



CASA OF TERREBONNE, INC. MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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www.casafterrebonne.org

A MESSAGE FROM JENNY DOMANGUEE, LEAD ADVOCATE SUPERVISOR



As we move into 2021, I want to take a moment to thank you for sticking with us while we all learned how to navigate this uncharted territory of living in a world with COVID-19. We learned together how to safely advocate for the best interest of our CASA

children by thinking outside the box and changing the way we did everything. Things may look different but the work you do is just as important. During this process I believe that we have realized the importance of human connections. We realized the importance of hugs and even a simple smile. I know for me that is the thing about masks that I dislike the most. Even if I don't verbally speak to people who I pass, I smile at anyone who looks in my general direction. I miss seeing other people's smile in return. We often do not know what others are dealing with behind closed doors (or masks). A smile has been known to save an individual from suicide. Even though we are still living in an ever-changing world, we can all make a conscious effort to ease the pain and suffering of others by simply being kind. We cannot allow the varying opinions of the world to cause us to look past the things that matter the most. We are all human and we need each other!

If you have not yet made a resolution this year here are a few suggestions:

1. Practice mindfulness and self-care. If you don't take care of yourself, you cannot take care of others! Listen to your body and rest/reset when you need to! Give yourself as much patience and grace as you give others!
2. Learn to say no, especially if you're over-stretching yourself.
3. Put yourself first every once in a while. (I love my "me" days!!)
4. Be more vulnerable with people you can trust—show up authentically, exactly as you are, faults and fears and all. (I promise we all have them!)

As for me, my new year resolution is centered on mindfulness and self-care. As a mother it is really easy to get so intertwined with your child(ren) that you lose who you truly are. In speaking to someone recently about where I would like to go on vacation, I named many places that my child or husband would like to visit. But when I truly reflected on my answer I couldn't find myself in any of those destinations. TBRI practitioner training really made me focus on me and my body. Paying attention to the rise and fall of my heart rate, breathing and overall feelings, I soon realized that I had lost touch with who Jenny really was. So this year I am working on becoming "Jenny, Joseph's mom", "Jenny, Ernie's wife" and "Jenny, I work for CASA of Terrebonne". Yes, I have a name and an identity separate from my child, husband and career. I am working on rediscovering and meeting Jenny.

Let's move into the new year with grace for ourselves and others and hope for a brighter and kinder world as we continue to make a difference in the lives of the most important members of society, the children.

CASA STAFF'S NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Jenny Domanguee ~ Lead Advocate Supervisor ~

Rediscovering herself.

Christine Aucoin ~ Outreach/Training Coordinator ~

Doing things outside of her comfort zone.

Sulma Reyes ~ Advocate Supervisor ~ Seeking and

accepting support from others.

Valentine Verdin ~ Advocate Supervisor ~ Setting aside

time each month for a family date letting each kid choose, and also setting aside time to take care for herself and do something just for her.

Anna Merlos ~ Office Manager/Marketing Coordinator

Committing to Self-Care.



MEET A CASA:

Kimberly "Kim" Eubanks is a CASA volunteer who swore in on May 17, 2019. Since that time, she has advocated on two separate cases for two different children. Kim is an absolute joy to be around! She is always looking for new educational opportunities to further her role as a CASA volunteer. She has attended conferences in the past and raves about all the "golden" information that she is able to obtain. When it comes to her case work, she is thorough and precise, and she is willing to go above and beyond for her CASA children.

Kim was born in Johnson City, Tennessee but grew up in Myfield, Kentucky. She has been in Houma for about 38 years. Kim is married to Sloan Eubanks. They have been in a relationship for 16 years and married for 7 of those years. Kim has two adult children: Aaren who is 33 and Ian who is 31. She is also the owner of a beloved basset hound and 3 cats. Kim is a self-proclaimed animal lover who volunteers for the Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter on Sundays to clean and play with the cats at Petsmart. In her spare time, she is an avid reader, loves music and loves traveling. Kim also enjoys spending time with her family and friends. When Kim is not busy volunteering or enjoying her past times, she also works fulltime as a clinical laboratory scientist at Ochsner St. Mary in Morgan City. Even during this past year of uncertainty and being on the frontlines, she continued to make CASA a top priority. For that we honor and thank her!

