

**CASA of
Terrebonne**



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2021

-

JUNE 30, 2022



About CASA

When a child is removed from their parent, they become part of a system where their best interest may be overlooked and can change the story of their life. CASA of Terrebonne believes that every child should have a safe and nurturing home and have a voice in their own story. The courts provide a CASA who is a community volunteer trained in making the best recommendations to the judge while advocating for the foster child's best interest. The CASA monitors the child's educational, medical and social progress and voices the child's wants and needs in the courtroom.

Our Mission

The mission of Court Appointed Special Advocate of Terrebonne, Inc. is to be an independent and objective presence in the courts to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children in foster care in Terrebonne Parish. CASA promotes and supports quality volunteer advocacy to help assure each child a safe, permanent and nurturing home.



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What a difference a year makes! We are finally getting back to a sense of normalcy after experiencing the devastation of Hurricane Ida and the COVID virus in Terrebonne parish.

This year, we were able to increase our presence in the community and inform anyone who would listen about the important role CASA has in the lives of the children who are taken into State's custody in Terrebonne parish.

Even though we had to cancel our fall Pre-Service training class because of the hurricane, we did offer three classes and swore in 12 volunteers this fiscal year. That's what I call commitment in the face of chaos. National CASA not only requires 30 hours of Pre-Service training but advocates are also required to obtain 12 hours of continuing education. We do our best to find interesting and relevant topics to present to the volunteers in order to enhance their advocacy skills.

Being a CASA volunteer is not an ordinary volunteer assignment. The volunteers form lasting and positive relationships with the children they advocate for and often help to provide better future outcomes for these children. Besides the Annual Volunteer Appreciation social, the staff also offered events such as: "Boo the Volunteers" at Halloween and the "Cookie Exchange/ Reindeer Games" at Christmas time. We are convinced that acknowledging and celebrating our volunteers throughout the year is essential to the retention and growth of our organization. We hope that our volunteers feel like they are not only a part of CASA's mission but that they are also a part of the CASA family.



We also would not exist and thrive without the support of organizations and individuals in the community who donate throughout the year (see the list of donors on page 15-16).

Organizations throughout the community also lend us support by donating food for training classes and appreciation events, Christmas gifts for the children we serve, air time for interviews and space to post flyers. This collaborative effort helps keep CASA financially sound and growing.

This year we also had a volunteer who was named Louisiana CASA of the Year. This well-deserved honor was bestowed upon Sarah Ghere at the CASA Conference held in Baton Rouge in April.

Volunteers are the backbone of CASA and we continue to applaud their commitment and efforts on behalf of the foster children we serve. Their kindness and dedication continues to inspire me to put forth my best to support them.

I hope you enjoy this annual year-in-review booklet and that it inspires you to get involved.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

~ Mahatma Gandhi

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Martin Majewski, III
President



Mary Guidry
Vice-President



Bonnie Naquin
Treasurer



Shelly Toups
Secretary



Charles Brown



Cynthia Courville



**Carl "Buddy"
McNabb**



Reis Prevost



Angelle Thibodeaux

CASA STAFF 2021-2022



Christine Aucoin
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jenny Domangue
LEAD ADVOCATE SUPERVISOR



Heather Falls
ADVOCATE SUPERVISOR



Anna Merlos
*OFFICE MANAGER/
MARKETING COORDINATOR*



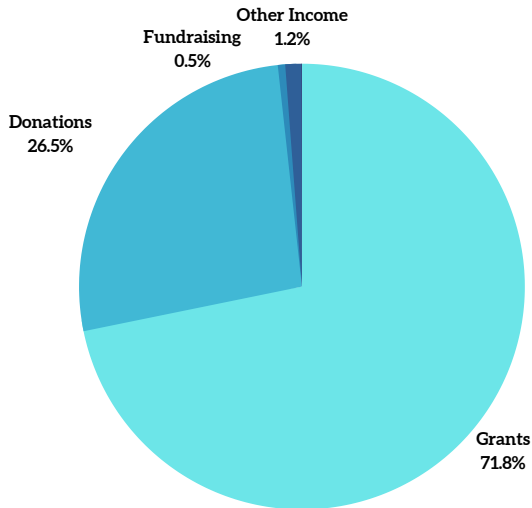
Sulma Reyes
OUTREACH/TRAINING COORDINATOR



