

CASA OF TERREBONNE NEWSLETTER

402 Canal Street, Houma, LA

985-876-0250 www.casaofterrebonne.org

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December 2019

Volume 12



Message from Executive Director, Donna M. Brunet

I recently came across these four quotes regarding the upcoming Christmas season that really resonated with me and I want to share them with you.

*"Christmas gift suggestions:
To your enemy, forgiveness
To an opponent, tolerance
To a friend, your heart
To a customer, service
To all, charity
To every child, a good example
To yourself, respect."
Oren Arnold*

"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone." Charles M. Schulz

"The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of love and generosity and of goodness. It illuminates the picture window of the soul, and we look out upon the world's busy life and become more interested in people than in things." Thomas S. Monson

"Christmas is a tonic for our souls. It moves us to think of others rather than of ourselves. It directs our thoughts to giving." B.C. Forbes

The message in these quotes is simple – be good to others during this wonderful Christmas season and always. Christmas is not about the gifts, it's about the love of family and friends; of being thankful for all that you do have and not wanting what you don't. Reach out to friends and family that you have not spoken to or seen in a long time, or that neighbor who is all alone, it will make you happy and brighten their day. Go out of your way to be kind to strangers – you may be the one bright spot in their day. Make memories with those you love – children don't always remember the things you give them, but they do remember the way you made them feel. So be good to others, share what you have with the less fortunate and keep the Christmas spirit in your heart year round.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Spotlight on Norma Macks



Norma Macks was sworn in as a CASA Volunteer on 07/08/2018. She was assigned to her first case on 12/10/2018. Upon assignment she immediately contacted all of the parties involved. She made great connections with the foster parents, her CASA child, and the biological parent. She has maintained consistent contact and made sure all of her child's needs were being met. She maintains a positive attitude towards the case no matter the situation and always has a sunny disposition. She is willing to help where needed. Mrs. Norma also attended the Together We Can conference where she enjoyed getting to know other volunteers and learning more about how to help the children and the families we serve.

Congratulations Norma and thank you for all you do.

Norma will be receiving a polo shirt donated by Shelly Touns at Artistic Embroidery.



This month we want to give a **'SHOUTOUT'** to all of our wonderful volunteers for a job well done. You are the heart of this organization and we have nothing but admiration and respect for all you do advocating for the children on your cases. Keep up the great work and God bless!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RSVP!!

Friday, December 6, 2019

Volunteer Appreciation Social

Join us as we celebrate and honor all of our dedicated volunteers and all they do for CASA!

Thank you for your
commitment to **CASA!**
December Volunteer
Anniversaries:

Hannah Becnel	2 Years
Michelle Luke	2 Years
Silvana Santos-Alegria	2 Years


Finding a Forever Home!



Connie Fremin with her CASA child.

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER STATISTICS:

59 Volunteers advocated for
96 Children
155 Hours spent
1053 Miles traveled



CASA of Terrebonne

We currently have

147

children on our waiting list!!



Sexual



Physical



Neglect



Substance Abuse

Happy Birthday

Amanda LeBlanc	12/1
Mitzi Rieve	12/6
Angelle Thibodeaux	12/6
Miranda Legendre	12/8
Annette Bilello	12/16
Paula Voisin	12/17
Tina Evans	12/24
Sarah Ghery	12/30
Emily Gilmore	12/31



Congratulations to
Connie Fremin.

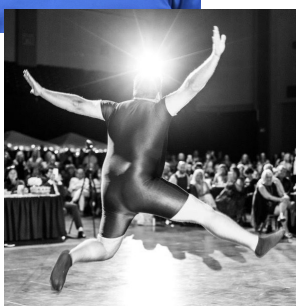
She has won a gift card of her choice for visiting with her CASA child and entering her contact

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.

Bet you didn't know!

5 Fun Facts about Christopher Chiasson - Board Member



1. He once defied gravity. Check out the picture.
2. He lives by the quote, "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." - Anonymous
3. He believes that if you didn't go to H.L. Bourgeois, then your parents did you a disservice.
4. He prefers to go to the camp to cook than actually hunt.
5. He prefers the Raising Cane's coleslaw over the toast.

