

CASA OF TERREBONNE



JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DONNA M. BRUNET

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

As I look back on 2019 it was truly a great year for CASA! Thanks to our volunteers, we served 138 children in Terrebonne Parish!

But the reality is, we still did not serve every child in state's custody in Terrebonne Parish. There were children who went through the foster care and court system without the additional voice and support of a CASA volunteer; children without a trained adult advocating for them both inside and outside of the courtroom. **There are currently 139 children in foster care in Terrebonne Parish awaiting a CASA advocate.**



So how can you help CASA and fulfill your new year's resolution in 2020? Spread the word that more CASA volunteers are needed in our community. Invite CASA to come speak at your community meetings. Follow CASA on social media and share our posts so your friends see the work our volunteers are doing. Attend one of CASA's information sessions and invite a friend to come with you. And of course, you can become a CASA volunteer!

I have always said that I know there are enough caring, giving people in our community to reach the goal of serving 100% of the children in care, they just don't all know about CASA yet - and that is how you can help.

Our next training class begins January 14, 2020. For more information you can go to our web site, www.casaofterrebonne.org, or give us a call - 876-0250.

Are you willing to step up and change a child's story?

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Michael Brown was sworn in as a CASA volunteer on 05/06/2019. Upon completion of his training, Michael chose his case and set off on his journey. He immediately contacted the foster family and his CASA child and the connection with the parties was instant. He was able to share his wisdom and provide valuable information to the family that would help his CASA child improve not only socially but also academically. He made sure to be available at meetings and observe interactions with the biological mother and report his observations. He was attentive and had a positive disposition when speaking to them.

Mr. Michael is the sweetest individual with a huge heart. We are grateful that during his time of retirement he found it in his heart to serve our community and be a child's voice. The family is very grateful for his assistance and guidance throughout the process. We are happy to report that his CASA case will end with reunification. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. We appreciate you.

Michael will be receiving a polo shirt donated by Shelly Toups at Artistic Embroidery.



**NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER
STATISTICS:**

59 VOLUNTEERS ADVOCATED FOR
94 CHILDREN
SPENT **100** HOURS AND
TRAVELED **828** MILES



CASA of Terrebonne
We currently have
139
children on our waiting list!!

0	9	96	36
Sexual	Physical	Neglect	Substance Abuse



Michelle Luke	1/2
Patti Floyd	1/3
Christine Aucoin	1/5
Earleather Celestine	1/8
Norma Macks	1/13
Shelly Touns	1/22
Valentine Verdin	1/29

Congratulations to *Miranda Legendre*
She has won a gift card of her choice for visiting with her CASA child 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.



BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW! FIVE FUN FACTS ABOUT JENNY DOMANGUE, LEAD ADVOCATE SUPERVISOR



1. She is a grandmother to a beautiful 5 year old girl.
2. She loves the beach (except the sand).
3. She lives in her childhood home and has never moved.
4. She and her husband were together for 13 years before getting married.
5. As a child, she was in Taekwondo and qualified for the national championship. There she placed double gold medal. She was invited to compete in the international tournament in Korea, unfortunately she was unable to secure the sponsorships needed.

SHOUT OUTS

- ♦ Jennifer Kryvanick for attending a family team meeting and a court hearing for her CASA child.
- ♦ Traci Hawthorne for completing a court report for her CASA child.
- ♦ Eddie Olivier for attending a family team meeting and a court hearing for his CASA children.
- ♦ Ann Beeson for attending a court hearing for her CASA children.
- ♦ Yvonne White for seeing her case through to adoption.
- ♦ Terissa Bouquet for returning to CASA and taking a new case.
- ♦ Tasha Lirette for attending a court hearing for her CASA children.
- ♦ Linda Ford for attending a court hearing for her CASA children.
- ♦ Emily Gilmore for submitting a status letter to the court and attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- ♦ Penny Hebert and Peggy Boudwin for staying on their case until it closed with reunification for their CASA children.
- ♦ Priscilla Callais for attending court for her CASA child.
- ♦ Sarah Ghere for attending a quarterly staffing for her CASA teenagers.
- ♦ Norma Macks for attending a family team meeting, writing a court report and attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- ♦ Brittany Jones for staying on her case until it closed with reunification for her CASA child.
- ♦ Destiny Clement for seeing her case through to adoption for her CASA child.
- ♦ Emily Elmore and Joy Tingle for attending a staffing for their CASA child.
- ♦ Michael Brown for attending a Family Team meeting and attending a court hearing for his CASA child.
- ♦ Patti Floyd for seeing her case through to closing for her CASA child.