Valentine Verdin
ADVOCATE SUPERVISOR

OUR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

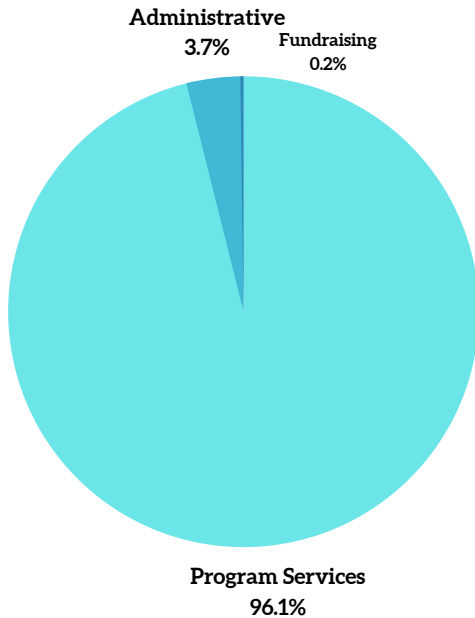
OPERATING REVENUE



- Grants
\$339,937.
- Donations
\$125,369.
- Investment Income
\$194.
- Fundraising
\$2,525.
- Other Income
\$5,485.

Total Operating Revenue
\$473,510.

OPERATING EXPENSES



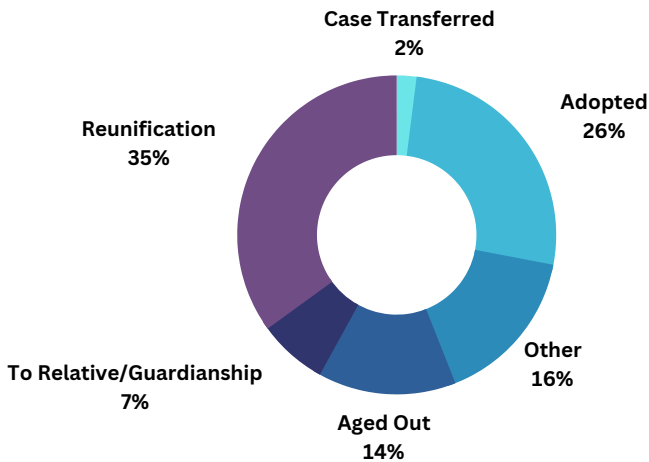
- Program Services
\$410,643.
- General/Administrative Services
\$15,745.
- Fundraising Expenses
\$950.

Total Operating Expenses
\$427,338.

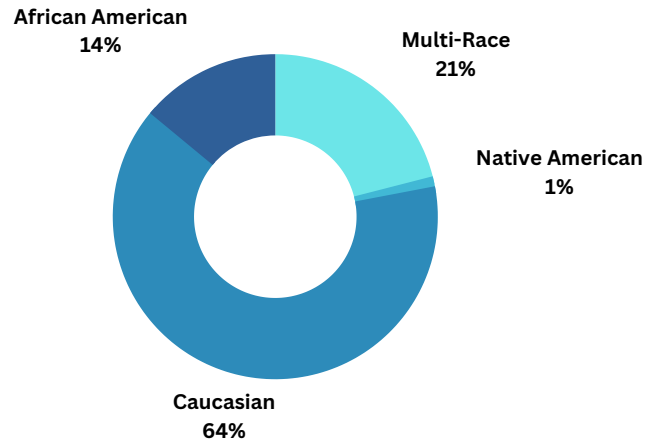
OUR PROGRAM STATS

CHILDREN SERVED IN THE 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR

102



The outcome of the children whose cases were closed



Ethnicity of children served

Gender of Children Served



54



48

Age of Children Served

53

AGE 0-5

22

AGE 6-11

27

AGE 12-18

VOLUNTEER STATS



102 children had the benefit of...



67 caring volunteer advocates...



CASA volunteers saved the welfare system **\$24,945 (\$15/HR)**



who gave **1,663** hours of their time.



Thank you HOIT for your continued support of our program each year.

WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE 67 VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVED THE ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN TERREBONNE PARISH THIS PAST YEAR:

