

CASA OF TERREBONNE NEWSLETTER

402 Canal Street, Houma, LA
985-876-0250 www.casaofterrebonne.org

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January 2019

Volume 1

Message from the Executive Director:

HAPPY NEW YEAR from all of us here at CASA of Terrebonne!

For many, the holiday season is the most wonderful and celebrated time of year as they enjoy successes of the past year and make exciting plans for the upcoming new year.

Because of the work our advocates do, each year we're able to give local foster youth the best gift of all: the opportunity to plan for and dream of their future. A future where they know someone cares deeply and works diligently to help them be successful and foster their dreams.

In 2018 we had 87 volunteers who spent over 2,146 hours advocating for 144 children – giving them hope for a brighter future.

Every child deserves a voice and an advocate, and our volunteers are Superheroes for children in foster care every day. We here at CASA hope that 2019 is a great year for all of our CASA Superheroes!

I would also like to recognize and thank our employees, Board of Directors, supporters, grantors and donors that support CASA and our mission of advocacy.

2018 brought about many changes for the CASA program, namely:

- We moved into a new and improved office building;
- Jenny, our Lead Advocate Supervisor, got married;
- Three Board Members resigned due to personal reasons: Stacey Martin, Leo Pitre and William Bordelon;
- Nicole Oncale is no longer with CASA as our Community Relations Coordinator; and
- Christine Aucoin, our current Office Manager and a familiar face to most of you, will be the new Outreach and Training Coordinator beginning January 2.

We here at CASA wish all the best to Stacey, Leo, William and Nicole.

Here's looking forward to a great 2019!!

Donna Brunet

Spotlight on Amber Ward



Mrs. Amber Ward was sworn in as a CASA volunteer on May 2, 2018. On May 10, 2018, she was assigned to her first case, a case that seemed manageable. After a month she decided to take another case, due to the stability of her first case. However, within the month, there were concerns and she now had more on her plate than she expected. She managed both cases with grace and dedication. Amber made sure she made time for both cases. As she learned more about her first case her advocacy shifted and she gave that child a needed voice. Amber was a crucial piece in finding and advocating for a 3 year old to be placed with relatives. She worked numerous hours collecting information and helped establish a family connection that would have been disregarded due to the duration of the case. As a result of her exceptional work and determination as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, she was able to stand her ground as she testified not once but twice to ensure her CASA child's best interest would be considered. CASA and the family are forever grateful for her diligent and exceptional communication with all of the parties. Amber will receive a polo shirt donated by Shelly Touns at Artistic Embroidery.

SHOUT-OUTS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

- ♦ **Jonathan Russo** for seeing your CASA child through adoption. It has been a long 4 years but you have made a huge impact on this family.
- ♦ **Ann Beeson** for submitting your court report on time.
- ♦ **Yvonne White** for submitting your court report on time and attending your CASA child's court hearing.
- ♦ **Eddie Olivier** for submitting your court report and attending your CASA child's court hearing.
- ♦ **Tim Hitt** for seeing your CASA child through to adoption. It was a bittersweet day.
- ♦ **Mitzi Rieve** for accepting your first case.
- ♦ **Lydia Bruce** for submitting a court report and staying with your case until it closed with reunification.
- ♦ **Silvana Santos-Alegria** for attending court and staying with your case until the judge's ruling took CASA off the case.
- ♦ **Norma Macks** for attending a Family Team Meeting for your CASA case.
- ♦ **Sarina Lirette** for attending court for your CASA case.
- ♦ **Lori Olivier** for attending the Family Team Meeting for your CASA case.
- ♦ **Lacy Poiencot** for submitting a court report for your CASA case.
- ♦ **Amber Ward** for submitting a court report, attending court, and testifying on behalf of your CASA child.
- ♦ **Charles Bergeron** for accepting your first CASA case and attending a Family Team Meeting.
- ♦ **Kathi Murphy** for accepting your first CASA case and a special thanks for helping wrap Christmas presents.
- ♦ **Joni Oncale** for procuring donors for teenage Christmas gifts.
- ♦ **Mary Healey** for attending court. You are doing an excellent job!
- ♦ **Lindsey Bull** for attending court and seeing your case to closing. Thank you for all your hard work!
- ♦ **Tressa Hebert** for attending court. You are doing wonderful!
- ♦ **Jesse Wilson** for attending court and going above and beyond for your CASA child this Christmas. You are amazing!
- ♦ **Connie Fremin** for attending court. Your diligent work is astounding!
- ♦ **Paula Voison** for taking a new case. You are doing great!!
- ♦ **Amanda LeBlanc** for taking your first case. You are going to do awesome!
- ♦ **Rebecca Clement** for picking up presents at the LA Bar Assoc. in New Orleans that weren't ready when staff picked them up.



December Volunteer Statistics:

- **61** volunteers advocated for **96** children
- **106** hours spent on cases
- **679** miles traveled to see CASA kids and families.



CASA of Terrebonne

We currently have

107

Children on our waiting list!!



Sexual



Physical



Neglect



Substance Abuse



Congratulations **Sallie Preston**, you have won a gift card of your choice for seeing your child and putting in your 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 26th of the month and enter contact logs by the last day of the month.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Please let us know if you have any ideas for in-service training, volunteer get-togethers and/or fundraising events.

