



CASA OF TERREBONNE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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WWW.CASAOFTERREBONNE.ORG



MEET CASA VOLUNTEER : DARLENE NAQUIN

Our advocate we are introducing you to this month has been a CASA volunteer for about 6 months. Darlene Naquin swore-in March of 2021. She was quickly assigned to a 9-year-old little girl and has worked hard to form relationships as this was an established case that she took over. Darlene was encouraged to join CASA by her daughter Ashley who is currently fostering. She is married to James Naquin and has 3 daughters, Alisha, Ashley and Andrea along with 3 son-in-laws, Bradley, Brad, and Derek. She also has 11 grandchildren and 2 foster grandchildren- 6 girls and 7 boys. She says that grandkids genuinely make life grand! She and her husband also have a tiny poodle name Phoebe. She is 7 ½ years old and loves to travel in her very own car seat. Darlene retired from her

job as a financial management/advisor after 16 years. She also spent 12 years in the medical field. She chose to take an early retirement to care of her mother until she passed away. She is thankful for the time she was able to spend with her.

Darlene was born in Port Sulphur, La but soon moved to Waynesboro, MS where she lived until she was 11 ½. She then moved to Houma, where she still resides. In her free time Darlene enjoys gardening, traveling and learning about new cultures including cuisine, music and art. She loves to try new things including recipes and teas. She can often be found in their pool along with her grandchildren, shopping with her daughters or granddaughters, reading or attending bible study. One of her favorites is spending time with her "grands".

Darlene is very tied to family traditions.

One of these traditions is collecting clocks, including coo coo, rhythm motion, and grandmother (shorter than grandfather). She remembers growing up with the chimes and coo coo birds and wishes to pass that on to her "grands". She is also big on Christmas traditions. She believes in lots of decorations both inside and out. And what would Christmas be without a large family gathering? Darlene's grandmother's birthday was Christmas Eve, so it is always a bit more special to the family.

When talking about her CASA case, Darlene states that she chose CASA because of her soft heart towards children and her daughter's encouragement. She says "When you first meet your child, it's such a heartfelt experience! Just listening to them talk and smiling makes the training all worth it." She was nervous about going through the training but realized that there are lots of people always willing to help guide her when needed. And it doesn't hurt that CASA feeds our trainees well.

"Anyone can volunteer to become a CASA! I was oblivious on what to expect but my trainer was incredible and patient. There are so many children that need a CASA and it doesn't take up much of your time. It is worth all the effort because the importance of being a CASA outweighs the fear."

"Believe you can and you're halfway there (T. Roosevelt)"JUST DO IT!



A POLO SHIRT WILL BE DONATED TO THIS MONTH'S CASA VOLUNTEER BY SHELLY TOUPS AT ARTISTIC EMBROIDERY.

A MESSAGE FROM CHRISTINE AUCOIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Our children are headed back to school in the coming weeks. Children and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect and have been removed from their homes may be entering a new school this year. This could result in higher levels of stress and uncertainty. As students return to school, the work of our CASA volunteers is more essential than ever. They advocate for a child's best interest concerning stability with respect to a child's living situation and school placement.

For children dealing with the additional stress and trauma of a family crisis, a child with a CASA volunteer is more likely to have a better outcome. Volunteers can check in with the child and family with a phone call, visit or virtual meeting and ask them to share their feelings about the new school year. Studies show that a child who is assigned a CASA volunteer reported significantly higher levels of hope. A child's hope has been linked to numerous positive outcomes such as academic success, overall well-being, and optimism.

Our region is back on heightened alert and under a mask mandate due to the surge in COVID-19 cases in Louisiana. Please take every precaution to keep yourself as well as your CASA child safe. Check with their placements to determine if the caregivers are comfortable with in-person visits. We have learned from the past year and a half how to adapt in order to still serve our CASA children.

We are also on high alert concerning hurricanes. Have a plan in place with your CASA child and go over how you will stay in contact with them if they evacuate. Make sure you always have the latest information about your CASA child's placement and contact information. We thank the volunteers for their continued advocacy despite events that may occur beyond their control.

JULY VOLUNTEER ANNIVERSARIES

We appreciate your commitment & service to CASA



Blayne Bergeron

6 Years

Amber Berry

1 Year

Traci Hawthorne

7 Years

Penny Hebert

6 Years

Timothy Hitt

7 Years

Tia Hopkins

1 Year

Lori Olivier

6 Years

Tara Pellegrin

1 Year

Carey Redmond

3 Years

Meagan Verret

2 Years

Suzanne Vice

4 Years

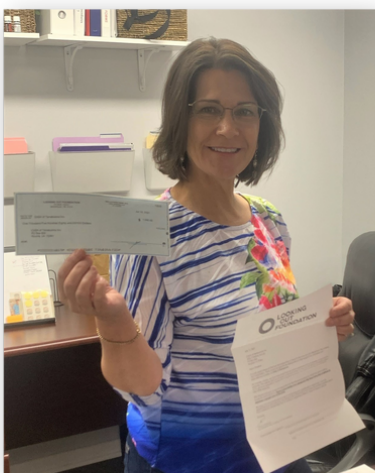
VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUTS!

- Traci Hawthorne for attending a court hearing for her CASA child and seeing her case through to her CASA child aging out.
- Kim Eubanks for seeing her case through to adoption.
- Kari Griffin for completing a court report for her CASA child.
- Carol Bergeron and Penny Hebert for completing their court report and attending a court hearing for their CASA children.
- Jennifer Kryvanick for completing a court report and attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- Buddy McNabb for attending a court hearing for his CASA child.
- Rushelle Fitzgerald for attending a court hearing for her CASA children.
- Jon Russo for seeing his case through to his CASA child's reunification with biological parents.
- Miranda Legendre for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- Cathy Duet for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- Edward Olivier for attending a court hearing for his CASA child.
- Christine Evans for attending a court hearing for her CASA child.

