

**CASA OF TERREBONNE****APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER**

So much has happened in the last three weeks. Like many, our CASA offices are closed and most of our staff are all working from home.

Sadly, many of our CASA volunteers are not able to visit their children in person like they used to because of the call for social distancing. Have you ever considered how this uncertainty can affect a child in foster care? When a child is removed from their home, they are also removed from their daily rhythm and routine. They do not see the same friends, family, teachers, doctors, etc. They do not know how long they will be away or where they will ultimately end up. Just like we are adjusting for the greater good, their lives are being altered for their ultimate good but still out of their control. Just like we are searching the news for insight and direction, these children are looking for someone to give them guidance during a difficult time.

This is where a CASA volunteer can come in. CASA volunteers get to know the child on a deeper level. They are not there as a friend or mentor but as an advocate and a voice. They get to know the whole situation by talking to everyone involved in the child's life, before and after removal from the home. Always on the mind of the CASA is permanency for the child, whether it be going back home, guardianship with a relative, or adoption. The CASA helps the child carry the burden of the unknown and instability of the current times and lets them know that they are not alone.

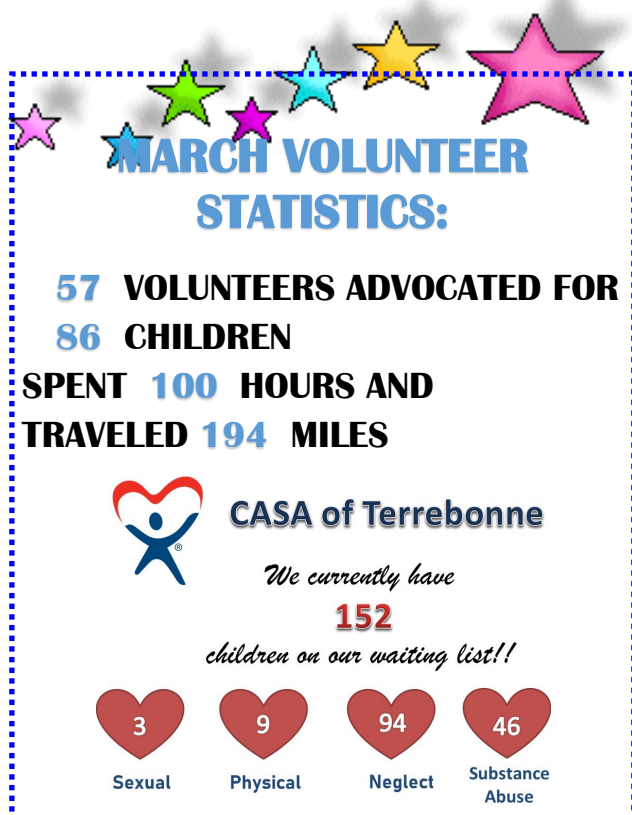
Why not take this time to consider how you can make a difference once life returns to normal by becoming a CASA volunteer and providing a voice for a child in need? If you are currently a CASA, share your experience with your friends and family.

CASA of Terrebonne will continue to monitor our role in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, responding to the direction of our judiciary and government officials and staying in touch with each of you.

On a final note here is a quote from Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky that really sums up the current situation and how we should react to it:

"Every hand that we don't shake must become a phone call that we place. Every embrace that we avoid must become a verbal expression of warmth and concern. Every inch and every foot that we physically place between ourselves and another must become a thought as to how we might be of help to that other, should the need arise."

Take care, stay safe and know that the entire staff of CASA of Terrebonne is just a phone call away if you need anything.



Ida Moore	04/06
Betty Wallace	04/08
Peggy Boudwin	04/10
Alyssia Hay	04/20
Bonnie Dubina	04/23
Emily Elmore	04/28
Charles Kornegay	04/28
Kathi Murphy	04/30



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Terissa Boquet has been selected as Advocate of the month for March. Terissa was sworn-in in May of 2012. She worked tirelessly on her case until 2015 when she decided to take some time off to work on herself and her career. As with all great love stories, Terissa could not stand to be away from CASA and returned at the end of 2019. She went through the process of becoming active again, accepted her current case in December and has been extremely active ever since. She has resorted to unique measures to supervise her teenage CASA child when communication has been limited. She is active in her young CASA children's lives as well. She is one who knows how to turn a tough situation in her favor. Even though her current case took a unique turn in the beginning, she has embraced that turn and done her very best to maintain the best interests for her 3 CASA children. Terissa, we are so excited to have you back. Just waiting until we can do our next stake out! Yes, in the past, Terissa and Jenny have been known to sit at a parent or foster parent's house until they returned due to unreturned phone calls.