Call 985-876-0250 or e-mail Christine Aucoin at caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

President - Carl "Buddy" McNabb

Charles Brown, Sr.

Mary Guidry

Vice-President - Marty Majewski, III

Kathleen Duplantis

Merkle "Skipper" Kornegay

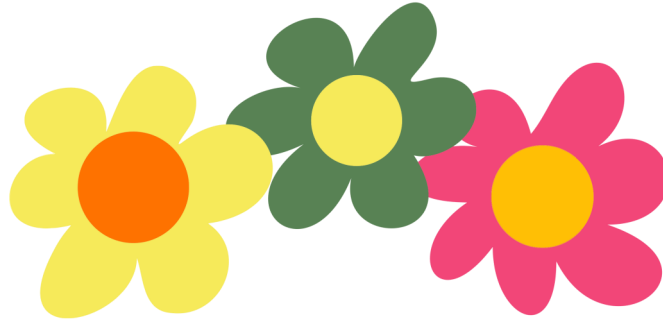
Treasurer - Bonnie Naquin

Patricia Floyd

Shelly Touns

DECEMBER DONATIONS

Thank You



for your Kindness

CASA AP-Grant
LA Charities Trust-Grant
Leilana Adams
Jami Bennett
Charles Bergeron
Olga Boquet
Kristy Boudloche
Milton and Diane Boudreaux
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Bouterie
Cedric Brown
Glenny Lee Buquet
Chapman Burguières, Jr.
Lacey Cressonnie
LaDonna Cruise
Carl Detiveaux
Rhonda Frank
Ellen Freeman
Rushelle Fitzgerald
Chris Gaudet
Terry Goulette
Mary Guidry
Chris Haydel
Brian & Katherine Hebert
Morris & Sandra Hebert
Penny Hebert
Sophie Hermann
Jennifer Kryvanick
Renee Lafont
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Lee
Brenda Mendoza
John Monteiro
Kathi Murphy
Jose Parra
Trevor, Lindsay, Jeff, & Cruz Pool
Lindsay Jo Roger
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Moss
Jonathan Russo
Elmy Savoie
Angelle Sevin
Debbie Stiel
Layla Alexander & Lindsey Talbot
Earl Thibodaux
Renee Thomassie
Michael & Joy Tingle
Christina Tucker

David & Suzanne Vice & family
Chuck & Deborah Weaver
Jessi Wilson & Michelle Richey
Artistic Embroidery
Bayou Board of Realtors
Blooming Orchid
Brian Marceaux, Esq.
Broadmoor Drug Center
Dr. & Mrs. E.W. Price
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Haydel
Dr. Garland & Gail Aycock, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Cazayoux
Dr. McCain - South Louisiana Rheumatology & Pain Clinic, LLC
Dr. Mike & Darlene Flynn
Dr. Ray & Clare Cinnater
Coteau Bayou Blue Elem. Beta Club
E & E Machine Shop & Amy Rogers
Hearts Desire Florist
Hebert Insurance
Kay Jewelers
Kinetica
LA State Bar Association
LCD Management, L.L.C.-Ground Pati
Marshalls
Shell Oil Company
South Louisiana Bank
Synergy Employees
Terrebonne Parish Junior Auxiliary
Terrebonne Parish School Board-2018 Consolidated Drive
The Schwab Law Firm

HONORING OUR HEROES



2018 Advocate of the Year
TRACI HAWTHORNE



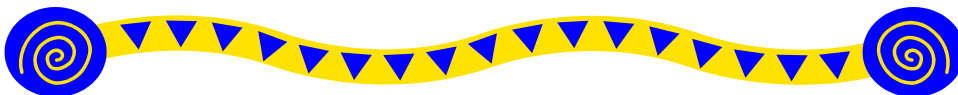
2018 Mosely - Courville Award
STACY BERGERON



2018 Angel of the Year
**TERREBONNE PARISH
SHERIFF'S INMATE WORK
PROGRAM**



2018 Board Member of the Year
BUDDY McNABB



**Congratulations to Tim
Hitt and Jonathan Russo
for seeing their cases
through to adoption.**



IN-SERVICE OPPURTUNITY

When: Thursday, February 7, 2018

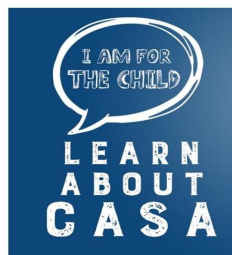
Where: 402 Canal Street (CASA office)

Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Speaker: Children's Advocacy Center Team

R.S.V.P. caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org

Join us as we learn about the CAC's role in assisting with criminal investigation and prosecution of child sexual and physical abuse cases.



INFORMATION SESSION

We will offer four information sessions on:
Thursday, January 24th at Noon & 5:30 pm
Wednesday, February 20th at Noon & 5:30 pm

Join us as we answer your questions about the CASA program and how you can become a voice for foster children in Terrebonne Parish.

Training Class will begin
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

RSVP :
985-876-0250
caucoin.casa@gmail.com

NOTE: Information sessions as well as training classes will be held at the CASA office on 402 Canal Street in Houma.