

CASA OF TERREBONNE NEWSLETTER

402 Canal Street, Houma, LA
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September 2019

Volume 9



Message from Executive Director, Donna M. Brunet

September is Baby Safety Month which is sponsored annually by the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA). This year, JPMA is helping educate parents and caregivers on the importance of safely using and introducing age appropriate products to their child(ren) and when to transition their child(ren) to different products based on age, weight, and developmental needs.

Babies grow rapidly and so do their needs! Children need the freedom to explore, develop, and make connections as they grow within a safe environment.

What can you do to create a safe environment for your baby?

- Get down on your hands and knees for a baby's point of view. Take note of outlets, blind cords, small objects, poisonous plants, hanging tablecloths and other hazards.
- Be certain that gear and toys are properly used and appropriate for your child.
- Inspect products for missing hardware, loose threads and strings, holes, and tears.
- The safest place for baby to sleep is in a bare, fully functional, properly assembled, JPMA Certified crib.
- Always use a properly fitting mattress as infants can suffocate in gaps between a poorly fitting mattress and the crib sides or ends.
- Room-share, instead of bed-share, for the first year.
- Normal, healthy infants should ALWAYS sleep on their backs unless otherwise advised by a pediatrician.
- Never use pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, pillow-like stuffed toys, or other pillow-like products in the crib.
- A child car seat should be used properly from the moment you bring baby home to every car ride after that. All 50 states have laws that require the use of a car seat. All car seats manufactured today are designed to meet stringent safety standards set by the federal government. ***

Please check these laws as they have recently changed.



Also, September 8 is National Grandparents Day so take the time to appreciate and express your love to your grandparents through kind actions such as making a phone call, sending a card and/or inviting them to dinner.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Labor Day Weekend!

Spotlight on Sara Bond



Sara Bond was sworn in as a CASA Volunteer on 04/25/2017. She was assigned to her CASA children in May

2017, where she successfully completed her case resulting in reunification with a parent. Unfortunately, due to family issues, the children came back into States' custody for a second time. Sara immediately made herself available to continue her advocacy for her CASA children. Sara has been a tremendous help in understanding the children's needs and setbacks as a result of her previous contact with them. It has truly been a pleasure to see Sara not only communicate often with the parents, case worker and foster parents but she also attends family visits regardless of where they take place. Sara has the sweetest disposition when talking to the parents; she encourages them to do better regardless of their past issues. The moment Sara was contacted about a possible move she made it a point to contact the new foster parents and see the children immediately after the move. She was also instrumental in providing the courts with important factual information which would allow the courts to make the best decision possible. She often spends a significant amount of time documenting and meeting with people to ensure she has the full picture of what is going on with everyone involved. The family has a lot of respect and truly appreciates all of the information she has been able to share with them.

We are very grateful that she has been a constant in her CASA children's lives.

Sara will receive a polo shirt donated by Shelly Toups with Artistic Embroidery.

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SHOUT-OUTS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

- ◆ Connie Fremin for speaking at Lunch & Learn.
- ◆ Yvonne White for attending court for her CASA children.
- ◆ Paula Voisin for attending court for her CASA child.
- ◆ Earleather Celestine for completing her case that ended with adoption for her CASA child.
- ◆ Amber Ward for completing a court report and attending court for her CASA children.
- ◆ Penny Hebert and Peggy Boudwin for completing a court report and attending court for their CASA children.
- ◆ Mary Guidry for completing a court report, sending a back-to-school card, and going above and beyond to obtain records for her CASA children.
- ◆ Ann Beeson for sending a back-to-school card and for attending court for her CASA children.
- ◆ Tim Hitt for sending a back-to-school card and for attending court for his CASA children.
- ◆ Linda Ford for attending court for her CASA child.
- ◆ Suzanne Vice for seeing one child from her case through to adoption.
- ◆ Kim Eubanks for attending a FTM and a court hearing in which the case closed. She immediately chose another case.
- ◆ Betty Wallace for seeing one child on her case through to adoption.
- ◆ Sara Bond for attending a FTM and submitting a court report.

Thank you for your commitment to CASA !
August Volunteer Anniversaries:

Peggy Boudwin

7 Years

Earleather Celestine 9 Years

Christine Evans

6 Years

Charlene Wallace 7 Years



Congratulations to Class #52 shown here eagerly awaiting swearing-in.

From left: Amanda Smith, Jerzelle Thomas, Kim Pickard, Miranda Price & Meagan Verret

AUGUST- VOLUNTEER STATISTICS:

56 Volunteers advocated for
97 Children
151 Hours spent
1,267 Miles traveled



CASA of Terrebonne

We currently have

157

Children on our waiting list!!



