

# The CASA Bulletin

CASA of Terrebonne Monthly Newsletter

## MEET A CASA

### ELAINE BEYER

This month we want to introduce you to Elaine Beyer. She has been with CASA for almost a year. She started CASA as one of our CASA Tutors and then went through the training to become an advocate. She was sworn in on March 25, 2021 and accepted her first case in July. Since then, she has worked hard through the trials of this year to advocate for the best interest of her CASA child. Elaine was inspired to become involved with CASA by her niece, Jade, who was once a foster child. She wanted to make a difference in the lives of children who were treated unfairly.

**"The most important gift that you can give to any child is the knowledge that they are loved by someone – that they matter."**

Elaine has been married to Dr. Matthew Beyer for 29 years. She has six daughters and one BRAND NEW granddaughter!! She has been a resident of Houma for approximately 23 years. She was born in Georgia and raised in Gonzales, La. If her name sounds familiar that is because she is a teacher at Vandebilt Catholic School and is involved in many different activities. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and traveling. She also thoroughly enjoys a good conversation.



Elaine is such a joy to work with. Her personality is full of fun, love and wisdom. She is a treasure to CASA of Terrebonne. When asked what advice she would give to someone who was thinking about becoming a CASA volunteer, she said, "I would share what I learned from Jade: it doesn't have to be the perfect time and you don't have to be the perfect person. What matters is that you are willing to love. The most important gift that you can give to any child is the knowledge that they are loved by someone – that they matter." What a perfect explanation of what it takes to be a CASA volunteer. Elaine then went on to say that she is so glad that she didn't allow fear to hold her back from being a CASA volunteer. Being a CASA has been one of the most meaningful experiences of her life.

**A CASA polo will be donated to this month's CASA Volunteer by Shelly Toups at Artistic Embroidery.**

# A MESSAGE FROM CHRISTINE AUCOIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Although February is the shortest month of the year, it is packed with celebrations and events. After experiencing the shutdowns because of COVID and Hurricane Ida, our community is ready to celebrate Mardi Gras, Black History month events and of course Valentine’s Day.

Here at CASA, we started up our Lunch and Learn and Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) series. Check out the training section in this newsletter for details. We also have a benefit for CASA headlining the band Bandit with our very own CASA volunteer, Blayne Bergeron. It will take place at Watergrill and is scheduled for March 19, 2022. All proceeds will benefit CASA so mark your calendars to attend.

We are currently training Class #61 and encourage anyone interested in becoming a CASA to sign up on our website for the next class scheduled to begin April 19, 2022. The training we offer prepares the volunteer to form a one-on-one relationship with the foster child, gather the information that is then reported to the courts, and monitor the case plan of biological parents. No formal education is needed! What we do require from our community volunteers is a willingness to be a caring voice for a child who needs someone to stand up for them.



In closing, I leave you with this quote from Syed Balkhi:

**“Happiness is the new rich.  
Inner peace is the new success.  
Health is the new wealth.  
Kindness is the new cool.”**

## December Stats

**67**  
Children Served

**59**  
Children seen face-to-face

**2**  
Children contacted other than face-to-face

**88%**  
of children seen

**91%**  
of children were contacted

## January Stats

**41**  
Active Volunteer Advocates

**67**  
Children Served

**125.6**  
Hours spent on cases

**779.20**  
Miles traveled

**125**  
children waiting for a CASA

## VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUTS

- **Priscilla Callais** for completing a court report for her four CASA children.
- **Amber Berry and Emily Gilmore** for completing a court report and attending court for their four CASA children. Also, for **Amber** who attended Family Preservation Court for the same four CASA children.
- **Ann Williams** for completing a court report and attending court for her CASA child.
- **Edward Olivier** for attending court for his CASA child.
- **Danielle Walker** for completing her court report and attending court for her CASA child.
- **Tija Hopkins** for attending court for her CASA child.
- **Kim Eubanks** for completing her court report, attending court and seeing her case through to closing.
- **Leah Voisin and Kristy Ledford** for attending court for their CASA children.
- **Traci Hawthorne and Colleen Greer** for completing a court report for their CASA children and seeing the case through to closing.
- **Jennifer Parks** for attending court for her CASA child.
- **Tiffany Guy** for attending court for her CASA children.
- **Suzanne Vice** for completing a court report for her CASA child, attending court, and seeing the case through to closing.
- **Kari Griffin** for completing a court report for her CASA child.
- **Jennifer Kryvanick** for completing a court report for her CASA child and seeing the case through to closing.
- **Darlene Naquin** for attending a family team meeting for her CASA child.
- **Gina Danos** for completing a court report and attending court for her CASA child.
- **Buddy McNabb** for completing a court report and attending court for his CASA child.

## JANUARY DONATIONS

Charles Hanemann & Susan Breaud  
 Linda Eschette  
 Harvey Joseph, Sr.  
 Danielle Walker  
 Richard White  
 Roy Culotta  
 CASA-AP

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## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Ann Williams        | 2/1  |
| Tara Pellegrin      | 2/2  |
| Sherry Mahaney      | 2/8  |
| Jennifer Bonvillain | 2/9  |
| Jennifer Burrough   | 2/9  |
| Leah Voisin         | 2/14 |
| Allison Eschete     | 2/17 |
| Charles Brown       | 2/19 |
| Kimberly Eubanks    | 2/28 |

# ROCK OUT FOR CASA



## CASA STAFF

**Christine Aucoin**

*Executive Director*

**Jenny Domangue**

*Lead Advocate Supervisor*

**Heather Falls**

*Advocate Supervisor*

**Anna Merlos**

*Office Manager/Marketing Coordinator*

**Sulma Reyes**

*Training/Outreach Coordinator*

**Valentine Verdin**

*Advocate Supervisor*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Martin Majewski III

Mary Laing-Guidry

Bonnie Naquin

Shelly Toups

Rev. Charles Brown

Cindy Courville

Carl "Buddy" McNabb

Reis Prevost

Angelle Caro Thibodeaux



## February Gift Card Winner: Jennifer Bonvillian

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.

## Check out the following for continuing education hours:

### In-Service: TBRI

#### TBRI Introduction and Overview

**Wednesday \*February 16, 2022, \* 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM (3 Credit Hours)**

Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) is an attachment-based trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI uses empowering principles to address physical needs, connecting principles to address attachment needs, and correcting principles to disarm fear-based behaviors. This Introduction and Overview to TBRI will give you insight into this complex intervention tool. Active CASA volunteers can find the registration link "Continuing Education" online at [www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org).

### Online Training: Louisiana CASA

#### Strengthening Families

**Thursday\* February 24, 2022 \* 11:30 AM (1 Credit Hour)**

By focusing on the five universal family strengths identified in the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework, community leaders and service providers can better engage, support, and partner with parents in order to achieve the best outcomes for kids. This presentation will outline the five factors communities should build to increase family strengths, enhance child development, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. Active CASA volunteers can find the registration link "Continuing Education" online at [www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org).



## SAVE THE DATE

CASA of Terrebonne will once again be hosting the Piglet Pin for the Bayou Terrebonne Boucherie.

Stay tuned for more information about volunteer opportunities to help assist in the games and activities.