

# AMUAL REPORT

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



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#### **OUR VISION**

CASA of Terrebonne envisions a community where every child in and beyond foster care is given the opportunity to thrive in a safe, loving, and permanent home.

#### **STAFF**

Christine Aucoin, Executive Director
Jenny Domangue, Lead Advocate Supervisor
Nahja Holloway, Administrative Assistant
Anna Merlos, Outreach/Training Coordinator
Edward Olivier, Advocate Supervisor
Valentine Verdin, Advocate Supervisor
Gizelle Rau, Administrative Assistant from August 24' to March 25'

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Reis Prevost, President
Mary Guidry, Vice-President
Shelly Toups, Secretary
Bonnie Naquin, Treasurer (July 1- December 31, 2024)
Justin Lirette, Treasurer (January 1- June 30, 2025)

Charles Brown, Sr.
Cindy Courville
Natalie Falgout
Tori Hill
Carl "Buddy" McNabb
John Navy
Desiree Neal

Timothy Stevens

# MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year has reminded us of the incredible strength and dedication of our advocates. They continue to shine in their advocacy, showing up, doing the hard work, and ensuring that the voices of children in foster care are heard. Their unwavering commitment inspires all of us and remains at the heart of our mission.

Our Board of Directors has also played a vital role, focusing their efforts on our signature fundraiser, *Vegas Nights*, which continues to grow each year. This event not only raises critical funds, but it also brings our community together in support of children who deserve safety, stability, and hope. We are grateful for their leadership and vision.

The generosity of our community has once again carried us forward. We received continued support from the Herman J. Courville Foundation and the Houma Invitational Oilman's Tournament. Countless individuals have stepped up to collect Christmas toys, which enabled us to give to every foster child in Terrebonne Parish; not just those assigned to our program. This outpouring of compassion reminds us that we are never alone in this work.

Finally, I want to recognize the staff, who remain dedicated, committed, and unwavering in their support of our mission, as well as the advocates who do the hard work each day. Success, for us, is not measured by accolades but by showing up and caring for the most vulnerable.



As we continue to serve more children each year, our ultimate goal remains clear: to serve every child who comes into foster care in Terrebonne Parish. Together, we will keep moving closer to that vision.

# CASA of Terrebonne fosters a community of compassionate advocates dedicated to serving the FOSTER children of Terrebonne Parish.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers are everyday people from the community assigned by judges from the 32nd Judicial District to look after a child's best interest while in foster care.

# "Why CASA?"

"Being a CASA has changed my heart and perspective. I'm thankful for the CASA community and the impact we get to make, one child at a time. It might seem intimidating, but it's one of the most rewarding and humbling things you can do. These kids just need someone in their corner."

- Elizabeth Stevens, CASA Volunteer



## AWARD RECOGNITION

At the annual Louisiana CASA Conference, Raquel Wade was honored as **DCFS Staff Member of the Year.** Raquel is more than a caseworker; she is a tireless advocate, fearless protector, and steadfast partner to CASA and the children she serves.

Raquel's work has made a profound impact in the lives of those she serves, and we are incredibly proud to see her efforts recognized on a statewide level. Her leadership and heart for advocacy continue to inspire us all.

# AWARENESS Q

Throughout the year, CASA of Terrebonne actively collaborates with the community to raise public awareness, provide education, and recruit new advocates. Our program partners with other non-profits, organizations, and businesses to support these initiatives.

#### **DANOS**

Danos has been a valued partner to CASA of Terrebonne, and we're excited to continue growing this wonderful relationship! Our program had the opportunity to share the mission and show how CASA volunteers can make a lasting difference in a child's life.



# www.casaofterrebonne.org

#### Southdown Marketplace

The CASA team and volunteers set up an outreach tent at Southdown Marketplace. Market goers can learn about the program and interact with advocates supporting foster children in Terrebonne Parish.

#### **Kiwanis Club of Houma**

We're so grateful to the Kiwanis Club of Houma for welcoming us! Our Outreach/Training Coordinator, Anna Merlos, shared CASA's mission, and the group was very engaged with thoughtful questions!



# CASA in the Community

# Herman J. Courville Crawfish Boil-Off

CASA of Terrebonne thanks everyone who attended the 2025 HJC CASA Crawfish Boil Off, especially the cooking teams and the Herman J. Courville Foundation with its volunteers for making the event a success.





# Shell Giving Campaign Golf Tournament

CASA thanks Shell for inviting us to the Shell Giving Campaign Golf Tournament in Mandeville and for the opportunity to share our mission and support a meaningful cause.