Kathleen Andrews

Molly Arrington

Josie Authement

Cynthia “Ann” Beeson

Carol Bergeron

Blayne Bergeron

Amber Berry

Elaine Beyer

Jennifer Bonvillain

Tammy Brouillette

Terri Brown

Jennifer Burrough

Lisa Bustamante

Priscilla Callais

Earleather Celestine

Destiny Clement

Rebecca Clement

Gina Danos

Cathy Duet

Brian Elliott

Allison Eschete

Kimberly Eubanks

Christine Evans

Terri Falgout

Rushelle Fitzgerald

Mia Foret

Jacob Ghere

Sarah Ghere

Emily Gilmore

Colleen Greer

Kari Griffin

Mary Guidry

Tiffany Guy

Traci Hawthorne

Alyssia Hay

Penny Hebert

Timothy Hitt

Tija Hopkins

Sheila Johnson

Karey Kinnard

Jennifer Kryvanick

Amanda LeBlanc

Kristy Ledford

Miranda Legendre

Tasha Lirette

Sherry Mahaney

Claire McNabb

Carl “Buddy” McNabb

Kathryn Mella

Kathi Murphy

Vickie “Darlene” Naquin

Edward Olivier

Lori Olivier

Jennifer Parks

Tara Pellegrin

Melanie Prentice

Carey Redmond

Mitzi Rieve

Jonathan Russo

Celena Sons

Meagan Verret

Suzanne Vice

Leah Voisin

Danielle Walker

Betty Wallace

Yvonne White

Ann Williams

**THANK YOU
SO MUCH**

FINDING FOREVER HOMES



Christine Evans at her CASA child's adoption hearing.



Carol Bergeron & Penny Hebert (not pictured) at their CASA children's adoption hearing.



Kimberly Eubanks at her CASA child's adoption hearing.



Mary Guidry at her CASA child's adoption hearing.



Kathleen Andrews at her CASA child's adoption hearing.

Louisiana CASA's Advocate of the Year

Sarah Ghere

CASA of Terrebonne is proud to announce that our very own CASA volunteer, Sarah Ghere, was recognized as the Advocate of the Year by Louisiana CASA at the 2022 Awards of Excellence ceremony.

Sarah was CASA of Terrebonne's volunteer of the year for 2021 and had worked on two cases in the last few years. The first case was worked with her husband and ended in reunification. The second case was not so much a choice but a suggestion as a result of the circumstances. We the staff knew that if anyone could continue the support that the children needed, it would be this partnership. Although there was hesitation as a result of the age group, they agreed.

The staff and her Advocate Supervisor slowly saw a connection form although it took some time because these children had already been through two CASA volunteers. But that did not stop our duo from showing up and bribing them with food, because you know teenagers love food. Dropping off food soon became a conversation and then those conversations became advice and support for their future and immediate needs.

Although this case started as a duo, the partnership became one. Working on the case solo, Sarah questioned whether she has even made a difference, but we knew and saw the impact she was having. Sarah has been through so much with them from searching the streets when one ran away, to dealing

with the group home, the juvenile justice system, the sibling conflicts and being disliked when one had to take anger management classes for the second time. She stuck by them in those hard times and she was their number-one supporter.

Sarah's 17-year-old CASA child appreciates her coming to most of his football and basketball games. He states that she has always been there when he needed something and he appreciates her always asking about his needs.

Her 18-year-old CASA child stated that he appreciates her checking up on him and keeping in touch even after he aged out. He is very thankful to Sarah for coordinating and being there for his senior pictures but most of all for attending his graduation. He also appreciates how she gives them their space and allows them to talk about things they want to talk about. He felt comfortable talking to her about everything and he appreciated her trying to keep him on the right track but most of all he thanked her for the ride during hurricane Ida when nobody else would.

We at CASA of Terrebonne want to also thank you, Sarah, for all of your hard work and dedication to these children. We know Gabby, their previous CASA, is looking down on us and she couldn't be any prouder of them and you for stepping up.



Volunteer Classes

Class #59

From Left to Right:

Sulma Reyes (CASA Trainer),
Cathy Duet, Danielle Walker,
Judge Bethancourt, Mia Foret,
and Ann Williams

*Sworn-in by the The Honorable
Judge Randall L. Bethancourt*



Class #60

From Left to Right:

Terri Falgout, Sulma Reyes
(CASA Trainer),
Sheila Johnson, Judge Dagate,
Tiffany Guy and Jennifer Parks

*Sworn-in by the The Honorable
Judge Jason A. Dagate*



Class #61

From Left to Right:

Karey Kinnard, Josie Authement,
and Celena Sons

*Sworn-in by the The Honorable
Judge Randall L. Bethancourt*



FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS

**Allison
Eschete**

"Small changes can
make a BIG Impact!"



**Tiffany
Guy**

"You don't have to be wealthy to give
back to your community.
Meaningful times with others is
more expensive than money."

**Elaine
Beyer**

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



**Ann
Williams**

"I advise anyone who has love and
concern for children, to consider
being part of CASA,
It's a heavenly reward."

**Molly
Arrington**

"We all need a support
system and we all can be part
of someone else's support
system."



CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

2021 Volunteer Appreciation Award Recipients



Doug Davis & The Shack of Houma

Angel of the Year

Doug Davis and The Shack of Houma not only donated meals for our pre-service training but also donated boiled crawfish for our spring volunteer appreciation lunch. In 2021 alone he donated 70 pounds of crawfish, sausage, potatoes, dip, and of course crackers. We are always blown away by Doug's generosity and our stomachs are always grateful!



Bonnie Naquin

Board Member of the Year

Board Member of the Year, Bonnie Naquin, came to CASA as an advocate back in 2011 and in her time as an advocate; she was assigned to 4 cases with a total of 6 children. Once she stepped aside as an advocate in 2017, she stepped up to volunteer as a board member. She is currently serving as Board Treasurer which is a natural fit since she is an accountant.



Tara Pellegrin

Rookie of the Year

Tara used her compassion and the tools she learned in training to make recommendations in the best interest of her CASA child. We as a staff were able to watch her grow from her time in training, to taking a case, to seeing her case to closing with the child going home with her father. It wasn't always an easy process, but Tara learned to see things through a family strengths lens; which she learned about in training.



Sarah Ghere

Advocate of the Year

Volunteer of the Year, Sarah Ghere, has worked 2 cases in the last few years. The first case was worked with a partner and ended in reunification. The second case was not so much a choice but a suggestion as a result of the circumstances. We at CASA want to thank you, Sarah, for all of your hard work and dedication to your two teenage boys! You have made a difference in their lives.

Five Year Service Awards



Rushelle Fitzgerald



Carey Redmond

Ten Year Service Awards



Yvonne White

Advocate Supervisors



Jenny Domangue



Heather Falls



Valentine Verdin

Thank You to Our Donors!

Platinum - Over \$5,000

CASA-AP
Herman J. Courville Foundation
Houma Invitational Oil Tournament
Schwab Charitable Foundation

Gold - Over \$1,000 - \$5,000

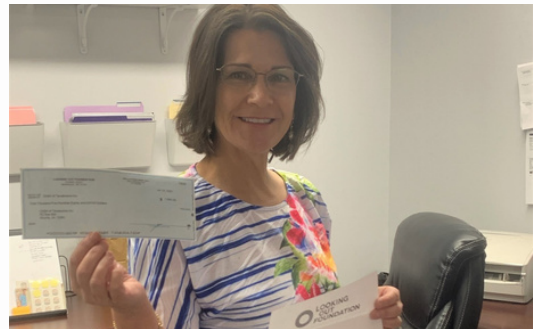
Glenny Lee Buquet
Chapman Burguieres, Jr.
Carl Detiveaux
Martin Majewski, III
Mr. & Mrs. John Monteiro
Tori Rayne
Tim Wiemann
The Gray Foundation
Houma Oilman's Fishing Tournament
Looking Out Foundation
Shell Offshore, Inc.

Silver - Over \$250 - \$1,000

Elaine Beyer
Mitzie Rieve
Lumiere Blues & Jazz Bistro
Louisiana CASA Association
Jude Fanguy
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Page
Synergy Bank
Kim Baughman
Kenneth James Trahan
Mr. & Mrs. Heinke Trapp
Penny Hebert
The Zen Den, Houma, Health & Wellness
Mr. & Mrs. Morris Hebert
Lori Davis
Mr. Ronnie's Donuts
Danielle Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Thibodeaux
South Louisiana Bank
Terry Calongne
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Fry
Mr. & Mrs. Morris P. Hebert
Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Thompson
The Shack of Houma



Easter baskets donated by Tess Doiron and Kayla Lavergne. Supplies donated by S & D Entertainment, L & K Party Bus and Rentals and Southern Axe



Donation from Looking Out Foundation



Donation from Synergy Bank



CASA Volunteer Terri Brown (Right) and her guest enjoying Volunteer Crawfish Luncheon.

Bronze – Up to \$250

Dr. & Mrs. Ray Cinnater
 Dr. Richard M. Haydel
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Haydel, Jr.
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert D. Haydel, Sr.
 Dr. & Mrs. E.W. Price
 Doryon Williams
 Amanda Richey
 James Goodwin
 Kate Bonvillain
 M.J. Fakier
 Cynthia Tiekem
 Sylvia Landry
 Christina Tucker
 Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence C. Frederick
 Patrick Yancey
 Mr. & Mrs. James Walker, Jr.
 Maxine Carlos
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Boquet
 Chelsie Gros
 Megan Merlos
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Sims
 Lynn Landry & David Grayson
 Mr. & Mrs. William Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Russell Touchet
 Houma Chamber of Commerce
 Charles Hanemann & Susan Bread