Terissa will be receiving an embroidered polo shirt donated by Shelly Touns at Artistic Embroidery.

### Current Board Members

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

Charles Brown, Sr.  
Christopher Chiasson  
Patricia Floyd  
Douglas Gregory  
Heather Hebert

Charles Kornegay  
Buddy McNabb  
Ida Moore  
Angelle Thibodeaux



# SHOUT OUTS

- Congratulations to Class #54: Brian Elliott, Beth Tabor, Alyssia Hay and Kathleen Andrews. Welcome to the CASA family! All have taken cases prior to the stay at home order and are doing their best to make contacts with all parties.
- Tim Hitt for participating in a Family Team Meeting via phone during this stay at home order. Way to make things work through uncertainty.
- Silvana Brown for attending a Family Team Meeting, writing a court report and attending a court hearing for her CASA children.
- Michael Brown for attending a court hearing for his CASA child.
- Mary Bergeron, Jennifer Blanchard, Bonnie Dubina, and Brandy Naquin for accepting assignments as Traveling Tutors for the CASA children who are struggling in school. We are extremely happy to have them on our team.
- Joni Oncale for seeing her case through to adoption for her CASA children.



To request a tutor for your CASA child, fill out the online application on our website and we will match your child with a Traveling Tutor.

We Appreciate Your  
Commitment and  
Service to CASA  
**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**



Ann Beeson	8 years
Sara Bond	2 years
Destiny Clement	4 years
Rushelle Fitzgerald	4 years
Linda Ford	4 years
Joni Oncale	3 years
Betty Wallace	6 years



Swearing in ceremony with Judge Arceneaux  
Class #54: Brian Elliott, Beth Tabor,  
Alyssia Hay & Kathleen Andrews

## **A Night for Children's Sake was a huge success due in part to the following sponsors:**

- \*Cenac Marine Services**
- \*Alford and Associates Insurance Services, LLC**
- \*Delta Coast Consultants, LLC**
- \*GIS Engineering, LLC**
- \*Charles Korengay and family (in memory of Skipper Kornegay)**
- \*Trapp Cadillac Chevrolet**
- \*Hebert Insurance Agency**
- \*Quality Energy Services**
- \*Cypress family Dentistry**

**Thank you for your generosity**

### **MARCH DONATIONS**



**CASA AP**

**Tim Wiemann**

**Dr. E.W. "Ted" Price**

**LCD Management**

**Doug Gregory**

**Jerry Larpenter**

**Jerome Zeringue**

**Jan Brunet**

**Judy & Lloyd Chauvin, Jr.**

**Samuel & Terri Matherne**

**Laverne Scott**

**Judy Smart**

**Sharon Durocher**

**Adam & Lacey Marcel**

**Dr. & Mrs. Richard Haydel**

**Linda Trahan**

# Scenes from our first gala, "A Night for Children's Sake"



## FINDING FOREVER HOMES

Even in these unprecedented and uncertain times, remember the crucial role a CASA volunteer has in the life of foster children.

To all our volunteers, you are important and bring consistency and hope to these children. Don't ever forget the impact you have.

Shown here is advocate Joni Oncale (right) along with her CASA children and their new adoptive mother.

Joni has advocated for these children since May 2017 and we congratulate her on staying on the case until it closed with adoption.



### CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY BE A **CASA** VOLUNTEER

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (**CASA**) works hard to ensure that children in foster care in Terrebonne Parish will have a safe and permanent home as soon as possible. Join us and make a difference. Together we can change a child's story.

#### CLASS START DATES:

July 7, 2020

#### SEVEN WEEKS

Get trained in seven weeks to make a difference in the life of a child in foster care.

#### FLEX TRAINING

In-person and online training are combined for all learning styles.

#### APPLY ONLINE

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

Here are two ideas to help you earn your continuing education hours:

1. Netflix series The Trials of Gabriel Hernandez
2. Podcast series Finding Cleo  
[www.cbc.ca/radio/findingcleo](http://www.cbc.ca/radio/findingcleo)