Sexual



Physical



Neglect



Substance
Abuse



Destiny Clement	9/1	Yvonne White	9/8
Tasha Lirette	9/6	Traci Hawthorne	9/10
Michael Brown	9/7	Jennifer Kryvanick	9/12
Jon Russo	9/7	Jerzell Thomas	9/12
Sam Spry	9/7	Jessica Barker	9/16
Rhonda Lovell	9/8	Anna Merlos	9/21

Congratulations to *Rebecca Clement.*



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 prior to the 26th of the month and enter contact logs by the last day of the month.

Bet you didn't know!

5 Fun Facts about Christine Aucoin - Outreach/Training Coordinator



1. In January, she will celebrate her 35th wedding anniversary with her husband and best friend, Nathan.
2. When she was in high school, she traveled by train one summer and by greyhound bus the next summer to visit relatives in Chicago and Iowa and work in the corn fields.
3. She is a fan of old westerns, especially Gunsmoke, and her favorite movie is the first Rocky film.
4. She is an avid quilter and has created and given away over 20 quilts.
5. When she was 43, she broke her leg while roller-skating.

AUGUST DONATIONS:

CASA – AP

CHARLENE WALLACE

MARTIN SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES (SECURED BY: CAMERON & EVAN THIBODEAUX)

THE GRAY FOUNDATION (EMILY GRAY ELMORE)

MITCHELL & JERI THOMPSON

AMAZON SMILE

CHIK-FIL-A (SUPPLIED MEALS FOR LUNCH & LEARN)



Cameron & Evan Thibodeaux



SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

As we are getting into the swing of the new school year, please get with your CASA child or foster parents to ensure that you have all the new school information: which school are they attending? who is/are their teacher(s)? contact information? any struggles so far? Then contact the teacher(s) to establish that relationship. If you need any assistance, please get with your supervisor.

A new school year means that we are coming to the close of yet another year. Remember that you must have 12 hours of in-service per year. It is your responsibility to input these hours into OPTIMA. We have some very informational in-person trainings coming up so please take advantage of these to not only broaden your knowledge base, but to network with other CASA advocates. Hope to see you there!

Current Board Members

Marty Majewski, III—President
Mary Guidry—Vice President
Bonnie Naquin—Treasurer
Shelly Touns—Secretary

Charles Brown
Christopher Chiasson
Kathleen Duplantis
Patricia Floyd

Douglas Gregory
Heather Hebert
Carl "Buddy" McNabb
Angelle Thibodeaux

**EARN YOUR
CONTINUING
EDUCATION
HOURS
BEFORE THE
END OF THE
YEAR.
SIGN UP
TODAY!!**

A Walk in Her Shoes

CASA of Terrebonne In-Service
Presented by: Melissa Williams
Training Coordinator at The Haven



Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Place: 402 Canal Street (CASA office)

The following topics will be presented tonight:

- ⇒ Definition of trauma and the brain and body's response to trauma
- ⇒ Sources and impact of trauma and barriers to seeking help
- ⇒ Support for trauma survivors and practical ways to support healing
- ⇒ Tips for Self-Care

Snacks provided and RSVP required to caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org

CONTINUING EDUCATION E-LEARNING

WEB SITE: <https://moodle.lcwta.org>

LOG IN INSTRUCTIONS:

Username: Use your e-mail address

Password: Advocate1!!

NOTE: FIRST TIME USERS ONLY—YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO EDIT YOUR PROFILE IN ORDER TO ENROLL IN A COURSE

Click on My Courses, Click on Subject, then Specific Course to enroll in

Click Enroll Me, then follow steps to complete course

REMINDER: ENTER TRAINING TO OPTIMA WHEN YOUR COURSE IS COMPLETE



Noon until 1:00 pm at the CASA office

- ♦ **Thursday, September 19, 2019 - Topic: Resources to Rely On
Presented by Nicole Ditch w/ Ascent & Traci Hawthorne w/ Opportunity Now**
- ♦ **Thursday, October 17, 2019 - Topic: Identifying At Risk Children
Presented by Lonnie Lapeyrouse w/ Magnolia Family Services**

Lunch provided and **RSVP REQUIRED VIA E-MAIL-** caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org

CASA OF TERREBONNE FALL VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Together We Can Change A Child's Story



Orientation
September 10, 2019

Weekly Sessions
Tuesday 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
September 17 thru
October 22

Contact: Christine Aucoin
985-876-0250
caucoin@casaofterrebonne.org

IT'S
NOT
TOO
LATE
TO
SIGN
UP !!