Senator Mike Fesi
 Mr. & Mrs. Jody Waggenpack
 Joshua Aucoin
 Mr. & Mrs. James Glorioso
 Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Bond
 Jody Payne
 Blake Verdin
 Mr. & Mrs. Lee Stiel
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hanemann
 Linda Eschete
 Harvey Joseph, Sr.
 Richard White
 Roy Culotta
 Stacy Solet
 Mr. & Mrs. David Bourgeois
 Mr. & Mrs. David Arceneaux
 Yvonne White
 Douglas Davis
 Alice Fanguy
 Pamela Kelley
 Priscilla Callais
 Texas Road House
 Greater New Orleans Foundation
 MJ's Longarm Quilting



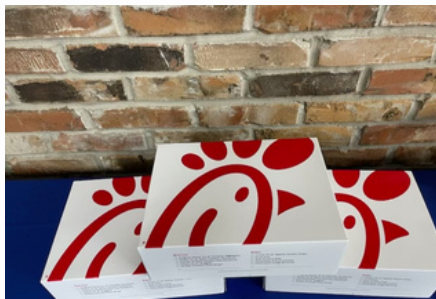
Grant from The Bayou Community Foundation



Food Donation from Lumiere Blues & Jazz Bistro for pre-service training.



Buras family and CASA staff at HJC Foundation Boil-Off



Food donation from Chick-Fli-A Houma



Donation from Houma Oilman's Fishing Tournament



Crawfish donation by The Shack of Houma



Donation from Texas Roadhouse Houma



Donation from Rotary Club of Houma

Gabrielle Hernandez Scholarship



Graduating Senior, Sophia Knoblock, was chosen for the third annual Gabrielle Hernandez Scholarship. Sophia will be attending Louisiana State University in the fall and will seek a major in Interior Design and a minor in Construction Management.

Gabrielle Hernandez was a dedicated CASA Volunteer for over six years, who passed away in October 2019. Her husband, Jared Hernandez and their three sons wanted to honor Gabbie and her love of CASA through a scholarship to a graduating senior at Vandebilt Catholic High School, Gabbie's alma mater.

CASA of Terrebonne Scholarship

Graduating Senior, Mia Martin, was chosen for the third annual CASA of Terrebonne Scholarship. Mia will be attending Louisiana State University in the fall and will seek a major in Speech Pathology. Mia was chosen for this scholarship for her exemplary academic record and her passion for her community.



HJC Foundation Crawfish Boil-Off

In May of 2022, the Herman J. Courville Foundation was able to raise \$74,188.95 at their 15th Annual CASA of Terrebonne Crawfish Boil-Off. Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser and Louisiana Seafood donated \$2,500 worth of live Louisiana crawfish from the Atchafalaya Basin to the event. We appreciate all who participated and helped in organizing the event.



Donavon Savoie, Poonie Rhodes, Redd Dogg, Tech Support Dave Bourgeois



Ernie Stoufflet, Richard Boogie Rieve, and Craig Robichaux



Rene Brue, Patrick Thompson, Kelly Pitre and Zack Martin



Courville Family



Amos Mosely during Crawfish Boil-Off live auction



Courville Family

CHRISTMAS AT CASA

Christmas is always a special time of year at the CASA office. In 2021, CASA hosted our first annual CASA Cookie exchange. CASA volunteers enjoyed homemade treats and reindeer games! We also once again felt blessed by all the donations our office received to gift to our CASA children,



Donated quilts from Giving Quilt



Christmas donation from The Zen Den of Houma



Reindeer games fun



Christmas shoe donation from Junior Auxiliary of Houma



Reindeer games fun



CASA volunteers and staff in their Christmas tacky sweaters



Christmas toy donation from Steel Fringe Salon



Christmas gift donation pick up from LA Bar Foundation



Reindeer games fun



Christmas toy donation from Lumiere Blues & Jazz Bistro



Christmas toy donation from Lumiere Blues & Jazz Bistro



Christmas toy donation from Q Hotels



YEAR IN REVIEW



Terrebonne Sheriff crawfish cooking team



Rushelle Fitzgerald and Sulma Reyes



CASA staff for BOO-for-You volunteer drive through



Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser



CASA staff at LA CASA Conference



Bandit Rocks for CASA Benefit Concert



CASA Piglet Pen at Bayou Terrebonne Boucherie



Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Spotlight



CASA Board working Bandit Rocks for CASA Benefit Concert



Bandit Rocks for CASA Benefit Concert



CASA rides in Houma's Italian Irish Parade



Marine Corps League Auxiliary Crawfish cooking team

Thank You
from



**CHANGE
A CHILD'S
STORY.**

Be a CASA.
Volunteer. Advocate.



www.casaofterrebonne.org