

# CASA OF TERREBONNE NEWSLETTER

402 Canal Street, Houma, LA  
985-876-0250 [www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org)

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March 2019

Volume 3



## *Message from Executive Director, Donna M. Brunet*

As you all may have heard by now CASA lost a wonderful advocate, supporter and board member in the death of Mr. Merkle "Skipper" Kornegay. Please keep Mr. Skipper's family in your thoughts and prayers.

On a happier note, Christine Aucoin, our new Outreach and Training Coordinator, recently completed her Facilitator Training which now certifies her to train all of our new CASA volunteers.

**A note to all of our volunteers: PLEASE VISIT YOUR CASA CHILDREN** and input your logs on time! Each month we have to send a report to Louisiana CASA regarding our numbers. If our numbers are below a certain percentage, we could possibly lose our funding. We get these numbers directly from your visits and logs. So please visit your kids every month and get your logs in by the end of the month.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Mardi Gras!!

Here are a few facts you may, or may not know, about Mardi Gras:

The first North American Mardi Gras was celebrated when French-Canadian explorer Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville arrived in what is now modern day Mobile, Alabama on Fat Tuesday, 1699. He named the location Point du Mardi Gras and threw a little party. In the years that followed, French travelers would come to the spot explicitly for Fat Tuesday celebrations. To this day, Mobile, Alabama claims to hold the oldest Mardi Gras celebrations in the country.

In Louisiana, Mardi Gras became the celebration we know today because of a secret society. Since its first impromptu celebrations in the early 1700's, Mardi Gras had been regularly cancelled or banned for its destructive drunken parties—that is until 1837, when a secret society known as the Mistik Krewe of Comus aimed to elevate the chaotic experience, replacing the debauchery with lavish balls and parades.

It is illegal to wear masks in New Orleans except on Mardi Gras.

Louisiana is the only state in which Mardi Gras is a legal holiday.

However, now that Mardi Gras is over, many may wonder why the good times must end on Fat Tuesday and not continue thereafter. That's because Christian Mardi Gras is the final day before Lent begins. Lent is a period of 40 weekdays that, in the Christian Church, are devoted to fasting, abstinence and penitence. The traditional purpose of Lent is to prepare believers for the annual commemoration of how Jesus gave up his life for his followers, and the miracle that was His Resurrection, and his eventual ascension into heaven on Easter Sunday.

Don't forget to set your clocks 1 hour ahead on the evening of March 9, because Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10!!

St. Patrick's Day is March 17!! Wear your green!!

## *Spotlight on Skipper Kornegay*



It is incredibly difficult to find the words to describe someone whose presence was bigger than himself. A man whose heart was as big as he was, a man full of wisdom and compassion, a man who would go above and beyond for something he believed in. This is the description of a man that we lost on February 10, 2019 -- Mr. Merkle "Skipper" Kornegay. Mr. Skipper was an influential member of CASA since his swearing in on February 22, 2006. He advocated on 11 cases for a total of 22 children, four of which he was actively working. Mr. Skipper was no ordinary advocate; he had no problem traveling hundreds of miles for his CASA children. He would melt at the sight of a new picture and eagerly share it with CASA staff. He would take the stand and testify with little to no notes like it was his easy chair at home. He knew his kids, he knew his cases, and he knew his recommendations were right. He never lost focus of the children's best interest in any of his cases. During his time with CASA he was recognized as advocate of the month on 3 separate occasions. However, it was not only the staff, judges and other local interested parties who took note of his tireless work and passion; in 2010 Mr. Skipper was named Louisiana Advocate of the Year.