## Houma Downtown Christmas Festival

Our CASA staff know that the holidays (and the little moments) mean the most! At the downtown Christmas festival, we offered Christmas ornament decorating, coloring sheets, family fun, and plenty of Christmas cheer!



At CASA of Terrebonne, we know our strength comes from the support of our community, especially during local events.

Each year, Terrebonne Parish hosts a variety of gatherings and fundraisers, and we're honored when partner organizations invite us to participate. These events give us the opportunity to raise awareness, build relationships, and celebrate the power of community!

#### More community events attended in 2024 - 2025:

- Bayou Arts Festival
- Cast Iron Cook-off
- Chamber of Commerce Luncheons
- Danos SOUPerbowl Cook-off
- Houma Irish Italian Parade
- Market at the Marina: Nonprofit Spotlight
- SLHBA Donation Ceremony
- Sweet Connections in Thibodaux
- Women's Giving Circle Sip & Learn





#### **Junior Auxillary**

In 2024, CASA of Terrebonne's Outreach/Training Coordinator, Anna Merlos, spoke to the Junior Auxiliary of Houma about CASA's mission, training, and the impact of a caring adult. CASA values its partnership with JA and their shared commitment to supporting local children.



#### **Bridal Show**

In mid-June, CASA of Terrebonne hosted a table at the NOW Weddings Magazine Bridal Show in Houma. We gave out goodies and openly shared information about our organization's mission and vision.





National CASA requires an additional 12-hours of continuing education each year to ensure that advocates are educated and informed on issues within the juvenile dependency system and also specific areas of interest that relate to their individual cases.

CASA of Terrebonne offers continuous training, resources, and conferences to help advocates gain the skills they need to best support their CASA child.

#### **In-Services**

CASA of Terrebonne hosts several in-service trainings and lunch and learns, and we partner with the community to provide education about resources that empower our advocates.





#### **TBRI® Training**

Lead Advocate Supervisor and TBRI Practitioner,
Jenny Domangue, hosts three annual trainings on
TBRI, a trauma-informed approach focused on
meeting children's needs through empowerment,
connection, and fear reduction.

#### **Revive Your Inner CASA**

CASA hosts an annual 'Revive your Inner CASA' event giving advocates the opportunity to network with other advocates and learn techniques for self-care.





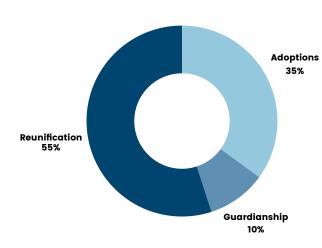
CASA of Terrebonne is the parish's only program dedicated to advocating for foster children in the court system, ensuring their voices are heard, helping them access essential services, and often enabling them to exit the system quicker.

#### CASA VOLUNTEERS SERVED 120 CHILDREN IN THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR.

#### **Gender of Children Served**



#### **Closed Cases Outcomes**

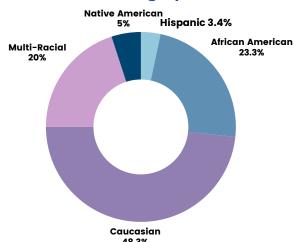


#### **Ages of Children Served**



Age 0-5 Age 6-11 Age 12-18

#### **Child Demographics**



# Celebrating Forever Homes



Paige Gisclair



**Buddy McNabb** 



Mary Guidry



**Eddie Olivier** 



Christian Falcon



Rushelle Fitzgerald

# WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE 69 VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES WHO SERVED THE ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN TERREBONNE PARISH THIS PAST YEAR:

Nathan Aucoin Debra Giroir Susan Porche

Cynthia "Ann" Beeson Paige Gisclair June Price

Sadie Benoit Mary Guidry Alexandria Prosperie

Carol Bergeron Meagan Hasler Sherry Punch

Amber Berry Traci Hawthorne Carey Redmond

Elaine Beyer Alyssia Hay Amanda Reeves

Karen Billiot Kevin Hebert Shannon Rhodes

Jennifer Bonvillain Penny Hebert Jonathan Russo

Tammy Brouillette Sarah Hebert Lance Smith

Terri Brown Tori Hill Elizabeth Stevens

Priscilla Callais Timothy Hitt Michael Stevens, Jr.