Kim says that she became a CASA because she wanted to be proactive in helping the children of our community. She has known about CASA for many years and she felt that it was time for her to be "boots on the ground". She states: " I never imagined how CASA would improve my own life. I treasure the education I have received, the camaraderie of all the outright heroes that play a part and I have come to the humbling understanding that one person can indeed make a difference in a child's life." Thank you Kim for being one of those heroes you speak about! You are an amazing asset to our CASA team. We are lucky to have you. Kim will receive a polo shirt donated by Shelly Toups at Artistic Embroidery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



PATTI FLOYD | JANUARY 3



EARLEATHER CELESTINE | JANUARY 8



NORMA MACKS | JANUARY 13



SHELLY TOUPS | JANUARY 22

DECEMBER VOLUNTEER STATISTICS



Break Down of Waiting List Cases: Sexual (4) Physical (14) Neglect (75) Substance Abuse (56)

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

November stats for children:

- 67 children assigned a CASA
- 38 children seen face-to-face
- 14 children contacted any other way (phone, FaceTime, mail...)
- 78% of children were contacted
- 57% of children were seen face-to-face



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.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Martin Majewski, III ~ President Mary Guidry ~ Vice President Bonnie Naquin ~ Treasurer Shelly Toups ~ Secretary
 Charles Brown, Sr., Christopher Chiasson, Patricia Floyd, Heather Hebert, Charles Kornegay
 Buddy McNabb, Angelle Thibodeaux

DECEMBER DONATIONS:

CASA AP
 Terrebonne Parish School Board
 Christina Tucker
 Carl and Deborah Detiveaux
 Morris and Sandra Hebert
 Network for Good - Anonymous
 Arthur DeFraités, Jr. in honor of Ethel Reynolds



FINDING A FOREVER HOME



Allison Eschete with CASA child at adoption.

VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUTS!

- Alyssia Hay for writing a court report and attending court for her CASA child.
- Yvonne White for attending court for her CASA children. So close to the finish line. Keep it up!
- Mary Guidry for completing a court report and attending the court hearing for her CASA children.
- Jon Russo for participating in the Family Team Meeting for his CASA children. Keep up the great work!
- Rhonda Lovell for writing a court report for her CASA children.
- Penny Hebert for attending a Family Team Meeting for her CASA children and for accepting another child on her existing case.
- Tara Pellegrin for attending court for her CASA child.
- Heather Falls for accepting her first CASA case.
- Kari Griffin and Sherry Mahaney for accepting their first CASA case.
- Carol Bergeron for accepting another child to her existing CASA case.
- Tija Hopkins for completing a court report for her CASA child.
- Alicia Dove for completing a court report and seeing her case through to reunification.
- Carey Redmond for completing a court report and attending a court hearing for her CASA children.
- Allison Eschete for writing a court report, attending court and seeing her case through to adoption for her CASA child. (see above picture)
- Norma Macks for completing a court report and attending a court hearing for her CASA child.
- Rushelle Fitzgerald for completing a court report, attending a Family Team Meeting and a court hearing for her CASA children.

CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS:

LUNCH AND LEARN: SELF-CARE PRESENTED BY CHRISTINE AUCOIN, JANUARY 20, 2021, NOON-1:00PM AT CASA OFFICE.

Space is limited to 10 volunteers. You must register in order to be admitted. Masks are required until seated and we will be checking your temperature. We will record the in-service for viewing online. REGISTER ON VOLUNTEER CALENDAR AT WWW.CASAOFTERREBONNE.ORG

THIS TRAINING IS MANDATORY FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS AND MUST BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 2021.

[HTTPS://MOODLE.LCWTA.ORG/ENROL/INDEX.PHP?ID=376](https://moodle.lcwta.org/enrol/index.php?id=376) (1.5 CREDIT HOURS)

It will help you learn your rights and obligations as a mandated reporter. In return, you will help keep children safe in your role as a CASA volunteer. (Include program ID #10241 when training is complete)

AMAZON PRIME : "THE RIDE" (2 CREDIT HOURS)

One review states, "The Ride is the inspiring true story of BMX champion John Bultjens, a teen who was on the road to ruin before his foster father bought him his first bicycle that changed his life forever. "

DISNEY PLUS: "SAFETY"(2 CREDIT HOURS)

Tells the story of Clemson University football player Ray McElrathey, who had to care for his younger brother and balance his life as a college student after his mom left for rehab.

If you are a reader, we encourage you to check out books from the volunteer library.

ENTER ALL TRAINING CREDIT HOURS TO OPTIMA

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Information Session :

JANUARY 12, 2021 5:30-6:30 AT CASA OFFICE

Pre-Service Flex Training Start Dates :

JANUARY 19, 2021

APRIL 13, 2021

JULY 13, 2021

OCTOBER 5, 2021

For more information, please visit our website

www.casaofterrebonne.org or call 985-876-0250