Mr. Skipper also joined the board of directors in 2010 as one of the only board members to actively have a case. As a board member he was instrumental in fundraising. He sold draw down tickets like hot-cakes. His style was pretty much to drop a ticket off and say, "Hey you owe me \$100." And who was going to argue with Skipper? In both 2014 and 2015 Mr. Skipper was named CASA of Terrebonne's board member of the year. In 2015, he single-handedly raised approximately \$15,000 for CASA of Terrebonne. Skipper hated being awarded these titles. He didn't do it for the recognition. He didn't do it for the accolades. He did it because of his passion to help. Many people woke up on February 11 to realize a man they deemed immortal was no longer a saint on Earth. May his legacy live on through the countless lives that he touched through the years. I know we, the Staff of CASA of Terrebonne, will be forever changed because of his presence in our lives. **Pg. 1**

# SHOUT-OUTS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

- ♦ Ann Beeson for attending a court hearing for her CASA children.
- ♦ Suzanne Vice for attending court for her CASA children.
- ♦ Amanda LeBlanc for attending a FTM in New Orleans for her CASA child.
- ♦ Rebecca Clement for attending a FTM & court hearing for her CASA child.
- ♦ Gabby Hernandez for attending court for her CASA children.
- ♦ Earleather Celestine for attending court for her CASA children.
- ♦ Lori Olivier for attending court for her CASA child.
- ♦ Amber Ward for visiting parents in jail to obtain information.
- ♦ Peggy Boudwin for attending a FTM for her CASA children and following up with the case to observe a family visit.
- ♦ Sara Bond for taking a new case and attending a court hearing for her CASA children.
- ♦ Christine Evans for attending court and seeing her case through until it closed.



**Congratulations Rushelle Fitzgerald for seeing your case through until it closed with adoption.**

Thank you for your commitment to CASA !  
Volunteer Anniversaries this month:

Mary Grace Adams	8 Years
Emily Elmore	15 Years
Jason Griffin	10 Years
Jonathan Russo	6 Years
Yvonne White	8 Years

# Happy Birthday

Ray Guidroz 3/4  
 Carey Redmond 3/6  
 Buddy McNabb 3/23  
 Eddie Olivier 3/29

## February Volunteer

### Statistics:

- **57** volunteers advocated for
- **95** children
- **90** hours spent on cases
- **582** miles traveled to see CASA kids and families.



**CASA of Terrebonne**

*We currently have*

**114**

*Children on our waiting list!!*

**2**

Sexual

**2**

Physical

**62**

Neglect

**48**

Substance Abuse



Congratulations to **Norma Macks**.

She has won a gift card of her choice for seeing her CASA child and putting in her contact logs by the last day of the month.

To be entered into this monthly drawing, volunteers must see their CASA child prior to the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month and enter contact logs by the last day of the month.

# Bet you didn't know!

## 5 Fun Facts About Anna (CASA Office Manager)



- \* She is half Cuban and loves to spend the day in the kitchen cooking up all her favorite Cuban dishes for her family.
- \* She initially became a Boston Red Sox's fan to make her older brother, a New York Yankee's fan, mad.
- \* She has seen all 15 seasons (331 episodes) of Grey's Anatomy.
- \* She refused to eat crawfish until she was 12 years old. Now it's her favorite meal.
- \* She is allergic to dogs, cats and grass which she says made for a boring childhood.