Denise Cuartas Karey Kinnard Lani Tarr

Hollyn DavisJennifer KryvanickSandy TrahanJustin DavisKristy LedfordMelissa Turner

Jeana Delfin-Gonzalez Tasha Lirrette Amanda Twiner

Allison Eschete Ashlie Martin Casey Verdin

Kimberly Eubanks Sherry Mahaney Tonya Verrett

Christian Falcon Carl "Buddy" McNabb Catherine Viator

Kelsey Falgout Carolyn McNabb Leah Voisin

Rushelle Fitzgerald Kathi Murphy Danielle Walker

Mia Foret Vickie "Darlene" Naquin Allison Watzek

Emma Frickey Brandy Pitre Yvonne White

Emily Gilmore Katherine Porche Breeon Williams



Every advocate is a "sidekick" to our program's foster children, and they help them uncover their unique superpowers.

### Volunteer Classes



#### CLASS #70

Hollyn Davis, June Price, Amanda Twiner, Casey Verdin, Karen Billiot, Elizabeth Stevens, Melissa Turner, Ashlie Martin, and Debra Giroir were sworn in by the Honorable Judge Juan Pickett.

#### **CLASS #71**

Gizelle Rau, Jeana Delfin-Gonzalez, Tori Hill, Allison Watzek, Michael Stevens, Jr., Lance Smith, and Justin Davis were sworn in by the Honorable Judge Jason Dagate.



#### **CLASS #72**

Breeon Williams, Cameron Authement, Tonya Verrett, Alex Prosperie, and Kevin Hebert were sworn in by the Honorable Judge Randall Bethancourt.

#### Volunteer Stats











120 children had the benefit of...

69 caring volunteer advocates...

who gave 2,089.11 hours of their time.



CASA volunteers drove 17,356.20 miles to visit their CASA children.



## **Event Sponsors**

# High Rollers Spousors

360 Wellness All Industrial Medical Services Champagne Energy & Environmental Solutions

## Frank Sinatra Sponsor

Park Lane Styling & Consulting

## Vegas Strip Sponsors

Olivier Biodefense, LLC Olivier International, LLC Turn Services

## Heart Break Hotel Spousors

Bayou Cane Sports Bar Elite Workforce, LLC Spilt Liquor Productions Synergy Bank The Brick Yard Theresa A. Robichaux, Clerk of Court Vitallyn, LLC

# Card Shark Sponsors

IShotPhotos
Alford & Associates Insurance Service, LLC
Chauvin Brothers, Inc.
HMSE, LLC
Houma Floats
Little Imaginations Developmental &
Learning Center
Occupational Medicine Services, LLC









# Volunteer Appreciation Social

# Celebrating Our Advocates

Each year, the staff hosts the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Social. The 2024 event celebrated the hard work of volunteers, board members, and supporters. Each individual brings their own unique story, contributing to the CASA community.

#### Advocate of the Year: Buddy McNabb

Buddy has been a cornerstone of our program since joining the CASA board in 2011, and his passion for helping foster children shines brightly. After becoming an advocate in 2019, Buddy quickly demonstrated the profound impact one person can have on a child's life.



In his first case, he stood by three siblings through unimaginable challenges, building trust and offering steadfast support. Even after the case closed, one of the children - a now 17-year-old - still knows she can count on him, a testament to the lifelong bond they share. Buddy's dedication didn't stop there. He took on another sibling case in 2022, providing consistency and comfort to two young girls. His commitment to being present through every move, court hearing, and life change exemplifies the heart of CASA's mission.

#### Rookie of the Year: Lani Tarr

Since being sworn in, Lani has gone above and beyond, making a lasting impact on the children and families she serves. She has helped reunite five children with their families, demonstrating an incredible commitment to family preservation and child welfare.



Beyond her casework, Lani is an invaluable part of the CASA community. She actively participates in office events, offers her support to fellow advocates, and embodies the spirit of teamwork and collaboration. Her passion for helping others shines through in everything she does. Lani approaches every child with love, care, and a deep desire to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are met.

#### **Board Member of the Year: Tim Stevens**



Since joining the board in November 2022, Tim has been an incredible asset to our organization. He brings a business owner's perspective that has helped us grow and sustain our program while consistently stepping up to support CASA in meaningful ways. Whether completing training, offering fresh ideas, or pitching in when needed, Tim's dedication is evident. His connections and generosity have played a vital role in CASA's success.

#### Angel of the Year: Monique Dean

Each year we honor an organization or individual who goes above and beyond for CASA and we present them with the Angel of the Year award. Monique's journey is one of perseverance, redemption, and displays the power of second chances. She has shown what it means to transform your life and live with purpose.



