your own. Rather than stewing on the obstacles and hardships the child you serve is facing, focus on the positives. You know them, so what makes their eyes light up? What, and who, do they love?

The hardships of foster care are an ever-present reality for the children we serve. They need and deserve the chance to create new, happy memories. Why not start now?

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**Happy Father's Day to all the dads  
out there!**

## *Spotlight on Emily Gilmore*

Emily Gilmore was sworn in as a CASA Volunteer on 05/03/2018. She was assigned to her CASA teenager on 06/01/2019. As we all know it is an understatement that most teenagers face many obstacles, even more so when they are in foster care. However, since the moment Emily took on her case, she has been a constant as her CASA child has been through a roller coaster of ups and downs. CASA of Terrebonne is grateful for the amount of time and dedication Emily has put into her CASA child and trying to educate those around her about the need for their involvement. There have been so many sleepless nights and moments of relief after uncertain situations. Because, let's face it, the moment you receive a call that your CASA child will be hospitalized or wants to take his life, cannot be taken lightly. As all volunteers know, nothing is set in stone. One day your foster child will be in a particular foster placement and the next DCFS is trying to find a bed somewhere else because no placement will take him because of his behavioral issues. That is a snippet of what her case has consisted of: placement changes and hospitalizations. However, at the end of the day, Emily has definitely proven to her CASA child that she cares because she always shows up or responds to those calls during her own family time and outings.



Emily, your dedication is commendable and we thank you for it. Emily exemplifies what a CASA is – a constant in the chaos experienced by a foster child.

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

## SHOUT-OUTS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

- Joni Oncale for attending court for her CASA children.
- Zann Vice for attending court for her CASA children.
- Tressa Hebert for attending court for her CASA children.
- Connie Freemin for attending court for her CASA children.
- Rushelle Fitzgerald for taking a new case.
- Amber Ward for attending a FTM via phone for her CASA child.
- Tina Evans for taking a new case and attending court for her CASA child.
- Charles Bergeron for attending a FTM, a juvenile court hearing and writing a court report for his CASA child.
- Lori Olivier for submitting a court report and attending court for her CASA child.
- Sarah Preston-Smith for attending the adoption for her CASA children.
- Earleather Celestine for attending court for her CASA children.
- Mary Healey for submitting a court report for her CASA child.
- Blayne Bergeron for attending court for his CASA child.

**Sallie Preston-Smith is shown here with her two CASA children and their parents, along with Judge Arceneaux, celebrating Adoption Day!!**



*Congratulations!*  
*Class #51*



New volunteer class at Swearing-in ceremony from left to right:

Michael Brown, Kristy Ledford, Anna Merlos, Allison Eschete, Miranda Legendre, Brittany Jones,  
Leah Voisin & Kim Eubanks

### May Volunteer Statistics:

- **55** volunteers advocated for **97** children
- **144** hours spent on cases
- **1218** miles traveled to see CASA kids and families.



**CASA of Terrebonne**

*We currently have*

**152**

*Children on our waiting list!!*



Sexual



Physical



Neglect



Substance Abuse

FYI: The annual surveys have been mailed. Check your e-mails for the survey link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CBZCG6C> and fill out the survey online. You still have the option to fill in the paper form and mail it back to the office.

Congratulations to **Tasha Lirette**.



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 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.



Patti Charpentier	6/2
Donna Brunet	6/17
Marty Majewski, III	6/17
Bill Lovell	6/26

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

***5 Fun Facts About Mary Guidry– Board Vice-President***



1. None of her four girls are biologically related.
2. She has been in the Krewe of Hyacinthians for 25 years.
3. Other than her husband, she is the tallest in her immediate family.
4. She is a total music junkie and loves going to concerts.
5. Every job she has had since college graduation has been at a non-profit organization.



## MAY DONATIONS: CASH & IN-KIND

CASA AP

Amazon Smile

Charlene Wallace

Five Below, Inc.

Robert Ross

Cole Guidry

Marissa Marcel

Jerilyn Thompson

Christina Tucker

Donna Brunet

Anonymous donation through Facebook

Anonymous donation through Halliburton

Employees of Leonard J. Chabert Medical  
Center - Children's books

**Thank YOU**

Pictured below: Donna Brunet with Spencer Comeaux, winner of the business card bucket drop.



**THANK YOU to Houma Invitational Oil Golf Tournament.**  
**CASA is a recipient of a portion of the proceeds from their event.**



Pictured above: Staff and board members enjoying the day.

### CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

President - Marty Majewski, III

Vice-President - Mary Guidry

Treasurer - Bonnie Naquin

Secretary - Shelly Touns

Charles Brown

Christopher Chiasson

Kathleen Duplantis

Patricia Floyd

Douglas Gregory

Heather Hebert

Carl "Buddy" McNabb

Angelle Thibodeaux



*Pictured from left:  
Val, Traci,  
Donna, Destiny,  
Silvana and  
Christine*

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

## **Trust Based Relational Intervention - Connecting Principles**

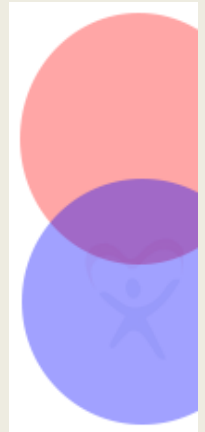
**Guest Speaker: Leslie Adams, Certified TBRI Practitioner**

**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)**



NOTE: TBRI - Connecting Principles is better understood if you attended the Introduction to TBRI presented in May. If you were unable to attend the Introduction and plan to attend the Connecting Principles presentation, I encourage you to come by the office and pick up the training booklet or look on our web site at [www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org) under News & Events.

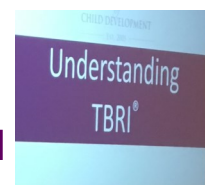


### **STAFF PICKS**



- ♦ HBO Documentary - Foster
- ♦ Ted Talk <https://youtu.be/fO2htapfNhA> - The surprising connection between brain injuries and crime | Kim Gorgens

## **MAY IN-SERVICE: INTRODUCTION TO TRUST BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION**



**Leslie Adams, Speaker**



**Volunteers in attendance: Rebecca, Bill, Jon, Michelle, Mary, Emily, Carol, Silvana, Allison, Jennifer, Linda, Kathi, Tasha, and Rushelle**



**Thank you to all the volunteers who sent a testimonial about their CASA experience.**

**I will be posting them on Facebook before the next two upcoming training classes.**

## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER TRAINING CLASSES

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

**TIME:** 5:30pm–8:45pm

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

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

Contact Christine Aucoin :

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



Both are from Noon until 1:00 pm at the CASA office.

- ♦ **Monday, June 10, 2019**    **Topic: Individualized Education Plan (IEP)**  
**Presented by Carey Redmond, Current Volunteer**
  
- ♦ **Thursday, July 25, 2019**    **Topic: Bridging the Gap Between CASA and Foster Parents**  
**Presented by Erin Martin, DCFS Caseworker & Celeste Rodrigue, Foster Parent**

Lunch provided and RSVP REQUIRED VIA E-MAIL.

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