JULY DONATIONS & GRANTS

- Bayou Community Foundation Grant
- CASA-AP
- Elaine Beyer
- Looking Out Foundation Grant

Thank you!



Looking Out Foundation Grant



Bayou Community Foundation Grant Ceremony

CASA STAFF

Christine Aucoin
Executive Director

Jenny Domangue
Lead Advocate Supervisor

Heather Falls
Advocate Supervisor

Sulma Reyes
Training/Outreach Coordinator

Valentine Verdin
Advocate Supervisor

Anna Merlos
*Office Manager/
Marketing Coordinator*

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SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Written by: Jenny Domangue

I recently had my 10-year work anniversary with CASA of Terrebonne. In a field that sees a high level of turnover, I am often asked how I made it this far and continue to push forward. To be honest, 10 years ago, I would have never thought I would still be here today. At that time the average length of employment was 2-3 years. As we all know the system we work in is not perfect, far from it. However, as a whole we work together for the betterment of the children we serve. The cases in which CASA is the driving force for a child's best interest or wishes being upheld is what keeps me here. The times when no one knows the history and is about to repeat a mistake we made in the beginning of the case, is what keeps me here. The fact that for many people these kids are nothing more than a story on paper is what keeps me here. Our kids, their stories, their successes, and their permanency are ultimately what keep me here. When I have a former foster child come up to me years later to give me a hug or even just tell me hello still makes this all worth it!

This field is ever-changing and growing. Having the ability to grow along with it is another reason I have been able to push through for so long. The varying training, conferences, and gatherings always give me a renewed sense of hope. Recently I became certified as a Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) practitioner and this has really charged my batteries. I want to get the TBRI principles into everyone's hands. It is so life-changing that every person needs at least the basics of TBRI. Stay calm (No matter what), See the need (behind the behavior), Meet the need (find a way), and Don't quit (If not you, then who) - This is the TBRI motto and should become the building blocks of everyday life. We can all use a little more compassion and understanding when interacting with others.

Finally, being given the ability to evolve my role has been a factor in this job not becoming stale or boring. Not only am I a TBRI practitioner, I am also the CASA representative in the newly formed Family Preservation Court. This is a family-based court to work with parents who struggle with addiction. The program is designed to keep children in the home or return home sooner. Being able to see many of the biological parents in a different light has been refreshing. It is easier to keep pushing forward when things get hard.

So yes, I do come with a lot of internal determination and grit, however, it is those who are positioned around me that have made a 10-year work anniversary possible. To everyone that I have worked with (staff, volunteers, DCFS, attorneys, DAs, and supporters) in the last 10 years, thank you for pushing me to be the best I can possibly be. Thank you for the encouragement to dig in when needed. Thank you for pulling me out of my comfort zone when the kids needed me the most. Thank you for seeing the good even when I couldn't. I will continue to fight, push and dig in for the foreseeable future.

JUNE CHILDREN STATISTICS

70 CHILDREN SERVED
45 CHILDREN SEEN FACE-TO-FACE
9 CHILDREN CONTACTED OTHER THAN FACE-TO-FACE
64% OF CHILDREN SEEN
77% OF CHILDREN WERE CONTACTED

JULY VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

50

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES



73

CASA CHILDREN SERVED



101.55

HOURS SPENT ADVOCATING



1583.21

MILES TRAVELED BY ADVOCATES



111

CHILDREN ON THE WAITING LIST



Breakdown of Waitlist Cases: Sexual (5) - Physical (9) - Neglect (51) - Substance Abuse (46)

CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS:

IN-SERVICE: TBRI - EMPOWERING PRINCIPLE

AUGUST 19, 2021 * 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM * CASA OF TERREBONNE OFFICE (3 CREDIT HOURS)

In the third installment of our TBRI® In-service training series, Jenny Domangue will present the TBRI® Correcting Principles which aim to address a child's behavioral issues in a positive way. Although CASA advocates are advised not to use these Principles with their CASA children, they can still use the information in their own life. Two important principles in the correcting component are proactive and responsive behavioral strategies. Active CASA volunteers can register online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.

IN-SERVICE: LUNCH AND LEARN: INTRODUCTION TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT AT CHABERT MEDICAL CENTER

AUGUST 26, 2021 * 12 PM - 1 PM * CASA OF TERREBONNE OFFICE (1.5 CREDIT HOURS)

A brief introduction to the Behavioral Health Unit at Chabert Medical Center and the focus on addiction treatment, current medical practice, behavioral therapies, and outpatient placement. The current relationship with Family Preservation Court and the coordination of care for acute detox needs will be discussed as well as a brief educational focus on current modalities for substance abuse treatment. Active CASA volunteers can register online at www.casaofterrebonne.org

Education will be provided by: Sarah Hensley BSN, RN, Ochsner Regional Director of Behavioral Health and Darrel Prestenbach Nurse Practitioner, Behavioral Health Unit, Chabert Medical Center



Priscilla Callais

She has won a gift card of her choice for visiting with 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 and enter contact logs by the last day of the month.

FINDING A FOREVER HOME



Congratulations to Kimberly Eubanks for being there to see her CASA child become part of her forever family!



Rushelle Fitzgerald	8/21
Gretta Calongne	8/27