

The CASA Bulletin

CASA Monthly Newsletter
TERREBONNE

Department of
**Children &
 Family Services**
Building a Stronger Louisiana

MEET A CASA ALLISON ESCHETE

Allison Eschete was born in New Orleans, LA, and raised in Houma, LA. For about 17 years she ventured out of Louisiana and become a resident of Mississippi where she graduated from Magnolia School of Cosmetology and worked at a Nissan Plant on the assembly line. When she moved back to Houma she met her now husband of 10 years, Kevin P. Eschete at a football party. Today Allison is a branch manager at First American Bank and Trust. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, fishing, sewing and baking. However, if there is a football game going on, know she is watching, especially if the saints are playing.

Allison first heard about CASA at First United Methodist Church of Houma. Being a CASA volunteer was an easy decision to make because the thought of helping another human being and knowing that she could make a difference was something that she knew would be possible.



Allison has been with CASA for three years. She was assigned to her first CASA child in July 2019 and that adoption was finalized in December 2020. She had the privilege of seeing her CASA child develop in a healthy and

loving environment. Upon completion of that case, Allison took a small break and then decided to advocate for another child. She has been on her second case for over a year. Allison believes that “Small changes can make a big impact” and we can not agree more! Thank you, Allison, for all that you do for your CASA children and for us!

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



COW RAFFLE

**Grass-Fed Beef
 Locally Grown & Raised**

\$20 PER TICKET

CASA of Terrebonne is excited to announce our first annual Cow Raffle. Tickets are \$20.00 and there will be three pulls to win a quarter of a cow (twice) or half a cow.

Raffle tickets are now available for purchase in the CASA office at 402 Canal Street, Houma. The drawing for the 3 prizes will be held Thursday, November 10th, 2022.

For more information, please call 985.876.0250.

A MESSAGE FROM SULMA REYES

TRAINING/OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Oh sweet September, you showed up just in time to give us a break from all of the chaos of running around or browsing the internet to purchase uniforms and school supplies for our kids to start a new school year. As stressful as that is when you have multiple children, there is such an accomplishment when you cross an item off the “optional” supply list. And just when you think, thank God the kids are all back in school and I can finally breathe, you are quickly reminded that with school comes homework, projects, and additional issues that children will face in school that may challenge their self-worth and existence. We should not be naive to the fact that children are being ridiculed by peers for the way they look, their behaviors and disabilities or their poor academic grades.

Due to our line of work, we know that children from unstable homes will face obstacles that they have no control over. Many of those children can only take so much before they start to have negative thoughts and question if life is even worth living. As Advocates assigned to these vulnerable children and families, I urge you to be present during your visits and actively listen to their concerns or fears. Be proactive and ask questions about their day and their friends. . Let’s be compassionate with those involved in the case and provide them with words of encouragement because life is not easy even for those who have stepped up to help an overwhelming system. Even those that seem to have it together can use words of encouragement. At times, I personally struggle with life and think twice about every decision I make for

my family because let’s face it 2021 was not a good year for many of us with COVID and Hurricane Ida to name a few. Fortunately for me, I have people who can lend an ear or help me when I am about to lose it. However, many are not that fortunate.

September is the month for Suicide Prevention and Awareness. This month comes packed with information for those who are in the midst of grief or thoughts of taking their life. Mental health is real and temporary problems are sometimes overwhelming, and the only solution for some is unthinkable. Many of you may know that the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline changed its toll-free number to 988 in hopes of making it easier for individuals to remember. So as September peeks in, remember those who have been affected by suicide. Continue to practice self-care and use those techniques that were given to you at Revive your Inner CASA. Remember that when life becomes overwhelming, we are always here to help even when it’s not case related.

Please mark your calendars and sign up for September’s virtual training with Rachel Belloni, M.S., a Suicide Prevention Specialist with Jacob Crouch Suicide Prevention Services and The Family Tree. *See registration info on page 7.*



1st Annual pairings for a purpose

Our First Annual "Pairings for a Purpose" Fundraising event was a true success. Thank you to everyone who attended and filled the room with love and support. We have so many people and organizations to thank for making the night a success!

First, we would like to thank the Supersoakers who rocked out all night and had our guests dancing the night away! We would also like to thank Tanner Magee for sharing the mission of CASA of Terrebonne and for being our charismatic Live Auction MC!

Next, we would like to thank Bayou Terrebonne Distillers for hosting our event and Spilt Liquor Productions for helping our event run smoothly and helping to make the night memorable!