FINDING FOREVER HOMES



Pictured above are Judge Pickett, adoptive mom, and CASA child at adoption.

Volunteer, Destiny Clement (not shown) was assigned to this case in 2016 and remained on the case until it closed with adoption.



Volunteer, Yvonne White (far right) with her CASA children at their adoption ceremony.

Save
the
Date

MARCH 6, 2020 6:30-10:00pm

"A Night for Childrens' Sake"

at Gordon Dove's residence

*Tickets available online at
www.casaofterrebonne.org
or call 876-0250*

All proceeds to benefit CASA of Terrebonne.

DECEMBER DONATIONS



CASA AP

Louisiana Charities Trust

Terrebonne Parish School Board

Bobby & Sara Bond

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Haydel

David A. Waitz Engineering & Surveying

William St. Martin

Charlene Wallace

William Fortier

Heinke Trapp, Jr.

Dr. Sarah Haydel

Morris Hebert

Dansereau House

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Cazayoux

Boyd Gaming Corporation

Joseph G. Kopfler (in memory of Jerry L. Hermann)

South Central Industrial Association (in memory of Gabrielle Hernandez)

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur DeFraites, Jr. (in honor of Ethel Reynolds)

Dr. E.W. "Ted" Price

Dr. and Mrs. William P. Walsh

Chris Chiasson

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Heck, Jr.

Michael and Joy Tingle

Broadmoor Drug Center, Inc.

Buquet Distributing

Mr. and Mrs. Garland Aucock, Jr.

Dr. and Mrs. John Flynn

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Trahan

Debbie Weaver

Carl Detiveaux

Connie and Glynn Fremin

Juana Woodard



CASA of Terrebonne is hosting the following in-service:

Presenters from South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority will be:



1. Leilani Brunet, RN, LaSOR Coordinator Trainer
She will discuss the scope of the opioid problem in our nation, the impact on the families in our community as well as the impact on our first responders.
2. Jill Talbot, PLPC
She will discuss the diagnostic criteria for Opioid Use Disorder and treatment measures available including Medication Assisted Therapy (MATs).
3. Laura Stanley, Peer Support Specialist
She will share her journey from addiction to recovery. No doubt her story will shed some light on what may be happening in the minds and lives of individuals battling with substance use disorder and help attendees better understand what CASA families may be walking through. She provides a transparent testimonial and welcomes all questions and comments from attendees.

WHEN: January 9, 2020

WHERE: CASA Office (402 Canal ST.)

TIME: 5:30 - 7:30

Register online at www.casaofterrebonne.org



LUNCH & LEARN: CASA IN THE COURTROOM



Presenter: Ellen Doskey, ADA

WHEN: Thursday, February 6, 2020

WHERE: CASA Office - 402 Canal Street

TIME: NOON - 1:00pm

Presentation will include tips on testifying, court room etiquette and the role of CASA in CINC cases.

Register online at www.casaofterrebonne.org





**CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY
BE A **CASA** VOLUNTEER
TRAINING BEGINS JANUARY 14, 2020**

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
Angelle Thibodeaux

VOLUNTEER SOCIAL AWARD WINNERS



**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:
AMBER WARD**



**MOSLEY/COURVILLE AWARD WINNERS:
JOHN & MARY ESTEVE**



**15 YEAR AWARD:
EMILY ELMORE**



ANGEL OF THE YEAR: SHELL PIPELINE COMPANY, LP



**BOARD MEMBER OF THE
YEAR:
MARY GUIDRY**



5 YEAR AWARD: TIM HITT

**5 YEAR AWARD WINNERS NOT PICTURED:
PATTI CHARPENTIER, TRACI HAWTHORNE and BETTY WALLACE**