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Please remember that with the Holiday season, visits may be harder to schedule. Try to schedule your visit earlier in the month so that you do not run into holiday/travel plans or scheduling conflicts. Christmas gifts will be available for pick up by December 13th. Remember to finalize all in-service training hours prior to December 31st and **enter them into Optima.** (this includes the monthly newsletter)



CASA of Terrebonne is hosting the following in-service:

Presenters from South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority will be:



1. Leilani Brunet, RN, LaSOR Coordinator Trainer
She will discuss the scope of the opioid problem in our nation, the impact on the families in our community as well as the impact on our first responders.
2. Jill Talbot, PLPC
She will discuss the diagnostic criteria for Opioid Use Disorder and treatment measures available including Medication Assisted Therapy (MATs).
3. Laura Stanley, Peer Support Specialist
She will share her journey from addiction to recovery. No doubt her story will shed some light on what may be happening in the minds and lives of individuals battling with substance use disorder and help attendees better understand what CASA families may be walking through. She provides a transparent testimonial and welcomes all questions and comments from attendees.

WHEN: January 9, 2020
WHERE: CASA Office (402 Canal ST.)
TIME: 5:30 - 7:30
Register online at www.casaofterrebonne.org

NOVEMBER DONATIONS:

CASA-AP

Wells Fargo Foundation Grant

Facebook (Anonymous)

Amazon Smile

South LA. Wetlands Discovery Center

In memory of Gabrielle Hernandez:

Restore or Retreat, Inc.

Blaine and Vickie Vedros

Mark Belanger

Virginia Bennett

Henry and Elizabeth Ellender

Beverly Ranlett

Charlene Wallace

Mr. and Mrs. Matt Cenac

Peter Broussard

Lauren, Lydia and Paul Burguières

Alma Sullivan

Amber Johnson

Georgia Harrington

Jean LeBoeuf

Michael and Karleen Lecompte

Roger and Charlene Chapman

Mr. and Mrs. Rome D. Evans



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

Current Board Members

Marty Majewski, III—President

Mary Guidry—Vice President

Bonnie Naquin—Treasurer

Shelly Touns—Secretary

Charles Brown, Sr.

Christopher Chiasson

Patricia Floyd

Douglas Gregory

Heather Hebert

Charles Kornegay

Carl “Buddy” McNabb

Angelle Thibodeaux

**ATTENTION
CURRENT
VOLUNTEERS:
IF YOU KNOW
SOMEONE WHO IS
INTERESTED IN CASA,
BRING THEM TO THE
INFORMATION
SESSION.
HELP US FILL UP THE
JANUARY TRAINING
CLASS!!!**



Want to know how you can
"Change a Child's Story"?
You are invited to attend an
information session
at CASA of Terrebonne's office.

Learn how to become a volunteer advocate for foster
children just like those pictured below.



WHEN: Thursday, December 12, 2019
WHERE: 402 Canal Street, Houma (CASA office)
TIME: 5:30pm - 6:30pm



CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY BE A **CASA** VOLUNTEER

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (**CASA**)
works hard to ensure that children in foster care in
Terrebonne Parish will have a safe and
permanent home as soon as possible. Join us and
make a difference. Together we can change a
child's story.

CLASS START DATE:

January 14, 2020

SEVEN WEEKS

Get trained in seven weeks to
make a difference in the life of
a child in foster care.

FLEX TRAINING

In-person and online training
are combined for all learning
styles.

APPLY ONLINE

www.casafterterrebonne.org

Contact *Christine Aucoin* to find out how you can
become a community volunteer who advocates for
a child who has been abused or neglected.



Get in touch • 985-876-0250 • 402 Canal St. Houma, LA • www.casafterterrebonne.org

REMINDER:
I am still collecting
"Advocacy in
Action"
testimonies from any
volunteer. Share how
you've advocated for
your CASA child.

(Send them to cacoin@casaofterrebonne.org)