For the last three years, Monique has shared her story with our advocates-in-training, offering a powerful and honest perspective that touches hearts and inspires action. Her message of triumph through adversity provides a unique lens on addiction, reminding us all of the importance of compassion, understanding, and hope. Monique's bravery and dedication have left a lasting impact on everyone in the CASA family.

#### Courville/Mosely Service Award: Angela Breaux



The Herman J. Courville Foundation organizes a crawfish cook-off and our program receives the proceeds. Their annual undertaking requires the help of many volunteers and each year the HJC Foundation recognizes one volunteer for their hard work. This year's recipient of the Courville/Mosely award goes to Angela Breaux. Thank you Angela for your contributions!



## 5 year service award

## 10 year service award



Priscilla Callais



Gina Danos



Traci Hawthorne



Timothy Hitt



Allison Eschete



Kimberly Eubanks



Meagan Hasler









Leah Voisin



# **FINANCIALS**

## Revenue

Grants	\$425,933
Donations	\$117,515
Investment Income	\$45,476
Fundraising	\$56,047
Other Income	\$1,214
Total Revenue	\$646,185

## Expenses

Program Services	\$465,193
General/Administrative Services	\$30,838
Fundraising	\$15,551
Total Expenses	\$511,582

#### **DIAMOND - Over \$10,000**

Danos Foundation Grant Herman J. Courville Foundation Houma Invitational Oilman's Tournament Louisiana Charities Trust Grant Women's Giving Circle Grant

#### PLATINUM - Over \$5,000 - \$10,000

Shell Oil Company
Bayou Community Foundation Grant
LA Bar Jock Scott Community Grant

#### GOLD - Over \$1,000 - \$5,000

Enterprise/Taylor Charitable Entities
Fourchon Oilman's Grant
Houma Oilman's Fishing Invitational
LeBlanc & Associates, LLC
Louisiana Bar Association
Schwab Charitables
Shell Hero Fund Cook-Off 2025
The Gray Foundation Grant
Carl Detiveaux
Marty Majewski
Tori Rayne
Tim Wiemann

#### SILVER - Over \$250 - \$1,000

Alpha Tau Omega at LSU

Enterprise Marine employees LPL Financial Moreaux Restaurant Group, LLC - Houma NOW Weddings Magazine, Inc. Rotary Club - Wednesday Club Schwab Law Firm Schwab Orthodontics Shell Golf Tournament Southeastern LA Home Builders Association Terrebonne Fellowship Lodge #48 Daniel Darsey Linda Fleniken Nicholas & Elaine Fry Jared & Patrick Hernandez Brian Matherne John Monteiro, Jr. Kenneth Parris Chet Plank Sammy & Patricia Terite, Jr. Christina Tucker

#### **BRONZE - Up to \$250**

**AXOS** 

Barker Buick GMC First United Methodist Church Forefront Emergency Management Krewe of Aphrodite PayPal Giving Fund The McNabb Law Firm USB Financial Services, Inc. Linda Ayers Angelique Barker Kate Becnel Monique Boudreaux Avie & Louise Bourg Sarah Bourg Charles Brown **Bedford Nieves Cruz** Jude Fanguv Matthew Foust James Hagen, III Morris & Sandra Hebert Penny Hebert Rebecca Huskey Donna Hymel Lee Kabrich Barry LaBarre Mark Lee Jesse Lipson Jason Matherne Madelyn Naquin Vickie "Darlene" Naquin Joshua Piro Karen Schilling Ann Darsey Smith Mike & Joy Tingle Jean Traigle Sidney Upton



## IN-KIND DONATIONS

Artistic Embroidery

Bourg Elementary School

Cajun Meat Market

Chick-fil-A - Houma

Clement Insurance Agency

Coburn's of Houma

Copeland's

EmpowerHER Life

Girls on the Run Bayou Region Council

Lisowe's Lights

Livin' So Loud, LLC

Nothing Bundt Cake

Pirate's Pizza

Raising Cane's - Grand Caillou Rd

Spigots Brew Pub

State Farm Insurance - Darryl Brue

The Canefield

The Giving Quilt

The Shack of Houma

TPCG - Terrebonne Folklife Cultural Center - Auditorium Rentals

Kimberly Eubanks

Rushelle Fitzgerald

**Emily Gilmore** 

Mary Guidry

Laura Hamilton

Lani Tarr

\*\*All Toy Drive Business Participants\*\*











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