Band & Bar Sponsor



Pairing Table Sponsors



sponsored the Le'mon Temp Table that was paired with the mouthwatering crawfish pies prepared by Bella Cosa Catering!



sponsored the Amos Moses table that was paired with the divine MAC Daddy cups with chicken tenders prepared by Quizine Quarters.



sponsored the Mannie Fresh table that was paired with the delectable orzo pasta salad prepared by Dominique's Bistro.



sponsored the Coulliou Table with the mouthwatering fried catfish prepared by Spahr's Seafood!



provided the night's cold beer and the absolutely best pretzels along with their famous dipping sauces!



Patron Sponsors



Offshore Energy Services, LLC



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Friends of CASA Sponsors

William & Linda Yates

All South Consulting Engineers

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Force Power System

7887 Main

Schottel, Inc.

David Waitz Engineering & Surveying



VOLUNTEER SHOUT-OUTS

- **Molly Arrington** - Thank you for submitting your first court report for this case and for attending court. You rock!
- **Nathan Aucoin** - You have always been helpful around the office and just a call away. Now that you are an advocate you are showing that your compassion and willingness to help is across the board. Thanks for attending your CASA child's family team meeting and court hearing.
- **Jennifer Bonvillian**- Thank you for the hard work you put into your cases! Thank you for the timely court report and for attending court. You are doing fantastic work!
- **Tammy Broulette** - Thank you for your outstanding work with your case! Also, for the timely court report and for attending court.
- **Priscilla Callais** - Just keep fighting the good fight! You're doing great!
- **Christian Falcon** - Thank you for going above and beyond with your case! You are appreciated!
- **Paige Gisclair** - You are obviously a go-getter. You are doing great thus far and we can't wait to see all that you accomplish! Thanks for attending your CASA child's court hearing.
- **Tim Hitt** - Thank you for always being an active team player for your CASA child and making sure that everyone has what they need. Thanks for attending both court hearings this month.
- **Kristy Ledford and Leah Voisin** - A huge thank you for your continued dedication to the case. Thank you for the court report and all the support you both provide to this family.

To all our volunteers, thank you for being so understanding in this transitional phase. We appreciate you guys coming in and staffing your case with your supervisors and being willing to transition with us!

We appreciate you all!

AUGUST DONATIONS

Rotary Club of Houma
Chick-fli-A
Martin Majewski, III
Tori Rayne
Charles & Gretchen Caillouet
CASA-AP

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Tasha Lirette	9/6
Jonathan Russo	9/7
Yvonne White	9/8
Gina Danos	9/9
Traci Hawthorne	9/10
Kathryn Mella	9/10
Jennifer Kryvanick	9/12
Cathy Duet	9/21
Anna Merlos	9/21
Sheila Johnson	9/30

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER ANNIVERSARIES

9 Years

Christine Evans

CASA VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

August Stats

42

Active Volunteer
Advocates

63

Children
Served

 **156**

children waiting
for a CASA

1,250.20

Miles
Traveled

156

Hours Spent
on Cases

CASA STAFF:

Christine Aucoin

Executive Director

Jenny Domangue

Lead 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



Check out the following for continuing education hours:

Online In-Service:

QPR Gatekeeping Training: Suicide Prevention

Tuesday * September 27, 2022 * 6 pm - 7:30 pm (1.5 Credit Hours)

QPR Gatekeeper training is evidence-based and teaches participants how to recognize the warning signs of someone thinking about suicide and how to get them help. We cover facts and statistics, myths, warning signs, how to ask someone about suicide, and how to get them help. Participants receive a 2-year certificate and many resources. *Active CASA volunteers can find the registration link "Continuing Education" online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.*

In-Service: TBRI

Correcting Principle

Wednesday * November 17, 2022 * 5:30 pm - 8:45 pm (3 Credit Hours)

In the fourth and final installment of our TBRI® In-service training series, Jenny Domangue will present the TBRI® Correcting Principles which aim to address a child's behavioral issues in a positive way. Two important principles in the correcting component are proactive and responsive behavioral strategies. Although CASA advocates are advised not to use these Principles with their CASA children, they can still use the information in their own lives and have a full understanding of the TBRI® model. *Active CASA volunteers can find the registration link "Continuing Education" online at www.casaofterrebonne.org.*



August Gift Card Winner: Cathy Duet

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.