## **FEBRUARY DONATIONS**

**CASA AP**

**Danos Foundation Grant**

**Halliburton Giving (anonymous)**

**Jude Fanguy**

**Charlene Wallace**

**Network for Good (anonymous)**

**Amazon Smile**

**Cody Chatagnier (through Shell Oil Co.)**

**Cedric Brown (Through Shell Oil Co.)**

**Jane Adkins & sewing friends**

**Dawn Buquet**

**Bud Barnes**

**Tommy Beeson**

### **In memory of Mr. Skipper Kornegay:**

**Clinton Morgan**

**Sid Sundbery**

**Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Hellman**

**Mr. & Mrs. Arthur DeFraites, Jr.**

**Mr. & Mrs. Leon Stiel**

**Brian & Marianne Matherne**

**Stanwood Duval**

**Craig Thomson**

**Emily Elmore**

**Mr. & Mrs. Louis Routier, Jr.**

**Cynthia Martin**

**Lesley Crochet**

### **In memory of Beatrice C. Naquin:**

**Martin and Patricia Miller**

**Mr. & Mrs. Darryl Barthelemy**

**Julia & Mary Margaret Nash**

# Thank You!



### **Presentation of check from Danos Foundation Grant**

**Pictured from left to right:  
Carlton Bethley, Donna Brunet,  
Melanie Touns & Sadie Rouse**

## **CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS**

**President - Marty Majewski, III**

**Vice-President - Mary Guidry**

**Treasurer - Bonnie Naquin**

**Secretary- Shelly Touns**

**Charles Brown**

**Christopher Chiasson**

**Kathleen Duplantis**

**Carl "Buddy" McNabb**

**Douglas Gregory**

**Patricia Floyd**

**Angelle Thibodeaux**



# IN-SERVICE OPPURTUNITIES

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## Continuing Education 1.5 Credit Hours

**WHAT:** Webinar : Child Trafficking: Knowledge for Working with Survivors

**WHEN:** March 12, 2019....1:00 - 2:30 pm

**WHERE:** CASA Office, 402 Canal Street

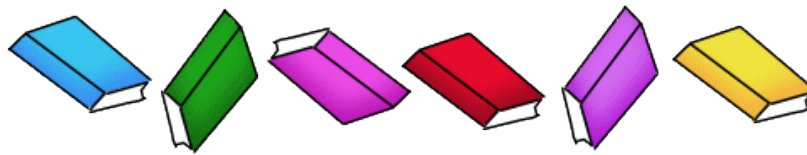
**CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.** (SNACKS WILL BE SERVED)

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### Earn In-Service credit hours on-line.

**Google — Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)**

**You will find YouTube videos and Webinars on this subject. View what interests you and enter it into Optima. (*number of credit hours depends on length of video*)**



**REMINDER:** The volunteer library here at the office has a variety of books, both fiction and non-fiction, as well as DVD's and resource books to check out. All count toward continuing education credit hours.

### STAFF PICKS FOR THIS MONTH:

Movie on Netflix - "The Great Gilly Hopkins" (2 Credit Hours)

Book - The Night the Angels Came by Cathy Glass (3 Credit Hours)

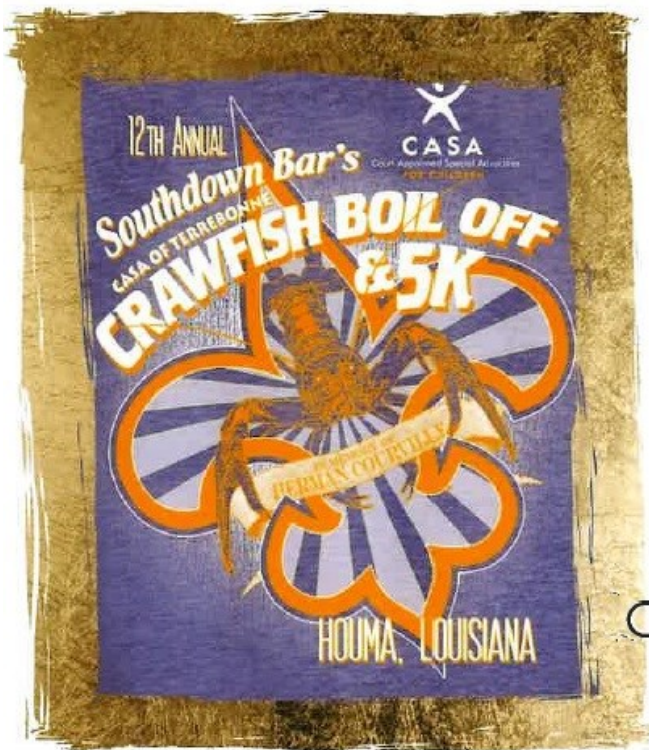
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**We welcome your ideas for in-service topics, library resources, volunteer events, etc.**

**Speak up! We would love to hear from you.**

**TRAINING CLASS #51 WILL BEGIN  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019  
Complete on-line application at  
[www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org)**



05.04.2019

*save  
the  
Date*

LOCATION CHANGE:  
COURTYARD MARRIOTT



Check out our  
updated website at  
[www.casaofterrebonne.org](http://www.casaofterrebonne.org)

**NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO  
STAFFS' E-MAIL ADDRESSES:**

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